

PROGRAM

HAMLET

A 70s TRAGEDY

by William Shakespeare

with original music by Lizzie Lister

Directed by Robyn Faye

all proceeds go to Compass Collective



WHY THIS SHOW

Our production reimagines Hamlet within a 1970s commune: outwardly peaceful, bright, and utopian, yet governed by a single male leader. Traditionally male-dominated, our version shifts the balance, with the ensemble being predominantly female.

This framing amplifies the theme of courage, the official theme of Refugee Week 2026. Our Hamlet must discover strength not inherited through patriarchal privilege, but forged through grief, fear, and moral conviction. Her courage is emotional and ethical as much as it is physical.

This is similar to refugees, who show immense moral courage when they leave behind their homes and familiar culture, having to make painful decisions to protect themselves from threat. They choose survival even when the future is unclear and, like Hamlet, they act not out of fearlessness, but because doing nothing is more dangerous.

Moreover, the 70s cult setting is surprisingly relevant to today's political mindset. The 1970s saw a boom in new religious movements and alternative communities due to a perfect storm of cultural rebellion, post-war economic anxiety, and distrust in traditional institutions. These are all strong feelings that many people can relate to in 2026. In both eras, this has left people feeling alienated and uncertain. Cults capitalised on this by offering instant family, structured routines, and a profound sense of purpose and belonging to those feeling lost in an increasingly complex world.

In a play often centred on individual struggle, it is our hope that this production presents how courage can be experienced collectively, through community and connection.

Every year, Compass encourages theatre-makers to use Shakespeare to help bring awareness to Refugee Week. We are so excited to share our Hamlet with you.



Compass Collective is an extraordinary charity empowering young refugees and people seeking asylum across the UK. Each year, they support around 350 young people aged 18–26 from more than 28 nationalities, many newly arrived and navigating the most precarious stages of the immigration process, with approximately 70% arriving as unaccompanied young people. Often utilising theatre as a powerful tool, Compass provides creative programmes, community, and practical support, helping young people build resilience, confidence, and a sense of belonging.

This year, the need for solidarity and support for refugees has never been greater. In the UK, asylum applications recently reached record levels, with hundreds of thousands of people seeking protection amid ongoing conflict,

persecution, and economic collapse across the globe. Across the Atlantic, the United States has drastically reduced its refugee admissions to historically low levels, leaving many vulnerable families with fewer safe pathways to sanctuary and putting pressure on community organisations to fill the gaps. In a climate where public services are stretched and political debates over migration are intensifying, grassroots charities like Compass Collective are vital lifelines, offering not only practical assistance but also hope and belonging.

By buying a theatre ticket, you are helping to raise crucial funds that can ensure young refugees are supported now, when global displacement is rising and access to stability and community has never been more fragile.

ABOUT COMPASS





SYNOPSIS

Photo by AJ Prior

‘One may smile and smile and be a villain.’

When the leader of a 1970s commune dies under suspicious circumstances, his daughter Hamlet seeks to avenge his death. But something is rotten within The Family, and although the commune is outwardly utopian, the predominantly female community becomes more restricted under their Divine leader.

Many years ago Hamlet Senior set out to create a commune where women can live in peace, and the men of the ‘Brotherhood’ can have independence. But as with many hierarchies, the power he had was eventually pushed too far. In an attempt to take this power, his brother, Claudius, murders him and takes his Divine throne - and his wife.

As young Hamlet grapples with the concept of a new father and Holy Leader, the other commune members around her attempt to keep her in her place. Gertrude, her Mother, and

the new ‘Divine’ Claudius even call on her old friends Rosencrantz and Guildenstern to try and win her over. But Hamlet sees through their deception and, with the help of Horatio, hatches her own plan. The ghost of her Father has instructed revenge, and revenge he shall get.

Meanwhile her once lover Ophelia is driven into her own despair as she is pushed to the side, leaving her more than heartbroken. Despite the support of her Mother, Polonius and sister, Laertes, she cannot help but submit to her own sad fate.

Taking the story of Hamlet out of its traditional Denmark setting, this production aims to bring this classic story into a (slightly!) more modern setting.



THE PLAYERS



Photo by AJ Prior

LYDIA FITZWILLIAMS Hamlet

Previous work with Fracassantes include: *Scrub Me Daddy*, *Immodest*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*.

Lydia is a London based actress, fight performer and puppeteer. She loves to explore character and story through physicality and breath, not just rely on dialogue to show these aspects. Since graduating from East 15, Lydia has starred in multiple indie films, and recently won Best Actress for her role in 'Mary Jane's Last Dance'.

Other credits include: *Ode to the Red Deer* (Falmouth University), *The Herds* (Walk Productions).

CHARLY FAYE Ophelia

Previous work with Fracassantes include: *Scrub Me Daddy*, *Immodest*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Flying Duo*.

Charly is a London-based actress who is passionate about telling female-led and queer stories that challenge, connect, and inspire. She is a graduate from East 15 drama school. When she's not acting, Charly regularly volunteers her time; she has also worked with LGBTQ+ charity Just Like Us, delivering school talks and

supporting young people across the UK.

Other credits include: *Curious X Act* (Vasilis Kekatos), *The Contraception Fair* (Julie Magnaude), *Copycat* (Channel 4/Straight 8).

LIZZIE LISTER Gertrude

Previous work with Fracassantes include: *Immodest*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*.

Lizzie is a London based actress, singer and writer. She is passionate about the literary classics - particularly when adapting iconic texts through a contemporary lens. Since graduating from the Royal Central School of Speech and Drama, she co-wrote 'Wuthering Heights - The Musical', which is currently on the cusp of full production. Lizzie starred as Cathy Earnshaw in both of the musical's workshops.

Other credits include: *Shakesqueer* (Etcetera Theatre), *Iolanthe* (Harrogate Royal Hall), *New Faces Music Hall Concert* (Players' Theatre, CAA Covent Garden), *Patience* (Harrogate Royal Hall).

REMI SHORUNKE-SAMUEL Polonius

Remi is a British-Nigerian actor, writer and storyteller from South-East London. She's a recent graduate of the London Academy of Music & Dramatic Art. Outside of acting, her play *Drunk Hamsters Sharing Confessions in a Locked Cage* was longlisted for the Bruntwood Prize 2025.

Other credits include: *The Girls I Look Up To* (Riverside Studios and Quad Loop (Bomb Factory Theatre).

FLORENCE OVERTON Bernardo/Player

Florence is a 2024 graduate of The Oxford School of Drama whose professional debut came in Netflix's *My Oxford Year* (2025). A woman of many passions, she dabbles in playwriting, songwriting and poetry, has composed the full underscore for an upcoming short film, and takes football with a seriousness that rivals her art. She adores the chaos of life - which makes her feel very much at home in the gloriously chaotic world of Shakespeare.

Other credits include: *My Oxford Year* (Netflix), *Naughty List* (University of Northampton), *Mr Stevens* By Isabella Garland (Parkhouse Theatres).

MAGNUS ROOK The Ghost/Gravedigger/Player

Previous work with Fracassantes include: *Immodest*.

Magnus is an actor and voice actor from Freiburg, Germany. He holds BAs in Literature, and in Voice and Speech, and an MA in Acting from the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland. Magnus has narrated over 60 audio-books in English and German.

Other credits include: *Romeo and Juliet* (Shakespeare's Globe, Higher Education), *Pains Of Youth* (Royal Conservatoire of Scotland), *Tote Schlafen Leicht* (SWR1).

AMBER FRANCES Fransisco/Lead Player

Amber Frances is a Belgian actor-theatre maker and graduate from the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland.

She was awarded "Best Actress" at Chicago Filmmaker Awards for the short film "The Rest of Them". Last summer she went on a European tour performing in two Shakespeare adaptations with the European Shakespeare Festivals Network. More recently, she performed a two week run of her own solo show "The Ferry, The Dog & The Fading Folk" at The Glitch London.

Other Credits Include: Here's What you could have won (Canonical Theatre), *Trompe L'oeil* (Emergence Festival and Very Rascals), *The Rest of Them* (Turlington & Company).

LULA MARSH Laertes/Player

Lula Marsh is an actor and writer from London. She trained at the Manchester School of Theatre. Combined with a background in dance and her dedicated yoga practice, Lula aims to work somatically, from the inside out.

Other Credits Include: *The Dasslers* (Sapphire Shofer-poor), *Frankenstein* (Tilted Wig, UK Tour), *Lesbian Cleaning Service* (Maia Mackenzie), *Slow Horses* (Apple TV), *Like Rabbits* (Henry Carson).



Photo by Ty Hartman

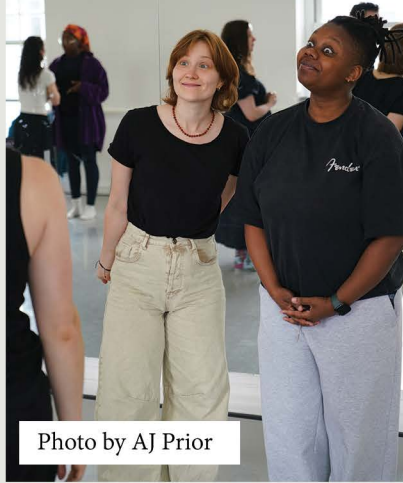


Photo by AJ Prior

LEONARDO SHAW Claudius

Leonardo is a recent graduate of the Royal Central School of Speech and Drama and one of the co-founders of Fools and Thieves Theatre Company. His work has been featured at the Edinburgh Fringe, where he has co-written and starred in several productions, including *It's a Sheet Show* (2024) and his award-winning debut play *Catching Up* (2021).

Other credits include: *History Boys* (Glassroom Company), *Hersterectomy* (The Counterminers), *Cheeky Girls* (The Counterminers).

GODA LIUTKUTE Guldenstern

Previous work with Fracassantes include: *A Midsummer Night's Dream*.

Goda is an actor and a theatre-maker, with European roots and an MA from East 15 acting school. In her work, she draws inspiration from both classical texts and experimental theatre, motivated by passionate, truthful storytelling. Goda has trained with London Meisner Company, ATTIS Theatre in Athens, and Grotowski Institute in Poland. Aside from her work as an actor, she also hosts cabaret nights.

Other credits include: *As We Fall Into The Ocean* (Network Theatre), *Roots* (Anglia Ruskin University), *Drumming* (Anouk W. Hiffler).

NAHEEMA SHAFU Rosencrantz

Naheema is a Nigerian-American actor based in London and trained at the Liverpool Institute for Performing Arts. It was here she completed her MA in Acting and was awarded the prestigious Joan Plowright Lady Olivier Award.

Other credits include: *Bestfriends* (Crying In The Wilderness Productions), *Her Naked Skin* (LIPA), *Hamlet* (LIPA).

AUSETTE ANDERIES Horatio

Previous work with Fracassantes include: *A Midsummer Night's Dream*.

Ausette is an Arizonian actor and filmmaker. She is deeply interested in telling stories that bring depth and comedy to new ideas and underrepresented experiences. Her upcoming film "*Toothbrush Mug*" will be coming to Lexi Cinema this summer.

Other Credits Include: *How Not To Fund A Honeymoon* (Feuille Dooley Productions x Very Rascals), *Here's What We Could Have Won* (Canonical Theatre), *Butterflies & Storms* (Creative Change Collective).

MADDY BIGGS Marcellus/Player

Previous work with Fracassantes include: *A Midsummer Night's Dream*.

Maddy is a graduate from East 15 Acting School and has been a long-time performer in Salty Pelican Theatre's monthly comedy improv nights. She recently appeared in The Labour Party's Election Broadcast: *Reform-Revealed*.

Other Credits Include: *Romeo & Juliet* (Troubadour Stageworks), *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Toubadour Stageworks), *The White Horse Hotel* (Halem Theatre).



Photo by Ty Hartman

THE CREATIVES

Rehearsal Photography by AJ Prior and Ty Hartman



Photo by Ty Hartman



Photo by AJ Prior

CHARLY FAYE

Producer

Charly trained at East 15 and through acting discovered a love for creating her own work - naturally leading to producing. As a proud member of the LGBTQIA+ community she has a keen interest in sharing queer stories and providing space for unheard voices. She has previously volunteered for the charity 'Just Like Us', championing young LGBTQIA+ people.

Other Credits Include: Immodest (short film, Cannes 2025) A Midsummer Night's Dream (Bush Theatre) and The Prism (Theatre, Les Enfants Terribles).

ROBYN FAYE

Director

Originally studying as an actor, Robyn always had a passion for making her own work and loves taking on devised and collaborative projects. Her films have shown at the BFI IMAX, Festival De Cannes, Cannes Lions and the Prince Charles Cinema among many other venues and festivals across the world. Whether they are presented on stage or screen, she is particularly passionate about female led, ensemble and queer stories. Last year she directed A Midsummer Night's Dream, also at the Bush Theatre for Compass Collective. She is excited to be returning for the same charitable cause.

Other Credits Include: Immodest (Festival de Cannes), Scrub Me, Daddy (BFI IMAX, Sunrise and Sunderland Film Festival), Magic 8 (Picturehouse Cinema, Sunrise Film Festival).



Photo by AJ Prior

LIZZIE LISTER

Composer and Musical Director

Lizzie is an actress, singer and writer based in London. She is passionate about the literary classics - particularly when adapting iconic texts through a contemporary lens. Lizzie is also the lyricist, book writer and co-composer of 'Wuthering Heights - The Musical', which fuses classical and contemporary worlds through its score, language and design. The show is currently in the late stages of development, and Lizzie starred as Cathy Earnshaw in both of the musical's workshops. Lizzie is also a recording artist for film/TV sync, having had songs featured in 'Cable Girls' (Netflix) and 'The Marked Heart' (Netflix).

Other Credits Include: Wuthering Heights The Musical (Theatre), Housemates (Theatre) and A Midsummer Night's Dream (Theatre)

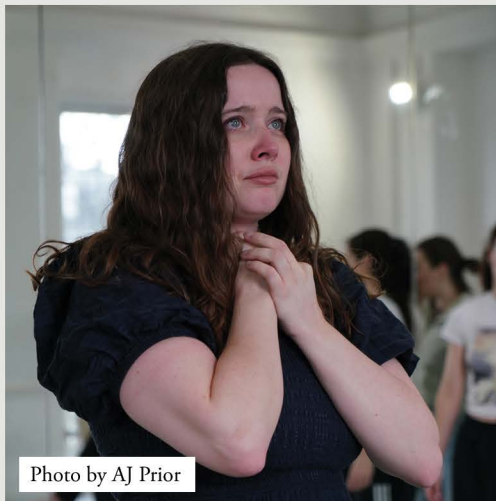


Photo by AJ Prior

LYDIA FITZWILLIAMS

Fight Director

Lydia Fitzwilliams (She/Her) is a fight director originally from the Welsh Borders. She's choreographed fights for a wide variety of productions across both stage and screen. Good action is informed by character and story, and a fight should progress the narrative of both. Lydia looks to make movement that is specific to these aspects, to ensure the fight seamlessly fits into the world of each project.

Other Credits Include: Scrub Me, Daddy (Film), A Midsummer Night's Dream (Theatre), Take The Fall (Film).



Photo by AJ Prior

PIA RICKMAN

Intimacy Coordinator

Pia Rickman is a London-based BECTU-accredited Level 2 Intimacy Coordinator and Actor Trainer. She currently works at the Guildhall School of Music & Drama. Her screen credits include Girl Picture, Tove, The Diplomat (Netflix), Romantic Getaway (Sky), and Ted Lasso (Apple TV+/Warner Bros.).

For more information, visit piarickman.com.

Previous credits with Fracassantes: Immodest (Short Film, Festival de Cannes, 2025)

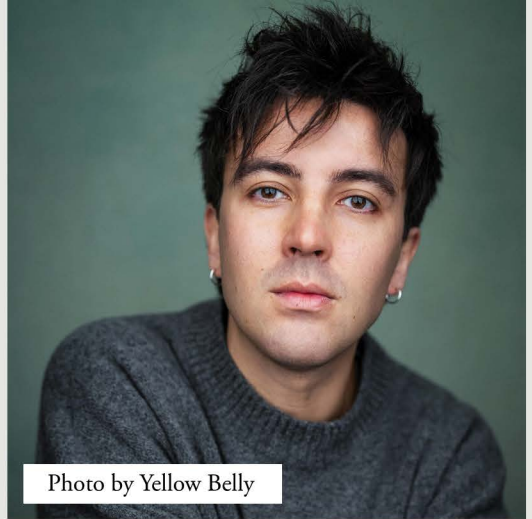


Photo by Yellow Belly

BERTIE TAYLOR-SMITH

Text Support

Bertie trained at The Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama.

Theatre Includes: Rodney Black: Who Cares? Its Working (Arcola/Gilded Balloon - Winner 'Best New Play' Bitesize Festival), Framed (Theatre 503), If I Can Get This Right (Nottingham Playhouse), You're Human Like The Rest Of Them (Finborough Theatre) A Mad World My Masters (RSC), Pomona (Gate Theatre), The Exclusion Zone (Southwark Playhouse).

TV Includes: Trying (Apple TV)

Short Film Includes: Line Of Sight (Nominated - Best Romantic Film at Venice Short Film Awards), Right Place Wrong Tim (Channel 4 Random Acts)



Photo by Caroline Roka



EMMA BRUNET-CAMPAIN Casting Assistant

An actor by trade, Emma is the essential third component to the Fracassantes Collective Team, having worked with Robyn and Charly Faye on many projects as a performer, writer, art director or whatever role is needed to get the job done. On this occasion she assisted with casting, watching hundreds of showreels and self tapes to help curate the perfect cast.

Other Credits Include: Immodest (short film, Cannes 2025) A Midsummer Night's Dream (Bush Theatre), Scrub Me, Daddy (Film, BFI IMAX) and The Prism (Theatre, Les Enfants Terribles).

Photo by AJ Prior

AJ PRIOR Production Photographer

AJ Prior doesn't just take beautiful headshots in his home studio, he also occasionally ventures out to London parks to take production photos for Shakespeare adaptations. AJ has taken every Fracassantes main production image to date, and the collective hope that never changes. He has a way of capturing the essence of people that wows every time, and the team are very grateful for his talent and commitment.

Previous Work For Fracassantes Include: Immodest (Festival de Cannes), Scrub Me, Daddy (BFI IMAX, Sunrise and Sunderland Film Festival), Magic 8 (Picturehouse Cinema, Sunrise Film Festival), A Midsummer Night's Dream (Bush Theatre).



NICOLA BLAIR Hat Maker/Crochet Queen

Nicola has worked on this production in numerous ways, but the most visible on stage is the crochet hats she's made for the performers. This was one of the first costume decisions that were made, and it really brings the whole image together. Nicola also made/provided a couple of the props, including the beautiful crochet basket. When she isn't hand-making costumes or providing her creative advice, she often works with Fracassantes Collective as an actor.

Previous Work For Fracassantes Include: Scrub Me, Daddy (Film, BFI IMAX and Sunrise Film Festival) and Immodest (Film, Festival de Cannes)



Photo by AJ Prior

A THANK YOU

We would love to offer a sincere and heartfelt thank you to every institution and individual who has made this show possible. With zero budget and the aim for all ticket proceeds to go towards a cause we are truly passionate about, this show wouldn't be possible without the aid and support of so many.

Thank you to our brilliant cast, for offering your talent, time and passion.

Thank you to The Bush, for giving us a space to share our work, and for your commitment to celebrating Refugee Week.

Thank you to the incredibly kind team at Fourth Monkey and the wonderful Tabernacle, for supporting our rehearsals.

Thank you to The National Youth Theatre and The Farnham Maltings, for trusting us with your costumes.

Thank you to Orlando Squires for aiding with movement exploration.

Thank you to AJ Prior, Ty Hartman, Greta Zabulyte, Tom Fitzwilliams, Yuri Lynch-Furtado and Alasdair Coulter for helping us document the process.

Thank you to Megan Bakewell for your advice and guidance.

And a massive thank you to you, our audience. For buying a ticket, supporting an important cause, and joining us in celebrating the power of theatre.

We hope you enjoy the show x

