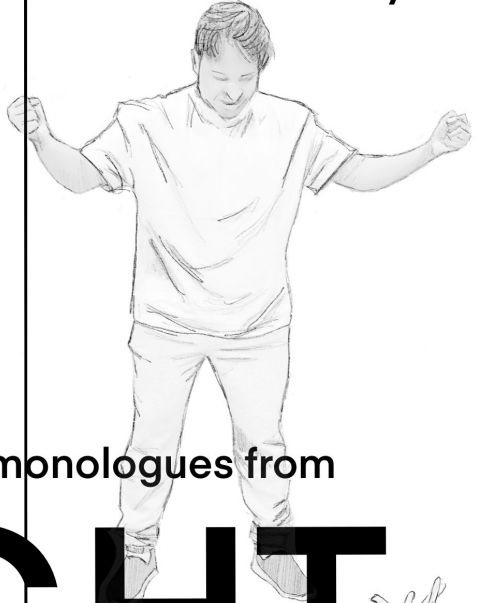


The West Bridgford Dramatic Society



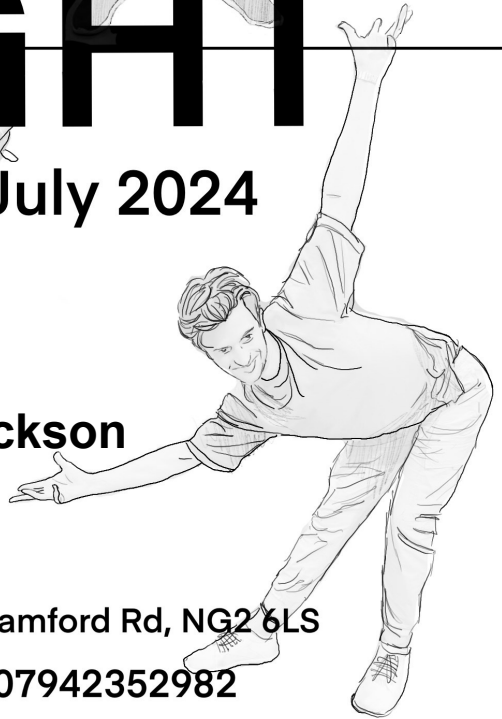
A selection of monologues from

EIGHT

11th-13th July 2024



By Ella Hickson



The Studio Theatre, Stamford Rd, NG2 6LS

WBDS.co.uk. 07942352982

Chair's Welcome - Lynn Burges



Welcome to the Studio Theatre for the final production this season: 4 different monologues selected from the play series *Eight*. It has been great to be involved in, and I'm sure you will enjoy the show. Welcome regular visitors and first timers to the Studio Theatre.

Warning: contains flashing images, strong language and adult themes including suicide. Real drama!

To bring our productions to life takes a lot of hard work by a committed bunch of enthusiasts. If you are interested in joining, please drop in on a Tuesday club night, 7.30pm. There is a vast array of roles available. Visit our website www.wbds.co.uk for info.



Directors' Notes

Alex Cotterill:

Hi, I'm Alex and I am the director for the monologue of Danny. I have been at WBDS since 2019 and my most recent involvement in a play was as the Assistant Director for the murder mystery-comedy *Death by Design* at the end of 2023. Through both my direction and Darren's suggestions, we have created Danny into a character whose outlook on life is demarcated by his underlying vulnerability

and slightly disturbing behaviour. In doing so, Danny's emotions and thoughts are emulated through the choice of eerie and sad music in addition to the combination of lighting ranging from white-blue, deep orange and a sickly green. Enjoy the play!



Rosie Randall:

Frequenter of WBDS may know me for my acting in shows such as *The Thrill of Love* (2021), *Veronica's Room* (2022) or *Twelfth Night* (2024). Whilst acting is my comfort zone, directing has long been an itch I've wanted to scratch, so I am very excited to be making my directorial debut at WBDS with *Eight*. Luckily for me I found two fantastic actors to work with who have made the process that much smoother and brought the fun to every rehearsal.

As an actor, I know how much of a challenge it is to tackle a monologue, not least a six page one! But these two have worked so hard at bringing their characters to life and making them sparkle. I'm sure you'll agree that they have done so beautifully. André and Bobby are two very different individuals in very different situations, linked to each other (and the others in this play) only by the unforgiving world in which they live. We hope you enjoy listening to their stories as much as we have enjoyed telling them.

Directors' Notes (continued)



Calum Sharp:

Buttons is the piece the author wrote first, eventually finishing with eight monologues to make up the whole play, so could be considered the “Daddy” of all the monologues. I'm very proud to bring him to you to close out the show. I selected this piece because the character of Buttons shifts from one emotional state to another at the drop of a hat, so I thought it'd be interesting to work with an actor to really flesh that out and bring him to life for you. Working with Charles, who is new to our group, has been a revelation and a delight. This is my first foray into directing, although I have supported a couple of our experienced directors, and I've found the experience really challenging and rewarding. I'd like to show some appreciation for our technical crew, who've had three different directors to deal with, which can't have been easy, but also my fellow directors, as I think we've all collaborated well to bring a cohesive production with very different performances. It's been an enjoyable experience bringing Buttons to you, and I hope you enjoy the show.

 Theatre improvement fund - we have recently installed solar panels and are saving to improve the carpark. Why not sponsor a seat for £100? Contact treasurer@wbds.co.uk for details.

Cast

In order of appearance:

Danny - Darren Taylor
André - Matthew Thomason

20 minutes interval
On the patio if dry/warm

Bobby - Jen White
Buttons - Charles Andrews

Crew

Directors	Rosie Randall Calum Sharp Alex Cotterill
Production Manager	Lynn Burges
Stage Manager	Rob Dixon
Lighting Design and ops	Alex Wardle
Sound Design and ops	Jem Woolley
Front of House Manager	Caroline Todd
Props/Costume	Carol O'Connor Jan Dizon
Box Office	Jacky Tivers
FOH Staff	A variety of members

The Cast



Darren Taylor:

This is my first time on the stage with WBDS. I am a Nottingham based actor with a range of stage and screen credits to my name, most recently playing the lead role in Agatha Christie's *Witness for the Prosecution* at the National Justice Museum. I can't wait for you to meet Danny!



Matthew Thomason:

I moved to Nottingham ten years ago to start a career in engineering and, wanting to try a non-engineery hobby, I gave acting a go. Several shows, a few short films and a couple of career changes later and I'm here performing in my first WBDS show and doing my first monologue. Rehearsals for *Eight* have been a lot of fun: getting to know André and understanding his loss and regret in this piece has been thoroughly interesting and very rewarding. Working with the Director Rosie has been superlative, and I've felt warmly welcomed by everyone into the theatre.



Jen White:

This is my first performance with WBDS, though I have been involved with other productions around Nottingham, mostly comedy, farces and some panto. I'm looking forward to the challenge of performing my first monologue, and a piece that is a bit of a departure from previous shows. I've really enjoyed getting to know Bobby during the process, and admire her kindness, strength and determination.



Charles Andrews:

Buttons marks my debut performance with the West Bridgford Dramatic Society and also the longest monologue I've ever had to learn. So far, I have been involved in numerous stage productions and independent short films across the Midlands. As a British-Indian actor with a rich cultural heritage and a passion for storytelling, I strive to bring depth and authenticity to every role I take on. Needless to say, this character pushed me well out of my comfort zone and was a rewarding challenge to tackle. I hope you enjoy watching Buttons as much as I enjoyed bringing him to life.

Our Next Season

We are delighted to announce our next season

12-16th November - Orlando - by Sarah Ruhl - based on the novel by Virginia Woolf

4-8th February - Dial M for Murder - By Frederick Knott - made famous by the Hitchcock movie.

6-10th May - Communicating Doors - by Alan Ayckbourn - part thriller, part farce.

10-13th July - The Signalman - by Matthew Harper - based on a short story by Charles Dickens - a ghost story.

Cast and Crew - Eight

