

ThickSkin

BLOOD HARMONY



INFORMATION PACK
2023

LAWRENCE BATLEY
THEATRE
HUDDERSFIELD


CANOLFAN MILENIWM CYMRU
WALES MILLENNIUM CENTRE

 **WATFORD
PALACE
THEATRE**


LOTTERY FUNDED

Supported using public funding by
**ARTS COUNCIL
ENGLAND**

★★★★★

"A beautiful, moving and heart warming journey"

Theatre Scotland

★★★★★

"Utterly breathtaking"

Musical Theatre Review



Award-winning theatre company, ThickSkin joins forces with Lawrence Batley Theatre, Watford Palace Theatre and Wales Millennium Centre with a powerful new musical play about love, loss and family.

"a faultless piece of theatre that had a massive impact on our students."

@PPPRunshaw on Twitter

Nominated for Best Musical Award

Musical Theatre Review

Nominated for Best Sound Design

What's on Stage

When siblings sing together, the music is special. All the more beautiful for the bond between them, it's called a blood harmony.

Sisters Anna, Maia, and Chloe have lost their mum. And now, thrown together in the attic of their childhood home, they must work out what happens next. High-flying Anna wants to swoop in and problem solve, whilst chaotic Maia can't stop cracking jokes, and caught in the middle is Chloe, who cared for their mum at the end of her life. The trio have never seen eye-to-eye, and without Mum holding them together, what's to stop them falling apart?

Featuring songs from Atlantic Records artists The Staves, beautiful harmonies and stunning visuals, Blood Harmony is an uplifting and universal story about moving on, and the healing power of family – whether you love them or loathe them.

thickskintheatre.co.uk

CREATIVE TEAM

Created by Matthew Bulgo, Jonnie Riordan and Jess Williams

Written by Matthew Bulgo

Original music by The Staves

Direction & Choreography

Musical Direction & Musical Arrangements

Sound Designer

Music Production

Set & Costume Design

Lighting Design

Jonnie Riordan & Jess Williams

Kate Marlais

Neil Bettles

Kate Marlais & Rich Mandell

Hayley Grindle

Charly Dunford

ABOUT THICKSKIN

Extraordinary stories told in unexpected ways

ThickSkin is reinventing theatre for the next generation. We are reimagining what theatre can be and looking to share human stories through quality, future-facing, multi-disciplined formats. We're developing 360° artists of the future for a hybrid world where physical and digital collide in more ways than ever before.

An award-winning theatre company, ThickSkin creates work across live and digital platforms. We produce bold and ambitious theatre; using our distinctive physicality and cinematic style to reach and inspire young, new and diverse audiences across the world. We nurture talented theatre makers, providing a springboard for artists who are ready to take a leap.

Our work includes a wide range of creative approaches to tell stories in new and inspiring ways. From live stage productions to virtual reality experiences, to immersive audio plays, we make theatre that is rooted in contemporary culture.

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GENERAL INFO

- Running time is 90mins without an interval.
- Latecomers will only be admitted after the first 4 minutes of performance.
- Age guidance: 14 +
- Trigger warnings: themes of grief and reference to abortion
- Content warnings: adult themes, strong language and reference to use of drugs and alcohol.
- Haze is used during the production.

TRANSLATION

Blood Harmony requires an experienced technical translator, fluent in English and the relevant language. The translator **MUST** be onstage with ThickSkin's crew for the meeting with the venue and staff, duration of the get-in, set up time for each performance (approx. 2 hours), every performance and the get-out. The translator must **NOT** have any other role during this time.

TRANSPORT

Blood Harmony travels in a long wheel-based luton van external dimensions 4m (L) x 2.40m (w) x 2.4m (H).

★★★★

*"An engaging and
enthraling experience"*

North West End

★★★★

*"Beautiful and
moving"*

What's On Stage



TECHNICAL

SPACE & VENUE

Blood Harmony is designed to fit within a footprint of 7.5m wide x 6.7m deep x 3.3m tall

These dimensions represent usable performance space and do not include wing space or space downstage of a proscenium. Blood Harmony is intended for an end-on proscenium stage or an end-on black box theatre with seating directly opposite the performance area.

The stage floor must be smooth, level (0% gradient/rake), and painted black or covered in black dance floor.

The loading dock of the theatre must have direct access to the performance area. The set will fit through standard size doors. The longest section of the set is 4m long. The set includes a piano so level access and lifts required.

SCENIC ELEMENTS

The set for Blood Harmony comprises of a timber roof frame as pictured above, filled with a range of items – notably an upright piano, hooked ladder and camp bed, as well as smaller items of set dressing

Dimensions: 7.5m wide x 6.7m deep x 3.3m tall

The set can be screwed to the floor, although this isn't essential.

MASKING

We require full blacks upstage, with available entrances for cast

STAGE & COMPANY MANAGEMENT

We require:

- Easy access to drinking water and access to tea and coffee and a microwave during lunch and dinner breaks.
- Dish washing facilities and use of fridge and minimal storage.
- Ideally 3 dressing rooms, but a minimum of one dressing room for three performers.

CAST WARM UPS

The company participate in an hour warm up before the show, incorporating movement, vocals and soundcheck. Due to the physical nature of the performance we request that the venue has a minimum temperature of 22 degrees Celsius (71f) during warm up, performance and warm down.

LIGHTING

We require:

- ETC EOS LX Desk
- 13A hard power, and a DMX input on stage for a DMX decoder and dimmer pack. 30 free channels are required on the universe

TECHNICAL

- 4 boom stands with a minimum height of 2000mm, and associated rigging arms for 3 fixtures per stand, and 12 free dimmer channels with stage level outputs
- If in rotation with another show, rigging for 15 toured pulleys required – Dougherty ring coupler, short strops etc. SWL < 10kg
- Two hazers (the venue must have the ability to isolate any smoke detection)

We tour with:

- The set is laced with LED strip, which is controlled by a DMX decoder that is toured with the show
- Pendant lighting (details of this will be circulated with LX plan).

A venue-specific lighting plan will be circulated ahead of arrival at the venue. A pre-rig is appreciated wherever possible.

SOUND

We require:

- A mixing console (ideally digital) with a minimum of 6 channels
- At least 4 XLR inputs to the console at stage level for toured headset radio mics
- At least 6 XLR inputs to the console for QLab, and ability to run these from a soundcard for individual QLab control
- At least 2 XLR outputs from the console at stage level to run to toured monitors, plus two 20m XLR cables
- 13A power supply at stage level for amplifier (can be paired with the DMX decoder power)
- A minimum of stereo PA system with subwoofer(s)
- An open mix position, as central as possible
- The sound and lighting operating position should be next to each other, and have the capability for OSC
- A Mac Mini to run QLab into the console
- Crew comms between front of house and stage level

We tour with:

- 4 radio mics (3 active plus 1 spare)
- A spare Mac Mini rig to run QLab into the console
- 2 JBL Control One monitors, plus amplifier

COSTUME & WARDROBE

We require:

- At least one good sized costume rail on wheels
- Full laundry facilities including washing machine, dryer, steamer & iron/ironing board
- Access to showers for all performers

SPECIAL EFFECTS/ADDITIONAL NOTES

Please note that a live candle is used during the show, lit offstage and extinguished on stage.

TECHNICAL

COMMS

- We require a set of comms upstage centre. Ideally wireless comms.
- We require two sets of comms in the control room

STAFFING & CREW

- The show tours with a Company Stage Manager, Assistant Stage Manager & Sound Engineer, all of whom participate in the get in & fit up.
- Blood harmony provides Lighting & Sound operators.

We require:

Day 1 - fit up

Three session day with 5 technicians.

Morning - 2 x Stage Technician, 2 x Lighting Technician, 1 x Sound Technician

Afternoon - 2 x Stage Technician, 2 x Lighting Technician, 1 x Sound Technician

Evening - 2 x Lighting Technician, 1 x Sound Technician

Day 2 - fit up

Morning - 1 x Lighting Technician, 1 x Sound Technician

Afternoon Dress Rehearsal - Duty Technician

Evening Performance - Duty Technician

Subsequent days

Performances - Duty Technicians

Get out - 2 x Stage Technician, 2 x Lighting Technician, 1 x Sound Technician

• All personnel must wear the correct PPE and be capable of carrying shared weights of up to 60kg.

WORK SCHEDULE

- A detailed schedule will be prepared on a per-venue basis.
- Blood Harmony requires 5 x 4 hour sessions from the start of the load-in to the first performance.
- The get out will take between 2 and 4 hours, this is venue dependent.
- All technical equipment must be in the theatre and in working order from the beginning of our fit up.



PRESS RESPONSE

"A beautiful, moving and heartwarming journey" - Theatre Scotland ★★★★★

"Utterly breathtaking" - Musical Theatre Review ★★★★★

"beautiful and moving" - Whats On Stage ★★★★★

"Uplifting...with spectacular visuals" - Reviews Hub ★★★★★

"This is a high-class production" – British Theatre Guide

"The set is an intricate wonder with plenty for the eye to feast on" – **North West End** ★★★★★

"An engaging and enthralling experience" - **North West End** ★★★★★

"A down-to-earthness that makes the characters relatable" - North West End ★★★★★

"Blood Harmony will make you value the things that matter like never before"
– Manchester Theatres ★★★★★

"...an incredibly relatable, believable and naturalistic narrative"
– Manchester Theatres ★★★★★

"The staging of the play is unusual and ambitious resulting in a completely satisfying production"
– British Theatre Guide



FURTHER PRODUCTION INFO

ARCHIVAL VIDEO

Available on request

AUDIENCE REACTIONS

[Watch audience reactions to the show](#)

TRAILER

[Watch the Blood Harmony trailer](#)

SCRIPT

Available on request



AUDIENCE FEEDBACK

"Beautiful performances and fabulous music in a profoundly moving play"

"Emotionally powerful"

"One of the best studio productions I've seen"

"Entertaining, funny and moving"

"Very thought-provoking and life-altering"

"It was emotive, moving and well cast"

"The performance was captivating"

"The sisters really captured me into their world"

"Huge emotions, epic visuals and stunning vocals"

"A delicate and insightful look at grief, relationships and hope"



CREATIVE LEARNING

ThickSkin has designed an exciting package of creative learning, access and audience development activity to support young people and local communities to engage with Blood Harmony at your venue.

ACTIVITY SUMMARY

All venues on tour will be offered:

- 1 x post show discussion
- 2 x accessible performance
- 2 x free workshops
- Free digital learning resources

Venues and school groups can also opt to buy in additional activities:

- Workshops
- Zoom Q&As
- Additional access shows

Please get in touch for more details and to discuss your unique engagement plan.

WHO OUR OFFER IS AIMED AT

We are keen for venues to use our activities to create a package for groups that will be attending a performance of Blood Harmony. Our production and workshops are recommended for age 14+. We recommend utilising this offer early to attract group bookings for the show.

Our Engagement and Marketing teams will be on hand to assist with building the perfect offer for your venue.

Examples of groups that would benefit from these activities are:

- School or college students
- Community groups
- Young companies
- d/Deaf or disabled audiences
- University students
- Early career artists

“[ThickSkin] have a particular concern for teenage audiences, but their work has a very broad appeal for people of all ages”

Mark Fisher, critic

WORK WITH US

If you would like to programme this production, or wish to find out more please get in touch:

laura@thickskintheatre.co.uk
+44 (0)7838 762 767

thickskintheatre.co.uk
[@thickskintweets](https://twitter.com/thickskintweets)
[instagram/thickskintheatre](https://www.instagram.com/thickskintheatre)

Other ways we can work with you:

Alongside each of our productions we offer show-specific workshops, which focus on physical devising skills and digital learning resources to support school groups seeing the show. We can provide post show discussions and 'meet the company' activities.

ThickSkin can partner your organisation to provide bespoke services, such as:

- Movement direction / choreography for your in-house productions.
- Creative content for your social media.
- Immersive theatre experiences.
- Unique events, such as pop up / flash mob performances.
- Work with young people and communities.

For more info about our other shows visit:

thickskintheatre.co.uk/promoters

