

BEFORE THE LEAVES FALL

**2025
SEASON**
YAT est 1970

Registered Charity No.: 1165458

SATURDAY 5 & SUNDAY 6 JULY

PERFORMED AT TEDDINGTON LIBRARY

WWW.YAT.ORG.UK

Written and directed by Carmen Mackey


**LIBRARY
SERVICES**

DIRECTOR'S NOTES

There is something rather incongruous about putting on live theatre (which is, generally speaking, quite loud) in a library (known for the “shh-ing” stereotype). For me, the intersection where these two notions meet is in storytelling and especially in the oral traditions of folklore. Before there was reading and writing, humanity was telling each other stories; speaking magic and different worlds into existence. When I found out that the theme of the Reading Agency’s Summer Reading Challenge was ‘Story Garden’ I immediately knew that folklore would be at the core of this piece. There is such an incredibly rich culture of myths and legends from our shared history and I wanted to celebrate this in the work. Books like *A Treasury of Folklore: Woodland & Forests* by Dee Dee Chainey & Willow Winsham, *Weird Woods, Tales from the Haunted Forests of Britain* by John Miller and, of course, *Lord of the Rings* by J. R. R. Tolkien provided me with the creative inspiration and the play continued to evolve from there. Anyone who attended the read-through back in April can attest to how much the piece has grown and I would like to thank the cast for meeting me in the middle in this brilliant process of collaboration. We now invite you to join us in the realm of the Fae...

YAT IN THE LIBRARY

In the autumn of 2024, a creative seed was planted—a collaboration between Richmond upon Thames Library Service and YAT began to take root. Inspired by a shared commitment to sharing stories and fostering creativity, the idea blossomed into a unique production tied to one of the UK’s most beloved literary traditions: the Summer Reading Challenge. Each summer, The Reading Agency partners with libraries across the country to encourage children aged 4–11 to keep reading during the summer holidays. By taking on the challenge to read six library books between 5 July and 13 September, young participants are rewarded with stickers, a medal, and a certificate—small tokens for a big achievement. When the 2025 theme was revealed—The Story Garden, a magical space where wild tales grow, fantastical creatures roam, and nature’s wonders come to life—the vision for the show became instantly clear. What better way to capture the theme’s spirit than through a production that celebrates the boundless power of storytelling? This collaboration is more than just a performance—it’s a joyful tribute to the imagination of children and young people, and a reminder of how stories can plant the seeds of wonder that grow for a lifetime.

THE CAST

Faefolk

Eowyn.....Bryn Wilson
EmrysAmin Houta
Ondo.....Nic Whiting
Ash.....Flynn Campbell

The 'Gang'

Andi.....Daniel Burley
Billie.....Saskia Lewis
Cam.....Felix Patterson
Ellis.....Kit Overd
Jordan.....Giothomson Nickson
Reese.....AJ Hill
Taylor.....Devanshi Kachhawaha

THE CREW

Director & Writer Carmen Mackey
Assistant Director Molly Cole
Dramaturg Amy Hainsworth
Stage Manager Meaghan Baxter
Producer Emily Moss
Fae Wardrobe Esmé Dann
Additional Wardrobe Cast & Crew
Assistant Stage Manager Grace Allen
Props & Production Team Jenna Powell
Additional set construction & props..... Kellie Mackey
Campfire & additional set..... Madeleine Rigby
Photography Handwritten Photography
Poster design.....Sini Martiskainen

SPECIAL THANKS

Thanks to Halina Sillence, Emma Hollinshead, Kate Halabura, Alison MacDonald, Evie Loy-O'Neil, Rosie Piasecki, Jo Withers and all staff at Richmond upon Thames Libraries. Harrison Hulatt for sticks. Emma Woodley for giving up her weekend to paint faces. Conor Moss(#yatforever). Teddington Theatre Club for use of their workshop for stonemasonry. Kitty Auguste from The Natural Play Make-up Company. Bryony Goble for folklore facts. And, as always, Our Lady President Eileen Baker.

The Director would like to thank: the fantastic production team who worked tirelessly to turn ideas into reality and the YAT committee and trustees for their support, trust and this incredible opportunity. The biggest thank-you goes to Richmond Upon Thames Libraries for allowing us to join-in celebrating the launch of the Summer Reading Challenge.

YAT IN REHEARSAL



WHAT'S NEXT FOR YAT?

TEN STRANGERS. ONE ISLAND. NO SECOND CHANCES.

This autumn, YAT steps into a world of vintage glamour and creeping dread as we bring Agatha Christie's *And Then There Were None* to the stage—her most chilling and best-selling murder mystery of all time.

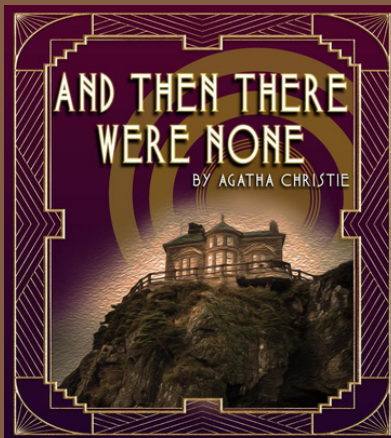
Set in the sleek, stylish world of the 1930s—where jazz spills from the gramophone and shadows stretch across art deco walls—ten guests are invited to a remote island. But as the fog rolls in, and a sinister voice begins to speak, it becomes clear: someone is playing judge, jury, and executioner.

Ominous, stylish, and brutally suspenseful, this is Christie as you've never seen her—psychological, cinematic, and disturbingly modern.

Aged 16-25?

We're looking for bold, creative performers to help reimagine this iconic thriller.

INTRO EVENING.....MON 11 AUGUST
AUDITIONS.....TUES 12 & THURS 14 AUGUST
1ST REHEARSAL.....TUES 26 AUGUST
REHEARSALS.....MON, TUES, & THURS EVENINGS AS REQUIRED
PERFORMANCES.....WED 29 OCTOBER - SAT 1 NOVEMBER



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Founded in 1970 by the late Eric Yardley, Youth Action Theatre is dedicated to inspiring young people aged 16-25 with a love of drama & theatre. Through workshops and productions, a disciplined approach is instilled and dedication encouraged to achieve a high standard of professionalism. Other than age, there is no restriction on our free membership.