

Lydia Smith - Producer  
BA English (3rd Year)

Previous Experience -  
Producing: Bull, The Great Gatsby,  
Pornography, Not About Heroes (NNT)  
Assistant Producing: The Infant (NNT)



Freak is an incredibly important play which explores the sexual expectations projected onto women in the twenty-first century. The play holds no details back as it guides the audience through the unsettling narratives of Leah and Georgie, ultimately questioning where the line is drawn between healthy sexual experimentation and disturbing exploitation. This is an incredibly important play that is painful, powerful and funny all at the same time.

The pressure of putting this show on in two weeks has been made easier by our wonderful cast; Lara and Kate. Not only have they shown their dedication to the show by managing to learn an obscene amount of lines BEFORE show week had even begun (a feat unheard of at NNT), but they have also managed to tackle the play's important but difficult topics with such sensitivity. I'd also like to thank our backstage team, especially Darcey for spending hours perfecting the lighting design so that the lamps dance perfectly in time with the music and I'd also like to thank Joanne for persevering with a frustratingly difficult loop.

Niamh, our wonderful director, has shown such passion for this script. I'd like to commend her incredible ability to provide empty red wine bottles... but most importantly I'd like to commend her enthusiasm for the show and its themes which has driven the whole process. She is an incredible talent and a wonderful friend.

Finally, I'd like to thank Anna Jordan for writing such a thought-provoking script. I hope you will enjoy the show as much as I have enjoyed producing it.

Niamh Caines - Director  
BA English (3rd Year)

Previous Experience -  
Acting: And Then There Were None,  
West, Rhinoceros, Yours and Mine,  
King Lear (NNT)



When I first read *Freak* I was bowled over by just how 'real' and honest the events and messages of the play are. Anna Jordan has created two characters who represent modern-day women and the pressures that can be felt in our society, and I feel it is so important for these messages to be shared. For a university audience, this play resonates with many current issues, such as the university rape cases in America, but also, the personal notion of growing up, defining yourself, and making your way in this world as a young woman.

With only seventeen days of rehearsal in total, and with it being my first time directing at the New Theatre, I was worried that we may not be able to do such an excellent play justice. I have been so overwhelmed by our amazing cast; Lara and Kate. They have fully embraced this production and have brought Georgie and Leah to life in ways which I could never have expected. They portray the two women in an endearing and amusing way, so that we really follow their stories and have our hearts broken as they show the audience just what the two characters are going through.

I would like to say thank you to everyone who has helped this production in any way; from set building, to trailer making, to poster design, to playlist compiling, to sound design and lighting design. This has been such a wonderfully collaborative production that has made my first time directing a joy.

Finally, holding the whole production together and keeping me down to earth is the incredible Lydia, without whom *Freak* would not have materialised. Always an uplifting presence and with so much knowledge and passion to make this show as great as it can be. Thanks pal!

Thank you for coming to *Freak* and we hope you enjoy the show!