

ALL BOYS

Boyhood, privilege, power, Madonna, Amen.



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2024
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**The
Blue Room
Theatre**





From the director

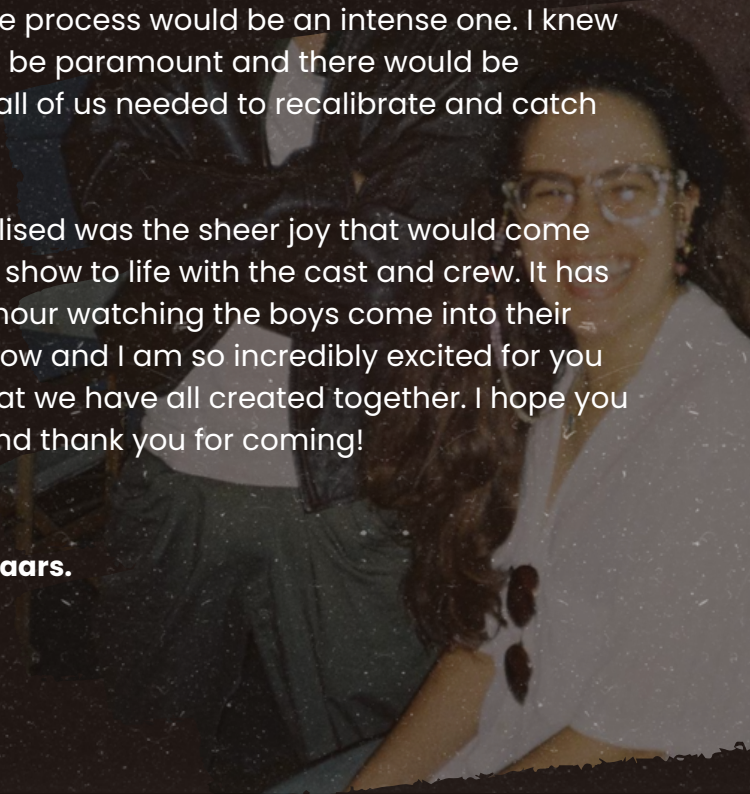


I remember walking into the very first day of rehearsals, I was running slightly late and I opened the door and all of a sudden I had ten boys swivel their heads towards me all at once and that was when what this show meant hit me. Not just the weight or the responsibility of it but the sheer chaos which is part of what makes this show what it is.

I really love this show and I have since the moment I read it. Not only does Xavier Hazard pull back the veil on a world that we see the consequences of, but never truly see, he rips it from the ceiling completely and asks you to watch as the characters turn from boys who think they are men into boys who are trying to find what being a man actually is. With this in mind, I knew the process would be an intense one. I knew that safety would be paramount and there would be moments where all of us needed to recalibrate and catch our breath.

What I hadn't realised was the sheer joy that would come with bringing this show to life with the cast and crew. It has been such an honour watching the boys come into their own within the show and I am so incredibly excited for you to experience what we have all created together. I hope you enjoy the show and thank you for coming!

Cezera Critti Schnaars.



From the writer



Male violence is everywhere. It hurts us all. And it all starts somewhere.

I'm not as good at words or thoughts as bell hooks. So let me refer you to her eternal wisdom, which doubles as the epigraph for this script:

"The first act of violence that patriarchy demands of males is not violence towards women. Instead patriarchy demands of all males that they engage in acts of self-mutilation, that they kill off the emotional parts of themselves. If an individual is not successful in emotionally crippling himself, he can count on patriarchal men to enact rituals of power that will assault his self-esteem."

bell hooks, *The Will to Change: Men, Masculinity and Love*

Some days I blame men for every problem that exists. The crimes and the crises and, like, the economy, I guess. But every day, I wake up to the inescapable fact that I'm a man, too. Men have caused me the biggest pain in my life and I also love men – quite of a lot of men – quite a lot. So I wrote a play about so many of them men in our headlines, and where they come from. You'll see, in *ALL BOYS*, the truth of a particular world where we raise men. And you'll see there are no monsters there. And that's far more frightening.

"How could that man do that?!" is so common a phrase that it's become more rhetorical than question. But it is a question. And as an insider and an outsider, who has seen behind the veil of patriarchy, I'm desperate to answer it. Sometimes all I want is a soap box or a column or a TEDtalk, but, tonight, for you, we've got something truer, harder, more inescapable: a story. A story about a group of boys raised in a world that affects us all, a world closed to all but a select few. A hidden world where young boys are taught to be the men that rule the world, whether they like it or not. For people who know this world, I hope this show gives you catharsis, and a point of reference for discussion, cloaked in the safety of fiction. For those who don't, now you will; I hope this story provides you with insight, empathy, and a clearer map towards change.

This is a play about violence and intimacy. Victimhood and perpetration. And children. It's not the easiest watch and it hasn't been the easiest thing to make. Lucky, then, that it's also a play about love. That's what we decided, in the precious three hours I spent in rehearsals for this show, chatting with the incredible team. Some of it's repressed, some misguided, some twisted, some reprehensible (some, even, thank god, joyful) – but so much of it: love.

Love, too, is all I have for this team. For Cez, for Sophie, for our incredible crew and our awesome cast. And for you, our generous (hopefully not too traumatised) audience. I hope you love this show. But it's, like, ok if you don't – just make sure you talk about it. Talk to your loved ones, your colleagues; talk about this story or tell your own. Because if there's a narrative I'd love to have a tiny role in spreading, it's that male violence starts with boys. And not just some boys; *ALL BOYS*.

Xavier Hazard

The Team

Writer	Xavier Hazard
Director	Cezera Critti-Schnaars
Producer and Photographer	Sophie Minissale
Assistant Director	Jesse Vakatini
Set and Costume Designer	Jake Pitcher
Lighting Designer	Jolene Whilbley
Stage Manager	Jasmyn Day
Sound Designer	Jess Nyanda Moyle
Dramaturg	Lucy Rees
Intimacy Coordinator	Molly Tipping
Fight Choreographer	Rubeun Yorkshire
HUGH RYAN	Liam Longley
SCOTT MCDONAGH	Ray Teakle
PATRICK MULLIGAN	James Gant
CONNOR KEANEY	Nathan Calvert
JACK C	Jarrad Inman
JACK V	Samuel Bennet
JACK MB	Ethan Gosatti
WILL BURKE	Jono Battista
JOSH / A- BOY	James Ford
B- BOY	Declan Cooper

Special thanks

every other theatre company would like to thank the following for their invaluable contribution to making ALL BOYS happen.

Molly Tipping
Ruben Yorkshire
Darren Neumann
Maitland Schnaars
Jamie Mckerrow
WAYTCO

Black Swan State Theatre Company Workshop Team
The Blue Room Theatre Staff and Volunteers

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