

# NOTTINGHAM PLAYHOUSE





# Welcome

This new version of The Little Mermaid is such an exciting story to be sharing with audiences over the festive period. The magic of Christmas is very much in the air and under the sea. It's been so joyful exploring above and below the water with a fantastic creative team. Joe's vibrant script and Rob's beautiful music carry us into the waves where we go on a heartfelt journey of discovery and growth. We'll meet lots of funny and friendly characters along the way and one who might be a bit fishy...

It's a privilege to be making theatre for young audiences and their families, welcoming some of you into the theatre for the very first time. We hope you enjoy watching the show as much as we've enjoyed making it.

I'd like to say a huge thank you to the amazing cast and creative team who have brought this story to life. We're all so excited for you to join us under the sea with Marina, our very curious little mermaid, as she makes discoveries about both the world and herself. Have a fin-tastic time!

**Alessandra Davison**  
**Director**





# CAST

**Hannah Breedon** Marina

**Ollie West** Titan, Sullivan,  
Tamara, Alex



# CREATIVES

**Joe Venable** Writer and Lyrics

**Rob Gathercole** Musical Director, Composer & Lyrics

**Alessandra Davison** Director

**Emma Howson** Set and Costume Designer

**Sam Osborne** Lighting Designer/Video Programmer

**Matt Powell** Creative Captions Designer

**Emily Howlett** Creative Captions Consultant

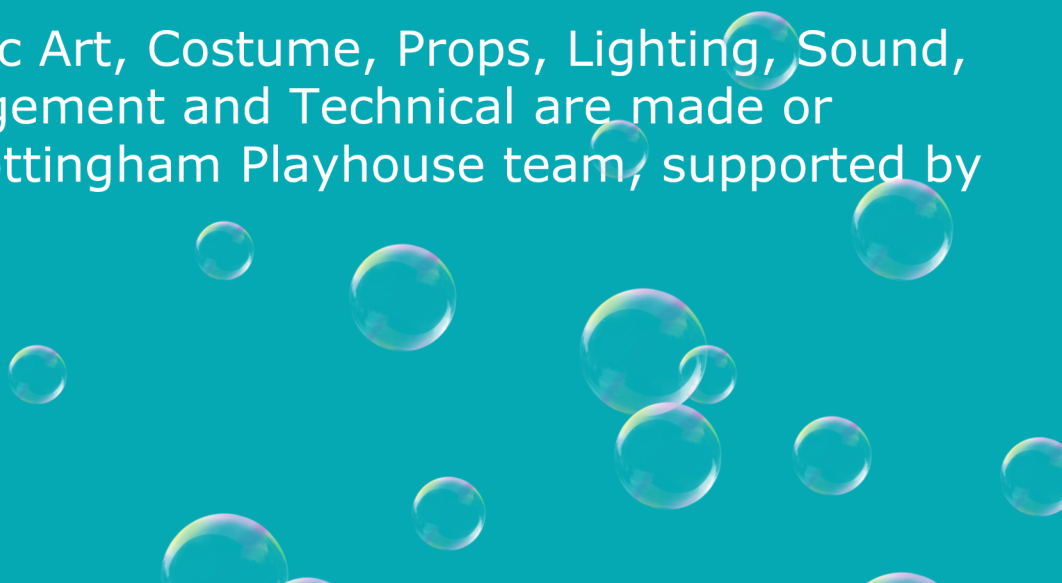
**Ella Barraclough** Costume Supervisor

**Ali Bakewell** Stage Manager (on book)

**Jace Daws** Captions Operator

Set built by Belgrade Theatre Scenery.

Construction, Scenic Art, Costume, Props, Lighting, Sound, Video, Stage Management and Technical are made or managed by the Nottingham Playhouse team, supported by freelancers.





# REHEARSAL PHOTOS



Photography by Michael Aiden Photography







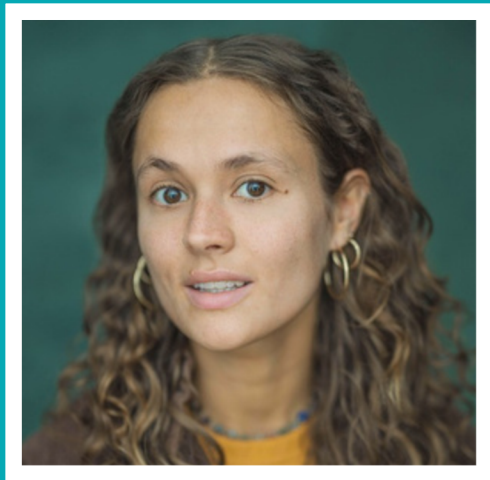








# CAST



**Hannah Breedon**  
**Marina**

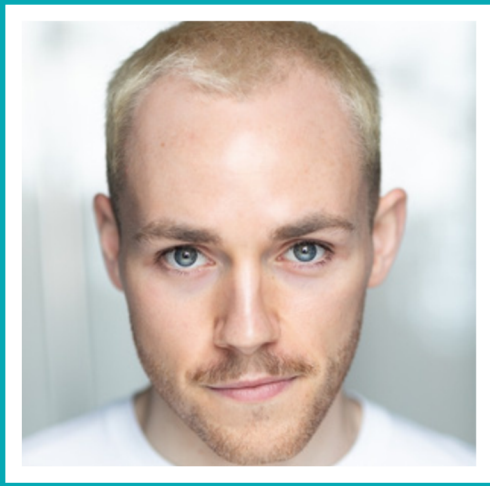


Hannah Breedon is an actor and voiceover artist, originally from Nottinghamshire. She trained at Fourth Monkey Drama School and graduated in 2024. The role of Marina in The Little Mermaid will be her professional theatre debut.

Her credits whilst training include: Queen Margaret (Henry VI Part II), Ruth (13 by Mike Bartlett), Barbara (August Osage County by Tracy Letts) and Goneril (King Lear). Hannah is very excited to be working with Nottingham Playhouse this Christmas and performing in the same theatre she visited so many times growing up!







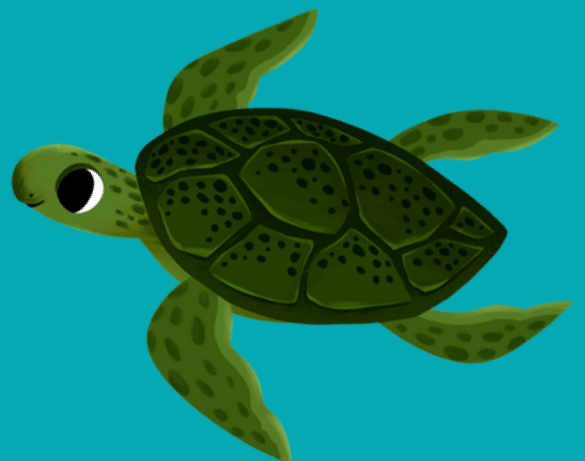
## Ollie West

### Actor 2

Ollie is an actor, comedian and clown based in London. He trained at the renowned École Philippe Gaulier in France and was a member of the National Youth Theatre REP Company in 2015.

Recent credits include Scrooge in Rouge (The Old Joint Stock), The Dazzle (Menagerie Theatre) and Treeeee (Leicester UK Kids Festival). He also recently worked on Esme's Life Suck, which is currently touring film festivals internationally.

As a comedian, Ollie was a finalist in the Leicester Square Theatre Sketch Off, nominated for Best Debut and Best Kids Show at the Leicester Comedy Festival, and winner of The Blackout at Up The Creek. He performs regularly at leading UK comedy venues including The Pleasance, Angel Comedy, Soho Theatre and Brighton Komedia. Ollie is a founding member of the award-nominated clown company Big Zeus Energy and was Artist in Residence at the Centre for Artistic Development in Calgary. He also facilitates clown workshops throughout Europe.





# CREATIVES

**Joe Venable**

**Writer/Composer**

Joe Venable (he/him) is a theatre lyricist and book-writer, with a passion for playful musicals that make people believe they may in fact enjoy going to the theatre. He keenly advocates for social change in his writing, centring themes of greed, overwork, injustice and empathy.

His first show *On Your Bike*, about food delivery riders caught in a rivalry between two chicken shops, debuted at the Edinburgh Fringe in 2021, winning 'Best Musical at the Fringe' from Musical Theatre Review and returning for another five-star run in 2023. His subsequent shows *Jingle Street*, about an ad writer who wakes up to find he can only speak in jingles, and *Rishi Sunak's Doing A Musical*, a satire written in just six weeks for the 2024 election, also premiered to critical acclaim in 2023 and 2024.

He's currently working on *No Flirting in the Bunker Please*, a musical about two teenagers falling in love after a nuclear apocalypse, heading to the Edinburgh Fringe in 2026. He lives in London with his wife and many small spiders he does not appreciate.



# **Rob Gathercole**

## **Musical Director, Composer and Lyrics**

Rob is an actor, musician, composer and writer. He co-wrote and performed in the 2024 election spoof, Rishi Sunak's Doing A Musical! He also wrote and performed in the Offie Award-nominated Faking Bad, a parody musical of the hit TV series Breaking Bad, playing Hank, Mike, Saul, Jane, Hector, Don Eladio, Todd, Elliot & Teeny Weeny Walt. Recently, Rob provided musical arrangements for the Edinburgh Fringe smash hit A Jaffa Cake Musical, and he is working on a new comedy musical The Sesh with Rebecca Simmonds.

Outside of his original musical projects, Rob is resident composer and musical director for Immersion Theatre, writing music for all eight of their family musicals and providing music for their pantomimes.

As an actor, he recently appeared in Bruiser Theatre Company's Murder for Two, Gigglemug Theatre's Scouts the Musical! and two UK tours of Dreamboats and Petticoats.

When not acting or writing, Rob plays piano for Vintage Rock 'n Roll band The Bluejays in venues across the UK. You can listen to Rob's music on Spotify, Apple Music, and all other streaming platforms. Just search for Rob Gathercole or visit [www.robgathercole.co.uk](http://www.robgathercole.co.uk) for more info.





# Alessandra Davison

## Director

Alessandra is a director and dramaturg from Birmingham. She was part of the inaugural Jamie Lloyd EMERGE Company and was the Associate Director of Targeted Work at the Lyric Hammersmith before becoming Resident Assistant Director at the Donmar Warehouse. She also works as a photographer and facilitator.

Selected credits as Director: Taboo (workshop with Boy George & Jack Holden), Sonic Journey (Young Vic, Five Shorts), Coven (Seven Dials Playhouse, rehearsed reading), The Decider (Donmar Warehouse, rehearsed reading), The Christmas that got forgot (HMP Spring Hill, Kestrel), Carbon and Tipping Point (Royal Court, readings in translation); Tamzara (Unge Viken); SCRATCH (Harold Pinter, JLC showcase); Ephemera (Royal Court, Living Archive); Three Sisters (Lyric Hammersmith, Evolution Festival); Call me Maybe (Arcola); Hatch (Baron's Court); By Way of Kensal Green (Theatre 503); Drylands (Tramshed); Hot Off Da Press and Three Wishes (Lyric Hammersmith Studio, co-writer).

As Assistant/Associate: Brigadoon (Regent's Park Open Air), Second Best (Riverside Studios), The Snowflake (Birmingham REP), Bodies of Water (Actors Touring Company), Next to Normal (Wyndham's, West End transfer); Macbeth, Next to Normal, and Private Lives (Donmar Warehouse); Two Palestinians Go Dogging (Royal Court); A Number (Old Vic); Idyll (Pentabus); Torch Song (Turbine) and Me for the World (Young Vic).



# Emma Howson

## Designer

Emma is a theatre designer and maker from Leeds. She recently graduated from Nottingham Trent University having studied BA (Hons) Design for Theatre and Live Performance. As the 2025 recipient of the Nottingham Playhouse Prize, Emma is excited to start her creative career and share her design for The Little Mermaid in the city where she has spent the last 3 years studying and growing her passion for theatre.

Previous experience includes working as designer and maker at Nottingham College for National Theatre Connections 2025, plus various other assistant maker roles. Emma enjoys bringing ideas to life whilst putting audience experience at the centre of her work through set, props and puppetry.

She thanks those at Nottingham Playhouse and all the creative team on The Little Mermaid for this opportunity and is grateful for their support and expertise in the design process.





# Sam Osborne

## Lighting Designer

Sam Osborne (he/him) is a lighting designer and video engineer based in Nottingham. He also works as a touring relighter for theatre and dance, and show control programmer for immersive experiences.

As lighting designer: The Secret Garden (Big Little Theatre); The Ugly Duckling (Nottingham Playhouse); A Winter's Tale (1623 Theatre); Barbara (Mark Croasdale); Gnaw (Daniel McVey); Kennington Loop (Loudest Laugh); Choose Your Fighter (Votive Theatre).

As associate lighting designer: A Christmas Carol (Leeds Playhouse); The Wild Cards (NCL / Sisco); Animal Farm (Stratford East); Future Fest (Abandoman); The Lost Spells (Goblin Theatre); A Christmas Carol (Hull Truck); Stranger Sings (The Vaults).

As video programmer: Public Interest (Common/Wealth / Bradford City of Culture); Hansel and Gretel, Goldilocks, Red Riding Hood (Nottingham Playhouse); Brown Girls Do It Too (Tilted Sessions); and DNA (Lakeside Arts).





# Matt Powell

## Creative Captions Designer

Matt (they/them) is an Offie finalist video designer, musical theatre creative and queer practitioner.

Recent Video Design and Digital credits include: The Lightning Thief (UK Tour); Overshare (Greenwich Theatre); (the) Woman (UK Tour); Little Shop of Horrors (Sheffield Crucible); Mrs President, Marie Curie – A New Musical (Charing Cross Theatre); Cake: The Marie Antoinette Playlist (The Other Palace); The Elixir of Love (English National Opera); Eureka Day, The Ugly Duckling (Nottingham Playhouse); Brace Brace (Royal Court); Ghost Ships (Icon Theatre); The Real Ones (Bush Theatre); Mother of the Revolution (Leeds Industrial Museum); New Year (Birmingham Opera); Laughing Boy (Jermyn Street Theatre and Theatre Royal Bath); Sherlock Holmes and the Poison Wood (The Watermill Theatre); EXhibitionists (King's Head Theatre); I Really Do Think That This Will Change Your Life (Pleasance Dome, Edinburgh & Stage Awards for Innovation Finalist - Mercury Theatre, Colchester); Gypsy in Concert (Manchester Opera House for Hope Mill Theatre); REBECCA (Charing Cross Theatre); RIDE (The Old Globe, Curve and Southwark Playhouse); ANIMAL (Offie Finalist – Hope Mill Theatre and Park Theatre); Accidental Death of an Anarchist (Theatre Royal Haymarket, Sheffield Theatres and Lyric Hammersmith); Rumi: The Musical (D'asha Performing Arts Festival and London Coliseum) and Flight (Royal College of Music).



# Emily Howlett

## Creative Captions Consultant

Emily Howlett is a deaf director/consultant with a passion for embedding accessibility into high end productions.

She has worked as BSL Consultant for many stage and screen productions, most recently including Silent Witness (BBC); Phoenix Rise (BBC); As You Like It (Shakespeare's Globe) and Pinocchio (Hull Truck). She has also directed/associate directed several productions such as The Gruffalo (Tall Stories); The Snow Dragon (Derby Theatre) and Much Ado About Nothing (Crucible Theatre). Emily also works in creative captioning and has worked as a Creative Captions Consultant for the Nottingham Playhouse Christmas Neville Studio show for five years. Emily is born and bred in Derby.

