

Laurence Cuthbert - Director
BA English (3rd Year)

Previous Experience -
Acting: The Tempest, Macbeth (NNT)



September 2015. Over a light lunch with my best pal, I raise an idea for a musical fusing Victorian ghosts with 80's disco. "Sounds alright," deadpans Josh Mallalieu in between munches of tuna sandwich. "It just couldn't be too convoluted." Fast-forward a few months and we're surrounded by loose scripts and leg-warmers, wondering how to cram so many thank yous into so few words.

First and foremost to a wonderful writer, director, and partner in crime: Josh. It's been a frantic time for us both and there is nobody I'd rather rapidly descend into madness with (and make it out again relatively unharmed.) Jake Lloyd has done an outstanding job as our MD, never losing patience with each new song I sent him. I'm also writing this on his MacBook because he lent it me. Thanks man, it's serving me well. Jess Millott has tempered mine and Josh's delusions of being choreographers with style, grace and the perfect amount of intimidation. Our team of tech wizards - Nathan Penney, Sam Osborne, Darcey Graham, David Taylor and Ben Woodford - have been invaluable in making everything onstage look and sound fantastic, after the odd sleepless night. To our housemate, Leo- thank you for chipping in when we needed it most and keeping a house in order around us. Emily, you've been the most organised producer we ever could have wished for. Watching you keep a clear head while effortlessly meeting our demands (Victorian costumes, woodlouse puppets, a cheese puff tower...) has been extraordinary and if you can cope with this mad show I'm sure you'll storm anything life can throw at you.

Finally, our cast. Over the past two months, each and every one of you have gone above and beyond to help us cobble together a full blown musical. We couldn't have hoped for a more entertaining and talented bunch of people to get us through it. Thank you.

And to our audience- we hope you enjoy the show!

(We did try not to make it TOO convoluted. We promise.)

Emily Sterling - Producer
BSc Biochemistry (2nd Year)

Previous Experience -
Directing: Flowers For Algernon (NNT)
Acting: The Tempest, Sorry Wrong Number (NNT)



Josh Mallalieu - Director
BA English (3rd Year)

Previous Experience -
Acting: The Tempest, The Master and Margarita,
Strangers, Our Country's Good (NNT)



"Guys I really need to get to sleep earlier. Could have sworn I just read something like 'the woodlice start singing?...'" "Oh no Emily, that's the stage direction!"

And so the madness began... One august evening this summer I received message from Josh saying he and Laurence had written a musical and asking if I would produce it for them.

Of course I said yes instantly.

Since then the last 4 months have been a whirlwind of leg warmers, lycra, lava lamps and (of course) woodlice. From start to finish this production has been a monumental undertaking but the best fun I have ever had at NNT. We have been so blessed with a talented, hardworking cast who have bought 100% into our mad little world. They have done everything we have asked of them and more. Our crew and backstage have also been phenomenal at bringing our vision together with a tight turn around. I'd love to thank everyone by name but that would take a very long time. I must thank Jess however, for her wonderful choreography and tireless dance rehearsals which have brought the music to life.

I must also thank by name three of the most talented people I know: Josh, Laurence and Jake. Jake, you have been a phenomenal musical director. We have benefited so much from your experience; you bring out the best in both the music and the singers which has been a joy and a privilege to witness.

Josh and Laurence, you have created a masterpiece I'm honoured you let me be a part of it. You gave up everything over the last 9 weeks to make this play so incredible. DEAD is a credit to your sense of comedy and imagination. I'm incredibly proud of what you have achieved. I challenge the audience not to be singing the songs over and over for the next week.

It's something strange and very humbling to see the odd ideas you've thrown about come to dominate your own and others' lives. Conversations about getting the chorus to sing as woodlice materialise as whole teams work tirelessly to build sock puppets out of card and pipe cleaners. Simply put, "DEAD: A Musical" could never have happened without the collaboration and inventiveness of some simply amazing people.

From re-enactments of sleazy dating videos, line deliveries that would have Patrick Stewart beaming, to our first rehearsal of the Into the City dance, there have been too many glorious moments to remember courtesy of our magnificent cast. I love you all and hope every night you remember how brilliant you are, and forgive the times my directions turned into incoherent babbling when I got too excited.

To Sam, Ben, Nathan, David and Darcey for your technical wizardry, to Dom and the army of musicians, Jess for her fantastic choreography of group numbers and Leo for his dazzling work on the "Spark" dance: thank you, you are among the unseen geniuses to whom the show is indebted. To Jake whose sacrifices began with hearing "Time of My Life" over fifty times in call-backs, and only grew from there. Shout-out also to Daniella Finch who was such an early and vocal supporter of this very silly and once far-reaching project. To Emily, our mum away from mum, who I doubt we'll ever appreciate the magnitude of everything you did each week to keep "DEAD" breathing.

And finally to Lozzer. Thank you for the unspoken agreement that you would typically lead warmups on the mutual understanding of the anxiety and humiliation it would cause me. For forgiving me the mortifying response I truly don't remember when you first approached me about this. Or for answering a thousand questions of where/what/who we were rehearsing each day. But mostly thanks for entrusting me to help bring your magnificent idea to the stage in the first place. May you never realise how thoroughly you outclass me in every way (or if you do please just continue to keep quiet) and may this only be the first of many more ridiculous collaborations between us.