

# THE PANOPTICON

## ADAPTING THE PANOPTICON FOR THE STAGE

There is a moment in rehearsals where the actors become wild things. They gnash their terrible teeth. Pound their feet. *The Panopticon* company is pushing itself as hard as it can — toward a point of no return. The actress playing the lead role of Anais (Anna Russell-Martin) shoves a circle of actors surrounding her — back out of her way. In a second she has cleared a space for herself. She drops to the floor in tears — fierce and sudden. She makes a sound that could be wolfish, it holds rage, strength, frustration. I know that sound. Debbie Hannan (Director) quietly tells me that this is a great thing, it can take actors weeks to get to this point.

Individually and collectively this is not the kind of journey that leaves you unchanged. *The Panopticon* is becoming a living, pulsating, world. It is under our finger nails. It trails home after us. I know how affecting this world can be. It is a story I never wanted to tell about a system I did not choose to be raised in. Even now it still gets to me.

I wrote the novel of *The Panopticon* around ten years ago when I was living in Peckham. In the process of passing it over to this company I sit for days on end answering questions about the care system, there are so many nuances particular to my own very extreme upbringing.

Many of these are things I never discuss. The actors are unsure if they can own this material. I tell them they have to do so. Finding the root of what ties them to their character will help to humanise a demographic that is always discussed as a collective. Children from care are individuals. Just kids. Each brings their own unique self.

Theatre itself is a medium that can make real, raw human experience stark as it can be. It also holds magic — even on an empty set. I love that. The challenges are many, not least emotionally. I met with Debbie Hannan many times before we got to the point of rehearsals. We spent a long evening having dinner at my flat. I talked a lot. I told her about my own upbringing. We were able to meet each other as artists and women — people first, storytellers second.

*Jenni Fagan, writer.*

The Panopticon is sponsored by Binks Trust

Anais  
Angus/ Ensemble  
Dylan / Ensemble  
Eric / Ensemble  
Isla / Ensemble  
Joan / Ensemble  
John / Ensemble

Shortie / Ensemble  
Tash / Ensemble

Theresa (filmed)  
Jay Voice Over (audio)

Fight Director  
Animator  
Casting Director  
Writer  
Director  
Video Designer  
Audio Describer  
Designer  
Associate Director  
Sound Designer/Composition  
Captioner  
Movement Director  
BSL Performance Interpreter  
BSL Performance Interpreter  
Lighting Designer  
Audio Describer

Costume Supervisor  
Company Stage Manager  
Lighting Technician  
Company Stage Manager  
Costume Technician  
Stage Supervisor  
Stage Supervisor  
Costume Technician  
Lighting Supervisor  
Video Supervisor  
Assistant Stage Manager  
Deputy Stage Manager  
Sound Supervisor  
Lighting Programmer  
Production Manager  
Scenic Artist  
Rigger  
Carpenter  
Carpenter

A list of the National Theatre of Scotland staff involved in this and all productions can be found here:

**[nationaltheatrescotland.com/about/contact-us](http://nationaltheatrescotland.com/about/contact-us)**

If you would like to give us feedback on the show, please email us at **[feedback@nationaltheatrescotland.com](mailto:feedback@nationaltheatrescotland.com)**

*Anna Russell-Martin who plays the role of Anais has sustained an injury in her hand and will be performing with her arm in a cast this evening.*

Anna Russell-Martin  
Paul Tinto  
Kyle Gardiner  
Martin Donaghy  
Kay McAllister  
Gail Watson  
Lawrence Hodgson-Mullings  
Louise McMenemy  
Laura Lovemore

Julia Jack  
Fraser Bryson

Emma-Claire Brightlyn  
Cat Bruce  
Laura Donnelly, CDG  
Jenni Fagan  
Debbie Hannan  
Lewis den Hertog  
Gillian Gourlay  
Max Johns  
Fiona Mackinnon  
Mark Melville  
Alison Pendrowski  
Skye Reynolds  
Yvonne Strain  
Yvonne Waddell  
Simon Wilkinson  
Kat Wilson

Emma Clifton  
Lee Davis  
Patrick Hepplewhite  
Carrie Hutcheon  
Rachel Jackson  
Jonathan Kennedy  
Christopher McDougall  
Nicky McKean  
Jon Meggat  
Andy Reid  
Valerie Rickis  
Emma Skaer  
Andy Stuart  
Ben Terry  
Sarah Wilson  
Megan Yeomans  
Malcolm Stephen  
Jason McQuaide  
Chris Richardson

## THE COMPANY WOULD LIKE TO THANK:

Conor Burgess, Vanessa Coffey, Citizens Theatre, Holly Donnelly, Ruben San Roman Gamez, Matthew Jenkins, Tramway, J&B Scenery, Sorenzo Studios and Margo Waddell & Jo Walsh.

## ABOUT NATIONAL THEATRE OF SCOTLAND

National Theatre of Scotland is a Theatre Without Walls. We don't have our own building. Instead, we bring theatre to you. From the biggest stages to the smallest community halls, we showcase Scottish culture at home and around the world. We have performed in airports and tower blocks, submarines and swimming pools, telling stories in ways you have never seen before.

We want to bring the joy of theatre to everyone. Since we were founded in 2006, we have produced hundreds of shows and toured all over the world. We strive to amplify the voices that need to be heard, tell the stories that need to be told and take work to wherever audiences are to be found.

**Caroline Newall** Acting Artistic Director (Maternity Cover)  
**Brenna Hobson** Acting Chief Executive/ Executive Producer  
**Seona Reid DBE** Chair

For the latest information on all our activities, visit us online at **[nationaltheatrescotland.com](http://nationaltheatrescotland.com)** or follow us on:



**#THEPANOPTICON**

## SUPPORT NATIONAL THEATRE OF SCOTLAND

The National Theatre of Scotland is working in collaboration with Who Cares Scotland to run a First Nights event around The Panopticon, inviting young people who have had experience of the care system to attend a performance, learn more about the show and about theatre in general.

First Nights is a year-round programme engaging with people who might not have come to the theatre before or who feel that theatre isn't necessarily for them. First Nights aims to break down the barriers that might prevent people from taking part – financial, geographical, caring responsibilities or other life circumstances.

If you or your business would like to support First Nights or learn more about all our work and initiatives to reach out and engage and include, please contact Adam McDougall  
**E:** [adam.mcdougall@nationaltheatrescotland.com](mailto:adam.mcdougall@nationaltheatrescotland.com)  
**T:** 0141 227 9231

If you have been affected by the themes in *The Panopticon*, you can contact the following organisations:

**Rape Crisis Scotland**  
[rapecrisisscotland.org.uk](http://rapecrisisscotland.org.uk)

**Scottish Association for Mental Health**  
[samh.org.uk](http://samh.org.uk)

**Turning Point Scotland**  
[turningpointscotland.com](http://turningpointscotland.com)

