

Ricki Crook - Director  
BA Philosophy (3rd Year)

Previous Experience -  
Directing - Equus (NNT)  
Acting: Bent, Letting Go, Clean (NNT)  
OPEN (Edinburgh)



There is that age-old saying, "History repeats itself", but there are some moments in history which we cannot let happen again, moments that we might fight to keep in history books with all our might. One such moment is World War Two. A horrendous time in our history where the evil of man was fully realised, a moment in history where 12 million people were murdered for no reason other than being born, while countless others died fighting to defeat this evil. This is the time period that Anne Frank, her family, and their friends had to live through, being persecuted for no reason other than existing, they took to desperate measures to try and protect themselves. There is a way to stop history repeating itself, and that is to educate, to understand the mistakes people made and the repercussions those mistakes had on everyone else. I think the theatre is one of the best modes of doing that, it brings the books alive, you can emphasise easier with these people when you can see them, alive on the stage, and attempt to understand what they are going through. It being the 70th anniversary of the end of WWII, and with the recent refugee crisis bringing issues of xenophobia and fear to a height, I felt it was an important time to re-tell a story that has been told a hundred times before, in a book, on film, on television, and on the stage - that of Anne Frank's Diary. Anne's diary is one of the few insights we have into this low of history, superbly written, heartfelt and incredibly insightful, Anne's diary is an astonishing part of human history, one that cannot afford to be forgotten.

I have had such an amazing time directing this truly talented cast, who have taken on the source material with an understanding and enthusiasm that before I only could've wished to have from my cast. Treating their characters with the respect that real people deserve as well as injecting them with a sense of uniqueness that only come from them; Jake, Rachel, Iona, Beth, Miguel, Andrew, James, Lara, Kate, and Matt you have all been incredible and an absolute joy to work with, tonight the plaudits are all yours guys, no-one deserves them more.

Holly, my wonderful producer. A lot of people know I'm not the most organised person in the world, so there is no way any of this even had a chance of happening if it weren't for you. You have been supportive, creative and such fun, I've loved doing this production with you and I know so has everyone else involved. Thank you. Extra thank you's go out to anyone who has helped us build this incredible set, Joanna Manning in particular, to Nathan and Ross for our lighting and Hazel for our sound. Everyone has been so supportive, its what makes this theatre such a special place to be a part of.

Thank you everyone, and I hope you like the show.

## Holly Gatfield - Producer BA English (3rd Year)

Previous Experience -  
Acting: King Lear, 40% (NNT)  
OPEN (Edinburgh)



Opening the Anne Frank script to 3 pages of naturalistic set description, specific lists of 1940s costumes and a character list of 10 was a daunting prospect for a first-time producer. But after reading the script in its entirety, I realised that Anne's story represents so many voices and is an essential part of how we remember and commemorate the persecuted, both from WWII but also in today's world. Anne's words are powerful, inspirational, unfailingly optimistic, at times painfully truthful and always beautifully penned.

I would like to begin by thanking our incredibly talented cast. They have done such an outstanding job of developing these characters and their powerful and sensitive performances truly do justice to the living people at the hearts of each. This process had the potential to be very emotionally draining, however the cast's unfaltering energy and enthusiasm has brought life and laughter to each rehearsal. Aside from demands for stash and pipes, they have all been so patient allowing me to find my feet as a producer. Your endless dedication, cooperation, and insurmountable talent has made this process so easy and enjoyable - thank you.

Thanks also to our crew: Ross Brisk and Nathan Penney, who calmly addressed practicalities when creativity needed reigning in; Joanna Manning, our set designer, who has been unfazed by design changes, taking them all in her stride; and to the many, many others who have had a hand in building, painting, and sourcing our set, costumes and props - you have all been a pleasure to work with.

And finally, a massive thank you to Ricki for first asking me to be a part of such an amazing process. He has supportively helped me find my producing feet, never laughing *too much* at my stupid questions, gently batting down my implausible ideas, and patiently listening to the horrendous ones. His unfaltering creative vision and devotion to the play have been a pleasure to watch, you are a hugely talented director and a great friend.

Anne's is an important story, both beautiful and tragic, I hope you appreciate this wonderfully directed and sensitively performed interpretation as much as I do.