



WHITGIFT

LIONBOY

Wednesday 9 February – Friday 11 February
7.30pm | Performing Arts Centre
www.whitgift.co.uk/events



DIRECTOR'S NOTE

I wasn't familiar with *Lionboy* before Director of Drama, James Hammond, suggested it during our early discussions for this term's production. Reading it for the first time, I was struck by its theatricality, its playful style and the courage of its protagonist, Charlie Ashanti. Charlie is sent on a journey across continents in a 'not-too-distant' future to rescue his parents from a shadowy organisation known as The Corporacy. He is aided in his quest by a diverse cast of characters, including a cat named after an eminent Russian composer, a multi-lingual chameleon, and a travelling circus troupe. Charlie is someone who stands up for what he believes is right, who is unafraid to speak truth to power, and who has a deep empathy for the animals he communicates with. In an age where young people are the loudest voices calling for change in how we treat our planet and the other species we share it with, Charlie's story feels especially resonant.

Performing in plays at Whitgift was the best part of my time here. From House Drama competitions and productions

in Big School, to being one of two students in an A Level Drama class, making theatre gave me the best memories I have from my school days. While my love of directing has persisted and I have chosen to make it my career, every student, no matter their eventual path, has something to gain from Drama at school. Putting on a play requires collaboration, empathy and playfulness. These are skills that transcend the rehearsal room and the classroom, and while they come so naturally to us as children, I think that we could all benefit from remembering them a little more as we grow up. Rehearsing with the students has been a particularly special experience for me, not only in returning to my old school, but because it follows such a difficult two years for the theatre industry. The cast have dealt admirably with the ongoing challenges that the pandemic poses and I am so glad that they will have the opportunity to perform in front of a live audience and make memories of their own.

There are a number of people I'd like to thank for their

work on the production. Most importantly, I would like to thank the cast for their commitment and enthusiasm over the last two terms. They should be very proud of their work, and I hope they've enjoyed themselves along the way. Thank you also to the Drama Department: James Hammond for the opportunity and continual support; Graduate Drama Assistant, Isobel Jacob for her tireless work as Producer and for being an invaluable creative collaborator; the AV team for their brilliant work in realising the creative design for the show and giving us our wonderful set; Ioli Filippakopoulou, our Movement Director, for creating our circus and teaching us how to move like cats; and last but not least, Milo Weaver (Lower Sixth Form), for his incredible drumming, which gives the show its heartbeat.

Finally, thank you to you all for coming and supporting us this evening. I hope you enjoy the show.

Matthew Dann
Director and Old Whitgiftian

CAST

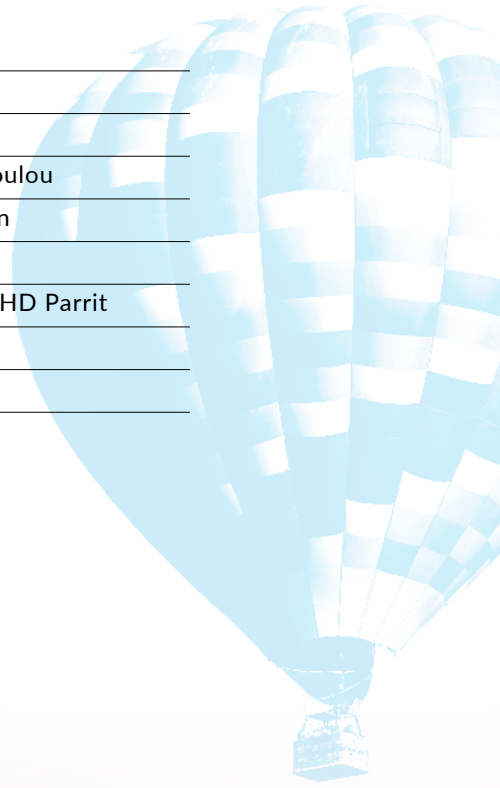
In order of appearance

<i>Charlie</i>	Seyi Andes-Pelumi
<i>Magdalen, Charlie's Mother</i>	Gabriel Alam
<i>Aneba, Charlie's Father</i>	Kolawole Oyewole
<i>The CEO</i>	Archie Trimboli
<i>Rafi Sadler</i>	Ethan Carmalt
<i>Troy</i>	Ashton Kenwright
<i>Sergei</i>	Danny Montgomery
<i>Mr Ubsworth</i>	Hamish McMillan
<i>Pirouette</i>	Connor Cunliffe
<i>Hercule</i>	Hugo Ong-Seng
<i>Madame Barbue</i>	Patrick Carswell
<i>Sigi</i>	Michelangelo Antonelli
<i>Major Tib</i>	Rourke Mooney
<i>Maccomo</i>	Marcos Byrne
<i>Victor</i>	Joseph Sigrist
<i>Simone</i>	Euan Miller
<i>Sartre</i>	Charlie Mixer
<i>King Boris</i>	Seb Wade
<i>Ninu</i>	George Pang
<i>Company</i>	Alexey Kosovan Elliott Schroeder Frederick Gilbert-Hodd Henry Brown Hunter Kelly Iredia Omokaro Kavithan Logeswaran Leo Archer Navin Das Oscar Maingay Otto Monge Rohan Ganguly William Henderson
<i>Percussionist</i>	Milo Weaver

LIONBOY

CREATIVES

<i>Director</i>	M Dann
<i>Producer</i>	ICS Jacob
<i>Movement Director</i>	I Filippakopoulou
<i>Lighting Designer</i>	DP Jenkinson
<i>Sound Designer</i>	AJ Hill
<i>Stage Managers</i>	ICS Jacob & HD Parrit
<i>Lighting</i>	Tom Saba
<i>Technical Consultant</i>	PJ Crook



LIONBOY

A SPARK

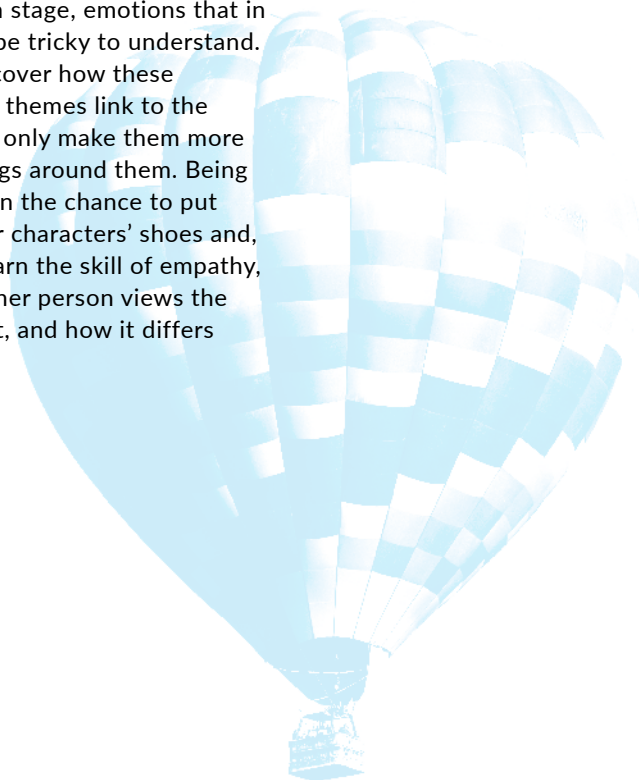
Theatre is a gift for children whether they are performing or watching. It sparks imagination, confidence, empathy, and fun. I, myself, know how important theatre is to young people. When I was younger, I was extremely shy. Taking part in youth theatre made me feel safe, made me feel that my voice could be heard and listened to, and gave me the confidence to speak up. Even the small things, like enjoying the applause at the end of a show.

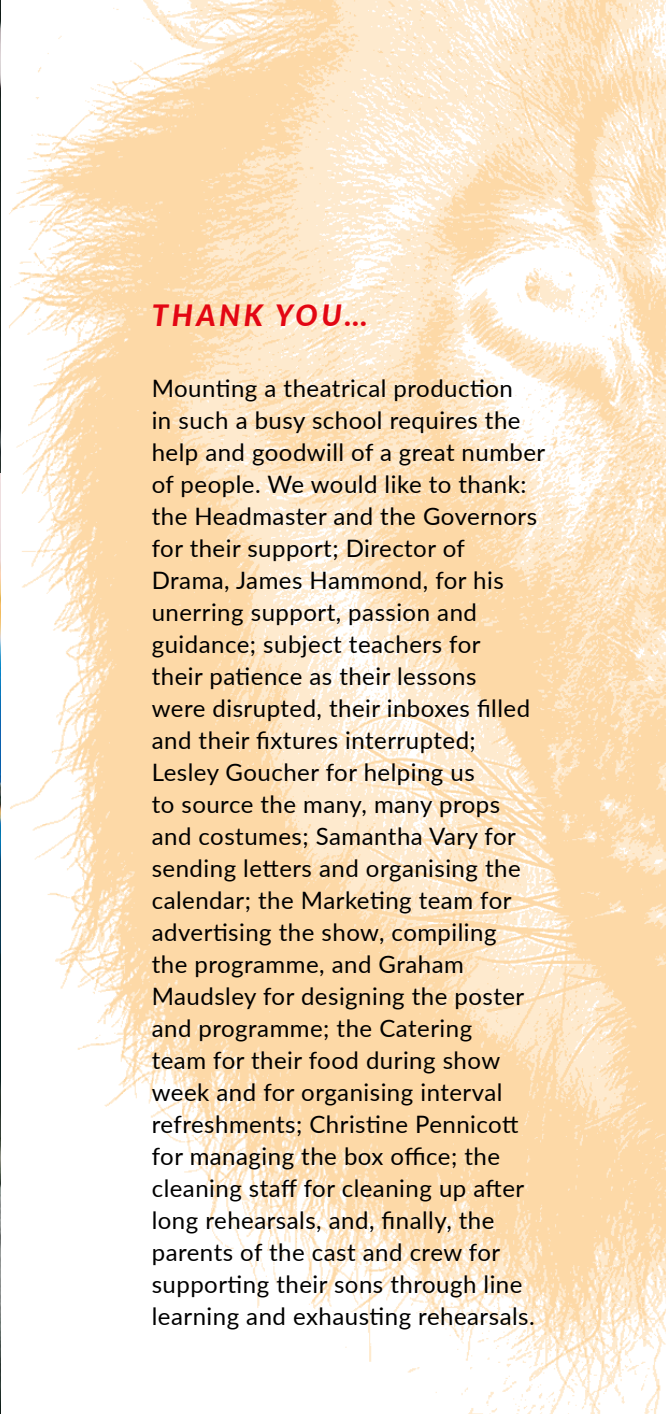
With a child's imagination nothing is out of bounds – whether that is bringing magic to life in *Mary Poppins* or seeing *The Snowman* fly, theatre is a means of escape. It gives children the opportunity to leave their day-to-day lives behind and experience emotions through the actors on stage, emotions that in the real world might be tricky to understand. Children will also discover how these imaginary stories and themes link to the real world, which will only make them more inquisitive about things around them. Being in a play gives children the chance to put themselves into other characters' shoes and, by doing this, they learn the skill of empathy, finding out how another person views the world, how they react, and how it differs

from your point of view. There is something very liberating about getting to be somebody else once in a while!

Lionboy embodies everything children's theatre stands for. Imaginative, child-led, and creative. Those taking part get to feel truly part of a company, escape reality and, most of all, enjoy that applause at the end. As an audience member, let your imagination run wild and forget about the real world for just a couple of hours. Because that is the magic of theatre.

Oscar Robinson
Lower Sixth Form





THANK YOU...

Mounting a theatrical production in such a busy school requires the help and goodwill of a great number of people. We would like to thank: the Headmaster and the Governors for their support; Director of Drama, James Hammond, for his unerring support, passion and guidance; subject teachers for their patience as their lessons were disrupted, their inboxes filled and their fixtures interrupted; Lesley Goucher for helping us to source the many, many props and costumes; Samantha Vary for sending letters and organising the calendar; the Marketing team for advertising the show, compiling the programme, and Graham Maudsley for designing the poster and programme; the Catering team for their food during show week and for organising interval refreshments; Christine Pennicott for managing the box office; the cleaning staff for cleaning up after long rehearsals, and, finally, the parents of the cast and crew for supporting their sons through line learning and exhausting rehearsals.





WHITGIFT

Forthcoming Events

Wednesday 23 – Friday 25 March

Not About Nightingales

by Tennessee Williams

7pm, Performing Arts Centre

(booking via WisePay)

Wednesday 22 – Saturday 25 June

Billy Elliot The Musical

Music by Elton John,

Book and Lyrics by Lee Hall

7pm, Big School

(booking via WisePay)

Monday 4 and Tuesday 5 July

The Physicists

by Friedrich Dürrenmatt

7pm, Big School

(booking via WisePay)

www.whitgift.co.uk/events

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