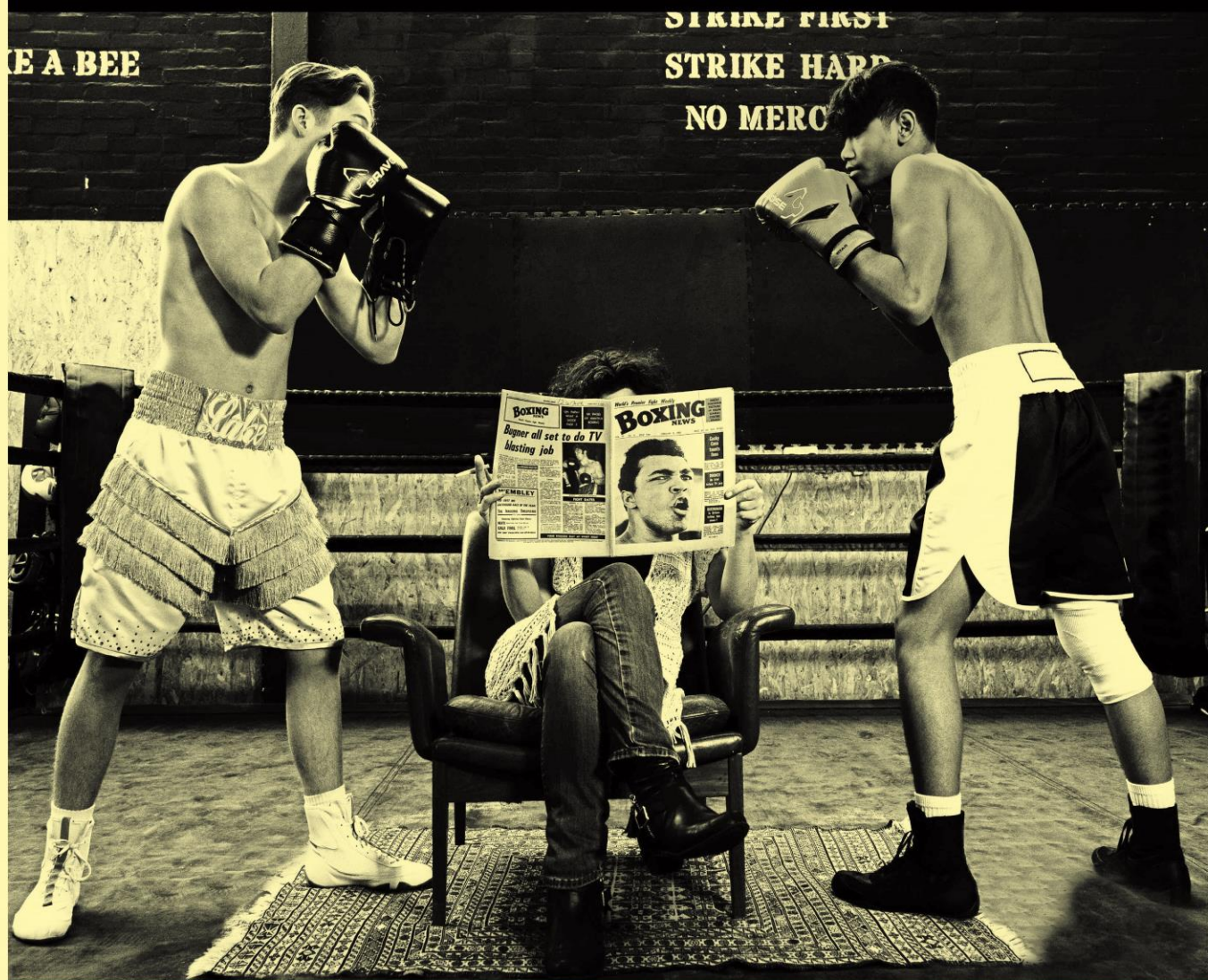


A LIVE THEATRE PRODUCTION ★ *live* theatre ★ THU 13 FEB - SAT 8 MAR 2025

CHAMPION

BY ISHY DIN

SUMMER 1977. SOUTH SHIELDS. MUHAMMAD ALI IS COMING TO TOWN.



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★ **A NEW PLAY THAT HITS HARD!**
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CHAMPION



CREATIVE TEAM

Written by **ISHY DIN**

Directed by **JACK MCNAMARA**

Starring **CHRISTINA BERRIMAN DAWSON** as Sheila,
JACK ROBERTSON as Billy and **DANIEL ZAREIE** as Azeem

Designed by **AMY WATTS**

Lighting design by **DRUMMOND ORR**

Sound design by **MATTHEW TUCKEY**

Associate sound design by **PHILL HOWARTH**

Costume Supervisor **LOU DUFFY**

Movement direction by **ALICIA MEEHAN**

Technician **TAYLOR HOWIE**

Stage Manager **CRAIG DAVIDSON**

Deputy Stage Manager **CHLOE RIBBENS**

Boxing Consultant **DAVID FAIRLAMB**

Voice of interviewer **JAKE WILSON CRAW**

New Work Producer **JD STEWART**

Artist Development Producer **JOHN DAWSON**

Photography **VON FOX PROMOTIONS**

Trailer production by **TOMMY CHAVENNES**

ISHY DIN - WRITER



"It's such a privilege to be working with these three amazing actors and to be doing so at Live Theatre, with its rich and illustrious history of telling local stories that have an impact on a wider world, is a huge privilege. When Live Theatre approached me to write a play for its main stage my mind immediately went to Muhammed Ali's 1977 visit to South Shields. It was the only place I could see this story being told and I hope I honour not only the great man himself, but the South Shields community that embraced him."

Ischy Din is a critically acclaimed playwright and screenwriter whose work spans stage, television, film, and radio, often drawing on his unique experiences and cultural background.

Ischy is currently an Associate Playwright at the Royal Court. He is under commission to both the Royal Shakespeare Company and The Kiln Theatre in London. Ischy was a writer on *Silence* a play about the partition of India for Tara Theatre and the Donmar Warehouse. His play *Approaching Empty*, a co-production between Tamasha, The Kiln, and Live Theatre, premiered at The Kiln Theatre in January 2019 before embarking on a national tour. In 2016, *Wipers*, a Leicester Curve/Watford Palace/Belgrade Theatre co-production, explored the untold stories of South Asian soldiers during World War I and toured extensively. Ischy's monologue for Company TSU was featured in the double bill *Beats North*, which played at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival in 2014 and toured the UK. His breakthrough play *Snookered*, produced by Tamasha, Oldham Coliseum, and The Bush Theatre, toured in 2012 and ran for four weeks at The Bush Theatre in London. The play won the Best New Play award at the Manchester Theatre Awards in 2013. Ischy also served as the 2012 Pearson Writer in Residence at the Manchester Royal Exchange.

CHAMPION

SHEILA

A grieving widow

Can she come to terms with her loss?

"I hope he gets battered!"



Christina Berriman Dawson - Sheila

Recently appeared in *The Little Mermaid*, Newcastle Theatre Royal. Christina has worked in theatre throughout the region, nationally and internationally. TV and film includes: *George Gently*, *The Magdalene Sisters* and *The Hunt for Raoul Moat*.

Christina won 'Writer of the Year' award in the Journal Culture Awards 2024.

CHAMPION

BILLY

An angry young man

Will he find his place?

"Muhammad Ali coming is the best thing that could happen to Shields"



Jack Robertson - Billy

Jack wrote and starred in his own BBC short *Where It Ends* which was nominated for a BAFTA.

Starred in *Gerry & Sewell* at both Live Theatre & Theatre Royal Newcastle. He also created an ensemble sketch group 'Metroland Comedy'.

Selected by The Guardian as a 'Top 10 Pick' to watch at the Fringe.

CHAMPION

AZEEM

The boy's got a sharp mind

What does the future hold for him?

"Any fool can punch someone in the head"



Daniel Zareie - Azeem

Dani Zareie is currently training at Newcastle Theatre Royal's yearlong actor training course Project A, during which he has performed in the critically acclaimed *Gerry & Sewell*. In addition to this as part of Project A he has performed in Berkoff's *The Bow of Ulysses* as well as Dennis Kelly's *Orphans*. This is Dani's first professional contract and he is delighted to be making his professional debut at Live Theatre.