

Omid Faramarzi - Co-director
BA History (3rd Year)

Previous Experience -
Acting: Rhinoceros, King Lear,
Equus, Letting Go, Back to Oblivion (NNT)



Two months ago, Rachel and I sat in Costa (the one is Blackwell's on campus) and decided on something that would come to shape our lives more than anything else we had decided on before. Although it may sound as though we decided to pack it in and tie the knot, or have a baby even, we in fact chose a play. We chose West. But the similarities between having a play and having a child are, I imagine, quite similar. We started with a bubbling enthusiasm, dreaming of the final result and frantically worrying about how we'd get there. Then, as we cast our show (at this point I'd like to say how amazing our cast have been), we started to see its personality grow and its character develop. There were quirks we picked up on, and nuances we never thought would be there, and through it all we've grown to love it even more. This play has been a true labour of love, and even though it's taken me to the brink of my own stress gauges, the challenges that Berkoff's writing present are nothing compared to the fun we had directing it.

Through this whole parenting process, I could envisage no child-rearing partner other than Rachel. Rachel, the amount that our brains are synched up is scary, and that through better or worse, richer or poorer, sickness (no I really was quite ill) and health you have broken your back to make sure we achieve what we want makes you a saint in my eyes. You're worth a million (of something I'm sure). Lastly, I'd like to thank Max Miller for his undying patience, and give a special thank you to Ollie Shortt, Tom, Beth Wilson and Joe Strickland for designing and building the boxes that came to be the bane of our lives, and a thanks to Will and Darcey for being the undefeatable techies we needed.

Oh and, have fun, it'll be the perfect evening.

Rachel Angeli - Co-Director
BA English (3rd Year)

Previous Experience -
Acting: Women of Troy, Punk Rock,
The Rehearsal (NNT)



Two months ago, Omid and I sat down to talk about West. A few days later, thanks to a few bottles of wine, a few late nights and a few lapses of judgement, we had settled into the idea of directing this behemoth of a play. We have poured ourselves into this production in a way which can surely only be unhealthy (no really, Omid was quite ill), but it has been unbelievably rewarding.

West's pseudo-Shakespearean-Cockney chatter, fantastic characters and variety of scenes were both intimidating and exciting. As directors, Berkoff allowed us room to play, and despite the limited amount of time we had for such a heavy task, that is exactly what we did. The cast have been wonderful at joining in our playing with us. We couldn't have asked for a more enthusiastic and dedicated group. Or a more patient one. We would both like to say thank you for trusting us so much. Your willingness to collaborate and try new things has made this process a pleasure.

Omid we have spent far too much time together. But I wouldn't have wanted to attack such a meaty play with anyone else. You have challenged constantly, supported me when I was panicking and encouraged me when I was doubting us. I wouldn't want anyone else to share the countless meals, drinks, blank moments, early mornings, late nights, and squeals of excitement with.

I hope this show is as much fun to watch as it was to direct.