



ROYAL CENTRAL

SCHOOL OF SPEECH & DRAMA • UNIVERSITY OF LONDON

PRODUCTIONS & EVENTS

SPRING SEASON 2024

CENTRAL'S SPRING SEASON 2024



Welcome to this year's wonder-filled classics. Each given new twists and reimagined perspectives. Each of the stories are connected to each other through themes of betrayal, identity, democracy and love ... always love in all its forms whether of family, friends, community, or country.

For diversity and boldness look no further than our exhibitions and screenings, and this year will be no exception. Details, vision and practice. All this is made possible together with, and led by, visiting professionals and creatives, our brilliant academic staff and of course, right at the centre of Central, our students.

The stories we tell are secret maps to a world that can so often feel in flux. They guide us and help to remind us that we are not alone: we are more connected than we realise. We are reminded that difference is to be celebrated, teamwork and community is everything.

Josette Bushell-Mingo OBE
Principal

HOW TO BOOK

ONLINE www.cssd.ac.uk/events

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CALIBAN**
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BANG**
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JANUARY –
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Front cover image from *As You Like It* by William Shakespeare, Autumn Season 2023.
Information in this brochure is correct at publication.
Please scan the QR codes or check on www.cssd.ac.uk/events for updates.



A seductive, original and quietly
subversive love story.

MRS CALIBAN

**ADAPTATION OF THE NOVEL BY RACHEL INGALLS
DEvised WITH KANDINSKY THEATRE COMPANY**

Lead Artists **Lauren Mooney & James Yeatman**

Performed by **BA (Hons) Acting Collaborative & Devised Theatre**

Designed & produced by **BA (Hons) Theatre Practice & MA/MFA Scenography**

Dorothy keeps busy: there are meals to be made, plates to be washed, guests to be entertained. Her husband comes and goes. Meanwhile, she pushes it all down, keeps the grief inside, keeps going. The days are very much the same.

And then the Frog-Man walks into her kitchen.

Based on Rachel Ingalls's cult novella, *Mrs Caliban* is a seductive, original and quietly subversive love story, adapted for the stage by award-winning Kandinsky Theatre Company.

The production will be taking place at Theatro Technis.



THEATRO TECHNIS

26 CROWDALE ROAD, LONDON NW1 1TT

WEDNESDAY 21 – THURSDAY 22 FEBRUARY, 7.30PM

FRIDAY 23 – SATURDAY 24 FEBRUARY, 2.30PM & 7.30PM

Booking: www.cssd.ac.uk/events/mrs-caliban

HARDER, BETTER, FASTER, STRONGER

DEvised WITH PAPPY SHOW

Director **Rachel-Leah Hosker**

Performed by **BA (Hons) Acting Collaborative & Devised Theatre**

Designed & produced by **BA (Hons) Theatre Practice**

Sweat wicking, waist cinching, shock absorbing, banned trainers, dystopian decisions and lost principles.

Welcome to the world of sport. All you need is tenacity, training... and technology.

In 2020, Nike designed a pair of trainers that were so advanced, they were banned from the international racing community for giving an unfair advantage to their athletes.

But when you've spent 10,000 hours training to be the master of your game, you'll do anything to get that head start, surely?

In this deep dive, we ask "Is technology making us better or worse? And how harmful is it to always want the next best thing?".

**Dystopian decisions
and lost principles.**

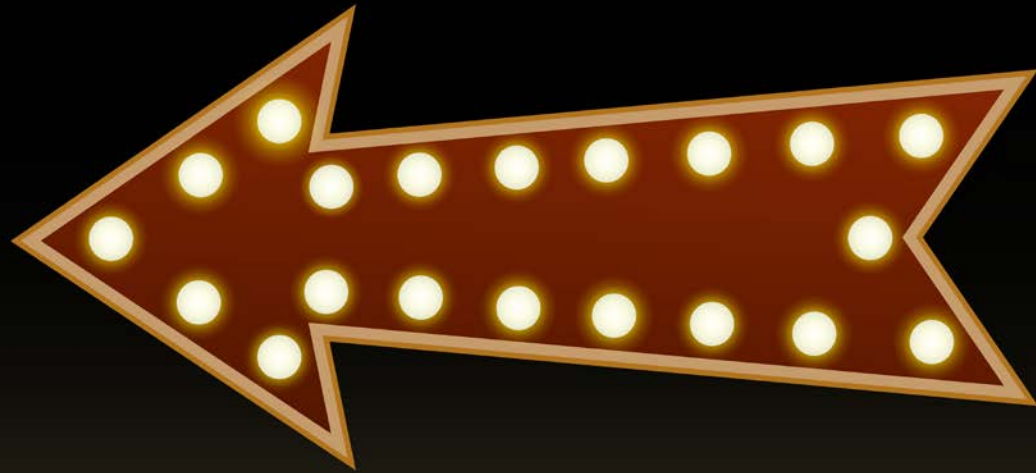


COURTYARD THEATRE, CENTRAL

WEDNESDAY 28 FEBRUARY – THURSDAY 29 FEBRUARY, 7.30PM

FRIDAY 1 – SATURDAY 2 MARCH, 2.30PM & 7.30PM

Booking: www.cssd.ac.uk/events/harder-better-faster-stronger



Keep an eye on your dream.

MERRILY WE ROLL ALONG

MUSIC & LYRICS BY STEPHEN SONDHEIM

BOOK BY GEORGE FURTH

BASED ON THE ORIGINAL PLAY BY GEORGE S. KAUFMAN & MOSS HART

Director **Julia Locascio**

Performed by **BA (Hons) Acting Musical Theatre**

Designed & produced by **BA (Hons) Theatre Practice**

Mary, Charley and Frank are aspiring artists in New York.

Frank is a composer, Charley, a lyricist and playwright, and Mary, a novelist then theatre critic. They stride into their careers ready to change theatre - and the world - for the better. But life has something else in store for them.

Merrily We Roll Along is the culminating work of the Sondheim/Prince collaboration, a decade of hits including *Company* and *Sweeney Todd*. After its failed 1981 premiere, Merrily is now running again on Broadway to ecstatic reviews. This year's mainstage musical is a story told backwards, a dream in reverse, and a razor-sharp showcase for this year's graduating BA (Hons) Acting Musical Theatre artists.

By arrangement with Music Theatre International www.mtishows.co.uk



EMBASSY THEATRE, CENTRAL

MONDAY 4 – THURSDAY 7 MARCH, 7.30PM

FRIDAY 8 – SATURDAY 9 MARCH, 2.30PM & 7.30PM

Booking: www.cssd.ac.uk/events/merrily-we-roll-along



Exposing the tension of race and gender in pursuit of 'doing good'.

BANG BANG BANG

STELLA FEEHILY

Director **Natalie Wilson**

Performed by **BA (Hons) Acting**

Designed & produced by **BA (Hons) Theatre Practice**

Sadhbh is stepping up, Bibi is stepping down and new girl Mathilde is stepping into the world of NGOs in Africa, exposing the tension of race and gender in pursuit of 'doing good'.

Against the backdrop of Democratic Republic of Congo's spiralling violence and despair, *Bang Bang Bang* lifts a lid on idealistic promises, enforced compromises and wild parties that form the existence of the female aid workers that dare to want more from life than back home has to offer.

Can they make a difference before burn-out? Can they live with themselves if they don't?

This play includes references to gender-based violence, assault, child death, miscarriage and rape.

By arrangement with Nick Hern Books www.nickhernbooks.co.uk



WEBBER DOUGLAS STUDIO, CENTRAL

TUESDAY 5 MARCH, 7.15PM

WEDNESDAY 6 MARCH, 2.30PM & 7.15PM

THURSDAY 7 MARCH, 2.30PM & 7.15PM

Booking: www.cssd.ac.uk/events/bang-bang-bang



Trauma thrives in darkness.

FESTEN

BY THOMAS VINTERBERG, MOGENS RUKOV & BO HR. HANSEN
ADAPTED BY DAVID ELDRIDGE

Director **Ian Wooldridge**
Performed by **BA (Hons) Acting**
Designed & produced by **BA (Hons) Theatre Practice**

A family gathers to celebrate.

"It's Daddy's birthday
Oh yes it is and it is today
It's Daddy's birthday
Oh yes it is and it is today
And now you'll hear how loud we sing
And now you'll hear how loud we sing
Tra la la la la
Tra la la la la"

"There have always been ghosts in this house".

Trauma thrives in darkness.

By arrangement with IPR Ltd, London and Nordiska ApS, Copenhagen



WEBBER DOUGLAS STUDIO, CENTRAL

THURSDAY 14 MARCH, 7.30PM

FRIDAY 15 MARCH 2.30PM & 7.30PM

SATURDAY 16 MARCH, 2.30PM & 7.30PM

Booking: www.cssd.ac.uk/events/festen

SHOWCASES

The following showcases are for industry and associated professionals only and will take place at the **Soho Theatre, 21 Dean Street, London W1D 3NE.**

Enquiries and bookings:
industry.liaison@cssd.ac.uk

BA (Hons) Acting

Wednesday 31 January
1.00pm & 3.30pm

BA (Hons) Acting Collaborative & Devised Theatre

Tuesday 19 March
1.00pm & 3.30pm

BA (Hons) Acting Musical Theatre

Wednesday 24 April
1.00pm & 3.30pm

SCREENINGS

Enquiries and bookings:
industry.liaison@cssd.ac.uk

MA Acting For Screen Short Films

Wednesday 8 May
Embassy Theatre, Central

Wednesday 6 June
Embassy Theatre, Central

Thursday 7 June
offsite venue

EVENTS & EXHIBITIONS

Student Led Project: A Festival

Monday 4 – Friday 8 March

Created by BA (Hons) Contemporary
Performance Practice

A festival of new performance, digital
dramaturgies and writing.

Digital Showcase

Friday 22 March

Contact: **Dr Joe Parslow**
joe.parslow@cssd.ac.uk

Experimental Arts & Performance Showcase

Week commencing 11 March

Graduating artists on the BA (Hons)
Experimental Arts and Performance
welcome you to their final showcase,
bringing together performances,
installations, creative experiments,
publishing and more. Join us as we centre
the ways in which experimentation offers
a productive mode through which to
shape the future.

Please check Central's website for
more information.

Theatre Practice Exhibition

Thursday 2 – Friday 3 May

Taking place throughout Central

Celebrating the work and
accomplishments of final year design,
production and crafts students.

Queries: TPExhibition@cssd.ac.uk

MFA Scenography Exhibition

Saturday 6 – Sunday 14 April

Part of the Now Play This /
Festival of Experimental Game Design

Somerset House, London
(subject to venue confirmation)

Contact: **Dr Simon Donger**
simon.donger@cssd.ac.uk

