

Rebecca Atkinson-Lord and Rachel Briscoe
Directors of Theatre, Ovalhouse

Join us to celebrate our birthday.

CounterCulture 50 is part retrospective, part theatrical incubator of a more politically-engaged performance future. It acknowledges the shoulders of giants, heroes and villains on which Ovalhouse stands. It asks how, why and when counterCulture is possible. It is urgently hopeful, stealthily meaningful and there will also be funny bits.

For some of that fifty years, fringe theatre stood as a defiant counterpoint to the prevalent culture; work that critiqued the mainstream, explored questions it was afraid to ask, offered an alternative cultural experience. Is that still true today or was the idea of counterCulture quietly decommitted when no-one was looking? And if it was, when will we start to miss it?

In 2013, Ovalhouse celebrates its fiftieth birthday.



OVALHOUSE PRESENTS

THE ACT

Created by THOMAS HESCOTT
and MATTHEW BALDWIN

PROGRAMME

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Directed by **THOMAS HESCOTT**
 Performed by **MATTHEW BALDWIN**
 Illustrations by **GAVIN DOBSON**
 Musician **TIM SAWARD**

THOMAS HESCOTT

Thomas trained at the Central School of Speech and Drama, with English National Opera and on the National Theatre Studio Directors Programme.

Most recently Thomas was the Associate Director on *Long Days Journey Into Night* in the West End, and has been working with Robert Wilson on *The Life and Death of Marina Abramovic* for the Manchester International Festival and on a European tour.

Credits as director include: *Wolves At The Window* (Arcola and Off-Broadway), *The British Ambassador's Belly Dancer* (Arcola and Arts Theatre, West End), *Anatol* (Arcola), *Romeo and Juliet*, *Macbeth* and *Twelfth Night* (Southwark Playhouse), *Reunion* (Bridewell) and *Our Thing* (Gate).

Thomas was staff director on the original award-winning run of *The History Boys* (National Theatre). He was also Resident Director for the 2005 and 2006 seasons at the Chichester Festival Theatre. He has worked extensively as an assistant director across the country including The Royal Court, Shakespeare's Globe, West Yorkshire Playhouse, and Birmingham Rep.

He is an Associate Artist for the National Youth Theatre, and was previously an Associate Director for Y Touring Theatre.

MATTHEW BALDWIN

Matthew trained at Drama Studio London. Most recently he played Abanazer in *Get Aladdin* (ATS at the Landor) and Barry in the short film *Just Looking* (Richard Johnson Productions). Other film work includes Dan in *Love Bite* (Hades Productions) and the Compere in *Born Beautiful* (Hades Productions). On TV he played a journalist in *Material Girl* (BBC). Other theatrical work includes Justiniano in *Westward Ho* (The White Bear), Solinus in *Comedy of Errors* (Courtyard), Sheriff of Nottingham in *Robin Hood Queen of Thieves* (ATS), Lady Gargoyle in *Sleeping Beauty*, *One Little Prick* (ATS).

As far as he knows he is the only actor in London to have appeared in two plays by Thomas Dekker within one year. That is a double Dekker.

GAVIN DOBSON

Gavin Dobson is a London based illustrator. Initially training in Fine Art at Middlesex University, his artwork is inspired by a huge love of Graphic Novels and American comic books, in particular of the 1980's.

"My 'teachers' are wide and great, masters of their craft like Leonardo Da Vinci, Michelangelo, Manet, Lautrec, Jenny Saville, George Perez, Frank Miller, Olivier Coipel and Bill Sienkiewicz. A mix of styles, eras and techniques but all incredible storytellers. I am especially excited and grateful to exhibit within the Ovalhouse for this particular season of work, as an actor also myself it's a wonderful surrounding for provoking theatre but also as a happy gay man I appreciate the uphill fight many gay men and lesbians have faced and indeed still do and I applaud those men and women who paved the way for me to live and love the way I was meant to."

Past clients include *Gay Times*, *Boyz*, *Diva*, *Marian Heath*, *Kinetic Theatre Company* and *Next*.

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The Act is an American true crime drama television series that premiered in eight parts on March 20, 2019, on Hulu. The plot is based on the real life of Gypsy Rose Blanchard and the murder of her mother, Dee Dee Blanchard, who was accused of abusing her daughter by fabricating illness and disabilities as a direct consequence of Munchausen syndrome by proxy. Joey King portrayed Gypsy, while Patricia Arquette played her mother, Dee Dee Blanchard. AnnaSophia Robb, Chloë Sevigny, and Calum Worthy also star. The Act. 13,540 likes · 107 talking about this. "The Act" series. Facebook is showing information to help you better understand the purpose of a Page. See actions taken by the people who manage and post content. The Act is a seasonal anthology series that tells startling, stranger-than-fiction true crime stories. The first season follows Gypsy Blanchard, a girl trying to escape the toxic relationship she has with her overprotective mother. Her quest for independence opens a Pandora's box of secrets, one that ultimately leads to murder. Creators: Nick Antosca, Michelle Dean. Starring: Patricia Arquette, Joey King, Chloë Sevigny. The Act Videos. 0:30. The Act: Season 1 Teaser. The Act: Season 1 Trailer. View All Videos (2). The Act might not have a whole lot to say about the case that hasn't already been covered in the (multiple) documentaries or articles, but what it lacks in analytic substance, it makes up for in emotional truth. Arquette's Dee Dee is a pathetic, deeply disturbed woman desperate to hold on to her daughter by any means necessary -- both because of the pity and adulation it brings her and the sense of security Gypsy's "condition" gives her.