

## Producer's Notes



Katherine Tye

Music BA (Hons), Graduate

**Previous Experience:**

**Producing:** Buried Child

**Acting:** Robin Hood, Wild West End

**Musical Directing:** Fresher the Musical, The Last Five Years

**(Other)Musical Directed:** Jekyll and Hyde, Little Shop of Horrors, The Rise and Fall of Little Voice, Guys and Dolls

**Producing:** Curtains

When Gus asked me to produce Blackbird, I was delighted. With a gripping script and plenty of awkward silences, a challenging play that I had no doubt could be produced at the New Theatre. I am so grateful to have been involved in such a great production and it has introduced me to some wonderful people who must be thanked...

Huge thanks must be given to the director himself, Gus, for firstly putting up with me again. It has once again been an absolute pleasure working with such a wonderful director who has put up with my moments of madness. I wish Gus all the best in his future productions.

Ginny and Shannon; a massive congratulations. As you may notice it is an intense play, yet the commitment these two very talented actors have brought to the process has been phenomenal. Also thanks to Megan Gallagher for providing the voice recording of the girl, a young talent in the making! Further thanks should be given to Nick Barker who designed the fantastic poster, Aubrey for just being Aubrey and Chelsea Jayne Wright for designing and bringing the set to life. Maddie Hardy has once again been a star. Lyle and Dan are okay. What a team!

Enjoy!

## Director's Notes



Gus Herbert

2nd Year History BA Honours

**Previous Experience :**

**Directing :** Buried Child, 2013

David Harrower is a Scottish playwright, whose play Blackbird premiered in Edinburgh in 2005. It is a play that challenges and subverts our preconceptions of a social taboo. This subversion of expectation meant that this play was one that I wanted to tackle and would give two actors a tremendous opportunity to showcase their magnificent talents, which is exactly what I believe Ginny and Shannon have done. I have wanted to direct Blackbird for a while, and all the waiting has paid off, as I could not have asked for a better group of people to work with.

Ginny and Shannon, you have brought life to these characters that I had not considered before we started. Your commitment to creating two extraordinary but relatable characters is testament to your limitless talents. The intensity that you have both put into each rehearsal has allowed every moment to be immensely engaging and I have found myself completely immersed in every line you speak.

Ginny, you have managed to create a character in Una that not only has magnificent vibrancy and depth but the subtlety you have brought to the role takes it to another level. Shannon, your transformation into Ray has amazed me, taking such a conflicted and guilt-ridden individual and evolved him into a multi-faceted character. I am in no doubt that you both have unbelievable theatrical futures ahead of you (and I expect plenty of free tickets).

Massive thanks go to my producer Kat, as well as Chelsea and Aubrey for ensuring that the technical side of this production has gone so smoothly. With the simplistic and minimal setting that we have gone for, your work has been superb to the last detail and for that I am extremely appreciative. I hope that the show is as exhilarating to watch as it has been to work on and you all have a fantastic time.