

BY

PHILIP

RIDLEY



VINCENT RIVER

The wonderful world of Dissocia



By Anthony Neilson



4TH - 7TH DECEMBER 2019
DOORS AT 19:00PM | START AT 19:30PM
SAT MAT AT 14:30PM | TICKETS FROM £4
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The Nottingham New Theatre

Director: Rohan Rakhit
3rd Year - History BA



Acting: Paper Cranes; One Man, Two Guvnors; Quiz Show; Breathing Holes; Here, the World Entire

Producing: Ring Ring (IUDF)

The way homosexuality is portrayed in Vincent River may feel unsettling for modern audiences, but it's important to remember this play was penned at the turn of the millennium, so Anita's response to finding out her son was gay can be more understandable in the context of the play's setting. Philip Ridley's play is 19 years old now (around Davey's age) and it shows. Where was the family liaison officer for Anita? Why is there no mention of counselling nor any other support so soon after Vincent's death? One homophobic attack is one too many. However, to deny the advances that members of the LGBTQ+ community have made in the last two decades, is to deny the courage of those who stood up for their rights, won them, and are still battling them today. To assert that the irrational treatment of LGBTQ+ people has disappeared from the public realm would be absurd, but these issues, on the whole, are treated differently now, and we should be appreciative of these developments.

This production will be the first time that this play has been presented in a non-naturalistic setting and it's truly been a joy to direct. I'd like to start by thanking the cast and crew who have worked so so very hard on this production. I appreciate I am a demanding director, and everyone's commitment to the project has been truly humbling. Specifically I'd like to thank my Producer and best friend Skylar, without her my idea would still be a concept and she deserves all the praise in the world for the success of this production. I'd also like to thank the actors for making my first stint at directing such a pleasure, you're both incredible and have such amazing futures ahead of you! To my wonderful talented Assistant Director Beth, thank you for having my back and bringing such energy and creativity to rehearsals, I've loved working with you. Julia, thank you for being such an engaged and passionate addition to this production (and NNT), you've given this show your all and I can't thank you enough! Finally, I'd like to thank my girlfriend Immie for being a constant source of support for me throughout the process, I definitely couldn't have done this without you.

We hope that this play will illuminate the reality of our society and the constant struggles that minority groups endure. I think this interpretation will be celebrated at the NNT as we are an organisation that celebrates difference more than any community I can think of.

Right, enough from me. I hope you all enjoy the show!

Producer: Skylar Turnbull Hurd
3rd Year - Philosophy BA



Producing: Here, the World Entire

Vincent River has the ability to emotionally affect a wide variety of audiences in different ways. Philip Ridley's story-telling lets us tune in to the confusion of a teenager, or the pang of losing and missing someone you love, or the ache of feeling like you don't fit in but you're not quite sure why, whilst also feeling a comfort in discovering and admitting who you are, despite the confines society tries to inflict. When Rohan came to me with this play, we immediately knew it was the one for us. That's how most of our decisions throughout this process have worked; if we agree - it's in. If we don't agree, then we fix it and we try again until we do. Some people advised us against leading this project of ours together, on the basis of it being hard to work with someone you're close with, but I've had the best time with my best friend. Thank you, Ro.

Deborah and Olly, you've made our vision come to life, and I can't thank you enough. Beth and Julia have also smashed their roles and gone above and beyond to help us out. Thank you for all understanding when I haven't been able to be there, but each time I've been away I've known that my cast (and director) have been in safe hands. Each time I have been able to make it the four of you have not only been absolutely brilliant, but I've left the room even more excited than I was when I walked in, so thank you so much for all your time and commitment. Another thank you is due to our publicity team, led by our Bethington and also Immie, George and Tom. Your ideas have helped us bring our show to those outside NNT walls, and your creative input and advice has been endlessly appreciated. To our technical and set teams; Barney, Jake and James, thank you for helping us develop the things I am not so good at finding words for (like somehow creating Transport For London in a white room) into something beautiful. Alice and Nadia, thank you so much for taking the welfare of our cast on board; I trust you both tremendously. I also want to thank the NNT Backstage Committee, but also the rest of the NNT committee for putting up with random Vincent River related questions (basically all the time), and facilitating our ideas into something feasible. Lastly, thank you to Henry, you know why. Similarly, to Sam and Izzy, Seabee, my dogs and the rest of my support team. I love you all, and can't imagine doing this process without your support.

We have a very big team, but I believe that this shows how important the individual contribution of everyone on our crew is. I've loved every moment, and I could not wish to have worked with anyone else. Vincent River is a common story shown in a specific way; two people sitting next to each other might leave NNT with entirely different interpretations and emotions - but that is the beauty of our play. The story is timeless, yet entirely relevant, and I hope you all find a place for it in your hearts, minds and ways of being when you leave.

Anita: Deborah Kelani-Afolabi,

4th Year - Pharmacy MPharm

This is Deborah's first role at the NNT!



Davey: Olly O'Regan,

2nd Year - English BA

Acting: Doctor Faustus, The Seagull



Cast

Anita - Deborah Kelani-Afolabi
Davey - Olly O'Regan

Crew

Director - Rohan Rakhit
Producer - Skylar Turnbull Hurd
Assistant Director - Beth White
Production Assistant - Julia Henderson
Technical Director - Nadia Elalfi
Shadow Technical Director - Lillian Race
Lighting Designer - Jake Longhurst
Shadow Lighting Designer - Charlie Finney
Sound Designer - James Barlow
Video Designer - Jonathan Taylor Davies
Assistant Video Designer - Izzy de Bono
Shadow Video Designer - Jacob Dean
Stage Manager - Alice Walker
Set Designer - Barney Hartwill
Set Assistants - Jaime Wynne & Jeannette Shipman
Make-up Assistant - Nat Henderson
Publicity Manager - Beth Carter
Publicity Assistant - Tomisin Fayemi
Poster Designer - Immie Clarke
Photographer - George Westaway
LGBT+ Consultant - Sam Hawkins SU



Every year, one in four of us
will experience a mental health problem.
But hundreds of thousands of people are still struggling.
This term, the NNT's season charity is Mind.
Mind is a mental health charity based in England and
Wales set up in 1946. It offers easily accessible information
and counselling to those with mental health issues.
Due to its stature, it is also able to produce real change
by successfully lobby authorities on issues regarding
mental health. Its lobbying has proven results, such as
in the Mental Health Units Act 2018. There are 132
independent affiliated Mind associations, including one for
Nottinghamshire, which offer services such as local
supported housing and self-help support groups.

We have chosen this charity in memory of one of our
members, Rohanna Brown. Rohanna was involved
in around 14 different productions over her time at
NNT, and was a recognised and
loved figure around the theatre.