

THE
PLAYGROUND
THEATRE

The Playground Theatre presents

DAMAGE CONTROL

at Riverside Studios

Play by Polly Wiseman
Sculptures by Josie Spencer



Scan here to listen to the play

6 AUG - 31 OCT 2021

Admission free
8am - 11pm, Monday to Friday
10am - 11pm, Saturday and Sunday

**RIVERSIDE
STUDIOS**



DAMAGE CONTROL

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Polly Wiseman
Writer and Director

Josie Spencer
Sculptor

William Marsey
Composer

Edward Lewis
Sound Designer

Ian Fincher
Lighting Designer

Carla Joy Evans
Artwork and Design

Amanda Waggott
Managing Producer

Geneva Stalker
Assistant Producer

Damage Control is voiced by:

Annabelle Dowler

George Potts

Indigo Griffiths

Jack Klaff

James Horne

Jessica Martin

Molly Keir

Salim Sai

Polly Wiseman - Writer and Director

Polly Wiseman's plays have been produced by the Royal Court's Jerwood Theatre Upstairs, Soho Theatre, National Theatre Studio and Home Manchester, among others. With her company, Fireraisers, she has made site-responsive shows for woodlands, stately homes, Selfridges' window on Oxford Street and an oil rig off Brighton beach in front of 30,000 people.

Josie Spencer - Sculptor

The spur for the work in Damage Control was the politics and consequences of greed. It is my hope that the sculptures convey the beauty and resilience of the human spirit in the face of hardship and unrestrained capitalism's threat to social equilibrium.

Recent Shows: Old Royal Naval College, Greenwich June to August 2021. The Playground Theatre, London June 2018. Golden Square, London at the invitation of Westminster City Council 2014 – 2017. Hoxton Arches, Arch 402 Gallery, London 2013. SW1 Gallery, London 2009. Pittville Pump Room, Cheltenham Music Festival 2009. Castle Hill Gardens, North Devon 2009. Wotton House, Aylesbury 2009.

www.josiespencer.com

William Marsey - Composer

William Marsey is a UK-based composer. He has worked with the Los Angeles Philharmonic Orchestra, BBC Arts, the Royal Northern Sinfonia and his collaborations with visual artists have been exhibited in Europe and the US. His music for Damage Control is a part of a practice of setting spoken voices to music, as in his radio piece Be Nice to See You, which can be found on BBC Sounds. Upcoming projects include an on-line binaural audio/video experience with Shadwell Opera, an album of piano works to be released in the autumn and a series of works composed for music boxes. Hear more at wmarsey.com

Edward Lewis - Sound Designer

Edward Lewis studied music at Oxford University and then trained as a composer and sound designer at Bournemouth Media School. He works in theatre, film, television and radio. He has been nominated for several Off-West End Theatre Awards. Films he has worked on have won several awards at the LA International Film Festival and Filmstock International Film Festival. soundslikeedlewis.com

Ian Fincher - Lighting Designer

After a degree in Music and Theatre Studies at Liverpool Hope, Ian went to RADA to complete a Specialist Diploma in Stage Electrics and Lighting. Ian is currently Deputy Head of Electrics at Ambassadors Theatre London. Theatre lighting designs include, Ronnie Wood I Feel Like Playing, National Youth Theatre Rep Season at Ambassadors Theatre. Sweet Charity, Godspell, A Little Night Music, Kiss Me Kate for Arts Ed, London. Street Cries at Camden People's Theatre. Chess at Neptune Theatre.

The Playground Theatre

The Playground Theatre is a multidisciplinary performing arts incubator and venue in London W10. By fostering a supportive environment for open-ended experimentation, The Playground serves as a haven for emerging and established artists alike to come and play, to exercise the essential creative muscles that spark authentic, innovative work. As a registered charity, The Playground also delivers outreach programmes and mental health initiatives that strengthen the resilience of the local community through creative engagement.

theplaygroundtheatre.london

The Playground Theatre Team

Director - Anthony Biggs

Artistic Director - Peter Tate

Producer - Amanda Waggott

Marketing - Vanessa b. Koo and Mirabelle Dominé-Walley

Front of House - Helena Hipólito and Ainhoa Luque

Outreach - Paul O'Mahony

Riverside Studios

For over 40 years Riverside Studios has been the home for an extraordinary mix of theatre, film, comedy, art, dance, music and television. A cultural hub that has attracted some of the world's best creative talent including Samuel Beckett, David Bowie, Benjamin Zephaniah, Amy Winehouse, Yoko Ono, Allen Ginsberg, Tadeusz Kantor, Lenny Henry and Michael Clark to name but a few. The TV studios brought us much loved shows including Doctor Who, Top of the Pops and TFI Friday from the past, through to Have I Got News for You and Eggheads today.

After five years and a total redevelopment of our site, we are ready to start our next creative chapter driven by a simple belief. We believe in the power of creativity to bring people together, unlock new possibilities and ideas and spark positive change in the world.

Riverside Studios Team

Creative Director - Rachel Tackley

Executive Director - Tony Lankester

Business and Finance Director - Guy Hornsby

Administration and HR Manager - Judith Murrell

Finance Controller - Amy Howard

Operations Director - Jake Taylor

Technical Manager - Ian Dixon-Wilkinson

Deputy Technical Manager - Chris Galler

Programme Coordinator - Lucy Grudniewicz

Box Office and Website Manager - Rhys Williamson

Venue Operations Manager - Chris Burkitt

Food and Beverage Manager - Marianne Levi

“ Damage Control explores the language of emergency through events in London's history, from The Great Plague to Covid and asks whether the lives of the poor are worth less than the property of the rich.

Josie Spencer's sculptures evoke a sense of both vulnerability and resilience. Are they broken or breaking free? After this last difficult year, which are we?

By placing the words amidst the sculptures and directly into the ears of an audience, we aim to create an immersive experience through voices, thoughts and emotions of people caught up in disaster and ultimately, celebrate the resilience of London and Londoners.

Polly Wiseman

Writer and Director

“ The Playground is a place for artists to come and play, and we encourage our companies to be bold and to push boundaries. With Damage Control, we wanted to use theatre to enhance Josie's beautiful sculptures and to make work that reflected the experience of our local community. Polly has responded to this brilliantly, creating a collage of past and present events that imbues the sculptures with significance without overshadowing their ethereal quality. Her inspired use of real-life testimony from our residents makes Damage Control vital and relevant.

Anthony Biggs

Artistic Director

The Playground Theatre

DAMAGE CONTROL

A timeline of London emergencies

The Great Plague of London 1665-6

Initially ignored by Parliament as a 'foreign problem', Yersinia Pestis (The Plague) took hold of London and raged over the course of nearly a year, destroying nearly one in four of the inhabitants: over 90,000 people. While the rich fled to the countryside, London's poor suffered the most because of overcrowded living conditions and the necessity to keep working in 'frontline' jobs. Celebrated diarist Samuel Pepys documented these events.

The Great Fire of London 1666

Probably started in a bakery in Pudding Lane, the fire of London destroyed the homes of an estimated 70,000 of the city's 80,000 inhabitants. Although only about 15 people were noted dead, the deaths of the poor were often not recorded. It's likely the fire could have been contained had Lord Mayor Thomas Bloodworth sanctioned the pulling down of houses but he feared the wrath of their owners.

The Gordon Riots 1780

What began as a protest about the Papists Act of 1778 became a way for the poorest citizens to vent their rage about their meagre pay and their inhuman working conditions. Debtors were released from London's prisons by the mob and rich peoples' homes were looted and burned. The army was called out to restore order, shooting 285 people dead. Ignatius Sancho was a well-to-do writer, composer and abolitionist and shopkeeper, who wrote fascinating letters observing London life. He was the first person of African descent to vote in a British general election.

The Colney Hatch Fire 1903

A fire in a shoddily built dormitory at this asylum for the 'pauper insane' killed 52 female patients. At the trial, the Home Secretary and other officials were blamed for sanctioning the highly flammable structure. The main buildings of Colney Hatch are now luxury apartments.

World War II air raids 1940s

During World War Two, German air raids resulted in many buildings being destroyed

and mass civilian casualties. While others ran for their lives to shelters, Londoners as young as 14 were employed to guard rooftops, trying to put out incendiary bombs and save buildings.

The London Riots 2011

When police shot Mark Duggan, a black man said to be carrying a gun, protests erupted in Tottenham, which quickly spread across London and then the country. Resulting in widespread looting, vandalism of buildings and fires.

The Tower Block Fires 1999, 2005, 2009, 2017

Total death toll: 82. One in Garnock Court, three in Harrow Court, six in Lakanal House, 72 in Grenfell Tower. In all four fires, councils were condemned for sanctioning unsafe building materials for social housing. In the case of Grenfell Tower, no one has yet been held criminally responsible for the tragedy.

Covid 2020 to present

Covid19 took hold in the Spring of 2020. The under privileged, the aged and global majority Londoners have been disproportionately affected alongside those working in frontline jobs.

Sculptures by Josie Spencer

- 1 Lashed
- 2 Young Ozymandias
- 3 Dancer
- 4 Narcissists Dancing
- 5 Light Shaft
- 6 Black Amazon Dreaming
- 7 Fright Flight
- 8 Burnt Angel
- 9 Blue Running Man
- 10 Homage to Prisoners of War

Under the central scaffold

- 11 Icarus Dreaming
- 12 Escaping

Suspended from the scaffold

- 13 Skydiver
- 14 Freefall Male
- 15 Just Floating
- 16 Riding the Updraft
- 17 Freefall Female

In the alcove

- 18 Quiet Contempt



Scan here for more information about Josie Spencer's sculptures