



MARY ROSE
PRODUCTIONS

presents a studio performance
directed by Alex Taylor

A play about Climate Change and Consumption

COUGAR

By Rose Lewenstein



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About Us

Mary Rose Productions is an award-winnning theatre company based in Portsmouth, England named after the famous ship which was once lost at sea and is now resurrected. We want to resurrect and renovate the old traditions of theatre by creating a new repertory-style theatre company for today's theatre-makers. The company looks to help bridge the gap between early career/emerging artists and experienced professionals through collaboration and artistry.

Notes from the Director

Cougar explore the relationship between Leila, a highly successful climate change authority of a certain age, and John, a twenty-something bartender who works in a London hotel. In a series of episodic scenes taking place in hotel bedrooms around the globe- the bedrooms all look the same-against a background of escalating climate change and increasing global unrest, John and Leila carry out their affair. the play takes place now and in the future. Light changes indicate that time has jumped forwards or backwards and/or a change of location.



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Cast and Crew

Director... Alex Taylor

Production Designer...Christian Masters

Environmental Sustainability Coordinator...Anna Francesca Chereches

Chris Davey...Intimacy Coordinator

Technician...Joseph Williams

Leila...April Singley

John...Joseph John Scatley

Butler 1 and 2/Young Man...Lucas Moss

Nota Bene

Where relevant a QR code can be found next to the artists name with a link to their CV.

Please note this play depicts adult themes, intimacy, and brief nudity. There are also flashing lights. This play may not be suitable for audiences under 18.

Director, Alex Taylor



Alex Taylor has worked extensively in the UK, USA and in SE Asia as a director, actor, educator, and voice specialist. He has served as the Director of the School of Theatre at Manchester Metropolitan University, as a Master Teacher at the Julliard School (Darma Division) in New York, and as Head of Department at the Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts (School of Drama) in Hong Kong. In 2005 he joined the Royal Birmingham Conservatoire (Acting) and is currently an Associate Professor. Alex has directed productions for The National Theatre of Korea, and for a number of theatre companies in Hong Kong, as well as in the UK. In 2008 his production of *Once On This Island* was seen in the Hong Kong Arts Carnival. His production of *Bent* won a Best Production award from the Hong Kong Drama Federation (2009). His production of *The Normal Heart* (Hong Kong, 2020) also won a Best Production award and, in addition, he was a Best Director nominee. His production of David Hare's *Amy's View* was the inaugural production for Mary Rose Productions in September 2024. Alex is one of the UK's leading voice specialists, and he has freelanced as a voice coach in a number of UK theatre companies, including the Royal Exchange Theatre, Manchester, and the RSC. Internationally, he has led masterclasses at The National Theatre of Korea, the University of Korea, and at the Shanghai Theatre Academy. His book, *The Integrated Actor*, is due to be published later this year.

Anna Francesca Cherches, Sustainability Coordinator

Anna Francesca holds an MSc in Film and Television and a BA in Animation. She is passionate about sustainability. She is BAFTA Albert trained in Sustainable Production and Editing.



Christian Masters, Production Designer

Christian Masters is a world-traveller, filmmaker and storyteller with an MSc in film and television from the University of Portsmouth. Christian is a director and production designer with over twenty years of experience and is a member of award-winning production company, Dark Tower Films.

Joseph Williams, Technician

Joseph studied at Platform One College of Music before completing a degree in Jazz Performance at the University of Chichester. Alongside performing, I've worked as a sound and lighting technician on productions including Legally Blonde, Godspell, and Underdog: The Other Other Brontë.



Lucas Moss playing the Young Man

Born in Nashville, Lucas grew up around the entertainment industry and always had a fascination with movies. He received his BFA in Theatre Performance from Florida Atlantic University. He then moved to Atlanta where he's been working as an actor for several years, booking many roles in television, film, and commercial. Most recently, he received his MA in Acting from the Royal Birmingham Conservatoire.



Thanks to our Interns from the University of Portsmouth

We would also like to thank the following Interns from the University of Portsmouth who have been working with us on this production.

**Marketing Intern (Bristol and Nottingham shows)-
Amelie Slater**

**Marketing Intern
(Birmingham shows)
Gracie Grundy**

**Community Outreach
Marketing Intern
Jasmin Rosenqvist**

**Producing Intern
Rebecca Twyman**

**Technician Intern
Theo Palmer-Marshallsay**



**UNIVERSITY OF
PORTSMOUTH**

Joseph John Scatley, playing John

Joseph is the Co-Artistic Director of Mary Rose Productions and played Toby in our maiden production, *Amy's View*. He trained at Rose Bruford College, where he received his MA in Actor Performer Training in 2021. He has been performing since he was a child, with experience working with the BBC, ITV, The National Theatre and Shakespeare's Globe Theatre.



April Singley, playing Leila

April is the Co-Artistic Director of Mary Rose Productions and played Amy in our maiden production of *Amy's View*. She trained at the Royal Birmingham Conservatoire. Previous theatrical roles span much of Shakespeare's canon. April's film credits include award-winning BBC short *The Body With No Face*. April is also a founding member of the Crowbait Club, an organisation for the development of new theatrical writing.



With Thanks



MARY ROSE
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Andy Yau

British Heart Foundation

Debra UK

Sue Ryder

Cancer Research UK

Francesca Romana Errico-Harvey

Anna Francesca Chereches

Paul and Cheryl Singley

Christine Lawrence

The Young Creatives

The Portsmouth Guildhall Trust

The Drayton Arms

The Royal Birmingham Conservatoire

The Junk Emporium

Martin Willoughby

Naomi Burt

Patric Howe



Please make a donation to support!



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Theatre for support of our production and workshops.**