

MARIA

BY SIMON STEPHENS

DIRECTED BY SADIE MEARS

2nd - 11th
SEPTEMBER

two

NOTE FROM THE DIRECTOR

It has been an absolute privilege to bring 'Maria' to life. It feels like a true homecoming for the play to have its first life in English, in Manchester, in the absolute powerhouse that is 53two during the theatre's 10th anniversary (!!). 'Maria' is a play deeply resonant with the digitally isolated times in which we live. I hope audiences use it as pause-for-thought in where we find ourselves in 2026 and what we value as a society. I cannot thank all the wonderful artists who have banded together to help me make this show; all the graft, insight, expertise, and prayers to the theatre gods - thank you all!

Sadie Mears - Director

THE COMPANY

in alphabetical order

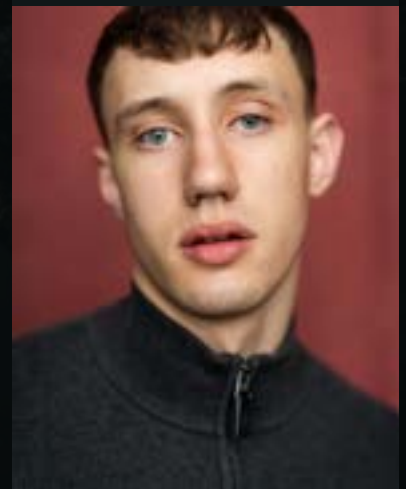


ANNE BARON

Anne is a current Associate Artist with 53two having played the role of Margaret in the OffCut 2026 Festival winning play 'Eggshells' and brings a wealth of experience to the table with a career spanning many years in a diverse range of roles. She has also had notable roles in TV including 'Coronation Street' and 'Emmerdale' and several appearances on 'Crimewatch'! Anne has also worked on short films, in role-play, rehearsed readings and audio recordings. Her online presence includes the popular YouTube channel Act Your Age, performing a number of engaging monologues. She is excited about bringing the role of Gran to life at her favourite NW theatre. Anne is represented by Keddie Scott Associates (North).

CALLUM BURBIDGE

Callum Burbidge is a Yorkshire actor based in Manchester who graduated from The Arden School of Theatre in 2021. His television credits include: Everything I know about love (2021), Coronation street (2023), Meet the Richardsons (2024) and most recently portraying the role of 'Monty' in Channel 4's Tip Toe (2026). He is represented by Joi Rouncefield at Simon and How and is thrilled to be performing for you tonight.



THE COMPANY

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NOAH FOX

Noah Fox first acted as Oskar in 'Let the Right One In' at The Barn Theatre. Theatre: The Incident (M6 Theatre), Career Criminal (Odd Arts), Mona & Mimi (Unity Theatre), Who's the Skirt? (Qweerdog), The Grill (Peripeteia Theatre Company), Simon Stephens Presents (Royal Exchange), Bloom (Oldham Coliseum). TV and Film: Casualty (BBC), Condensation (IAP:MCR).

TOBY HADOKE

Toby is an award-winning stand-up comedian and since 1997 has been resident MC at Manchester institution XS Malarkey. His Edinburgh one man show Moths Ate My Doctor Who Scarf spawned an international tour, West End run and Sony nominated BBC radio series. TV credits include Alan Partridge, Ridley, Waterloo Road, Holby City, Hebburn, The Forsyte Saga, Casualty 1907, Coronation Street, and Phoenix Nights. Theatre includes Loot, A Midsummer Night's Dream and Sherlock Holmes in Trouble (Royal Exchange), Romeo and Juliet (Feelgood), and Genoveva (Opera North). Radio includes countless plays, series and audiobooks for BBC Radio 4, Big Finish and Audible and he is a prolific voice over artist. He has written numerous plays for Radio 4, an acclaimed book about TV classic The Quatermass Experiment, and regularly contributes to the Guardian. He is an RTS award winning documentary presenter, has reported on Newsnight and is a regular host on BBC 4 Extra's The 7th Dimension.



THE COMPANY

in alphabetical order



STACEY HARCOURT

Recent credits include 'Waterloo Road' (BBC), 'Emmerdale' (ITV), 'Doctors' (BBC), 'Pests' (Hope Mill Theatre) and 'Freak' (53two). Stacey can also be seen in 'Kayleigh's Love Story' playing the role of Kayleigh which has now been seen by over 12 million people worldwide and won 5 prestigious awards including an RTS and a personal commendation for Stacey from Leicestershire Police.

KIARA KIANDRA

Kiara Kiandra is a Mancunian Actor and trained at London Academy of Music & Dramatic Art on the BA Professional Acting Course. Her credits include Angie in Is God Is and Taffy in Saturday Night/Sunday Morning (LAMDA), Coronation Street (ITV), The Man In The Road (Melling Films).



DIRECTOR



SADIE MEARS

Sadie is a theatre director who recently finished her tenure as Resident Assistant Director at the Royal Exchange Theatre, she trained on the Birkbeck Theatre Directing MFA. Her credits include: *The Beauty Queen of Leenane* (The Pegg Studio Theatre, Bristol); *STRAPPED* (The Island, Bristol); *40 Elephants* (Alma Tavern & Theatre); *Party Time* (Extinction Rebellion, South-East London Festival). Credits as Assistant Director include: *Even These Things*, *Private Lives*, *Road*, *Singin' in the Rain* (The Royal Exchange Theatre); *Dancing at Lughnasa* (Sheffield Crucible and The Royal Exchange Theatre); *Revolt. She Said. Revolt Again.* (Rose Bruford).

CREATIVE TEAM

Director

Sadie Mears

Assistant Director

Maggie Thorn

Sound Design

Patch Middleton

LX Design

Tom Sutcliffe

Set Build

Dave Howell

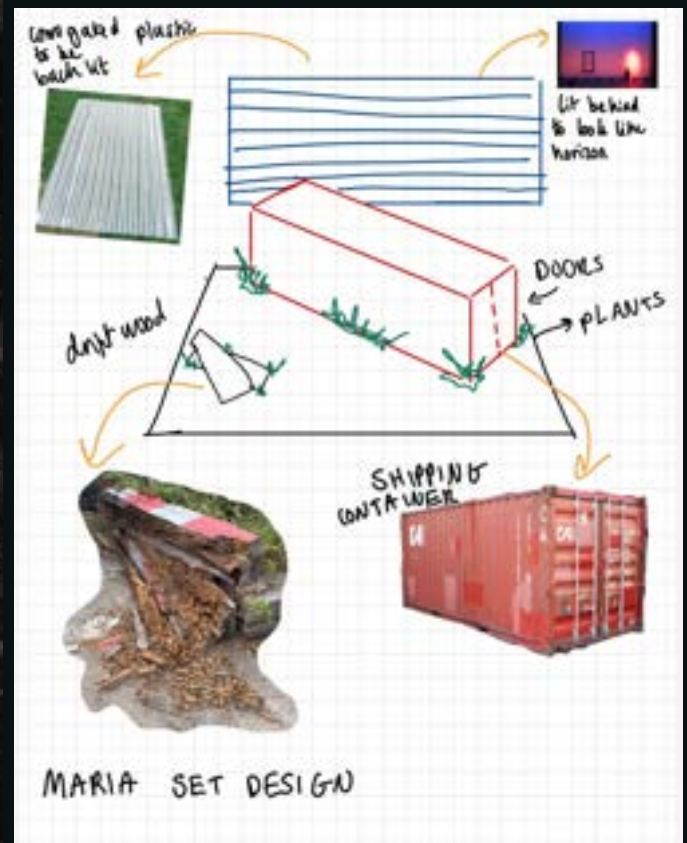
Operator

Elliot Blythe

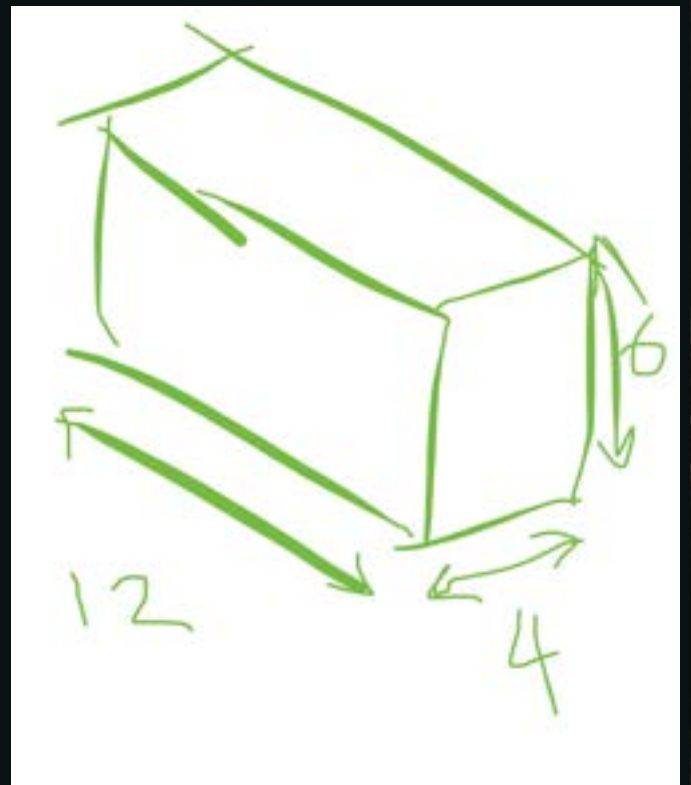
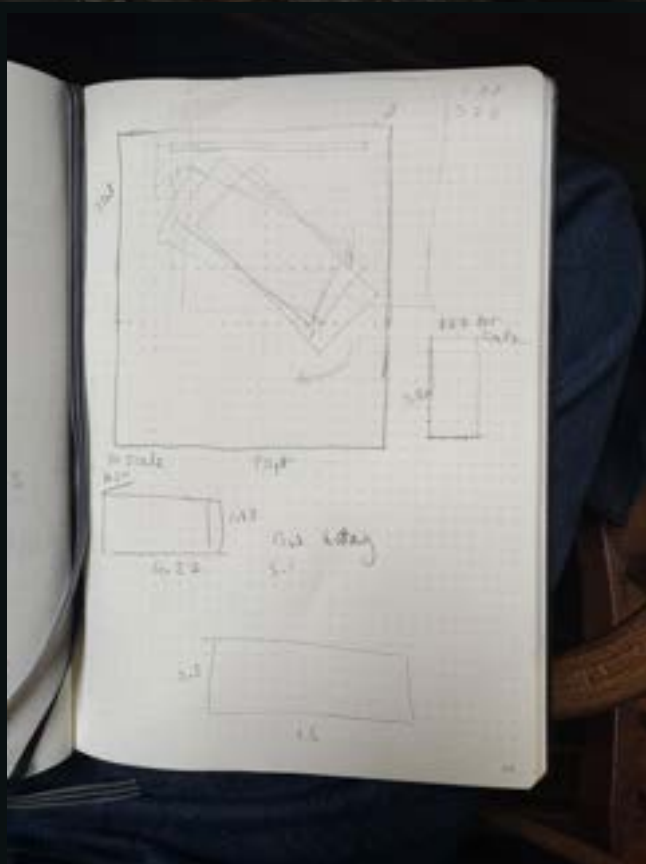
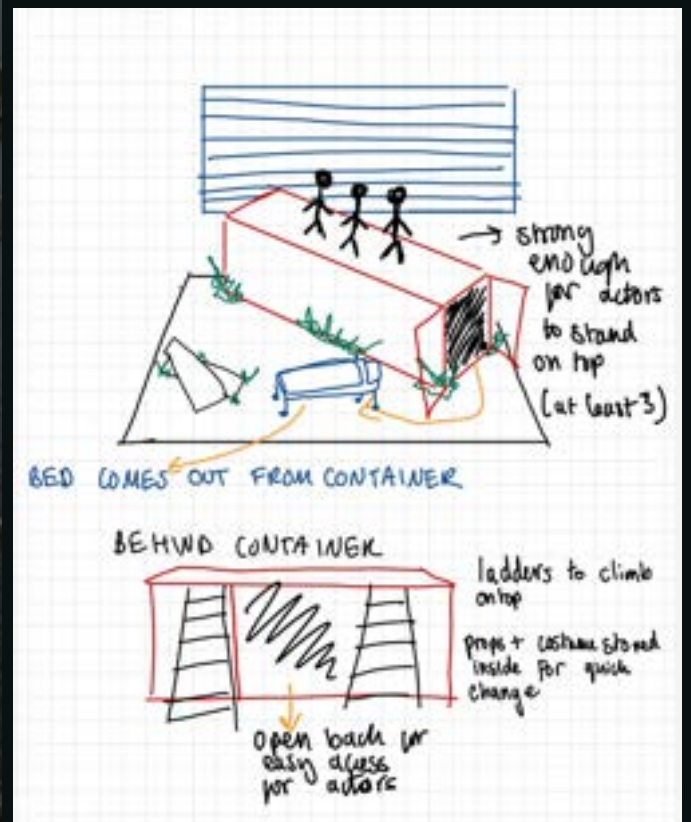
Movement

Chris P Brown

IN THE MAKING



IN THE MAKING



THANK YOU

Thank you for joining us at 53two.



Photography by @kelseasoitis

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