

Lilly Dawson

Director

Co- Director Back to Oblivion (2013)

This has been a brilliant year of firsts for me and ending it with the first play I have directed is more than I could have hoped to accomplish in my first year at Nottingham.

Nina Raine's Tribes is a play at its core about communication (or lack thereof); it has been enlightening to explore the ways in which it can form or destroy relationships and identities. Raine's play features such beautifully observed characters that I couldn't pass up the opportunity to put it on.

I have been continually stunned by the level of professionalism with which the New Theatre is run and their overwhelming support and encouragement. I have been incredibly lucky to take advice from such an array of talented people.

Albeit a lot of the learning happened on job, as I'm sure my cast realised and hopefully forgive me for. They have all been incredibly supportive and hard-working, each of them bringing their very own talent, dedication and sincere interest in the play and their characters, going above and beyond what I asked for. It was always going to be a challenge, for all the actors, but especially James and Emma who are taking on the added responsibility of learning sign language. I have no doubt that they will pull it off and maybe even make it look easy.

This play was only possible because of the wonderful people that lent their hands so thank you: To Andy who taught us BSL and without whom I would have considerably less ways to insult the people I love. He has been the most incredible help throughout the process, being patient and so generous with his time.

Thank you also to the extensive creative team that put up with my overwhelming inability to answer questions coherently. I am forever in the debt of those that helped me in every backstage detail, I have never encountered such a concentration of genius as I have here and their willingness to help and give up their time to help made me, on more than one occasion, well up ever so slightly.

Lastly to Nick Gill who has supported me and the cast unwaveringly and to Dave Porter who was the much needed calming presence on set. You have both been incredible, reliable and hilarious and I hope you have had as much fun as me.

So, I hope you enjoy the fruits of our labour as much as we have enjoyed creating it and thank you very much for coming.

Nick Gill - 1st Year BA Politics Acting: NSDF Ensemble (2013), NNT: Titus Andronicus (2013, Room 30 (2014)

Hello, and welcome to the Nottingham New Theatre's production of Tribes by Nina Raine. When Lilly told me about this play, I was excited. Tribes is a play that we hope will challenge your preconceptions and makes you re-examine your ideas on themes such as deafness, communication and identity. There are also funny bits...feel free to laugh.

Having only ever acted during my involvement at the New Theatre thus far, I was initially daunted by the prospect of putting on such a challenging piece at this very established theatre. However, I need not have worried. The New Theatre's Committee has been a source of untiring support and guidance for me and Lilly (naïve freshers). I can't count the number of times a 2nd, 3rd, 4th or even 5th year

has walked up to us and said "If you need anything just shout"; it just goes to show what a friendly and helpful place the theatre is. On a similar word of thanks the cast have been fantastic. In the face of occasional adversity and more often incompetence from me, the actors have always maintained their loyalty, humour but above all talent and I thank you for all of your hard work.

However one man above all deserves a particular guard of honour. Sir Dave Porter, whilst whacking out a Masters no less, has been a superb ally for Lilly during my absence and for me more recently. His support has been invaluable and having been at the theatre for five years, I speak on behalf of us all by saying thank you.

We are doing a collection for a local deaf charity so if you have any spare change that would be superb. Thank you for coming during this stressful period as exams approach and we hope you enjoy the show!