

Eden Phillips Harrington - Producer
BA English (3rd Year)

Previous Experience -
Producing: Women of Troy,
Kiss Me Like You Mean It (NNT)



Emily Sterling - Director
BSc Biochemistry (1st Year)

Previous Experience -
Acting: Sorry Wrong Number (NNT)



Since Emily returned from travelling in America, she has persistently pestered me to read this novel called 'Flowers for Algernon'. It's emotional, she said, it's beautiful, challenging and uplifting just to name a few adjectives she used. It was her new favourite novel and she spoke endlessly and fondly of the characters and the trials Charlie had to face, but did I manage to read this book however? No. I was a fool. I put my hands up and admit that once I was immersed in Charlie's world, I was an instant convert and treasured the story dearly. So, how did I come to produce this show within the fringe season? Well, it begins on a late January evening ...

Following a stressful weekend, Emily messages me and asks whether I'd do her a favour. It was very mysterious but within the hour she turns up at my door with a roast dinner, a bottle of sparkling rosé and the script to the one-act version of 'Flowers for Algernon'. She tells me to read it and get back to her, as she really wanted me to produce the show for her. Challenge accepted. I spent the rest of the evening pouring over the script and I became absolutely absorbed by the story and characters. Once Emily told me her plans of how she wished to stage the piece and set ideas, I was totally on-board.

Since then we have rallied like two mad hens making sure that everything will be sorted, designed, organised and rehearsed in the two weeks we had between casting and the opening night. It has been a challenge, but one that has certainly been worth it! I've finally had the opportunity before I graduate to work with the wonderful and ever-happy Emily, produce a show as part of the NNT fringe season and swing merrily to me hearts content in the workshop (that'll make more sense when you see the show!) Our group of actors are stunning, and have perfectly brought to life the characters that came across to me so vividly in the script. So, now that show week is upon us, I hope you all enjoy the show, and that you'll fall in love with Charlie's story as much as we did.

Somehow, someone let me do a play, and somehow I thought "Of course I can direct a play in 14 days!..." *gulp*

Ever since I joined the theatre 3 years ago I knew this play was a story I wanted to tell. The script is a beautifully simplistic and touching adaptation of one of my favourite novels. Despite the initial horror of realising what I'd let myself in for, this experience has been one of the best yet that I've had at the theatre. I could not have asked for a more talented, dedicated and enthusiastic cast; everyday of rehearsals has left me grinning from ear to ear. Miguel, Alice, Ben, Rob and Darcey from day one you brought to life characters which had up until that point existed only in my head. You all instantly grasped the roller-coaster of emotions this 40 minute play takes you on, simultaneously making me laugh and breaking my heart every time I've watched you.

Our assistant producer Shannon has been a life saver throughout the play, casting her artistic eye over the play and helping with costumes and set, (not to mention sneaking much appreciated food to me in auditions). I would also like to thank Beth for our beautiful Rorschach poster and our backstage team, particularly those involved with the reinforcement of a children's swing!

Now finally, I must take a moment to thank my wonderful producer and amazing friend Eden. Eden I have been so lucky to have your expert hand guiding this play and keeping me on top of everything we have had to cram into two weeks. You share my love of organisation and your opinions I hold in the highest regard. Since 1st year the theatre and you have been synonymous in my mind, I cannot imagine it being the same without you.