

## The Climbers – Creative Biogs

**Guy Jones** (DIRECTOR) Guy studied at the University of Manchester and was on the National Theatre Directors Course. He has been climbing the fells in the Lake District since he was about six years old. His work as a director includes *Either* (Hampstead), *Doggerland* (Audible/LAMDA), *Out of Water, Mayfly* (Orange Tree), *Busking It* (HighTide & Shoreditch Town Hall), *Disnatured* (Shakespeare in Shoreditch Festival) and *Spokesong* (Finborough). As Associate Director: *Vigil* (Bristol Ferment, Pound Arts & Summerhall). As Staff/Assistant Director: *Saint George and the Dragon* (National Theatre), *Cymbeline and Always Orange* (Royal Shakespeare Company).

Guy is the Orange Tree's Literary Associate, and Creative Associate at Headlong. He has been an Associate Artist at Company Three. Dramaturgy credits elsewhere include *There There Stranger* (Sadlers Wells) and *The Armour* (Langham Hotel).

### **Max Johns** (DESIGNER)

Max Johns trained in theatre design at Bristol Old Vic Theatre School and was the recipient of a BBC Performing Arts Fellowship in 2015. Prior to this he worked for a number of years as a designer in Germany. His most recent UK productions include *The strange undoing of Prudencia Hart* for Manchester Royal Exchange, *Once upon a time in Nazi occupied Tunisia* for the Almeida, *King John* for the Royal Shakespeare Company, *The Panopticon* for National Theatre Scotland, *Overflow, strange fruit and rust* for the Bush, *Heartbreakin'* for WLB Esslingen (Germany), *Buggy Baby* for the Yard Theatre, *Yellowman* for the Young Vic, *The half god of rainfall for Kiln/Birmingham Rep/Fuel*, *Urinetown* for Central School of Speech and Drama, *Wendy and Peter Pan* for The Royal Lyceum Edinburgh, *Kes* and *Random* for Leeds Playhouse, *Utility* and *Twelfth Night* for the Orange Tree Theatre, *Fidelio* for the London Philharmonic Orchestra, *Enron* and *Our Town* for the Egg, *Life raft*, *Medusa*, *the light burns blue* and *Under a cardboard sea* for Bristol Old Vic, and *Hamlet* and *All's well that ends well* for Shakespeare at the Tobacco Factory. Upcoming productions include *Birthmarked* for Bristol Old Vic.

**Carmen Nasr** (WRITER) Carmen is a British-Lebanese writer. In 2022, along with *The Climbers* at Theatre by the Lake, her play *The Maladies* was performed by the Almeida Theatre Young Company, at The Yard theatre in London. In 2017 Carmen won the Channel 4 Playwright's scheme with *Dubailand* and was awarded a year-long residency at the Finborough Theatre. In February 2017 *Dubailand* premiered at the Finborough Theatre and Carmen subsequently received an Off West End Award nomination for Most Promising New Playwright. In 2018 she was commissioned by Kiln Theatre for their *Mapping Brent* project working with their selected young company to create *Let Kilburn Shake*, performed in 2019. Her first play *The House of my Father* was long-listed for the Bruntwood Prize for Playwriting in 2015.

Carmen has been a member of the Orange Tree Writers Collective, the Royal Court Playwriting Group, Hampstead Theatre's Writing the Bigger Picture group, and has an MA in Playwriting from Royal Holloway University. She is currently under commission to Kiln Theatre, Sky Productions, the Almeida Theatre, and is also adapting the Booker shortlisted novel *Burnt Sugar* by Avni Doshi for The Lot Productions.

**Alexandra Fay Braithwaite** (SOUND DESIGNER AND COMPOSER)

Recent credits include *The Cavalcadors* (Druid); *Anna Karenina*, *Operation Crucible*, *Chicken Soup* (Sheffield Theatres); *Purple Snowflakes and Titty Wanks* (Royal Court); *Things of Dry Hours* (Young Vic); *Kes* (Bolton Octagon); *Shining City*, *Room* (Theatre Royal Stratford East); *Endurance* (HOME Manchester); *Bloody Elle*, *Wuthering Heights*, *Light Falls* (Royal Exchange Theatre); *My Name Is Rachel Corrie* (Al Madina Theatre, Beirut); *Cougar*, *The Rolling Stone*, *Dealing with Clair* (Orange Tree Theatre); *A Christmas Carol* (Theatre Clwyd); *Dublin Carol* (Sherman Theatre); *Groan Ups* (Vaudeville Theatre/UK Tour); *Hamlet*, *Talking Heads*, *Rudolph* (Leeds Playhouse); *The Audience*, *Juicy and Delicious* (Nuffield Theatre); *The Remains of Maisie Duggan* (Abbey Theatre); *Toast*, *How Not To Drown*, *Enough* (Traverse Theatre); *When I Am Queen* (Almeida).

**Christopher Worrall** (CASTING DIRECTOR)

Christopher is a freelance Casting Director and has previously worked in-house at The Old Vic and Donmar Warehouse.

Theatre Credits as Casting Director: *Rock Paper Scissors*, *Chicken Soup* (Sheffield Crucible), *The Misfortune of the English*, *Tom Fool*, *Two Billion Beats*, *Last Easter* (Orange Tree Theatre), *Meet Me in St. Louis* (Grange Park Opera), *Missing People* (Leeds Playhouse), *If Not Now When* (National Theatre) and *LAVA* (Soho Theatre/Nottingham Playhouse),

Theatre Credits as Casting Associate/Assistant: *A Very Expensive Poison*, *All My Sons*, *The American Clock*, *A Christmas Carol* (The Old Vic), *Company* (Gielgud Theatre), *Measure for Measure*, *Aristocrats*, *The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie*, *The Way of the World*, *The York Realist*, *Belleville*, *The Lady from the Sea*, *Committee* (Donmar Warehouse).

Film & TV Credits as Casting Associate: *Emma*, *Call the Midwife*.

**Jess Bernberg** (LIGHTING DESIGNER)

Jess trained at Guildhall School of Music and Drama. Theatre includes: [Blank] (Donmar Warehouse); *Lost Origin* (Factory 42/Almeida Theatre/Sky); *Glee and Me* (Royal Exchange); *Once Upon A Time in Nazi Occupied Tunisia* (Almeida Theatre); *Klippies*, *The Town That Trees Built* (Young Vic); *Shedding A Skin*, *Fabric*, *Drip Feed* (Soho Theatre); *The Child in the Snow* (Wilton's Music Hall); *Overflow*, *Rust*, *And The Rest Of Me Floats* (Bush Theatre); *Gulliver's Travels* (Co-Design, Unicorn Theatre); *The Language of Kindness* (Shoreditch Town Hall/UK Tour); *Shopping Malls in Tehran* (Traverse/Home Manchester/BAC); *Actually* (Trafalgar Studios 2); *Out of Water*, *Cougar* (Orange Tree Theatre); *We Anchor in Hope*, *Devil with the Blue Dress*, *FCUK'D* (Off West End Award nomination) (The Bunker); *The Crucible*, *Sex Sex Men Men*, *A New and Better You*, *Buggy Baby* (The Yard); *Dick Whittington* (Theatre Royal Stratford East); *Othello* (Cambridge Arts Theatre); *Wondrous Vulva* (Oval House); *The Borrowers* (Tobacco Factory); *Victoria's Knickers*, *Consensual* (NYT); *Medusa*, *Much Ado About Nothing*, *Dungeness*, *Love and Information* (Nuffield Southampton Theatres); *Homos*, or *Everyone in America* (Finborough Theatre); *SongLines* (HighTide).

Awards: 2017 Association of Lighting Designer's Francis Reid Award.

**Joe White (AERIAL CONSULTANT)**

After ten years as a lighting designer and production manager, Joe now specialises in performer flying and rigging. Since 2001, he has worked with Cirque Du Soleil, the Royal Shakespeare Company, The Young Vic, and The Old Vic (Bristol). He has worked for High Performance Productions designing and rigging aerial systems for productions including 'Touching the Void', 'A Monster Calls', 'Barnum' and 'Zorro – The Musical'. Other design and rigging work has included the opening of the Para Pan American Games (Lima), A Comedy About a Bank Robbery, (UK tour) and several shows with Gecko Theatre. He also is an occasional visiting lecturer at RADA and the Royal Central School of Speech and Drama.

**Quang Kien Van (MOVEMENT DIRECTOR)**

Quang works as a choreographer, movement director, film-maker and teacher.

His choreographic credits include: Mid-Autumn Dances, Lunar Shadows (QKV Projects); SHAME: a double bill (Bang Bang Bang Group); Lunar Orbits (Chinese Arts Space); Tottenham Symphony, Bunny Dance (Royal Court/Beyond the Court); The Sandman (Mountview Academy)

In 2019 he was awarded an MGC Futures Bursary to develop a new stage work entitled Babylon. His film creations include: TRIPTYCH, which won "Best Art Film" (London International Monthly Film festival) and "Honourable Mention: Director" (Los Angeles Film Festival); Lunar Corps (Chinese Arts Space); 3X1 (QKV Projects/William Turnbull Studio)

Movement direction credits includes: Galapagos (Royal Central School of Speech and Drama); Boots (Bunker Theatre); Forgotten (Yellow Earth Theatre/Moongate Productions); Goats, Pah-la (Royal Court Theatre).

He has lead workshops and courses for organisations such as Mountview Academy, Scottish Dance Theatre and New Earth Theatre.

**TBA (ASSOCIATE MOVEMENT DIRECTOR)**