



DEEP

**BUXTON OPERA HOUSE
& PAVILION ARTS CENTRE**

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INTRODUCTION

When I read the first draft of *Deep*, it was like a firework to my imagination. I could see the characters, feel the rhythm of the writing and hear the soundscape. It created ideas of movement and I could picture all the characters and places in Buxton. So, when the Buxton Opera House and the Crescent Heritage Trust commissioned the play from Rob and decided to co-produce it, with support from the Arts Council England, I was really excited for the possibilities that *Deep* could bring to Buxton.

My excitement grew when I was invited to direct it! The play offered expansive possibilities, and from the start myself and those involved saw it as an opportunity to offer an experience of working on a brand new piece of writing to young performers within the area, to bring together creatives from different community groups and also to create a piece that is for everyone. Working collaboratively and developing a sense of ensemble is my favourite way to work, and the company which has been brought together have totally embraced this. The cast is comprised of local performers with different experiences and backgrounds, from different areas here in Buxton and the surrounding areas.

The play has a strong contemporary character, and therefore I felt that the character of the mermaid, Mia, needed to be something otherworldly and ethereal. We have been lucky to have Clare O'Neill, the artistic director of Mad Hatters Choir, join us as Composer and Vocal Director. With her company of young singers, she has created a score that brings to life Mia in such a beautiful moving way. Similarly, the set and costume design needed to be something that would capture the feel of the play, something which would take us to many different locations and also give a sense of flow and water – that is where the brilliant Kate Unwin came in. Kate has created something very beautiful in the design, using plastic bottles donated by the people of Buxton. (And it is a set that can be completely recycled afterwards.) Lighting and Sound design have been created by the in-house team at the Buxton Opera House whose creativity and responses to the play have been a joy to work with.

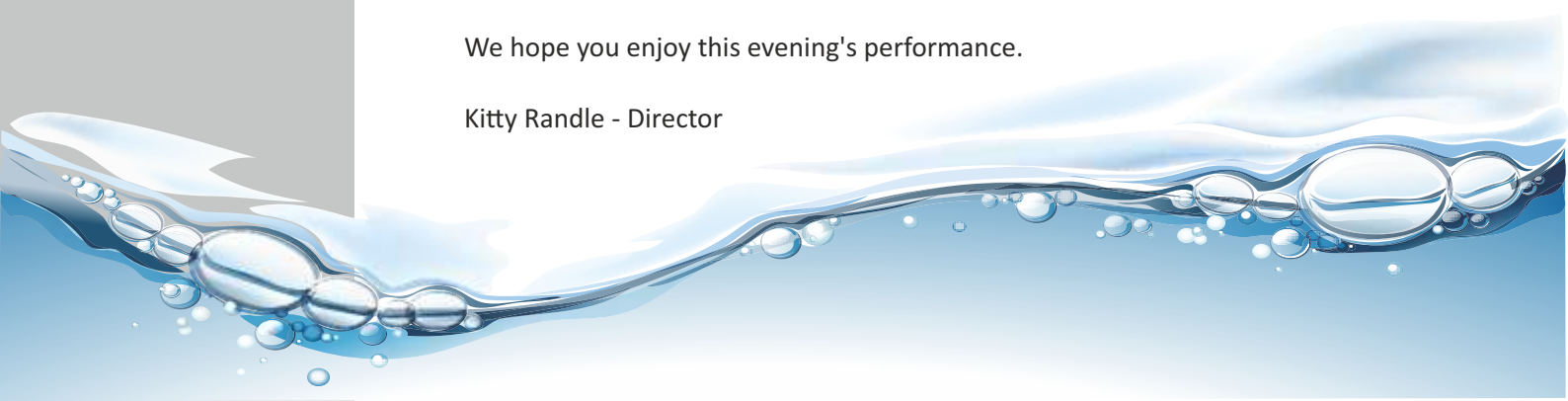
Since living here in Buxton I have noticed the role water plays in the everyday life and character of the town, but working on the play has made me appreciate it much more. It's exciting to discover it runs like veins under our very feet here and now. Working on a piece about a young person who is somewhat lost in life, but then by a chance meeting, finds love and also finds a voice to stand up and be heard. It is also a reminder to look into and learn from the constant stream of faces swirling around us in this community and that we all have stories to share. Maybe, someone we float past everyday on the high street or in the park or on the Slopes might have deep waters hiding a story akin to the mermaid of Buxton.

CAST / CHARACTERS

Rob wrote for the auditions and to get us started, character descriptions, brilliantly every character was compared to a hot beverage, so we asked the same question to the company. If you were a hot beverage/drink, what would you be?

We hope you enjoy this evening's performance.

Kitty Randle - Director



DEEP

SUNDAY 26 JANUARY 2020

THE CAST

Dad	Matthew Bowers
Jan	Sarah Day
Harry Hope	Joe Hatton
Neat	Eleanor Hibbert
Violet / Chorus	Stephanie Rose Maria Hunt
Mum	Eleanor Maddison
Lauren Hope	Daisy Mellen
Miss Fisk	Emily Redwood
Jemima / Chorus	Lauren Roberts-Turner
Jugg	Jude Sellers
Amber / Chorus	Molly Soden-Freeth
Cardie Lady	Maya Williams
Mia's Choir	Rosie O'Neill
	Marissa Jackson
	Molly O'Neill (soloist)
	Caitlin MacNamara
	Will Fletcher-Wells
	George Mycock
	Meg Mycock
	Charlie Wallis
	Anna Walker
	Ama Asante
	Poppy Toon
	Jess Redman
	Elyse Marling
	Sophie Lindop
	Sophie Botham
	Rupert Thomas
	Dylan Taylor
	Angus Campbell
	Imogen Vernon
Mia's Dancer	Sophie Botham

DEEP

SUNDAY 26 JANUARY 2020

CREATIVE TEAM

Rob Young	Writer
Kitty Randle	Director
Clare O'Neill	Composer and Vocal Director
Kate Unwin	Designer
Sarah Kell	Producer
Louise Manifold	Advisory Stage Manager
Rosie Lower	Deputy Stage Manager
Matt Cowan	Lighting Design
Jim Morgan	Sound Design



BIOGRAPHIES

Matthew Bowers

Matthew Bowers is a 19 year old aspiring actor here in Buxton. He studied drama at GSCE and A level at Buxton Community School and hopes to continue acting for many years to come. He is a member of the Buxton Drama League and last summer played Emmett in *Legally Blonde* with Mad Hatters Choir. Thinking of why Matt started acting and why he enjoys it so much, he realises that it's the reaction from the audience he enjoys more than the acting itself. In life, he only hope to make others happy and cheerful as nothing brings joy to him more than seeing the smile and hearing the laughter of others. Seeing the positivity and humour in things is very important to Matt, as he says "it can help us to stay ourselves and keep us all going".

The hot beverage Matt would describe himself as would probably have to be an Irish Coffee because it is a drink that not only will keep you awake but will keep you feeling alive and jolly for a long time.



Dad

Jan's Dad has Cancer. That's all you need to know. He's dying. It's sad. Move on. But hang on a minute, people aren't defined their illness, they're warm, wonderful human beings and Jan's Dad's one of the best. Kind, gentle, funny and the best Dad a kid could ever want.

The dregs of a coffee, still smoky and sweet.

Sarah Day

Sarah is a 19 year-old local actor from Eyam. She attended Hope Valley College where she took part in several productions including *Bugsy Malone*, *Fiddler on the Roof* and *Macbeth*. Leaving school with a distinction star in BTEC drama, she continued to give backstage technical support during the college's productions. Sarah currently enjoys being a member of REC Youth Theatre Company's Senior Company, most recently playing Romeo, Mercutio and Friar in *Romeo and Juliet*, Prince in *Sleeping Beauty* and Youth in *Zero for Young Dudes*. She also enjoys art, climbing and music. She is currently working towards her Grade 6 LAMDA Acting exam. In the summer last year, Sarah performed a solo rehearsed reading of the original short story *DEEP* written by Rob Young at the Green Man Gallery. She is very much looking forward to being part of Rob's play adaptation of the story.

If Sarah were a drink, she would be a cup of tea; warm, practical and containing not nearly enough caffeine.



Jan

Born with a birthmark, Jan clammed up to protect himself from the bullies, but the bullies never came. Now even his Dad is deserting him, thanks to Cancer, leaving Jan shipwrecked with his angry Polish Mum.

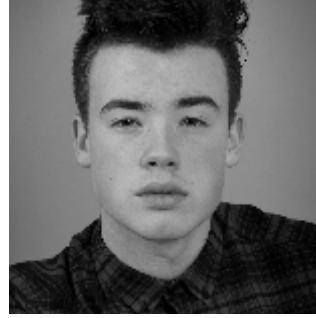
A macchiato: small, weird and no-one ever picks it.

BIOGRAPHIES

Joe Hatton

The bulk of Joe's theatre experience has been here at Buxton Opera House, with roles including Chino in *West Side Story*, Noah Claypole and Dr Grimwig in *Oliver*, and Gordon in *Rent*. Joe also featured as Charlie Brown in the hit American show *You're a Good Man Charlie Brown*.

If Joe was a drink he would be a caramel frappuccino with an obnoxious amount of whipped cream on top!



Harry Hope

Harry Hope is a self-made man. He started off as an ugly runt and fought his way up through the ranks. Now he's a Big Shot and wants everyone to know. Groomed to perfection, he smells of jasmine and cash. Harry's pride and joy is his daughter, who's as sleek and smart as his car. He is a man with a plan.

A cold brew.

Eleanor Hibbert

Eleanor recently graduated from the University of York after studying Theatre. Alongside *DEEP*, she is currently touring the UK in a production of Alice Birch's *Many Moons* with her theatre company Rocket Box Theatre. Rocket Box Theatre are hoping to start developing a new project soon, hopefully involving puppetry so watch this space! For Eleanor the dream would be to be doing all this, full time. In the near future she will be exploring theatre design in more depth and the first job will be to make some prototypes of puppets and to start writing the new show. For Eleanor *DEEP* has been a wonderful experience, "absorbing knowledge from some amazing theatre makers and the best thing is that this is all in my hometown."

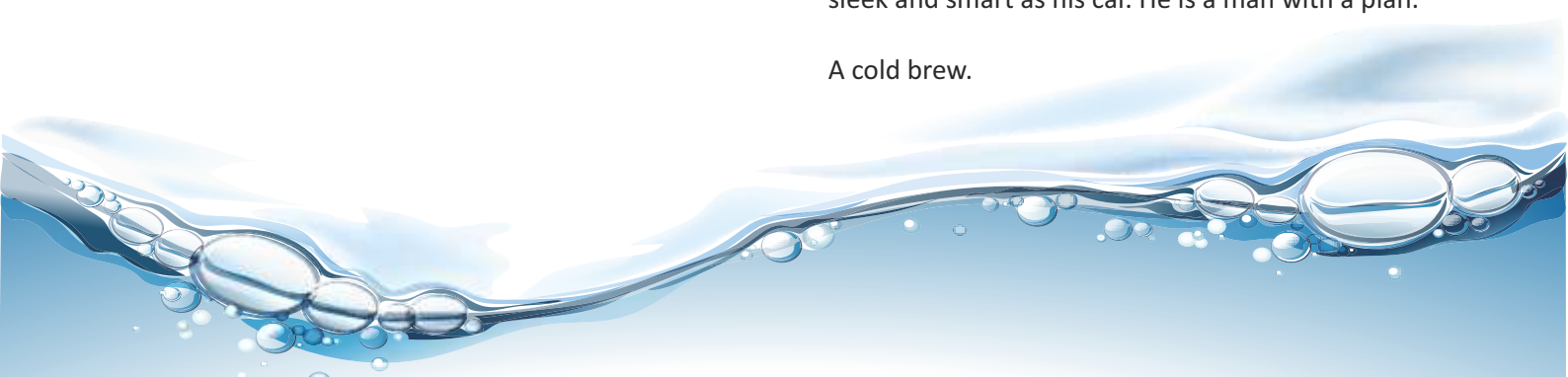
If Eleanor was to describe herself as a hot beverage she would have to go with a gingerbread latte, for the obvious reason.



Neat

Short for Anita. The Bad Girl, like she cares what you think. Swaggeringly confident, deeply cynical and if the Dark Side had a Head Girl, she would be it. It's hard to find out who Neat is because there's so much front, but the hurt is never far from the surface.

An espresso. Intense, dark and wires your brain.



BIOGRAPHIES

Stephanie Rose Maria Hunt

Stephanie has been acting for three years in Buxton. She is a company member of Buxton Drama League and Chatsworth Players. She recently went on BBC Radio Sheffield with Chatsworth Players with their production of *Christmas Carol* as one of the narrators. She has also been singing and working in music since late teens. She studied music at Salford, Pendleton College. Stephanie then went on to Media City at Future Skills to further her music training. Stephanie has enjoyed taking on her character and being part of the chorus in *DEEP* as she finds it really fun play multiple roles.

Stephanie is like a mochaccino because she's addicted too caffeine and can't get enough of the stuff. Without her daily intake, she will be very moody.



Violet / Chorus

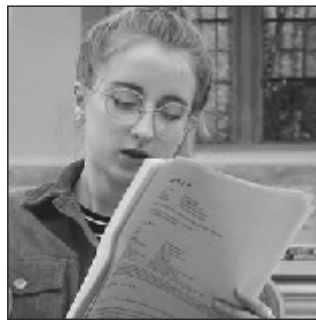
Because she's the 'new girl', she doesn't know anyone; being a teenager she has a cocky attitude. But later finds friends and loves her life.

Violet relates to a Deluxe Hot Chocolate with Marshmallows.

Eleanor Maddison

Eleanor is in her first gap year gaining experience in acting. At school she completed a drama A level after performing in several school productions, such as Linda in *Our Day Out*, Natalie in *Face* and the Nurse in *Romeo and Juliet*. She is also a member of the Buxton Drama League, currently performing in her fourth year of the annual pantomime, this year's being *Mother Goose* as the character Shifty, part of a comedy double act 'Nifty and Shifty'. She has had two previous lead roles in the pantomime, Princess Jasmina in *1001 Arabian Nights* and Running Water in *Captain Hook's Revenge*. Having performed since she was seven, Eleanor hopes to continue with this line of work by going to university to study acting, and then hopes to work within the performance industry in the future.

If she was a hot beverage she would be a hot chocolate with lots of cream and sprinkles.



Mum

Jan's Mum is Polish. She trained as a pharmacist and looked like a movie star. Then she fell in love with an Englishman, moved to Buxton and ended up working in Tesco. How did that happen? She takes out her anger by trolling big companies online, a pointless tick-box rebel.

A cold cup of coffee left on the shelf.

BIOGRAPHIES

Daisy Mellen

Daisy moved to Buxton when she was a baby and has been involved in local theatre from a young age. She has appeared in numerous productions with Buxton Opera House Young Company and Mad Hatter's Music and her favourite roles to date have been Wednesday Addams in *The Addams Family Musical* and Wendy in *Peter Pan*. She is also a writer and director and her first original musical, *The Circle* was performed in 2018 at Buxton Community School. She is currently writing and directing *Nine Days*, a musical about Lady Jane Grey who was very briefly queen of England in the 16th century. Daisy will also play the lead role when it is performed later this year. She is very grateful for the opportunity to play Lauren Hope in *DEEP* and has relished playing the bad guy for once!

If she was a beverage she would be a pink lemonade!



Lauren Hope

Lauren is brighter and more beautiful than you will ever be, and everybody knows it, especially her. Smart, popular, loaded, Lauren Hope glides above life and if she wants a unicorn, her Daddy will buy it.

A double-strength latte in an elegant glass.

Emily Redwood

Emily made her Buxton Opera House debut at the age of 8 and was last seen on the Opera House stage in Summer 2019, performing in *Oliver!* as the Strawberry Seller. Emily trained at the Academy of Live and Recorded Arts, and is looking forward to bringing new writing to life in *DEEP*. Her next performance will be as Hermia in an abridged version of *A Midsummer Night's Dream* at the Cheshire One Act Play Festival in March.

Earl Grey - A firm favourite amongst people who like things with a twist, who travel off the beaten track and don't always play by the rules



Miss Fisk

Miss Fisk is the smartest person in the room, emotionally articulate and fluent in her craft. A coiled spring, a master ninja and if you're naughty, watch out. She's coming for you.

Mocha. Dark as chocolate, light as cream.

BIOGRAPHIES

Lauren Roberts-Turner

Lauren has been passionate about theatre from a young age and gained a distinction star in BTEC drama at Hope Valley College. After taking a leadership role in a student lead production of "The Wardrobe" and as well as acting in it (playing a loving conscripted soldier and a shrewd slave who successfully bargains for his own safety), she went on to become the youth director at Easy street, an award winning youth theatre in Sheffield. In June this year she is very excited to be heading off to the West End to take part in a week's work experience on Hamilton. As well as treading the boards Lauren is very interested in politics, literature and devising complex travel strategies to cross the dark, white peak divide. She is very thrilled to be taking part in this show and to have the experience of working with such as interesting people and sincerely hopes that you all have a good night.

If Lauren was a coffee, she'd be strong, dark and half drunk.



Jemima / Chorus

Jemima is a budding photographer of, well, just about everything and dreams of being a conflict photographer; filming her classmates has provided plenty of experience. Either that or a film director as she much prefers framing other people's stories then getting involved in them or living her own.

If Jemima was a coffee, she would be an Americano; overlooked, born out of necessity, a water downed version of her potential and completely out of place in a traditional British tea shop.

Jude Sellers

Jude lives in the Peak District and is in his final year of A levels including Theatre Studies at High Storrs in Sheffield. His love of comedy, theatre and all things drama started in primary school where he showed a natural comedic talent and actively took part in the school productions. He joined an acting club in Buxton, before finding Rec Youth Theatre Company, where he has thrived and his love of performing has grown. He regularly attends Film Camps with Act2Cam where he writes, performs and directs. Some of Jude's theatre credits include General Malahyde in Buxton Opera House Young Company's *Gargantua*, Warner in Mad Hatters *Legally Blonde*, George Tesman in *Hedda Gabler* with High Storrs Theatre Company and Percy in REC Youth Theatre Company's *Lord of the Flies*. Jude aspires to be a full time working actor in both theatre and film.

If Jude was a coffee he would be a double shot of



Jugg

Short for Juggernaut. Jugg the hug is the alpha male and toughest kid in the school. Heroically idiotic, he can burp the entire alphabet in one breath, but by the time he gets to 'O' it's a rasp and by 'V' it's just nasty (think purple face and burger breath). Always happy to play the class clown.

If Jugg were a coffee, he'd be a big blob of foam, splashed in your face.

BIOGRAPHIES

Molly Soden-Freeth

Molly is 16 years old and has lived locally for all of her life. Molly has played parts in many musicals and plays at Hope Valley College. This includes Babyface in *Bugsy Malone*, a factory worker in *Made in Dagenham*, a witch in *Macbeth*, the Narrator in *Joseph and the Technicolour Dreamcoat* and last year she was the main choreographer for the performance of *Billy Elliot*. She has also performed in dance shows at Disneyland Paris, Alton towers, Buxton opera house and many other local events. She is now studying dance, drama, biology and statistics at Aquinas college and aspires to be a dance teacher for people with learning difficulties.

If Molly was a coffee she would be a caramel latte because she is bubbly and sweet.



Amber / Chorus

Amber is supposedly Lauren Hopes best friend (slave). If Amber was a coffee she would be an instant coffee because she is ordinary and doesn't have her own opinions.

Maya Williams

Maya is currently studying Geography, English Literature and Theatre A-Levels at High Storrs School. As well as being an avid member of REC Youth Theatre Company for the last three years, she also performed in *Rent* and *Oliver!* at Buxton Opera House last year along with many other productions. Some of her favourite roles include: Juliet (*Romeo and Juliet*), Yente (*Fiddler on the Roof*), Fleance (*Macbeth*) and Waitress (*Bugsy Malone*). She is currently working toward her Grade 6 LAMDA Acting Exam. She also enjoys music; playing the flute and piano, and baking in her free time.

If Maya was a hot drink she would be an espresso shot with whipped cream on top; dark and bitter but with a little sweet swirl.



Cardie Lady

A cardigan is a buttoned-up jumper worn by buttoned up ladies. A 1950's classic that crossed office-based efficiency with good-old fashioned homey charm, in a prim and prissy style.

Warm milk and nutmeg.

BIOGRAPHIES

Mia's Choir / Mad Hatters Choir

Mad Hatters Youth and Junior Choir are 20 years old this year and our members come from all over the High Peak. We rehearse weekly during term time in Buxton and no audition is necessary to join only dedication and enjoying working together as a team! It's fun and challenging to sing together as well as learning lots of life skills we learn fantastic music too. Mad Hatters Youth Choir's future performances include West Side Story as part of Buxton Fringe Festival. We've loved working with all the *DEEP* team and especially being Buxton's first collective mermaid!

If you are interested in joining Mad Hatters please look us up on Facebook.

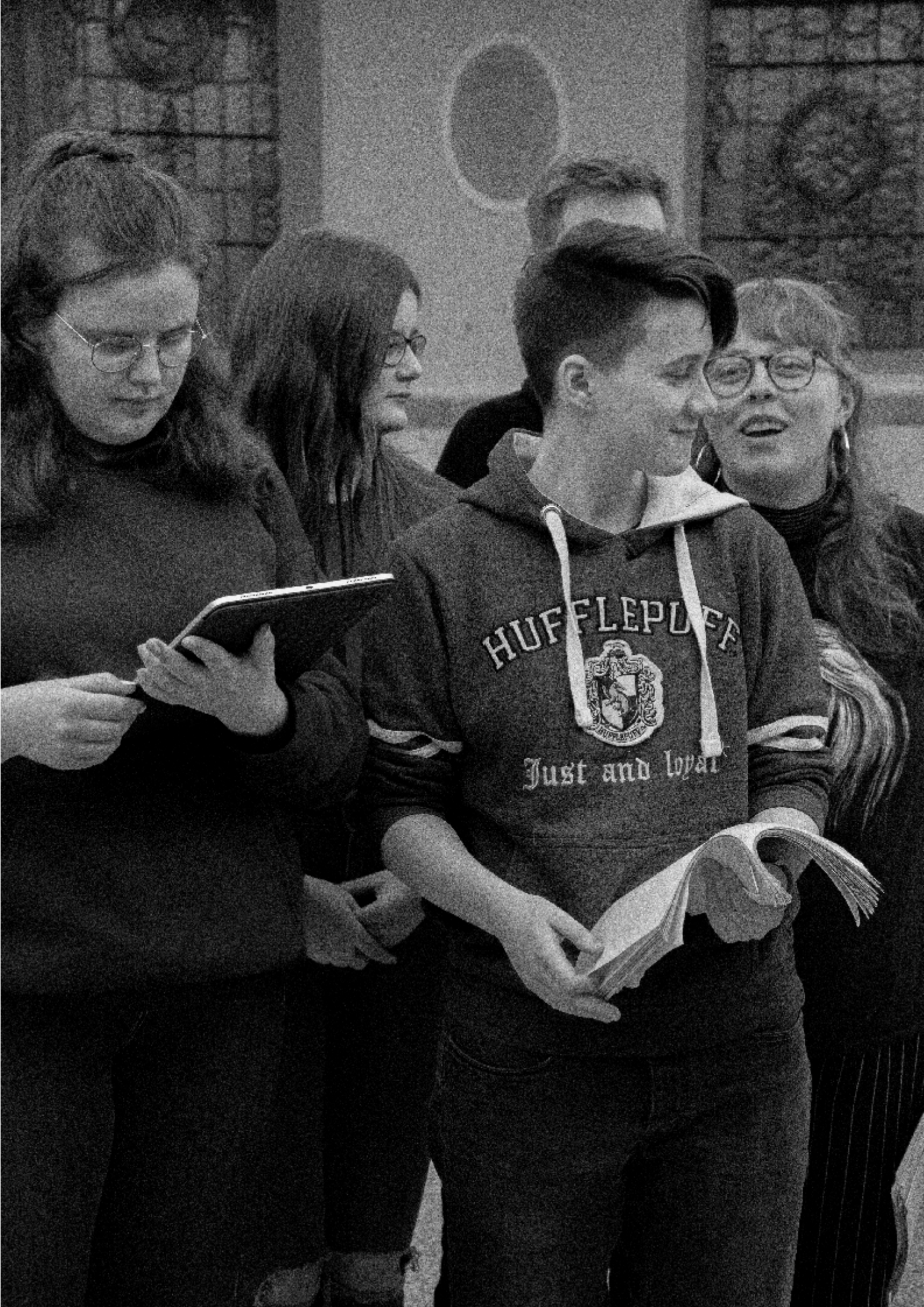
If Mad Hatters were a coffee we would be a lovely latte!



Mia is a spirit. A curious mercurial creature who doesn't just 'live' in water, she 'is' the water. Her soul infuses the liquid and brings it to life, so a trickle is her laughter and a waterfall is her roar. Playful, shy and easily hurt, she's a very immature immortal. Whip-smart and elusively ethereal, she defies all description.

She's the only one who isn't a cup of coffee. She is, literally, water.





CREATIVE'S BIOGRAPHIES

Rob Young - Writer

Rob Young is an award-winning writer. He studied theatre design, and has spent 20 years writing for the UK's biggest film, TV and theatre companies, including the BBC, Channel 4, Working Title and National Theatre.

Rob's adaptation of Hemingway's Pulitzer Prize winning novella, *The Old Man and the Sea*, won the Award for Artistic Excellence at England's biggest arts festival and he was the Inaugural Patron of the first arts festival in England to be run by an NHS Trust.

Last year, Rob was commissioned by Buxton Museum and Art Gallery to "bring one of their exhibits to life". He chose the Buxton Mermaid, a remarkable curio made from fish skin and human hair. It raised a flurry of questions, such as, "What would a modern day mermaid look like? Would she have a passport? Would she be able to claim disability benefit?" As research, Rob visited haunted pools, interviewed



professional mermaids and swam with synchronised swimmers. It was this research that inspired the play. For a show about a spirit who lives in the water, the fspring directly beneath the Opera House stage was a remarkable reveal and gives us all a sense of 'home'.

If I were a coffee I'd be a double-shot latte, a friendly hug with hidden strengths.

Kitty Randle – Director

Kitty Randle is an Actor, Director and Movement Director. After graduating from Bretton Hall one of her first professional jobs was at the Paupers Pit theatre in Buxton, returning many years later to make Buxton her home. Kitty is Artistic Director of the award winning REC Youth Theatre, with whom she is most recently directed *Zero For Young Dudes*, *Small Fry* and *Twice Upon a Time* at the Buxton Fringe. Kitty has also had the pleasure of working with the Young Company here at the fantastic Buxton Opera House and directed their Junior company's production of *The Raft of Medusa* last summer.

Kitty recently worked with Not Now Collective on *Pepper and Honey* as Movement Director. She is also co-Director of Moving Stories Theatre Company, recently working on *Romeo and Juliet* which toured to the beautiful Minack Theatre. With Moving Stories she is also currently in preproduction for a new project, Shakespeare's Mothers, working with their Band of Mother's acting group, bringing opportunities to mothers in performing arts.



Kitty has found working on *DEEP* to be a joy, working with such a fantastic company of actors and creatives, doing the kind of work she feels is important and that also has collaboration at its heart. Find out more about what Kitty is up to @KittyRandle

If Kitty was a hot beverage - erm she would be... I have tried to answer this question and feel I am putting too much meaning to my answer so instead I phoned a friend, she said "a Mocha Chocka Chai Latte with extra Marshmallows", not sure I am there yet, but have something to aspire to.

CREATIVE'S BIOGRAPHIES

Clare O'Neill - Composer and Vocal Director

Clare trained at the Royal Northern College of Music. She then went on to perform regularly with many Opera Companies including Welsh National Opera, Opera North, and Scottish Opera. She had an amazing time singing lots of fabulous roles including Musetta in *La Boheme* and the title role in *Madam Butterfly*. Her first job out of music college was with Buxton International Festival at Buxton Opera House! Clare has loved being back in the Opera House working on *DEEP* with her choir and the cast. Clare founded Mad Hatters Music 20 years ago, she loves working with young (and older) people sharing her joy and expertise of music and especially singing. She feels very lucky and privileged to spend her days working with the talented youth of the High Peak!

If Clare were a drink she would be a mug of Yorkshire Tea!



Kate Unwin - Designer

Kate has worked as a freelance set and costume designer for the past twenty years. Working predominately in theatre, Kate has worked for the National Theatre, London's West End, regional theatres all over the UK and designed many touring and outdoor productions for Europe and the Middle East. She also designs site-specific work, installations, bespoke costumes, events, music videos and has had a Best Set Design nomination from the Off West End Awards.

If I was a hot beverage I would be a mint and rose tea. I make this tea from plants in my garden which is where I would always like to be.



CREATIVE'S BIOGRAPHIES

Louise Manifold - Stage Management Adviser

Coming from a performing background, Louise made the transition into stage management over 9 years ago. She has enjoyed working on a variety of different productions, from award winning Musicals, to pop up aerial performances, national and rural tours, as well as in-house shows for the likes of Oldham Coliseum and The Dukes Playhouse, Lancaster. Her Credits include: *Cinderella*, *Peter Pan*, *The Three Musketeers*, *Aladdin*, *Treasure Island*, *Pinocchio*, *The Hobbit*, *Beauty and the Beast* (The Dukes, Lancaster). *Romeo and Juliet* (Moving Stories at The Minack), *The Chef Show* (Ragged Edge Productions). *Edward and Eliza and the Smashing of the Van* (Straightforward Theatre Company). *The King Lear*, *Arabian Nights and Days* (Shifting Sands Theatre Company). Louise has also worked on several television documentary series including *Medieval Dead series 1,2 and 3*, and most recently *Viking Dead* (Dragonshead Productions for UKTV).

A cup of tea, practical and perfect.

Rosie Lower - Deputy Stage Manager

Rosie has been with Buxton Opera House Young Company since its creation, at 7 years old. In that time, she has been in a number of productions, including having the opportunity to be involved in national touring operas which have come to the Opera House. For the past couple of years, Rosie has been volunteering with the Young Company giving a helping hand to Kitty and other leaders. Since September, Rosie has been working with Kitty Randle and the Deep cast as duty stage manager and has been enjoying her role. She is very appreciative to Kitty and Sarah Kell for giving her this opportunity in adult theatre.

Friends describe Rosie as a hot chocolate with cream, full of sweetness with a side order of sarcasm.

Jim Morgan - Sound Design

Jim has worked at Buxton Opera House for over 11 years, and previously in producing and touring theatre. He has a number of sound design credits to his name at the Opera House including the recent community musicals *Rent*, *Oliver*, and *West Side Story*. With over 20 years of industry experience he still enjoys throwing himself at contemporary performances like *DEEP* as well as the more traditional musicals and live music performances he regularly is involved in. Although a passion, sound design is not the only area Jim works in, having lit shows with the Young Company, and worked on stage as well. Enjoying working with the Young and Community Companies, He has a good sense of humour (after 8am), and is looking forward to the next show.

Jim is a handful of coffee beans stuffed into the mouth and chewed in the woods, round a campfire.

Matt Cowan - Lighting Design

Matthew trained in Entertainment Technology (BTEC) at the Oldham College. He also has a Degree in Performing Arts Technical from The University of Huddersfield. He started his career at Pitlochry Festival Theatre where his credits include: Sound design for the *Servant O' Twa Maisters* and sound no1 for *Whisky Galore - a musical!* He currently works for Buxton Opera House and has designed lights and sound for a number of shows. lighting design credits include: *Ash Girl*, *The Odyssey*, *Ebenezer* a musical, *Canterbury Tales*, National Theatre Connections *Gargantua* and Buxton Drama League's *Bedroom Farce*. Sound design credits include: *Basset*, *Animal Farm*, *Mother Courage* and the *Government Inspector*. He has also lit shows and operated sound on many occasions at the Opera House ranging from comedians to live bands.

Matt is a mysterious empty coffee cup.



A Big Thank You to

Buxton Opera House and The Crescent Heritage Trust for their support, producing of DEEP and the Crescent for providing the Pump Room for rehearsals.

Everyone at Buxton Opera House for your support and brilliant in-house producing.

Arts Council England for their financial support than has helped bring this production to the stage.

Sarah Kell at the Opera House for producing, advising, supporting and so much more! If she was a beverage she would be a Camellatte - rare and classy.

All those in the community who collected bottles to help build our set.

Waitrose for the trolley.

Zuza Zukiewicz for sharing stories of your beautiful country.

Kitty would personally like to thank the Buxton Opera House for understanding and support of a creative working with a young child, supporting parents in performing arts. To her family and beautiful daughter who have supported her also. To Rob for entrusting me with his writing. To all the creatives who have contributed their time and effort and magic. To the whole cast for being so brilliant, jumping in and making a wonderful piece of theatre.

And to the streets, people and water of Buxton and the Buxton Mermaid who inspired this piece.