

national  
youth  
theatre®

National Youth  
Theatre's Playing Up  
Company present  
two world premieres

BOY/GIRL/BOY/GIRL

MESS!

A photograph of a person's legs from the knees down, wearing light-colored, sparkly high-heeled shoes and matching stockings. The person is sitting on a dark, shaggy fur rug. The floor is covered with colorful confetti and streamers. A large yellow balloon is visible on the left, and a blue balloon is on the right. The background is a concrete wall.

# **BOY / GIRL / BOY / GIRL**

**Written by Tife Kusoro**

**Directed by Mumba Dodwell**

# **MESS!**

**Written by Urielle Klein-Mekongo**

**Directed by Sophie Ellerby**

National Youth Theatre would like to thank the following people and organisations for their support of Playing Up in the 2021/22 academic year: The JGA Group, The Portal Trust, The Clothworkers' Foundation, Jacqueline Worswick and Jack Petchey Foundation.

Thank you to the Christina Smith Foundation for the Alan MacDonald Bursaries for Young Designers that enabled the participation of Cory Shipp, Holly Ellis, Ellie Rosner and Manisha Sondhi, and to the David Toguri Bursary Fund that enabled the participation of Phao Wheatley.

We would like to thank Blue Spark Foundation for granting us the opportunity to transform the representation of disabled young people across our programmes and productions.

**JGA**  
*Developing Futures*



Rehearsal  
images  
throughout by  
Ellie Kurtz



Supported by  
**ARTS COUNCIL  
ENGLAND**

# BOY/GIRL/BOY/GIRL

**Written by Tife Kusoro**

**Directed by Mumba Dodwell**



Steve

Bibi Belle MacDougall



Richard

Georgi Milanov



Susan

Aisha Ayub



Mary

Thomas Grubb



Anne

Reanna Bleu



Lizzy

Poppy-Willow Kent



Carol

Sagal Mohamud



David

Sam Thompson



**Janet**  
Rachel Jordan-  
Dewhurst



**Linda**  
Fatima Omri



**Maggie**  
Zara Bingham

Portraits by  
Olivia Spencer



Talent from the NYT Playing Up Company present the world-premiere of NYT REP alum Tife Kusoro's BOY / GIRL / BOY / GIRL, directed by Mumba Dodwell, who was awarded the 2019 Bryan Forbes Bursary for Young Directors. Set in a co-educational boarding school on a private island, BOY / GIRL / BOY / GIRL explores gender, power and the education system in a playful and piercing production.



Tife Kusoro's credits include *We Have Sinned* and *Fly Home Butterfly*, which were shortlisted for awards including the Alfred Fagon Award (2017 + 2018), the Verity Bargate Award (2020), and the Women's Prize for Playwriting. She is currently under commission to the Bush Theatre and has work in development with the Royal Court.

Mumba Dodwell's directing credits include the Offie nominated NYT REP production of *Great Expectations* at Southwark Playhouse in 2019 and Associate Director credits include the Alfred Fagon Award-winning *Rockets* and *Blue Lights* at the National Theatre and Manchester's Royal Exchange and the NYT REP's critically acclaimed national tour of *Othello*.

### Content information

Strong language,  
Themes of sexism,  
Conversation about miscarriage



## **Team**

Set & Costume Designer

**Cory Shipp**

Movement Director

**Phao Wheatley**

Musical Director & Sound Designer

**Conrad Kira**

Lighting Designer

**Holly Ellis**

Dramaturg

**Emily Aboud**

Vocal Coach

**Marcia Carr**

Assistant Director

**Bethan Hâf Jones**

Production Manager  
**Sean Laing**  
Company Stage  
Manager  
**Claire Risseuw**  
Stage Manager  
**Megan Hartley**  
and **Robyn-Amber**  
**Manners**  
Associate Designer  
& Assistant Costume  
Supervisor  
**Ellie Roser**  
Costume Supervisor  
**Bex Kemp**  
Technical  
Management  
**Infinity Technical &**  
**Production Services**  
Construction Crew  
**William Edwards**

Lighting Crew  
**James Maginn and**  
**Graeme Smith**  
Head of Stage  
**Kaur Kivilo**  
Assistant Stage  
Managers  
**Eliana Levi &**  
**Giovanna Madigan**  
Wardrobe Assistants  
**India Martin & Ava**  
**Hewitt**  
Sound Programmer  
and Operator  
**Ben Moss**  
Scenic Artist  
**Sophia Logan**  
Wardrobe Manager  
**Manisha Sondhi**



# MESS!

**Written by Urielle Klein-Mekongo**

**Directed by Sophie Ellerby**





**Tim**  
Alexander Tuohy



**Callum**  
Adam Cavender



**Jade**  
Amber Bryan



**Shannon**  
Harriet Beynon



**James**  
Alfie Schenck



**Chrissy**  
Maria-Tara Adedapo



**Helen**  
Maria Contras



**Fran**  
Stella Blakeley



Leah  
Maylia Velasquez



Henry  
Tom Atkinson-Seed



Coco  
Savalys Watkin



Alex  
Zia Rock

Portraits by Aziza  
Muhamed



**MESS!** is a funny, fast-paced and compelling drama, which will receive its world premiere in a production at the Workshop Theatre directed by NYT REP alum Sophie Ellerby, starring talent from the Playing Up Company. A group of young adults have their friendship tested when secrets are revealed at a house party. Using their podcast, No Permission, as a vessel to discuss “Messy dilemmas” Shannon, Chrissy, Coco, Jade and Alex navigate their way through life, love and friendship.





**MESS!** Is written by award-winning Playing Up graduate Urielle Klein-Mekongo, whose writing debut *Yvette* won the Young Harts Writing Fest Audience Favourite, Kings Head Theatre Stella Wilkie Award & The East 15 Pulse Award in 2017, enjoyed a sold-out run at the Bush Theatre, toured London venues including the South Bank Centre and received a Stage Debut award nomination. Sophie Ellerby is an NYT REP Company graduate who has previously worked as a writer with the NYT, Hightide, Nottingham Playhouse and the Belgrade Theatre.

### **Content information**

**Strong language**

**Violence: Physical Violence**

**Nudity: Topless Male Nudity**

**Themes: Sexual Assault. Racial discrimination, Biphobia**

**Other: Drug use, Alcohol use, Haze**



Set and Costume Designer

**Cory Shipp**

Movement Director

**Phao Wheatley**

Musical Director & Sound Designer

**Conrad Kira**

Lighting Designer

**Holly Ellis**

Vocal Coach

**Marcia Carr**

Dramaturgy

**Gail Babb**

Assistant Director

**Matilda Rae**

Production Manager

**Sean Laing**

Company Stage  
Manager  
**Claire Risseuw**  
Stage Manager  
**Megan Hartley**  
Associate Designer &  
Assistant Costume  
Supervisor  
**Ellie Roser**  
Costume Supervisor  
**Bex Kemp**  
Wardrobe Manager  
**Manisha Sondhi**  
Technical  
Management  
**Infinity Technical &  
Production Services**  
Head of Stage  
**Kaur Kivilo**

Construction Crew  
**William Edwards**  
Lighting Crew  
**James Maginn**  
**Graeme Smith**  
Assistant Stage  
Managers  
**Eliana Levi &  
Giovanna Madigan**  
Wardrobe Assistants  
**India Martin & Ava  
Hewitt**  
Sound Programmer  
and Operator  
**Ben Moss**  
Scenic Artist  
**Sophia Logan**





## Songs

**\*You can't date me with no money\***

Written by Urielle Klein-Mekongo

Performed by Amber Bryan, Maria-Tara Adedapo, Savalys Watkin & Zia Rock

**\*We know what we're doing  
(but you don't!)\***

Written by Stella Blakeley & cast

Performed by Stella Blakeley, Harriet Beynon, Maria-Tara Adedapo, Maria Contreras & Maylia Velasquez

**\*Did you really care?\***

Written by Stella Blakeley

Performed by Maylia Velasquez

**\*Everything you write\***

Written & Performed by Adam Cavender  
& Zia Rock

**\*In love with a straight man\***

Written by Tom Atkinson-Seed &  
Adam Cavender

Performed by Tom Atkinson-Seed

**\*I hate you, Shannon!\***

Written by Stella Blakely & cast

Performed by Alex Tuohy



## About Playing Up

Playing Up is an Access to Higher Education Diploma accredited through OCN London. It is a practical ten month part time drama training programme, offering young people aged 19–24 who are not in education, employment or training (NEET) the opportunity to gain a Level 3 qualification in drama. Playing Up is delivered in partnership with The JGA Group.

Places are available to both NYT members and non members aged 19–24 years old.

Priority for places is given to those who are not in education, secure employment or training or those who have missed out on gaining Level 3 qualifications at school or college. We welcome applications from care leavers and those whose challenging circumstances may have prevented them from completing secondary school or further education. We welcome applications from those with SEND needs, those who are refugees or asylum seekers with the right to study in the UK and those who are

underrepresented in our industry including those who identify as neurodivergent, disabled or from the global majority.

Throughout the course participants receive a travel bursary of up to £5 per day and free theatre tickets. The course offers access to creative industry professionals, high levels of pastoral support and has a strong focus on progression routes for learners on completion.

We support applications to UCAS for University and Drama school and many of our past students have gone on to great places, including Rose Bruford Drama School, Guildhall School of Music and Drama, RADA, Royal Central School of Speech and Drama, Roehampton University, Oxford School of Drama, Mountview, LAMDA, Arts Ed, East 15 as well as universities such as UAL and Exeter University. Following this unique 10 month programme Playing Up students that are not already NYT members, receive a place on one of the NYT Acting Courses leading to NYT membership.

Many graduates go on to pursue a career in theatre, and continue their training either in drama school, University or with the NYT REP Company or go onto gain employment.

Find out more at

[www.nyt.org.uk/playingup](http://www.nyt.org.uk/playingup)



Thanks to the Playing Up tutors, assistants and core staff, whose work with the young people culminates in these final performances.

## Hire our Spaces

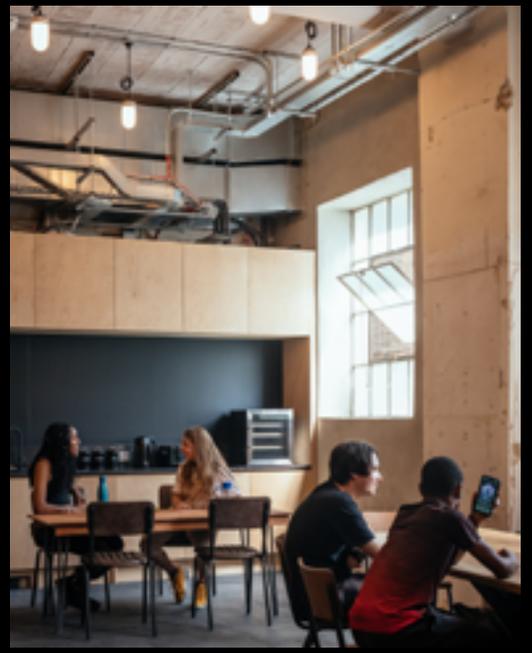
We recently won  
“Best Cultural Building” at the  
2022 Architects Journal Retrofit  
Awards for this building.

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award-winning space? Host  
your next meeting, workshop,  
rehearsal or event here.

[www.nyt.org.uk/hires](http://www.nyt.org.uk/hires)

Photos by  
Jim Stephenson





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Assistant

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Venue and Visitors  
Assistant

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