

THE
OXFORD
SCHOOL
OF
DRAMA

MOONFLEECE

By Philip Ridley

Directed by
Gemma Aked-Priestley



13 May 7.30pm

15 May 7pm

a live-streamed and on-demand
production, performed by our
graduating three-year acting students

This amateur production of "Moonfleece" is presented
by arrangement with Concord Theatricals Ltd. on behalf
of Samuel French Ltd. www.concordtheatricals.co.uk

CAST



Oscar Adams
Curtis



Robert Akodoto
Jez



Callum Cronin
Gavin, Wayne



Ardan Devine
Tommy



Bethany Merryn
Nina



Jasmin Pitt
Stacey



Cecilia Rodriguez
Alex



Georgina Tack
Link



Alice Unitt
Sarah



Christopher Watson
Zak

If you have any enquiries regarding representation or working with any of the graduates, please contact Ed Hicks, Principal, at e.hicks@oxforddrama.ac.uk

Creative Team

Director Gemma Aked-Priestley

Set and Costume Designer Natalie Johnson

Production Manager Mishi Bekesi

Lighting Designer Rachel Sampley

Sound Designer Annie-May Fletcher

Technical Manager Daniel Parry

With thanks to: The Mill Arts Centre, Applecarts Arts

Gemma Aked-Priestley Director

Gemma is a theatre director with a passion for new writing. Her work can be identified as emotionally daring, visually dynamic and “live”. As a woman from a working-class background the need to provide platforms for under-represented voices is embedded in the fabric of her work. Directing credits include *Ripe* (Nuffield Southampton Theatres, Make It So Festival 2020) *My Dad’s Blind* (Irish Tour 2019/ Abbey Theatre/Dublin Fringe Festival 2018, Winner of Best Production and Best Design 2018); *Passing* (Winner of the Theatre Royal Haymarket’s Masterclass Trust’s Pitch Your Play Award 2018, staged readings at the Theatre Royal Haymarket/Royal Academy of Dramatic Arts/The Bunker Theatre/Pleasance Theatre; *The Narcissist* (Flux Theatre/Hen and Chickens Theatre) *Gracie* (Finborough Theatre, Off West End Awards Nomination for Best Actress) and *Grimm: An Untold Tale* (Underbelly, Edinburgh Fringe Festival).

Assistant directing credits include Mehmet Ergen on *Little Miss Sunshine the Musical* (Arcola Theatre); Mehmet Ergen on *Stop & Search* (Arcola Theatre); Sam Hodges on the world premiere and revival productions of *The Shadow Factory* (Nuffield Southampton Theatres); Daniel Goldman on *Thebes Land* (Winner of Best Production, Off West End Awards 2016, Arcola Theatre) and David Mercatali on *Tonight with Donny Stixx* (Bunker Theatre).

Staged reading credits include *EV(E)OLUTION* by Chantelle Dusette (Criterion Theatre); *GAYLE* by Gemma Aked-Priestley (Theatre Royal Haymarket); *The Mulatto Girl* by Indigo Griffiths (Nuffield Southampton Theatres); *A Prince* by Dipo Baruwa-Etti (Southwark Playhouse); *Rat King* by Genevieve Hulme-Beaman (Bunker Theatre); *Biscuit* by Reece Connolly (Tristan Bates Theatre) and *Cold Call* by Felix O’Brien (Theatre 503).

Philip Ridley Writer

Philip was born and grew up in the East End of London. His most recent plays are *POLTERGEIST* and *TARANTULA*, both premiering at the Southwark Playhouse in 2021. His other plays include: *The Pitchfork Disney*, *The Fastest Clock in the Universe*, *Ghost from a Perfect Place*, *Vincent River*, *Mercury Fur*, *Leaves of Glass*, *Piranha Heights*, *Tender Napalm*, *Shivered*, *Dark Vanilla Jungle*, *Radiant Vermin*, *Tonight With Donny Stixx*, *Karagula*, *Karamazoo*, *Fairytalearth*, *Moonfleece*, *Sparkleshark*, *Brokenville*, *Feathers in the Snow*, *Daffodil Scissors*.

As well as three books for adults (*Crocodylia*, *In The Eyes of Mr Fury* and *Flamingos in Orbit*) and the highly acclaimed screenplay for the The Krays feature film, he has also written novels for children, including *Scribbleboy*, *Kasper in the Glitter*, *Mighty Fizz Chilla*, *ZinderZunder*, *Vinegar Street*, *Zip’s Apollo* and the bestseller *Krindlekrax*, the stage play of which – adapted by Philip himself – was premiered at the Birmingham Rep Theatre in 2002.

He has also directed three feature films from his own screenplays: *The Reflecting Skin*, *The Passion of Darkly Noon* and *Heartless*. For the latter two films, Philip co-wrote a number of original songs, one of which, *Who Will Love Me Now?* (performed by P.J. Harvey) was voted BBC Radio 1’s Top Film Song of 1998.

In 2012 What’s On Stage named him a Jubilee Playwright (one of the most influential British writers to have emerged in the past six decades). Philip has won both the Evening Standard’s Most Promising Newcomer to British Film and Most Promising Playwright Awards. The only person ever to receive both prizes.

Director's Note

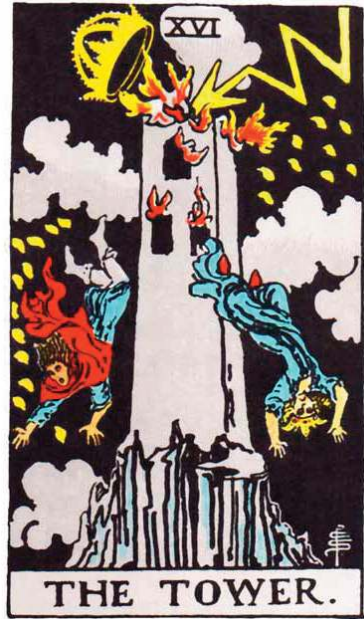
The first line of *Moonfleece* reads: "A derelict flat on the top floor of a tower block in East London". Immediately the image of a tower sprang to mind. But not any tower. The Tarot card.

The Tarot card "The Tower" represents unexpected change. This card is associated with events that are frightening, life changing and unavoidable. One positive aspect of "The Tower" is that the shattering it signifies is usually directed at something that was built on faulty foundations. Although traumatic, "The Tower's" destruction is necessary. If you can survive "The Tower" you can expect renewal. But only if...

Alongside *Moonfleece's* tower block setting and the play's exploration of supernatural themes, *Moonfleece* is a story about young people desperately clutching to the silver threads of Fairy Tales: Kings and Queens, Dragons and Witches, Forests and Towers. Stories help the characters make sense of a chaotic and fracturing political landscape: Liberalism is at war with Nationalism, youth violence is rife and an election is on the horizon. Young people are on the brink of breaking point.

In all its guises, "The Tower" is central to our production of *Moonfleece*.

Gemma Aked-Priestley



Your next chance to see our students:

Three Year Acting Course Showcase

Live-Stream: 3rd June 2021, 3.30pm

On-Demand: 4–10 June

Tickets: [Applecartarts.com](https://www.applecartarts.com)

Don't Forget

***Moonfleece* will be available**

on-demand from 18 May–24 May

on [Applecartarts.com](https://www.applecartarts.com)

Recent graduate work

Ritu Arya, actor

- Lila Pitts in Netflix's *The Umbrella Academy*

Ella Bruccoleri, actor

- Sister Frances in BBC's *Call the Midwife*

Freddy Carter, actor

- Kax in Netflix's *Shadow and Bone*

Faye Castelow

- Gretl in *Leopoldstadt*, Wyndham's Theatre

Babou Ceesay, actor

- Manny in BBC's *Dark Money*
- Jackson in Alibi's *We Hunt Together*

Claire Foy, actor

- W in The Old Vic's *Lungs*

Richard Gadd, actor, writer & comedian

- Liam in Sky's *Code404*
- Wrote and starred in Edinburgh & Bush Theatre sell-out *Baby Reindeer*

Andrew Gower, actor

- Ezra Spurnrose in Amazon's *Carnival Row*

Nell Hudson, actor

- Princess Louise in Netflix's *The Irregulars*

Emily Lloyd-Saini, actor & comedian

- DI Ryle in Sky's *Code 404*

Dipo Ola, actor

- Baba in Alibi's *We Hunt Together*
- Kellerman in Channel 4's *Baghdad Central*

Caitlin O'Ryan, actor

- Lizzie Wemyss in Starz' *Outlander*

Jemma Powell, actor

- Claire Stuart in Sky's *Devils*
- Grace Craven in *The Secret Garden*

Tanya Reynolds, actor

- Lily in Netflix's *Sex Education*
- Mrs Elton in *Emma*
- Tosh in The Royal Court's *Scenes with girls*

Annabel Scholey, actor

- Sarah Bailey in BBC 1's *The Salisbury Poisonings*
- Nina in BBC 1's *The Split*

Kiran Sonia Sawar, actor

- Harriet Kaur in HBO's *The Nevers*
- Deena in BBC's *Danny Boy*

Charity Wakefield, actor & producer

- Georgina in Hulu's *The Great*
- William Shakespeare in The Globe's *Emilia*

The Oxford School of Drama

Oxford School of Drama is a world-leading conservatoire providing professional actor training in the form of a Three Year and One Year Course in addition to a Foundation Course. Graded 'Outstanding' by Ofsted, our courses are accredited by Trinity College, London who identified us as an 'Exemplary Provider' in 2013. We are recognised by industry around the world and boast successful alumni including writers, directors, filmmakers and actors. With our training, the hope is that all students with talent and commitment, no matter what their background, are given important skills to take forward for life and that they can not only be part of the industry but perhaps help shape it.

The Oxford School of Drama Sansomes Farm Studios, Woodstock OX20 1ER

Tel: 01993 812883 • info@oxforddrama.ac.uk • www.oxforddrama.ac.uk

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