



James McAndrew

Director

MRes Film and Television Studies, 2nd Year

Previous Experience

Directing: Boeing-Boeing, 2013; The Pillowman, Charley's Aunt, 2012; Bed, 2011 (Nottingham New). Wild West End, 2012 (Pleasance Queen Dome, Edinburgh Fringe). Bed, 2012 (Lakeside Arts Centre).

Acting: Osama The Hero, 2013; Fresher the Musical, 2011; Flare Path, His Lordship Entertains, 2010 (Nottingham New). Little Shop of Horrors, 2012; Into the Woods, 2011 (Lakeside Arts Centre). Chasing Dragons, 2011 (Nottingham New, Edinburgh Fringe).

Welcome to The Nottingham New Theatre, and thank you for attending the show. Hopefully, for all you parents and housemates, the next few hours will act as proof that time spent at University, not necessarily hitting the 'books' or getting on the 'lash' all the lifelong day, is most certainly time not wasted. For all you folks who've come for no reason other than the promise of some theatre, Shakespeare or even this particular play, I hope the promise is delivered upon.

Nick and I wanted to stage a piece to thrill, excite, shock, delight, and nothing more. For all our searching through the contemporary canon, we always arrived back at the same point: William Shakespeare. The master storyteller and entertainer that secondary schools have somehow managed warp our minds against; if I had studied this play in Year 9 I'd have been a convert much earlier! The Most Lamentable Tragedy of Titus Andronicus, to give it it's full, original title, was his first tragedy to be staged and was the biggest box office hit of his entire career. With the young playwright/actor yet to have refined and perfected his gift, the play manifests not only as tragedy, but as comedy and history too. Though criminally neglected in the professional sphere until relatively recently, this aversion to staging a notoriously demanding script is in fact our ace in the hole; I'm confident most of you know how the likes of Romeo, Juliet, Hamlet, Macbeth and all those King Henrys and Richards wind up, but what of Titus Andronicus? His family and his enemies? When you hit the interval, take a wild stab at what might happen next.

To be staging it here, at our ever thriving, wholly student-run theatre is an absolute joy. To once again be part of a season packed with such vivacious variety and to be given the chance to work with an army of actors and creative collaborators is what makes The Nottingham New Theatre so unique and enriching for all. Everyone is here out of love and passion, and nothing more.

As ever, many thanks are in order to many people, without whom this would be nought but me jumping up and down, contorting my arms and saying stuff like: "look at the thought word!", "accept and build!" and, worst of all, "pull it out and put it out there!" Anyway, thank you to the cast for putting in more hours of rehearsal and line learning than was ever thought possible. An ensemble in the truest sense of the word. Thank you to the creative minds (and hands) behind the brilliant set, lights, sights and sounds: Chelsea, Aubrey, Euan, Giles and Hugh. To Rory, Andy and their backstage and techbox bound accomplices. To everyone and anyone who ever leant a hand to anything and everything, thank you. Finally, to Nick Stevenson, thank you. This production marks our fourth collaboration as Director/Producer and as with almost every other show we've worked on, it would never have arrived at show week if Nick hadn't convinced me, before we'd even started, that it could and, most importantly, should be done.

Enough reading already. Enjoy the show. It's okay to laugh.

Nick Stevenson

Producer

LLB (Hons) Law, 3rd Year

Previous Experience

Producing: The Pillowman, Charley's Aunt, 2012; Bed, 2011 (Nottingham New). Bed, 2012 (Lakeside Arts Centre). The Country, 2010 (Blackburn Empire Theatre).

Musical Directing: Jekyll and Hyde The Musical, 2013 (Assistant MD) (Nottingham Arts Theatre). Wild West End, 2012 (Pleasance Queen Dome, Edinburgh Fringe). Curtains, 2012 (Nottingham Arts Theatre). Our House, 2010 (Assistant MD)(Winstanley College).

Stage Managing: Boeing-Boeing, 2013 (Nottingham New).

Technical Operating: Pub Quiz is Life, 2013 (Nottingham New).



This is the fourth show I have produced for The Nottingham New Theatre, and once again it has proved as enjoyable but busy as ever! I've always wanted to produce a Shakespeare before leaving the theatre but when James mentioned this play to me I knew very little about it. I soon learnt that Titus Andronicus is one of Shakespeare's most shocking, thrilling and yet easily accessible plays for an audience. It's a captivating read and I hope this production proves the same to watch.

I have many people to thank for all their hard work on this production. First of all, the cast have been a joy to work with (if difficult to track down when there's so many of them!). Their energy, enthusiasm and commitment has blown us away. I'd also like to thank Hugh Purves for all his hard work with the costumes, make-up and special effects – a tricky job for this production! And to Chelsea Wright for designing our set once again. I'd also like to thank everyone involved in The Nottingham New Theatre. It truly is a unique place with an array of talented individuals. I'm proud to be a part of it.

And finally, of course, to James McAndrew. My partner in crime for over two years and four productions now, it has again been a joy producing for someone so dedicated to our shows and to this theatre. Thank you.