

Lydia Smith - Producer
BA English (2nd Year)



Previous Experience -
Producer: Pornography, Not About Heroes (NNT)
Assistant Producer: The Infant (NNT)

Laura Jayne Bateman - Director
BA English (2nd Year)



Previous Experience -
Director: Not About Heroes (NNT)
Assistant Director: Hubbub: A Musical
Adventure (Lakeside)
Acting: Doubt (NNT)
The Final Act (Edinburgh)
A Midsummer Night's Dream (Lakeside)

As an English student, you would have thought that *The Great Gatsby* was a novel I'd seen more than enough during my studies to warrant any more exploration; however, when Laura came to me with her exciting and dynamic plans to adapt this into a play I couldn't resist.

First and foremost, I would like to thank our incredible cast. They have all brought such talent, interest, and dedication to the show and have matched Laura and I's excitement which is definitely something worth praising. Our Production Assistant, GiGi has been invaluable and has always been willing to put all of her efforts into a variation of roles, including negotiating the incredible prizes given away at the fundraiser. I would like to thank the whole of the backstage team for their commitment, especially our lighting designer, James Fox, for providing us with TOO many innovative ideas to choose from.

Finally, I'd like to thank Laura, our exceptional adapter and director, for showing such dedication and passion for the show. I think I can speak for everyone in saying that her organisational skills never cease to amaze as well as her eye for detail, without which this show wouldn't be half of what it has turned out to be.

I hope that you enjoy the show and please tweet us at @NNTFringe with your thoughts and feedback.

"Can't repeat the past? Why of course you can!"

These iconic words, spoken by the titular character of F. Scott Fitzgerald's celebrated novel, could not seem more relevant than they do today. In 1920s America, a *laissez-faire* Republican government pushed capitalism to breaking point, but whilst the rich became richer, the poor became more impoverished. In Britain in 2015, a Conservative government cuts welfare spending, marginalises women, and continues to privatise its National Health Service. Once again, the rich become richer and the poor become more impoverished. *The Great Gatsby* is a timeless story, but feels particularly meaningful today amongst the continued rise of consumerism, capitalism, and xenophobia, and it has been a real privilege to adapt it into a stage play.

This production, despite its logistical hurdles, has been immensely rewarding to direct and choreograph. I would first like to thank our talented cast, Nick, Libby, Harry, Ben and Becca, for working so incredibly hard and accepting the many challenges that I have thrown at them. Secondly, our marvellous technical team, led by our Technical Director, Gus, our Lighting Director, James, and our Graphic Designer, Aneesa, for being so generous with their time and skills. Finally, our wonderful production assistant, GiGi, and our extraordinary producer, Lydia: their organisation, support and passion have left me certain that without them, the production would not have been possible.

Thank you for your support of *The Great Gatsby* and the Nottingham New Theatre. We'd love to hear your feedback, so please tweet us at @NNTFringe or @thenewtheatre. I hope you enjoy the show.