



THE YOUNG COMPANY GRADUATION SHOWCASE

GIRLS LIKE THAT

BY EVAN PLACEY

AN AMATEUR PRODUCTION BY ARRANGEMENT
WITH NICK HERN BOOKS



16 -19 DECEMBER 2021 | KC ARTS CENTRE - HOME OF SRT

Advisory 16 (Some Mature Content)

MANAGING DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

As we celebrate SRT's The Young Company's 25th Anniversary season, I look back at years of meeting hundreds of young students and seeing them grow during their time with us. It has been wonderful to see our Young Company students graduate from the programme as theatre lovers with a suitcase full of tools to approach life as young professionals. Some even stay in our industry and work as professionals on and off stage. A meaningful investment in the next generation.

As the mother of a young teenager, I'm hugely alarmed at the statistics telling us that mental health issues amongst young people are on the rise. Nothing could be more important than to turn that curve, so when Dan suggested this script, that allows us to work on some of the causes of such issues amongst young people, I felt it was a great way to give voice to the youth and to create a healthy dialogue. I have no doubt that navigating social media is a life skill we must arm our youngsters with to turn this trend around, and I hope we in a small way contribute to that with today's production.

The work our Learning & Engagement team did with Shan You earlier this year – Walking in their Shoes – compliments this play perfectly, so do take the time to listen to those dramatised stories as you leave the theatre tonight.

I'm grateful for the partners, who came in to support this work. Thank you to BinjaiTree and Mind-the-Gap 200: Mental Health. With your support, we are also able to create an online streaming option of this important work for those schools and students who are not able to join us during the live run.

Thank you for joining us tonight. I hope with this production, we not only showcase the talents of our students, but that we stir up a conversation amongst friends and families that will help us have a healthier relationship with social media and each other.

CHARLOTTE NORS

DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

When I am working with The Young Company, I always try to find scripts that are well written and challenge our young actors; scripts that are relevant both to the cast and the audience, and which, most importantly, force us to think, reconsider, and question our beliefs. Evan Placey's *Girls Like That* does this and more.

Written in 2013, *Girls Like That* is a play about girls, boys, feminism, friendship, self-image, sex, online sharing and shaming. It raises issues all too relevant for teenagers and young adults in today's world; a world in which reputation is everything and the opinions of one's peers matter more than ever; an online world, where photographs are shared instantly, yet the repercussions last forever. It is a wonderfully forceful, energetic, and contemporary ensemble piece brought to life by our powerful and fearless, all-female cast. Although I grew up before the Internet, social media, Snapchat, TikTok or Instagram, as a father of two teenagers I am all too aware of the importance social media plays in their lives, the connections it allows, the interaction with friends no matter where they may be in the world, and the joy and pleasure it can bring. I am unfortunately also aware of the destructive, harmful, and dangerous pressure it can place on teenagers and young adults. Not only can it project unrealistic goals and expectations of how one should look, live, and the lives we should aspire to, it can also be a dark place where online intimidation, violence and bullying are unrelenting and almost impossible to hide from or ignore. *Girls Like That* tackles these difficult subjects. It encourages us to consider the devastating effects of online abuse and to question our attitude towards gender equality, misogyny and the patriarchal system designed to keep women down and how they are reflected and shaped by the Internet. Despite the all-female ensemble cast, these themes are not gender specific. Body-image and self-image, self-esteem, friendship, sex, collective responsibility, or inaction are things we can all relate to. With the digital world growing at an alarming pace, and technology allowing us to connect faster and with more people than ever before, we must all ensure that this 'digital togetherness' does not in fact force us apart.

I would like to thank my wonderful cast who have worked tirelessly during our rehearsal process, growing together, and forming a solidarity that is vital when creating a powerful ensemble. My creative and production teams, Frankie, Yan Ying, Rohan, Saffa, Petrina, Genevieve and Zi Feng. Gaurav, Charlotte, and all at SRT for their continued support for the next generation of Singaporean actors and their faith and trust in my work. And finally, you the audience for joining us in the theatre and investing your time in these wonderful young actors.

DANIEL JENKINS

SYNOPSIS

Trigger warning: bullying, shaming, strong language

"Girls got to stick together... Right?"

After a photo of Scarlett goes viral, rumours spread like wildfire as her "friends" retweet and repost, threatening her reputation and turning the friendship toxic.

They grew up together, but is one bad photo enough to turn them on one of their own?

An urgent and explosive play that explores the toxicity of social media, *Girls Like That* shines a spotlight on "cancel culture" and how young friendships can conform to herd mentality in a search for identity and belonging. An important play about social media, navigating relationships and mental health.

Girls Like That was first commissioned by Birmingham Repertory Theatre, Theatre Royal Plymouth and West Yorkshire (now Leeds) Playhouse and performed by their youth theatre companies in 2013.

CAST LIST

Girl 1/Flapper	Megan Ann Pang
Girl 2/Shoulder Pads	Diana Basil Heng
Girl 3	Kelly Choo
Girl 4	Jasmine Acquah - Harisson
Girl 5 /Aviator	Shyann Ong
Girl 6/Flower	Melody Tay Xi Ching
Girl 7/Scarlett	Jacqueline Monteiro

CREATIVE TEAM

Playwright	Evan Placey
Director	Daniel Jenkins
Lighting Designer	Petrina Dawn Tan
Sound Designer	Noor Hidayat Norzizan
Multimedia Designer	Genevieve Peck

PRODUCTION TEAM

Stage Manager	Saffa Afiqah
Set Coordinator	Tai Zi Feng

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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Mind-the-Gap 200:
Mental Health

Thanks to the SRT's Learning & Engagement Team for their support of the production.

ABOUT SRT

Founded in 1993, Singapore Repertory Theatre (SRT) is one of the leading English-language theatres in Asia. SRT's mission is to enrich, engage and entertain audiences by staging theatrical productions of the highest calibre, collaborating with the best talent in the world. SRT's Learning and Engagement manages The Young Company, an actor training programme for 16 to 25 year-olds and is committed to bringing meaningful and relevant programmes to students, teachers and emerging theatre talents.

Contact us for more information on any SRT production:

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Website: www.srt.com.sg

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If you or someone you know is interested to join The Young Company, please e-mail youth@srt.com.sg for more information.

THE YOUNG COMPANY ACTORS



DIANA BASIL HENG

Diana is a prolific screen actress and a voice artiste - with multilingual film and TV credits, including *Forensik* (Suria), *KIN* (Channel 5), and SFCCA award-winning mandarin short film, *Mislead*. Diana has trained in the Art of Voice under well-known industry professionals such as Jessica Seet, Petrina Kow and Joe Augustin.



JACQUELINE MONTEIRO

Jacqueline is a performer with a diverse foundation that includes Grotowski, the Suzuki method, Artaud, and Stanislavski. She has trained with LAMDA and Frantic Assembly on their summer courses. Recent productions include *Complicite's A Disappearing Number*, and Corrie Tan's *The Golden Record 2.0*.



JASMIN ACQUAAH-HARRISON

Jasmin is currently a student at LASALLE, studying performance in the Diploma programme. She has been involved in multiple productions with Centre Stage, Stage Club, and is currently a part of SingTheatre's Showstoppers programme. She has performed in theatres at MBS, Singapore Repertory Theatre, and Gateway Theatre.



SHYANN ONG

Shyann began her training under Liow Shi Shuen in Singapore Media Academy. She has since developed an extensive repertoire of screen and stage credits - training with Shelley Mitchell of Los Angeles' Duse Studio of Dramatic Arts, and is currently pursuing her Diploma in Performance at LASALLE College of the Arts.



KELLY CHOO

Kelly Choo is an aspiring actress with roots in English literature and physical movement - particularly contemporary dance, hip hop, pole-dancing, and Tae Kwon Do. Recent performances include the interactive play *'The Temporal Displacement Agency'*, and The Haque Collective's 2021 production, *'Until Death'*.



MEGAN ANN PANG

Megan is a freelance actress and a keen supporter of arts education for children. She was an active member of UCL's Drama Society, and an assistant at Anna Fiorentini's Theatre and Film School. She has appeared on *Lim Kopi?* (2021) with Vicinity Studios for MeWatch and Red Panda Film's *April 17* (2021).



MELODY TAY XI CHING

Melody is an environmental artist - using stories and immersive experiences to open hearts to change. She has experience creating movement workshops, and is the co-founder of sago! Theatre, a Speech and Drama company that aims to make theatre accessible to children of all ages.

THE CREATIVE TEAM

DANIEL JENKINS, DIRECTOR

An actor, director and educator, Daniel's qualifications include a Diploma in Acting, a Licentiate in Drama Teaching, a Bachelor of Arts Honours Degree in Theatre, and an MA in Arts Pedagogy and Practice. His professional acting and directing work has encompassed theatre, television and film having worked for all the major theatre companies in Singapore. He has twice won the Straits Times Life Theatre Award for Best Supporting Actor and is Associate Artistic Director at Singapore Repertory Theatre.

Directing credits include: *The Complete Works Of William Shakespeare (Abridged)*, *Lungs* (SRT Main Stage), *1984*, *The Fall*, *The Roses of Eyam*, *The Caucasian Chalk Circle*, *The Laramie Project*, *The Trojan Women*, *Lord of the Flies*, *Grimm Tales*, *The Crucible* (SRT TYC), *Gretel and Hansel*, *The Tale of the Frog Prince*, *The Cat in the Hat*, *Upstairs in the Sky*, *The Ugly Duckling* (SRT TLC), *Us*, *Fatimah and her Magic Socks*, *Bunny Finds The Right Stuff*, *The Magic Jungle*, *Hello Adam* (Esplanade PlayTime).

Daniel is proudly represented by FLY Entertainment.

EVAN PLACEY, PLAYWRIGHT

Evan is a Canadian-British playwright and screenwriter who grew up in Toronto and now lives in London. His work for adults and young audiences has been produced internationally and translated into multiple languages. His debut play *Mother of Him* was recently revived at the Park Theatre. It previously won the King's Cross Award for New Writing, Canada's RBC National Playwriting Competition (Tarragon), and the Samuel French Canadian Play Contest, and was shortlisted for the Meyer Whitworth Award and the Rod Hall Memorial Award. Evan won the Brian Way Award for Holloway Jones, while *Girls Like That* won the Writers' Guild Award for Best Play for Young Audiences, the Scenic Youth Prize and the Orpheon Bibliotheque Prize for Contemporary Theatre for Young Audiences in France and the Jugend Theatre Preis Baden-Wurttemberg in Germany. *Scarberia* was nominated for 5 Dora Awards in Canada.

**INCLUSIVE
YOUNG
COMPANY**

**OPEN FOR
AUDITIONS**



The Stage is Yours

SRT's Inclusive Young Company (iYC) is a holistic acting programme for young persons and adults between the ages of 16 – 35, who identify as persons with disabilities. It aims to equip and nurture you with the confidence, transferable employment skills, and communication techniques that you will need to shine onstage, as well as in your career of choice. It features professional masterclasses and mentorship – led by international artist **Grace Lee-Khoo** – which will provide a platform for the development of your creative potential as an independent performer and theatre-maker.

Submit your audition at

www.srt.com.sg/iyc

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