

James Collyer - Producer
BA Philosophy (2nd Year)

Previous Experience -
This is James' first production at NNT



Joe Strickland - Director
BA Experimental Psychology (4th Year)

Previous Experience -
Producer: Brave New World,
Reservoir Dogs, Our Country's Good



Strangers has been a fantastic introduction to the New Theatre for me. The director, Joe Strickland, has been a brilliant mentor, and I am grateful that he gave me the opportunity to get involved. I've really enjoyed working on the show, it has been hectic at times but it wouldn't be a proper play if it wasn't! I had a great time helping Joe with casting, it was in during those few days that the play started to take shape and ideas about what we were going to do come thick and fast. My only regret is that I wasn't around for the last week!

Once again, I can't thank Joe enough for letting me get involved. Another thank you has to go to Niamh Caines for all the help and effort she has put in to not only making Strangers a success, but all the other fringe shows too. The cast and crew have been wonderful, and although I haven't been around rehearsals as much as I would have liked, they have all done a fantastic job! And finally I'd like to thank Carn Truscott for convincing me to get involved and putting me in touch with Joe in the first place.

Strangers is a unique style of performance, blending magic and theatre to create a new artistic medium. In the way that a musical tells a story with the help of melody and lyrics this show tells a story with the help of tricks and illusions.

I became a magician when I was ten years old and started competing in magic competitions when I was 14. I always hated the way most magicians would just perform a series of tricks without any connection or tying together. My acts started to incorporate characters and stories, allowing the tricks to have more purpose and meaning. This also allowed for the magic to happen to magician rather than being the source of it, which often results in a more powerful performance. It is on the backs of these two principles that I created Strangers.

I can't thank the actors enough for working hard to learn not just their characters and lines, but to devise a lot of their scenes, input into other people's, and learn all their magic, none of them having had any prior magic ability. This play was way too big an ask of anyone, but they've all risen to the challenge and surpassed my expectations. Thank you to James, my producer, who has survived this baptism of fire and will go on to produce what I'm sure will be great productions in the next few years.

Thank you to everyone else who helped me with this show: all our backstage crew and designers, our poster designer, Beth, and to anyone that comes along to see the show, especially if you get chosen to come up on stage and enter the weird world of Strangers.