

Liam McClelland - Director
BA Philosophy and Theology (1st Year)



Previous Experience -
This is Liam's first production at NNT

I have known of Shopping and F***ing for some years and when the opportunity came to propose a play for The New Theatre Nottingham Spring Season 2016 I felt that it would be the perfect opportunity to start a conversation discussing the parallels between issues that the play touched on during its first performance in 1996 (shoplifting for food, drug use and a lack of HIV awareness) with those that 20 years later (Foodbanks, Chemsex and the NHS England decision not to make PrEP available*) still need to be addressed.

Section 28, a vile piece of Conservative legislation from 1988, was in place. It stated that a local authority "shall not intentionally promote homosexuality or publish material with the intention of promoting homosexuality" or "promote the teaching in any maintained school of the acceptability of homosexuality as a pretended family relationship" resulting in a large number of LGBT student support groups closing down for fear of breaching the Act. Scotland repelled the Act on 21 June 2000, England, Wales and Northern Ireland repelled it on 18 November 2003.

Under this current Conservative government we are seeing a similar choke hold on LGBT support, this time under the guise of Austerity. The London LGBT & Mental Health Charity PACE ceased operating on the 29 January 2016 after 31 years citing cuts to local authority budgets. Broken Rainbow, the UK's only LGBT domestic violence charity faces closure with the ceasing of government funding from the end of March 2016.

It is with great thanks to Rory, the invaluable input from Peri and Ronan and the wonderful actors, Lara, Ted, Charlie, Cameron and Duncan, all of whom it has been an absolute honour to have worked with, that my day dreaming has become reality.

*at time of printing the National Aids Trust have legally challenged NHS England's decision not to make PrEP available

Rory O'Shea - Producer
BA Politics (3rd Year)



Previous Experience -
Acting: Romeo and Juliet (NNT)

'We'd like you to perform a phone sex scene' were often the first words we spoke to those attending auditions for Shopping and F***ing, and with that we were locked into what has been a whirlwind roller coaster into the depths of humanity itself!

Having been involved in the New Theatre from my very first day at university many moons ago, it seems fitting to close this chapter of life by finally getting around to producing a play! When Liam introduced me to the script, I was instantly hooked, and couldn't wait to get started. I'd therefore like to thank The Nottingham New Theatre Committee for taking what some may view as a risk, and allowing us to bring this incredibly poignant play to life.

I'd like to take this opportunity to say thanks to a few people without whom this show could never have happened. To Liam, whose insight and vision brought us all together. To Peri and Ronan, our assistant producers who from the get go have been an integral part of the team, without whom Liam and myself would almost certainly have fallen apart. To Darcey, our wonderful set designer, I doubt many people could have interpreted our somewhat erratic attempt to convey our ideas, and turn them into a beautifully original and immersive design. To Harry, creating an exciting and dynamic lighting design. And to our incredibly talented cast, who throughout this process have given this challenging script everything they have got. Whilst being patient enough to make sense of Liam and my increasingly abstract ideas, and seeing them come to fruition.

Whilst 'enjoy' may not exactly be the right word to use here, I certainly hope you have an interesting experience watching Shopping and F***ing.