



MY BROTHER'S A GENIUS

by **DEBRIS STEVENSON**

A Theatre Centre, Sheffield Theatres and
National Youth Theatre co-production

**THEATRE
CENTRE**

**SHEFFIELD
THEATRES**

**national[®]
youth
theatre**

WELCOME

We are excited to be touring our latest production, **My Brother's A Genius**, written by playwright and grime poet **Debris Stevenson**, whose work blends poetry, movement and music.

This is our fifth co-production with Sheffield Theatres, the final one of which WhatOnStage called “a fantastic streak of new writing programmed by Sheffield Theatres, co-producing with Theatre Centre”. It follows the critically acclaimed **Dizzy** by **Mohamed-Zain Dada**, **Wish You Weren't Here** by **Katie Redford**, **Birds and Bees** by **Charlie Josephine**, and **Human Nurture** by **Ryan Calais Cameron**.

We're delighted that National Youth Theatre have also joined us as co-producers for this show, and grateful for support from Creative Crawley for a week of R&D.


Debris has developed this play through collaboration with young people, teachers and artists from across the country, embedding their voices into final piece. As with all our work, this production is touring to schools across the UK, and for many young people it will be their first experience of live theatre.

Putting the voices of young people at the heart of everything we do has always been central to Theatre Centre's mission. Since our founding in 1953 and through our recent 70th birthday year, we have spent seven decades evolving, innovating and ensuring that creativity and theatre remain vital parts of young people's lives.

Thank you for joining us for **My Brother's A Genius**. We hope you enjoy the performance and leave inspired to continue the conversation.

Eleanor Manners & Emma Rees

**Artistic Director & Executive Director,
Theatre Centre**

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First performed at the Tanya Moiseiwitsch
Playhouse, Sheffield, on Wednesday 28
January 2026.

**THEATRE
CENTRE**

CAST

Daisy

Jess Senanayake

Luke

Tyrese Walters

CREATIVE TEAM

Creator & Writer

Debris Stevenson

Director

Eleanor Manners

Composer & Sound Designer

Jammz

Designer

Erin Guan

Lighting Designer

Jess Brigham

Dramaturg

Rob Watt

Movement Associate

Emily Corless

Production Manager & Sound
Associate

Herbe Walmsley

Company Stage Manager

Katie Bosomworth

Artwork

**Rebecca Pitt, with
photography by Helen
Murray**

CAST BIOGRAPHIES



JESS SENANAYAKE (she/they)

Daisy

Jess is an award-winning theatre maker and poet. Their work spans a range of disciplines, including performance, stage management, direction and facilitation. They are part of the 25-26 Soho Writer's Lab cohort, and their writing has been featured in *Brownies*, *THE FAT ZINE*, and the Victoria and Albert Museum. Jess is also an Associate Artist of Mad Jaks Theatre, member of Bush Young Company, and alum of Almeida Young Company and CRIptic Arts' Reach programme.

Theatre credits include: *Don't Drink the Water* (Almeida Theatre); *The PappyShow's 10th Birthday Pit Party* (Barbican); *This Swollen Thing* (Riverside Studios); *For Too Free Won* (Omnibus Theatre); *island time* (Camden People's Theatre); *Purple* (Edinburgh Fringe); *Knotted*, *How to Make Rice* (A Season of Bangla Drama).

Other credits include: *Slave Play* (Noel Coward Theatre); *Pippin-50th Anniversary Concert* (Theatre Royal Drury Lane); *Your Lie in April* (Theatre Royal Drury Lane); *A Playlist for the Revolution* (Bush Theatre); *Saving Mozart* (The Other Palace); *NO I.D* (VAULT Festival); *RIDE- A New Musical* (Charing Cross Theatre); *A Monster Calls* (UK and US Tour); *The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe* (UK Tour).



TYRESE WALTERS (he/him)

Luke

Tyrese is a London-based actor with experience across both screen and stage. A black belt in Goju Ryu karate, Tyrese brings focus, discipline, and physical awareness to his performance work.

Theatre credits include: *Theatre Peckham Originate Company* (Vanburgh Theatre); *Cherry Groce Day* (Brixton House, UPRISING Festival).

CREATIVE BIOGRAPHIES

DEBRIS STEVENSON

Writer

Debris Stevenson is a playwright, Grime-poet, multi-disciplinary artist, neurodivergent academic and professional raver whose work explores the intersectional, unexpected, and unjust. Debris has worked in over 30 countries, raised over £300K with her company, The Mouthy Poets, and designed academic poetry modules.

Debris is also completing a fully funded practice-based PhD studentship in grime lyricism as narrative form at Oxford Brookes University and when she isn't writing or studying she can be found dancing at carnivals, parties and prides around the world for the likes of Red Bull Music Academy, The Heatwave and sometimes, just for fun.

Theatre Credits include: *Poet in Da Corner*, *The Song Project* (Royal Court); *1st Luv* (The Big House); *Much Ado About Nothing* (National Youth Theatre); *Cyrano De Bergerac* (Royal Shakespeare Company).

Film Credits include: *Medusa Deluxe* (BFI, BBC).

Poetry Credits include: *Pigeon Party* (Flipped Eye Publishing).

ELEANOR MANNERS

Artistic Director of Theatre Centre

Eleanor trained at Rose Bruford College, Birmingham School of Acting and The Arden School of Theatre. She is a director, voice coach and facilitator with over a decade of experience creating theatre and leading engagement projects. She collaborates with young people, communities and artists to make dynamic and socially engaged work.

She regularly teaches at the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama and Leeds Conservatoire and sat on the board of Pilot Theatre and The Heard.

Theatre credits include: *Jack Frost and the Search for Winter* (UK Tour); *Oliver!*, *The Wizard of Oz* (Leeds Playhouse); *Glass Ceiling Beneath the Stars* (Bric à Brac, Edinburgh Fringe); *The Odyssey: The Cyclops* (National Theatre Public Acts, CAST).

Voice credits include: *Seven Methods of Killing Kylie Jenner, Is God is* (Royal Court); *Othello* (National Youth Theatre); *My Fair Lady, Searching for the Heart of Leeds, Wendy and Peter Pan* (Leeds Playhouse); *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory, Paranormal Activity, Here We Come Again* (National Tours); *Klippies* (The Young Vic); *Cake* (Theatre Peckham); *When this is Over* (Company Three); *Run it Back* (Talawa Theatre Company); *Love and Other Acts* (Donmar Warehouse); *White Noise* (The Bridge); *White Card* (Northern Stage, National Tour); *Jitney* (The Old Vic, National Tour); *A Midsummer Nights Dream* (Shakespeare North Playhouse); *Doncastrian Chalk Circle* (NT Public Acts, CAST); *The Darkest Part of the Night* (The Kiln); *Daydreamers* (Channel 4).

JAMMZ

Composer and Sound Designer

Hailing from Hackney, East London, Jammz is a multiplatform storyteller. With his experience spanning across music, theatre, and other disciplines. Initially he made a name for himself on London's radio circuit in 2014 and 2015, appearing regularly on Rinse FM, Radar Radio, NTS, Mode FM and BBC 1xtra alongside the likes of established DJs like Slimzee, Spooky, Sian Anderson and Sir Spyro and more.

As well as being an MC, Jammz also has a strong reputation as a producer and label owner, with his label *I Am Grime* becoming recognised as a hub for some of the genres freshest sounds and merchandise. His *I Am Grime* Radio show has run for 10 years, following a four-year stint on Radar, and a six-year stint on Rinse FM.

Theatre credits include: *Poet in Da Corner* (Royal Court)

ERIN GUAN

Designer

Erin is a London-based, China-born set and costume, video designer and digital artist working between performance, space, technology and art. She uses performative arts as a platform to foster community connections by exploring the interplay between virtual and physical environments. Her work spans across intercultural performances and underrepresented voices.

Theatre credits include:

There's a Bear on My Chair (Southbank Centre / Theatre Royal Bath); *Prayer For the Hungry Ghost* (Barbican Centre); *Sister360, Romeo & Juliet* (Polka Theatre); *The Dao of Unrepresentative British Chinese Experience, The Boy, A Gig for Ghost* (Kakilang, Soho Theatre); *Pied Piper* (Battersea Arts Centre); *Turnadot, The Apology* (Arcola Theatre); *Bigger Than Lyrics* (Tobacco Factory Theatre Bristol); *I Dream of Theresa May* (Tara Theatre).

Television credits include: *East Mode With Nigel Ng* (Comedy Central).

JESS BRIGHAM

Lighting Designer

Jess Brigham is a Hull-based lighting designer.

For Sheffield Theatres, credits include: *Wish You Weren't Here; Dizzy*

Theatre credits include: *OUTLAWED* (Nonsuch Theatre, UK Tour); *Chicken Licken* (Derby Theatre, Polka); *THREE* (Seven Dials Playhouse, Dangerosity); *BATTY!* (UK tour); *Medusas First Kiss* (Little Angel Theatre); *Grimm* (UK Tour); *Mumsey* (Hull Truck Theatre); *A Sudden Violent Burst of Rain* (The Gate Theatre); *The True Adventures of Marian and Robin Hood* (Barn Theatre); *Patricia Gets Ready (for a date with the man that used to hit her)* (UK Tour).

HERBE WALMSLEY

Production Manager and Sound Associate

For Sheffield Theatres, credits include : *Dizzy*

Theatre credits include: *Lucy and Friends, Count Dykula* (Soho Theatre, Edinburgh Fringe); *Bungalows, Derry Boys* (Theatre 503).

EMILY CORLESS

Movement Associate

Emily is a Newcastle born actor, mover and facilitator. Her practice is rooted in instinct, authenticity and play. She encourages actors to connect to organic ways of moving, which in turn informs work through bravery of self, commitment and drive.

Theatre credits include: *Albatross* (Park Theatre); *The Changeling, Blue Kimera* (National Youth Theatre); *Boxing Day Dip* (Theatre N16); *Love and Information, The Shape of Things* (Newcastle Theatre Royal); *Strike* (Northern Stage); *Measure for Measure* (People's Theatre).

ROB WATT

Dramaturg

Rob is an award-winning director and dramaturg working across theatre, immersive experiences, game design and live storytelling. For over 20 years he's worked closely with writers, poets, performers and designers to bring forward voices we don't hear enough, shaping stories that interrogate the increasingly complex world we live in.

For Sheffield Theatre, directing credits include: *Wish You Weren't Here; Birds and Bees; Human Nurture; Dizzy.*

Other credits include: *There is a War, Love and Information* (Institute of the Arts Barcelona); *Acts of Resistance* (Headlong Theatres and Bristol Old Vic); *Rallying Cry* (Battersea Arts Centre, Brighton Fringe); *It's Not Too Late to Save the World (and Other Lies)* (Lyric Hammersmith); *The Exorcism* (Battersea Arts Centre); *How to Survive a Post Truth Apocalypse* (Soho Theatre / Roundhouse / UK Tour); *SEXY* (Roundhouse / Bristol Old Vic / UK Tour); *Be Prepared* (Underbelly / VAULT Festival); *Goosebumps* (The Vaults); and *Standby for Tape Back-Up* (Summerhall / Soho Theatre / Shoreditch Town Hall / UK Tour)

PRODUCTION CREDITS

For Theatre Centre

Production Manager and
Sound Associate

Company Stage Manager

Producers for Theatre
Centre

Creative Education
Consultant

Schools Tour Booking and
Coordination

Access PA to Debris
Stevenson

Marketing Manager

Public Relations

Artwork

For Sheffield Theatres

Technician

Technical Manager

Line Producer

Programming and Producing
Assistant

Audio Describer

Captioner

Sign Language Interpreter

Herbe Walmsley

Katie Bosomworth

**Rowan Prescott and Emma
Rees**

Amy Cooper

Emily Denton

Amelia Long

Rachel Bellman

**Binita Walia, The Space
inbetween**

**Rebecca Pitt, with
Photography by Helen
Murray**

Tobi Leadbitter

Gary Longfield

Mitchell Vernals

Grace Cook

Ella Hardy

Cara Lawless

Rebekah Mills Strawson

**THEATRE
CENTRE**

ABOUT THEATRE CENTRE

Theatre Centre is a national touring, new writing theatre company making bold and relevant shows with and for young people. We commission new work from trailblazing writers and artists, touring directly into schools and theatres across the UK. Alongside this we run our year-round Future Makers programme to bring young people, artists and teachers together.

Founded in 1953 by Brian Way and Margaret Faulkes, we have always played a vital role in youth leadership, developing creative and life skills and nurturing creativity. Access, inclusion and social justice is a bedrock of our work. We use our specialist expertise to nurture new writing made with and for teen and younger audiences, providing niche artist development opportunities for the theatre sector.

Working with our Resident Writer cohorts through the Brian Way Writer's Room, we commission work from the most exciting contemporary voices. Recent Resident Writers include Charlie Josephine, Ryan Calais Cameron, and Olivier Award-winning Mohamed Zain Dada and Matilda Feyişayọ Ibini. Other alumni include our Patron Roy Williams OBE, Juliet Stevenson, Naomi Ackie, and Adrian Noble, formerly RSC Artistic Director.

Our founders' vision was to put theatre and creativity at the centre of young peoples' lives. The sustained demand for our work demonstrates how effective and inspired this original vision continues to be.

www.theatre-centre.co.uk

ABOUT SHEFFIELD THEATRES

Sheffield Theatres is home to four theatres: the Crucible, the Sheffield landmark with a world-famous reputation; the Tanya Moiseiwitsch Playhouse, an intimate, versatile space for getting closer to the action; the gleaming Lyceum, the beautiful proscenium that hosts the best of the UK's touring shows; and the Montgomery, a theatre and arts centre with a longstanding history of championing children's creativity.

Sheffield Theatres is the ticket to big names and local heroes, timeless treasures and new voices, and each year welcomes over 400,000 audience members.

With a longstanding reputation for bold new work, many multi-award-winning shows have been made in Sheffield including *Life of Pi* and *Everybody's Talking About Jamie*, which have both enjoyed West End and international transfers before returning to the theatres as part of UK tours.

Other recent transfers include the acclaimed *Accidental Death of an Anarchist*, and the sensational Sheffield-set new musical *Standing at the Sky's Edge*, which transferred to the National Theatre and the West End in 2024. Jack Holden and Ed Stambollouian's *KENREX* had a sellout run in the Playhouse in autumn 2024, transferring to Southwark Playhouse in February 2025 and more recently to The Other Palace for Christmas 2025-26.

Committed to investing in the creative leaders of the future, Sheffield Theatres' dedicated talent development hub, The Bank, supports a new cohort of emerging theatre-makers from the region every year.

In January 2025, the Montgomery Theatre and Arts Centre joined the Sheffield Theatres family of venues. A leading arts centre for children, families and community groups in Yorkshire, the Montgomery is also home to many of Sheffield Theatres participatory strands for children and young people.

ABOUT NATIONAL YOUTH THEATRE

National Youth Theatre empowers young people to tell stories and find their voices on leading stages, screens and behind the scenes. For 70 years we have equipped young people with toolkits to realise their creative potentials, from Helen Mirren and Daniel Craig to Regé-Jean Page, Ed Sheeran and Susan Wokoma.

Partnering with Netflix, EON Productions, Microsoft, Sky, StudioCanal, and other leaders, we pioneer an industry-oriented approach where young people learn from top professionals in front of live and online audiences, including our 10m online audience.

We work nationally and inclusively with 15,000 young people annually aged 11–25, and up to 30 if disabled or neurodivergent, providing progression routes to careers across the creative industries. NYT training is accessible, inclusive and relevant to all young people. We break down barriers to opportunity, engage diverse young people, build confidence and skills and create the next generation of award winners and creative leaders.

My Brother's a Genius was originally seed commissioned and performed as a work-in-progress, directed by Josie Dexter, as part of the NYT's inaugural StoryFest new writing festival in My Brother's a Genius in 2024 and at Stanley Arts, following Debris Stevenson's hit adaptation of Much Ado About Nothing for the NYT REP Company in 2023.

www.nyt.org.uk

THANKS

My Brother's a Genius was created through conversations with hundreds of young people across the UK. We would particularly like to thank the following young people who made a significant contribution:

Joshua Aketse-Entsie, Nikol Anastasiou, Nia Anthony-Dunn, Salma Bello, Oliver Blake, Bertie Caplan, Ninna Chaska, Ursula Ida Chinsky, Tara Choudhary, Amaya Clarke, Evie Collins, Phoebe Constantine, Emily Corless, Grace Currie, Richard Dannenburg, Marina Davis, Anoushka Deshmukh, Alex Edwards, Tyelle Fergu, Amelia Garner, Joeley Gibson, Mikhail Gribov, Anna Gribova, Neve Griffiths, Harry Lorraine Grimes, Ruby Hays, Oliver Johnson, Joseph Jurado, Lu Kyriacou, Robyn Lexi, Ella Lyon, Bri Malaika, Lauren McIntyre, Hannah-Marie Mclean Pyle, Lauren Metcalfe, Rue Millwood, Monique Munroe, Davina Mwanza, Britney Najinda, Amaya Ash Lopez De La Nieta, Isabel Peckett-Lopez, Olivia Rainbow, Phoebe Richards, Qoobi Robinson, Jacob Rushbrook, Stella Saltibus, Ellen Scott-Smith, Jess Senanayake, Nestor Sharma, Elle Stokes, Soren Stranger, Phoebe Sule, Liliana Taylor, Rusty Thorne, Molly Wasway, Bryn Wilson, Rain Wolfe, Joe Zanzottera. Chichester Youth Festival Theatre (Horsham Group), Gravity Youth Group, Leeds Playhouse Youth Group, Lewisham Youth Theatre, Manor Green School, National Youth Theatre Members, St Wilfred's School, The Hawth Youth Theatre.

We would also like to thank the following friends and partners of Theatre Centre:

Amanda and David Binks.

Dr Lucy Rigley for her expertise and insight into Clinical Psychology and neurodivergence.

The development of My Brother's a Genius has been generously supported by Creative Crawley, Stanley Arts London and the Sylvia Waddilove Foundation.

John Thaw Foundation for their support of Future Makers and the Garrick Trust for their support of our Resident Writers. The Sylvia Waddilove Foundation, Louise Blackwell and the team at Creative Crawley for their support of this production, everyone who has donated to our work this year including those who supported our The Big Give, Arts for Impact and our 72nd Birthday campaigns.

Our Chair Rebecca Major and Trustees Aleksa Asme, James Cooney, Titilola Dawudu, Benjamin Eva-Griffiths, Romano Fello, Frazer Flintham, Joanne Leung, Kieran Lines, Karl Singaporewala and Caroline Wilkes.

THEATRE CENTRE TEAM

Marketing Manager

Rachel Bellman

Creative Education
Consultant

Amy Cooper

Programme and
Administration
Coordinator

Emily Denton

Finance Manager

David Lewis

Artistic Director

Eleanor Manners

Future Makers Coordinator

Caroline Nyemi-Tei

Tour Producer

Rowan Prescott

Executive Director and CEO

Emma Rees

YOUR FEEDBACK

It's so important to us to know what audiences think of our shows. This not only helps us understand your experience of the performance, but also helps inform our future work.

We'd be so grateful if you could fill in our feedback form to let us know what you think:

Let us know your thoughts

The Big Give

We're really excited that Theatre Centre will be part of The Big Give Arts for Impact week, 17th – 24th March 2026.

During this week, we'll be raising funds to support our Future Makers programme which helps us develop shows like *My Brother's a Genius*. The Big Give will match fund any donations we receive up to £5,000, meaning we could raise up to £10,000 towards our Future Makers programme of free creative activities for young people - even more if you are able to Gift Aid.

Support from passionate and committed individuals like you is a practical vote of confidence and belief in teenagers and young people. If you enjoyed the show and are able to make a pledge to donate, we'd be so grateful if you could contribute using the link below.

Support Our Work