

NICK SWIFT – PRODUCER



BA (Hons) American & Canadian Studies,
4th Year

Before embarking on our quest to stage Philip Ridley's dark and twisted play, I was totally unfamiliar with his work. Tom, the director, lent me his copy of the play after we had spoken about potentially working together on this project, and from the moment I started reading the script, all I really wanted to do was to see this play performed. The fact that we are now at that stage (no pun intended) doesn't quite seem real. It has been an absolute pleasure and joy working hard to reach the point where we're at today.

The cast have been phenomenal in getting to terms with the script and characters in such a short space of time, going about it in a highly professional manner whilst maintaining a relaxed and friendly atmosphere that a play of such intensity requires. They deserve all the applause they will inevitably get. James has been fantastic in coming to grips with the character of Presley, who is on stage for the entirety of the show in the amount of time we've had to prepare, Laura superb in the difficulty of such a physical role that Haley demands. Both our wonderful Freshers, Shannon and Ollie, will undoubtedly impress and be a part of the New Theatre for many years to come.

Pitchfork has become a very special play for me, as the first production I've been involved with in any way shape or form at NNT. As a final year student I am highly appreciative for the opportunity of being involved in such an integral way. I would like to extend my thanks and appreciation to everyone who has worked on this performance in any way possible. The set designers and tech operators have been great in preparing our set and lighting, adhering to our requirements in such a way that the end product is even better than originally imagined. Many thanks to Tom for allowing me to produce for him, it's been a genuine pleasure and I look forward to hopefully working with you again in the future. Special thanks to both Nick Barker and Dan O'Connor for all the work they have done on the PR front for our production. It was always going to be hard to get the show ready in the space of three weeks, and they have both made my role as producer in particular a lot less stressful.

TOM TOLON – DIRECTOR



BA (Hons) American Studies, Year 2

Previous:
Directed – Red, Voice Without Words
Acted – 1984, Robin Hood
Operated – Moon

It has been an immense privilege to direct the opening play of the Autumn Season, and I cannot think of a better way to have started than with the Philip Ridley's Pitchfork Disney. It has been a wonderful opportunity to explore Ridley's darkest fantasy, and I hope that watching it tonight, you will feel as excited and enthralled as I have been I've over the past two weeks. The play celebrated its 21st anniversary last year, and was a landmark achievement and the time

To my cast, you have all been phenomenal and are all exceptionally talented actors in your own right. Thank you for your passion, dedication, drive and willingness to push yourself during rehearsal and for the way in which you have completely immersed yourself in your characters. James you have been fantastic over the last few weeks and despite the gigantic amount of line in front of him, you have risen to the challenge and created a brutal yet hauntingly touching performance on stage. I was so excited to have Laura join Pitchfork after her extraordinary performance in Mercury Fur last year. I am so happy with the way in which you given your very all to Haley and it has been a privilege to watch your performance throughout.

Thank you to both of you for also eating so much chocolate!
I have also been fortunate enough to have two brilliant freshers in my cast and make their New Theatre debut on the stage tonight. Shannon, you have been exceptional as Cosmo, completely immersing yourself within the character, both charming and terrifying, and such a great addition to the play. Also to Ollie, who physicality on stage has been phenomenal, and your dedication to turn up to rehearsals even when you were not on stage, always with a smile on your face, and cheering up the entire cast. Both of you will do very well indeed and have a fantastic theatre future ahead of you.

To the tech and stage team, led by Tessa and Tom, thank you for all the late night rehearsals and early morning get ins and for enabling us to create our vision on stage. Lastly my thanks go out to my producer Nick, who has been my right hand man throughout the rehearsal process. Thank you for all your hard work, for giving your all throughout the play and without whom, this play would not exist and would not be as successful as we are now. It has been such an exciting few weeks, and your support to me has been amazing, I hope that we can work with each other again in the future.

I hope you enjoy the play and have a fantastic evening.