“THE WAR OF THE WORLDS”



By Rhum + Clay and Isley Lynn
Directed by Phoebe Benson

Performance dates: 24th - 28th November 2026
Venue: Barons Court Theatre

KDC AUTUMN SEASON LAUNCH

Wednesday 9 September, 7pm
The Castle, 44 Commercial Rd, Aldgate, London E1 1LN

Hear the directors speak about their productions and answer your questions at the Season Launch. You can also talk to them about getting involved in other backstage ways.
To help us manage numbers, please let us know if you’re coming using this form.

Auditions

When: Monday 14th September and Thursday 17th September. Choose whichever one date suits you best, but bear in mind that auditions get busier later in the week.
Time: Welcome and registration at 6.45pm. Auditions run till ~10pm.
Where: Cockpit Theatre, Gateforth St, London NW8 8EH

Format: Auditions are free and open to all. The first round will be in a group audition setting, involving some improvisation and reading some short excerpts from the script. All you need to do is bring a playful attitude, be willing to cooperate, and most importantly, be yourself!

You can audition for all shows on the same night, but the format for each might be different so please make sure you have read all audition notices.

Before you audition, please **fill in the online audition form** so that we have your contact details, as well as note down any rehearsal dates you can't do (see below for when rehearsals take place).

Recalls

Recalls are more script-based, with actors split into pairs and groups to work on scenes from the play. You'll be given a short amount of time to familiarise yourselves with the script, and then you'll perform to the director.

You will be contacted by Friday 18th September if the director would like to invite you to recalls. Make sure to check your spam folder so you don't miss the invitation!

Date: Saturday 19th September 2026
Time: 10am - 2pm
Where: Theatre Deli Crossharbour, 6th Floor, 5-6 Greenwich View Place, London, E14 9NN

If this date is not possible for you, it may not be crucial but you will need to flag this to the director when you audition (verbally) and note it on your audition form.

Show dates

The show will be performed five times from 24th - 28th November 2026 at the Barons Court Theatre in London.

Each performance will start at 7.30pm and you will be called at least an hour beforehand to warm up. Get-in/tech and dress rehearsal will take place on Monday 23rd November, and we ask that you be available from 10am - 8pm to attend this.

Rehearsals

Rehearsals will take place on two evenings a week within Mon-Thursday evenings from 7-10pm and Saturdays between 10-6pm (usually a shorter block within this time). There may be some rehearsals on other evenings as well, pending finalisation of the rehearsal schedule. There are no rehearsals on Fridays or Sundays.

A rehearsal schedule will be created and circulated as soon as possible, once the cast's availability dates are all accounted for. We will also plan cast and crew socials where we can bring the whole team together for a drink - and also with the other shows of the season.

KDC subs

Auditions are free and open to all. If you are cast, you will be required to pay a 'subs' fee of £30, which gives you membership of KDC for three seasons (one year). Additionally, you will pay a participation fee of £15-45, depending on your income (self-assessed) for being a part of this show.

KDC Theatre is a charity. Your subs, along with ticket sales, help to cover some of the costs of putting on the show.

Creative team:

Director: **Phoebe Benson**
Assistant Director: **Aouda Ketrouci**

About the play

The War of the Worlds follows Meena, a podcast journalist investigating the legacy of Orson Welles' infamous 1938 radio broadcast, which caused some listeners to believe that an alien invasion was actually taking place.

The play moves between the 1938 broadcast and the present day. Meena travels to Grover's Mill, New Jersey, to investigate the story of Margaret, a woman whose family allegedly abandoned her for 24 hours after believing the broadcast was real. Margaret's son, Nick, has grown up with this version of events and initially agrees to share his family's story for Meena's podcast.

As Meena investigates further, however, different versions of the truth begin to emerge. She uncovers tensions within Margaret's family and discovers that Jonathan, the son of Lawson and Ted, runs a fake news website, drawing a direct parallel between the misinformation surrounding the 1938 broadcast and the rise of fake news during the 2016 US presidential election.

By the end, there is no single version of the truth. Nick and Lawson begin to reconnect and confront their family's past, while Meena is forced to face the consequences of manipulating

their story for her podcast. Despite her guilt, she continues with the project and records its opening.

The 1938 broadcast acts as a mirror for the modern world: people don't necessarily believe something because it is true; they believe it because it is convincing, because someone they trust tells them, or because they desperately want to believe it.

About the playwright

Rhum + Clay is an award-winning theatre company creating visually inventive work that blends physical performance and live music. Their productions explore contemporary themes through imaginative theatrical forms and have toured widely across the UK and internationally.

Isley Lynn is an award-winning playwright known for creating work that explores identity and the complexities of modern life. Their plays have been performed at leading UK theatres, including the Royal Court and Bush Theatre.

Cast breakdown

The Orwells x4
Playing age: Any age (20s–60s)
A collective voice representing the wider media world and shifting perspectives within the story. They require strong ensemble skills.

Meena
Playing age: 20s
A curious and resilient young woman navigating a world where truth is increasingly difficult to define. Meena is intelligent, observant and emotionally grounded, bringing warmth and humanity to the chaos around her. Strong acting ability required, with a capacity for both humour and vulnerability.

Jonathan (New Jersey Accent)
Playing age: Teenager (Actor must be 18+)
A thoughtful character searching for connection and certainty in an uncertain world. Jonathan is open-hearted but very conflicted, with a quiet intensity beneath the surface. Requires strong emotional range.

Nick
Playing age: 20s
Charismatic and quick-thinking, Nick brings pace and humour to the group. Beneath his confidence is a character grappling with fear and uncertainty. Strong comedic timing.

Lawson (New Jersey Accent)
Playing age: 40s–50s

A commanding presence with authority and conviction. Lawson represents a more traditional perspective in a world undergoing rapid change. Requires a performer able to balance strength, and moments of vulnerability.

Ted (New Jersey Accent)
Playing age: 40s–50s
A versatile and engaging character who moves between humour and tension. Ted brings humanity and unpredictability to the story. Strong character acting.

Paolo
Playing age: 30s–40s
An expressive and distinctive character. Paolo brings energy to the ensemble. Requires confident performance skills and the ability to create a memorable character.

Casting note:
We welcome actors of all backgrounds and identities. The production is seeking a diverse ensemble of performers with strong ability to work collaboratively. No specific ethnicity, appearance or accent requirements unless stated.

About the Director

Phoebe Benson is a director and theatre-maker with a passion for collaborative, ensemble-led storytelling. Her work focuses on creating visually impactful productions that explore identity, and the complexities of the world around us.

Recent credits include directing and producing Someone Has to be Counting at the Edinburgh Fringe, which received a 4* review from The Scotsman. Directed and produced Rory Mullarkey's Flood, co-directed The Tempest for the RSC Open Stage (4* The Reviews Hub), and worked as Assistant Director on 'Tis Pity She's a Whore (4* The Reviews Hub). Phoebe has also acted with KDC during one of their Scratch Nights, and is excited to step into the role of director for this season.