

## Ginny Lee – Una

English (BA Hons), 3rd Year

### Previous Experience:

**Acting:** Titus Andronicus, 2013; Paradise (Edinburgh Fringe Festival) Educating Rita, 2013; Mercury Fur 2013 (National Student Drama Festival); Mercury Fur, 2012; The Gut Girls, 2012; Rozenkrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead, 2011;

**Producing:** Back to Oblivion, 2013

**Technical Operating:** The Pitchfork Disney, 2013



Una has got to be the most complex character I have had the pleasure to try and tap into, and yet the truth behind her deep seated flaws is one simple thing that so many want – love. Blackbird and its' characters is a poetic and heart wrenching story of two people who simply wanted to be together. Its naturalistic script is as brutally honest as it is harrowing and I have loved every minute of it.

In a production without anything to hide behind, with no relief, no scene breaks and no interval, the other half of a two–hander is pretty important. I am very lucky to have been able to work alongside Shannon, who has been professional and resolute from day one. A truly talented and lovely guy, who will no doubt go on to do so much in the future.

I cannot thank Gus enough for his dedication and love of this play. His attention to detail and meticulous direction has been a pleasure to work with as an actor. Gus literally put himself in all the uncomfortable positions that the characters are put through, often acting with either of us as the other part and on one occasion he unswervingly committed to being a sexually driven young woman better than I ever could. Thank you for your passion, sense of humour and friendship Gus – I know you will go very far.

Katherine Tye is a wonder woman of high demand. However busy or wanted she is, she still manages to pull off all things with an air of calmness and witiness. Thank you for everything Kat, your genuine support and ever-growing hand gestures have meant the world.

I am heartbroken to say this is my final play staged at The Nottingham New Theatre, a place where I have learnt so much from incredibly driven and talented people. To end with a crew and script like Blackbird's is a true honour. I hope the show poses some difficult questions, enjoy!

## Shannon Smith – Ray

BA (Hons) Media and Communication  
Studies, 1st Year

### Previous Experience:

**Acting:** The Pitchfork Disney, 2013



My first year at university has been filled with fantastic moments that I shall remember for the rest of my life, but none more so than being introduced to the New Theatre. Never have I felt so at home and accepted for my passion, so I see it essential to share my thanks.

I believe this season will provide audiences with incredible performances from a plethora of plays with one being David Harrower's Blackbird. An intense hour and a half filled with complex plot twists, which will hopefully entice our audience and ask them to question their moral standpoint towards the situation. The character I have been lucky enough to engulf myself into for the past few weeks is Ray, who receives a shock when Una (a woman he had an affair with 15 years prior when she was just 12) reenters his life. Ray is a multi-layered individual who finds himself questioning his desires as a human and how the evidently affect his morals. He has been an absolute joy to study and has by far been the most challenging role I have ever had the pleasure to portray.

What I will remember most from this experience are the people who encountered it with me. Ginny has been an absolute delight to act beside and the New Theatre will really miss one of their brightest talents next year. I can only thank you for allowing me to improve as an actor and being so lovely and professional with every obstacle and challenge we have faced. I also wish you the best of luck with your promising future.

Gus, you are an incredible director who has the vision to compose what may seem at first glance a relatively simple play into a incredible production. Your vision for both the characters and your constant enthusiasm have reiterated why you are so highly thought of amongst your peers. Furthermore I must draw my thanks to our producer Kat, with whom this play could not have moved forward. Your dedication to the behind the scenes necessities are highly commendable and I thank you for all your hard work.