

THE BRUNCH *Club*



PROGRAMME



ALBA | CHRUTHACHAIL



DIRECTOR AND WRITER'S NOTE

In 2011, when my daughter was 10, she came home from her primary school one day and said 'I wish I could be one of the Popular Girls.' I was absolutely astonished, assuming that that cliquey archetype, embodied by Molly Ringwald in John Hughes's hugely influential film *The Breakfast Club* (1985) had long since perished under the advances of feminism. But no, those striking and sometimes poisonous archetypes of Rebel, Geek, Jock, Popular and Goth were alive and well. The Jock has since metamorphosed into the Spice Boy, so named after the fact of David Beckham's relationship with Posh Spice, the Goth morphed into the Emo, and a few others have emerged, such as the Vegan Indy Activist.

Drawn from workshops with over a hundred young people from across Scotland, from Aberdeen to Ayr, we went on a journey to interrogate these archetypes, not in a school setting, but at the perilous border between school and college, when the school tribes that might have given you such a sense of identity fall away... leaving... what exactly?

We started in early July with a draft script which we have worked upon and devised around with an astonishingly talented and diverse group of young people across the fields of acting, creative team and technical and stage management to create *The Brunch Club*, an update of the source material to create the same sense of cross-archetype solidarity in a world far less certain than Middle America in the mid-Eighties.

Grid Iron's work has always been about hope. As I crossed the Meadows a few weeks ago, to see a huge crowd of young people who had skipped school to protest at what we are doing to this beautiful planet of ours, I felt hope. Shame and embarrassment at what my generation, my parent's and grandparent's have done to our world, but hope. As Rosie says in the play:

'We can change things. There's still time. You have to believe that. It's just a leap. An imaginative leap.'

Ben Harrison



CAST

Kieran Bole

KB

Taylor Hall

Meghan

Nicole Macari

Jordyn

Jamie McGregor

Dean

Draya Maria

Rosie

Rudy Punchard

Mo

Jarad Rowan

Eddie

Rhys Watson

Algie



PRODUCTION TEAM

Kathryn Weaving

Set & Costume Designer

Megan Adair

Production Design Assistant

Cara McDonald

Costume Supervisor

Loui McMaster

Sound Designer

Caitlin Park

Lighting Designer/Operator

Samantha Rae

Assistant Stage Manager

Shannon White

Assistant Stage Manager

For Grid Iron:

Ben Harrison	Writer & Director
Judith Doherty	Producer
Mickey Graham	Production Manager
Roy Fairhead	Technical Manager
Lauren Desjardins	Deputy Stage Manager
Jade Adamson	Movement Director
Becky Minto	Set & Costume Design Mentor
Pippa Murphy	Sound Design Mentor
Elle Taylor	Lighting Design Mentor
Deborah Crewe	Finance and Development Manager
Amy Quinn	Front of House Assistant
Delilah Rose Niel	Social Media Content Creator

For SDTN:

Lucy Vaughan	Director
Karen Townsend	Programme Producer
Abigail McMillan	Ensemble Production Manager
Misha McCullagh	Project Co-Ordinator

For Pleasance Futures:

Ellie Simpson	Associate Producer, Pleasance
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BIOGRAPHIES

Kieran Bole KB

Kieran has recently graduated from Dundee and Angus College with a HND in Acting and Performing. Previous roles include, D.D Davidson in *Great Britain*, Ensemble in *The Laramie Project* and Antipholus of Syracuse in *Comedy of Errors*. Kieran is looking forward to continuing his studies at The Oxford School of Drama.

At school I was mostly a spice boy (typecast!)

Taylor Hall Meghan

Taylor is a recent graduate from City of Glasgow College who has a passion for method acting and stylised movement. With her experience in classical and dramatic pieces it will be an exciting transition into a light-hearted, feel-good play such as *The Brunch Club*.

In school I was definitely a drama nerd.

Nicole Macari Jordyn

Nicole Macari has just graduated with a BA (Hons) in Drama and Performance from Queen Margaret University. Nicole recently played 'Cammy' in her gender-swapped adaption of *Black Watch* and 'Dumain' in a site-specific production of Shakespeare's *Love Labours Lost*. Nicole hopes to pursue her career in acting and is very excited to explore her character 'Jordyn' in *The Brunch Club*.

In high school I was quite popular and seen as a 'popular girl'.

Jamie McGregor Dean

Jamie McGregor is a recent graduate of Glasgow Clyde College and graduated with a Higher National Diploma in Acting and Technical Theatre. Jamie would love to enter straight into the industry but is very set on attending a Drama School to further his education. Jamie is also a father of two children.

At school I was mostly a popular guy, mostly hanging with the popular groups.

Draya Maria Rosie

Recently becoming a HND graduate for Performing Arts at Ayrshire College, Draya joins the industry world this year. As well as forming her own theatre company with two others, devising and creating their own shows, Draya worked within Scottish Youth Theatre's *Grease 4.0* project; working in Poland for a week to create and explore theatre. Although Draya has a passion for theatre, she also hopes to study History in the next few years.

At school, I was mostly a drama nerd; sticking to the drama studio during lunches.

Rudy Punchard Mo

Rudy is a recent graduate from NESCol with an HND in Acting and Performance. She is an actor, musician and performance poet who regularly performs original work as well as having pieces published in magazines. After college she is going on to study Performance at UWS.

At school I was mostly a geek, obsessed with Doctor Who.

Jarad Rowan Eddie

Actor-Musician hailing from Stranraer passionate about Scottish music/language. A graduate from Ayrshire College, Jarad's desire for performance has grown with him from a young age; from performing in Poland with Scottish Youth Theatre, to founding an Ayrshire Theatre Company, Jarad's equally enthusiastic to perform with this year's ensemble.

At school, I was mostly a half-woken millennial spending lunchtimes in the piano room.

Rhys Watson Algie

Rhys recently graduated from Edinburgh College with an HND in Acting and Theatre performance. He is not going into further education instead opting for the choice of going straight into the industry. Currently working part time as a phone salesman Rhys knows that his passion lies within acting and entertainment.

At school, I was mostly a geek and proud of it.



Kathryn Weaving Set & Costume Designer

Kathryn has just graduated in BA(Hons) Performance Costume at Edinburgh College of Art. She recently designed an installation for the UK student Performance design exhibition at the Prague Quadrennial, and is currently working with designer Karen Tennent on two other shows at the Edinburgh Fringe.

At school I was mostly an art kid, with an eco activist streak!

Megan Adair Production Design Assistant

Megan is currently studying BA Production Arts and Design at the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland specializing in Set and Costume design. Recently she was set designer on *Tanya – A New Musical* and Costume Designer on *The Next Station is Green Park*.

In High school I was a little bit vegan activist.

Cara MacDonald Costume Supervisor

Cara recently graduated from Performance Costume at Edinburgh College of Art in 2019. She worked last year on the sell-out fringe show *Mould that Changed the World* and the Edinburgh International Festival Opening Event. She enjoys working in a variety of styles and is always looking for the next adventure.

At school I was mostly a wanderer, maybe a geek?

Loui McMaster Sound Designer

Loui McMaster is a sound designer, composer and performer that has previously made music for *Direct to Her Heart* film that was debuted in 2019. Previously attending NESCOL in Aberdeen he makes varied types of music from jungle to rap under the name "Loui" and is heavily involved in creative media.

In school I was a bit of a spice/indie kid.

Caitlin Park Lighting Designer

Caitlin recently graduated from Ayrshire College. She is an aspiring lighting designer who has been given an amazing opportunity to hone her skills as a lighting designer by Grid Iron and SDTN. In her spare time Caitlin plays Ice Hockey as a goaltender and walks her 2 dogs.

At school, I was mostly an emo. I would wear the black clothes and crazy accessories but now I call myself a colourful emo.



Samantha Rae Assistant Stage Manager

Samantha has just finished her HND in Technical Theatre at Ayrshire College. She is an aspiring stage manager. She recently won a scholarship with HIT Scotland and SDTN where she did a week of work experience at the Victoria Palace Theatre in London on the production of *Hamilton*.

At school, I was mostly a raging emo.

Shannon White Assistant Stage Manager

Shannon has just graduated from Perth College with a HND in Technical Theatre and Production Arts. Shannon has been working in theatre since she was 15 and following this is continuing her theatre journey in September by starting her degree at RCS!

Shannon would like to thank SDTN and Grid Iron for this fantastic opportunity!

At school I was mostly a geek! I was the ultimate teachers pet!

Ben Harrison Writer & Director

Ben has been Co-Artistic Director of Grid Iron since 1996 and has directed 27 of the company's productions. Highlights include: *The Bloody Chamber*, *Gargantua*, *Decky Does A Bronco*, *The Devil's Larder*, *Roam*, *Barflies*, *Crude*, *Jury Play* and *South Bend*. Further information: www.benharrison.info.

I was both a geek and a rebel at school and have been oscillating wildly between these two positions ever since.

Judith Doherty Producer

Judith is the Producer, Chief Executive and Co-Artistic Director of Grid Iron. She founded the company in 1995, shortly after graduating from University of Edinburgh with an MA (Hons) in History of Art and English Literature.

At school I was mostly a geek, however on Friday nights in Kelly's Portrush I was a bit Emo and on Saturday nights in Clubland, Cookstown, a bit spice boy.

Mickey Graham Production Manager

Mickey has worked on many Grid Iron productions since 2003 and other Scottish companies he has worked with include National Theatre of Scotland, Birds of Paradise, Tortoise in a Nutshell, Lung Ha, Utter, Janis Claxton Dance, Kai Fischer Productions, Firebrand, Vanishing Point, macrobert, The Tron, Magnetic North, NVA, Vox Motus, Dundee Rep, Mull Theatre, Catherine Wheels, Traverse, and Edinburgh International Festival.

At school he was a teacher's pet and roundly bullied. Nothing much has changed.

Roy Fairhead Technical Manager

Roy trained at the Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama (now the RCS) and graduated in 2006. He has worked with numerous theatre companies including Grid Iron, Birds of Paradise, 7:84, Scottish Opera, Scottish Ballet, National Theatre of Scotland, Forced Entertainment, Visible Fictions, Stellar Quines, Theatre Workshop and also works in live music.

At school I was a music geek.

Lauren Desjardins Deputy Stage Manager

Lauren graduated from Edinburgh Stage Management School in 2016 from a course in stage management and production. Since graduating, Lauren has worked as a stage manager with various theatre companies across Scotland, including Catherine Wheels, National Theatre of Scotland and Curious Seed. This is her third production with Grid Iron.

At school, I was mostly an emo (and still am at heart!)

Jade Adamson Movement Director

Jade is a dance and movement artist who graduated from Edinburgh College (formerly Telford) in 2005. She works as a choreographer, movement director, performer, teacher and producer. Most recently, Jade has been touring worldwide with Barrowland Ballet's *Tiger Trilogy* and *Poggle*. To find out more visit www.jadeadamson.com.

At school I was mostly a rebel. I started somewhere between popular girl and geek then was a rebel from about 3rd year onwards.

Becky Minto Set & Costume Design Mentor

Becky has designed over 100 productions for main house, touring productions, aerial and dance performances, site-specific and large outdoor events across Scotland, the UK and Europe. The *306: Dawn* (NTS) won the Silver Medal at World Stage Design Exhibition 2017. Her work was selected to represent the UK at the Prague Quadrennial and the V&A London in 2019 and 2015.

At school I was mostly a New Romantic.



Pippa Murphy Sound Design Mentor

Pippa is an award-winning composer & sound designer living in Scotland who writes for theatre, dance, film, choirs and orchestras. She has written music for BBC 2, BBC Radio 4, BBC Radio 3, Scottish Opera, SCO, BBCSSO, Edinburgh's Hogmanay and numerous theatre companies including The Royal Lyceum Edinburgh, Dundee Rep, Birmingham Rep, Grid Iron, Stellar Quines, Rapture Theatre, National Theatre Scotland, Royal Court, Traverse Theatre, 7:84.

At school I was mostly a cardigan-wearing Smiths fan with monkey boots who hung out in the music block.

Elle Taylor Lighting Design Mentor

Elle moved to Scotland with a scholarship to study lighting technology at the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland, and graduated with two university awards. She has worked with numerous companies in Scotland and overseas including, Grid Iron, Company Chordelia, Tortoise in a Nutshell, Theatre Gu Leor, Paperdoll Militia, SYT, Tokyo Metropolitan Theatre, Stella Quines, National Theatre of Scotland, Auckland Arts Festival, Terra Incognita to name a few.

At school I was mostly a hybrid between a drama geek and sports chick.

Deborah Crewe Finance & Development Manager

Deborah has worked part and full time with Grid Iron since 2003 although she has been closely involved with the company, as a member of the Board of Directors, since it began in 1995.

There weren't really cliques at my school. The nuns wouldn't allow it!

Delilah Rose Niel Social Media Content Creator

Delilah Niel studied Linguistics at the University of Edinburgh, and is a freelance videographer and photographer. She has provided work for NTS (*Futureproof*, *THEM!*), the Scottish Refugee Council, and Jazz Scotland. She is a co-founder of GILR films – a female led film collective – as well as an experimental filmmaker.

At school, I was mostly a geek – a massive band geek as well as a technology obsessive!

Amy Quinn Front of House Assistant

Amy is currently in her last year of school at George Heriot's and is hoping to study geography at university before taking on the big wide world. She developed a love for theatre and drama when she joined Strange Town in 2014 where she has done acting for stage and screen.

At school she's a geek who secretly thinks she's a rebel.

Lucy Vaughan Company Director SDTN

Lucy is a graduate of the Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama (now Royal Conservatoire of Scotland). Lucy joined the Scottish Drama Training Network in 2016, following ten years as Head of Creative Learning with the Lyceum Theatre Company, and a career in both the performing arts and education sectors. In 2017 Lucy established an exciting new partnership for SDTN with the Pleasance Theatres Trust: the Network Ensemble.

At school, I was mostly an activist – CND was a pretty big issue at the time, and I lived near the Faslane Nuclear Submarine Base.

Karen Townsend Programme Producer SDTN

Making Scotland her home after studying at RCS Karen has worked with a diverse cohort of theatre creatives from Peter Brook and Robert Lepage to Gerard Kelly and Stanley Baxter. Most recently led on all programmes for engagement and access work for Ambassador Theatre Group UK wide.

At school I was the one who led others astray, but they got caught and I didn't! If I was going for one word I'd say sidekick.

Abigail McMillan Ensemble Production Manager/ Technical Theatre Skills Officer SDTN

Abby's first job in theatre was Dresser. She then studied Technical and Production at Fife and Edinburgh college. Graduated from RSAMD in Stage Management 2001. Was Production Manager for Andy Arnold at the Arches till 2012.

In 2013 She joined SDTN, and has taught Production Junior Academy at RCS for four years. This is Abby's 15th Fringe.

At school I was mostly a goth (at least I liked to think I was).

Misha McCullagh Project Co-Ordinator SDTN

Misha studied Acting & Performance at Glasgow Clyde College. She works as an actor and arts coordinator/producer in film, TV and theatre. In production, she has worked with director/filmmaker Bryan Ferguson, STV Creative and Berlin's Full Moon Cabaret. Her favourite acting role has been Vaine Gurie in *Vernon God Little*.

At school, I was mostly a geek (in the library at break & lunch, nose in book or up in the art department.)

Ellie Simpson Associate Producer, Pleasance

Ellie Simpson is the Associate Producer at Pleasance Theatre Trust and leads on artist development with Pleasance Futures. Ellie is also Co-Artistic Director of NOVAE theatre and Idle Motion. Previously Ellie was General Manager at Blind Summit, Associate Producer at New Diorama Theatre and assisted playwright and practitioner Steven Berkoff.

At school, I was mostly a rebel.

ABOUT GRID IRON

“Grid Iron is not just a Scottish national treasure but one of the companies that has shaped British theatre over the last 20 years” The Guardian

Grid Iron is an Edinburgh based new writing theatre company which specialises in creating site-specific and location theatre although we also produce work for the stage. In their 24 years, they have received 30 awards and a further 20 nominations covering all aspects of their work from acting, writing and use of music to stage management, design and technical expertise.

Their adventures have taken them to extraordinary places; from the slopes of Edinburgh Zoo to a massive oil-rig manufacturing shed in Dundee, a boat-builders island in a Norwegian fjord, to the former General Security building in Beirut, a working cancer hospital in Jordan, the old City Morgue in Cork, landside and airside at Edinburgh Airport and parks, housing estates, playgrounds and bars (for performances as well as recreation!) all over Scotland and the UK.

gridiron.org.uk

ABOUT THE NETWORK

The Network Ensemble, a production company for emerging creative talent trained in Scotland, was established in 2017 in a partnership between the Scottish Drama Training Network and Pleasance Theatre Trust / Pleasance Futures. Our first production at the Edinburgh Festival Fringe was *Snowflake*, written for The Network and directed by Mark Thomson. This was followed by *Propeller*, devised by The Network 2018, and directed by Caitlin Skinner.

This year The Network return to the Pleasance Futures programme with *The Brunch Club*, written and directed by Ben Harrison and co-produced with Grid Iron Theatre Company.

The Network Ensemble’s actors, designers and technicians, who were all selected by audition and interview from the 2019 drama graduate cohort, represent the breadth of drama training across Scotland, from Ayrshire to Aberdeen, and all points in between.

For further information about the Scottish Drama Training Network, a unique organisation dedicated to developing practice-based drama training in Scotland, please visit sdtm.org

ABOUT PLEASANCE THEATRE TRUST

Since opening in 1985, the Pleasance has become renowned for delivering an inspiring programme of work in Edinburgh and London year on year, that uniquely embodies the spirit of the Festival Fringe. As a registered charity The Pleasance Theatre Trust aims to create a compelling platform to discover, nurture and support fresh artistic talent from across the globe. Pleasance Futures is at the very heart of the Pleasance and recognises how important it is to open the door for artists, nurture ambition and encourage excellence. Pleasance Futures generate and funds creative opportunities in the arts and includes initiatives year round working across our home venue Pleasance Islington and Edinburgh venues during the Edinburgh Festival Fringe.

pleasance.co.uk



THANKS

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We would also like to thank all the other incredible drama students around Scotland who workshopped this idea with us in its early stages.

And a huge special thank you to the following people who have made our access performances possible:

Rachel Amey BSL Interpreter

Paul Belmonte BSL Interpreter

EJ Raymond BSL Advisor

Christabel Anderson Captioner

Miriam Early Audio Describer

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