

Natasha Brotherdale Smith &
present



Butterflies.

SCHOOLS TOUR 2022

Supported by



YOUTH
REALITIES

Overview.

Butterflies is an explosive piece of theatre amplifying the visceral experiences of young people growing up in the Instagram age.

Created in collaboration with female and LGBTQ+ led Flat 4 Theatre, the critically acclaimed play by Natasha Brotherdale Smith will tour 10 state secondary schools in November 2022. The company will deliver post-show workshops, crucially supporting the PSHE curriculum. Each participating school will be provided with a Resource Pack signposting their students to relevant charities to support those affected by the play's themes and encourage further exploration in their classrooms long after the performance and workshop from Flat 4 Theatre has passed.

We are seeking support from organisations to help us realise this project which will provide young people access and engagement with the arts.

The Project.

Three women. Three bedrooms. Three phones. An endless stream of notifications. Butterflies is an explosive play which navigates a world of identity, Snapchat, UCAS applications and influencers. This VAULT Festival sell-out is an intimate portrait of the visceral challenges faced by Generation Z.



In 2019, *Butterflies* premiered at VAULT Festival, previewed at Theatre503 and then went on to a month run at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival.

The show is brought to life through the painfully honest, intricately interwoven monologues of three young women - Shannon, Frankie and Floss: A working-class teenager battling a UCAS form, infatuated with her Call of Duty obsessed boyfriend; a closeted uni student lost on 'Gay TikTok' talking to a girl for the first time; and a well-known influencer being threatened by an ex with revenge porn.

We are bringing *Butterflies* back, right into the heart of the demographic it speaks to most. In November 2022, Flat 4 Theatre will tour state secondary schools and Sixth Forms in London, performing *Butterflies* to over 1000 students aged 14-18. Each 60-minute performance will be followed by a workshop and Q&A session facilitated by the company to discuss the themes of the play, supporting the PSHE curriculum and beginning challenging and unlikely conversations with young people about mental health, social media, sexuality, accessing Higher Education and online safety.

Every school who engages in the *Butterflies* Schools Tour will also receive a **Resource Pack** offering information on where support can be accessed for any young person affected by any of the topics explored in the production.

Butterflies is being redeveloped in partnership with The BRIT School, to ensure its relevance in exploring life as a young person in the technological age and putting the voices of Gen-Z at the heart of the story.



Project Aims.

- To engage with young people through state-funded secondary schools and FE colleges who are aged 14-18 and meet at least one of the following criteria: are **socially and/or economically disadvantaged**; have **limited access to theatre**; are from the **Global Majority**; are in receipt of **Free School Meals**.
- To support the KS4 and KS5 Personal, Social, Health and Economic (PSHE) curriculum through providing schools with an affordable and convenient opportunity for their students to experience a live theatre performance closely related to their demographic and life experience.
- To provide young people with a memorable and informative experience of new writing in performance which contributes to their cultural capital and supports their wellbeing after two years of intense online engagement during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- To remove barriers that young people from the target demographic groups face accessing theatre and discussions around mental health, sexuality and online safety.
- To develop relationships with secondary schools and FE colleges that can be built on in future years with further new work from Flat 4 Theatre and support teachers in bringing the themes of the play in to their classrooms going forward.

Project Dates.

Rehearsed reading, The BRIT School:

Oct 2022

Rehearsal week 1: 31 Oct – 4 Nov 2022

Rehearsal week 2: 7 Nov – 11 Nov 2022

Tour week: 14 Nov – 18 Nov 2022

Target Criteria.

The project is aimed at young people aged 14-18 years old (Year 9-Year 13) who attend state-funded secondary schools or FE colleges in London, and who meet at least one of the following criteria:

- From a low-income household
- In receipt of Free School Meals/ eligible for Pupil Premium
- Black or from the Global Majority
- Identify as D/deaf or disabled
- Care experienced or care leavers

We estimate that each performance will engage with up to 150 young people, in accordance with the needs of each school, reaching over 1000 students across 5 days. Post-show workshops will be delivered in smaller groups of up to 30 by members of the cast



Schools.

Flat 4 are engaging with 10 schools in London across the week of 14-18 November 2022.

We are particularly interested in schools with a high proportion of young people who meet the target criteria stated above, aiming to widen access to theatre for those who may not have experienced it before.

Schools confirmed:

- Hurlingham Academy (Hammersmith & Fulham)
- Pimlico Academy (Westminster)
- Clapton Girls Academy (Hackney)
- School21 (Newham)
- Blackfen School for Girls (Bexley)
- Connaught School for Girls (Waltham Forest)





Workshops.

After every performance of Butterflies, members of the company will deliver a workshop for groups of up to 30 students. This workshop will be devised in collaboration with mental health and LGBTQ+ charities.

We want to break down the barriers young people face towards discussing their mental health, relationship to social media and sexuality.

It is our aim to empower young people to begin conversations that will continue long after we visit each school and support the PSHE curriculum through these activities.

Why this project? Why now?

We feel passionately that *Butterflies* should be brought to the young people it speaks to most: Generation-Z and those who face barriers to accessing conversations surrounding the play's key themes: sexuality, domestic abuse, online safety and mental health. This offering for schools is a more dynamic and accessible way for young people to engage with the national PSHE curriculum and create space for these conversations which are a crucial part of their development as young adults in an ever-changing digital world.

In light of the COVID-19 pandemic, *Butterflies* is more relevant than ever before. Young people have spent most of the last 2 years inside their homes, all social and educational interaction being engaged with via online platforms. *Butterflies* is crucial in supporting them with reconnecting with one another and their place in the world on the road to adulthood.

Research & Development.



In September 2021, Milly and Natasha facilitated an R&D to support the rewrite of *Butterflies* for the Schools Tour in 2022. This took place over three afternoons with a group of Sixth Form students at The BRIT School in Croydon, South London (pictured, right).



"It was a hugely positive and impactful experience for them. It gave them space to openly discuss issues relevant to their current experience... as well as provided them with a professional R&D experience."

-Sarah Goodall, Director of Theatre at The BRIT School

Each session explored a different character in *Butterflies*, interrogating how Generation-Z engage with social media, manage their mental health, develop and sustain personal relationships and how they view and discuss sexuality.

The invaluable findings from these sessions are being used to support Natasha's rewriting of the script to ensure it is as relevant as possible for its target audience.

We will be returning to The BRIT School with the updated script to gain feedback from the same group of young actors who were instrumental in the R&D process before rehearsals begin for the schools tour, offering Natasha a further insight as to how to bring this story alive for a young audience.

The Company.

FLAT 4
THEATRE

Flat 4 Theatre is a female and LGBTQ+ led theatre company based in London. It was founded with the aim to create work that gives urgent and underrepresented stories the platform they deserve. Flat 4 Theatre is particularly passionate about staging politically fuelled, queer and female led stories to ignite important discussion and spark real change.

Natasha Brotherdale Smith, she/her (Artistic Director/ Writer)

Natasha is a Northern Playwright based in London.

Butterflies (VAULT Festival, Theatre503, Edinburgh Fringe) was her highly acclaimed debut.

I Can't Hear You was longlisted for the Women's Prize for Playwriting 2021 and will premiere at Theatre503. She has recently been shortlisted for the Channel 4, 4 Stories scheme and will be developing new play *Stuck* with Arts Depot next year.



Milly Roberts, she/her (Community Producer)

Milly is a Community Producer, actor and writer.

She has trained at LAMDA and The BRIT School. Milly coordinates the LAMDA Pathways outreach programme and produces the annual LAMDA Shakespeare in Schools tour. She is an experienced workshop facilitator acting tutor and Creative Leader and Company Manager for the National Youth Theatre.



Velenzia Spearpoint, she/her (Producer)

Velenzia is a queer working-class creative producer and theatre maker. She is currently Artistic Director at The Bread & Roses Theatre, co-founder of women-led theatre company Get Over It Productions and consistently works with several other companies across the UK. Recent work includes: Inner Circle - Displace Yourself Theatre (Tour & Engagement Development Producer - Arc Stockton-on-Tees), Richard II - Quandary Collective (Producer - The Vaults, London) & Offie Nominated: I and the Village (Director - Bread & Roses Theatre).

Hope Thain, she/her (Director)

Hope joined Flat 4 Theatre as director of Butterflies in 2021. She is a Southwest and London-based director and trained at Bristol Old Vic Theatre School. She is interested in exploring stories that raise up lesser heard voices and music and movement are key features of her work. She enjoys collaborating with composers and movement directors to see this brought to life. Hope has recently assisted Sally Cookson in *Three Seagulls* at Bristol Old Vic

Praise for Butterflies.

“I felt seen in my own experience as a woman in today’s society.”

“Such an important message portrayed so well. Really powerful theatre.”

“Absolutely incredible. Funny, poignant and a must-see.”

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Audience Reviews

“Brotherdale Smith is playwright to watch.”

Fringe Review

“Each monologue takes you right in to the heart of what it’s like to grow up today.”

★★★★★

Feminist Fringe

“The challenges faced by three young women brought vividly to life in Brotherdale Smith’s promising play.”

The Scotsman

Theatre Company to Watch 2019

THE SKINNY
INDEPENDENT CULTURAL JOURNALISM

How can you support us?

To make this project happen we need your help. To support the project, we are asking for the following:

1. A donation of £300 per school show visit (single performance and workshop) in your borough.
2. A creative partnership including local links for rehearsal space and charity consultation.
3. A consultation meeting on how we can best support schools in your borough.
4. Resources to include in our show Resource Pack, signposting young people affected by the play's themes to local charities for support and more information.

We understand it may not be possible to provide all the above, but we are looking forward to starting the conversation with you about how you might be able to support this fantastic project