

A **LIVE THEATRE** Production

Thu 1 – Sat 17 May 2025

live
theatre

**WINNER OF THE NORTH EAST
PLAYWRITING AWARD**

DOGS ON THE METRO

By **EMILIE ROBSON**

Directed by **MARIA CROCKER**

**A JOURNEY THROUGH FRIENDSHIP,
LOST YOUTH AND THE JOYS OF
PEOPLE WATCHING**





DOGS ON THE METRO

CAST

SARAH BALFOUR Jen

DEAN LOGAN Dean

CREATIVE TEAM

Written by **EMILIE ROBSON**

Directed by **MARIA CROCKER**

Design and costumes by **AMY WATTS**

Lighting design by **DRUMMOND ORR**

Sound design by **MATTHEW TUCKEY**

Intimacy Coach **LUCY MARIE CURRY**

Technician **TAYLOR HOWIE**

Stage Manager **CHLOE RIBBENS**

New Work Producer **JD STEWART**

Artist Development Producer

JOHN DAWSON

Photography & Trailer

VON FOX PROMOTIONS

GEORDIE DICTIONARY

Dinna: Don't Know

Yana: You Know

Ana: I know

Daint: Don't

Ganning: Going

Ga/Ga's: Go/Goes

Howere: Come On

Yem: Home

Owt: Anything

Geet: Dead/Very

Sima: Abbreviation of
Simonside

A WORD FROM THE WRITER, EMILIE ROBSON

2008 was a big year. Obama was elected, Brangelina welcomes twins and Miley Cyrus caused quite a stir with a Vanity Fair photoshoot, which involved little more than a sheet, draped around her teenage body. It was also the year that I turned 16 and therefore the year it felt like sex became less of a scandalous, fringe activity but an absolute obsession for my peers. Part of this was human nature. And the other part was the sex obsessed, trashy, tabloid culture of the time; a culture which called Bridget Jones fat, counted down the days until Emma Watson was “legal” and called Miley Cyrus a “Lolita”.

While it’s evident the youth of today have not resolved the issues we faced in the noughties and in some ways, perhaps have it worse, growing up at that time and specifically in an ex-industrial town in the North-East, had a unique flavour. And in a post ‘MeToo’ world that flavour has left a bad taste in the mouth of many of us who grew up here.

Dogs On The Metro was born of several desires. One, to simply write in my own dialect and set a story in my hometown and another, to tell a small and sadly all too common story and hopefully in a way that felt bold, dynamic and also reflected the very nature of memory. I wanted to tell a story that felt truly authentically “Geordie” but also reflected the teenage experiences of people all over the world.

Sadly, it feels as if *Dogs On The Metro* could well have been written about now. After a brief period of reflection and then resistance, it seems the pendulum has swung once again in the direction of misogyny and violence. While the explosion of social media has undoubtedly changed the rules of the game for teenagers today, the arena remains much the same. Sex is a commodity that lots of young men feel owed, rather than a shared experience that should be entered into enthusiastically.

It's important to me that *Dogs On The Metro* feels about the culture rather than the individuals within it. You’re welcome to disagree but I believe creating villains of young people who make honest mistakes is a fast track to radicalisation. That said, this is a play about and to an extent, for the victims of those mistakes who may only be fully reflecting on those experiences now.

It’s no word of a lie when I say I wrote *Dogs On The Metro* with Live Theatre in mind. Winning the North East Playwriting Award and therefore, getting to see my little play realised on this stage in particular, is not just a joy but a dream come true. I can’t thank the whole team at Live Theatre enough for their talent, passion and contributions and also you, the audience, for taking the time (and perhaps even the Metro?) to see our work.

SARAH BALFOUR – JEN



Sarah is originally from South Shields and trained at ALRA South. She is an actress and writer and currently co-creating a sitcom set in the North East.

TV & Film credits include: *Dead Canny* (DAVE / UKTV) – *Dead Canny* was nominated for Best Comedy & Entertainment at the RTS NE awards in 2023; *Slow Horses* (Apple TV); *High Tide* (Sky Arts).

Theatre credits include: *Christmas Crackers* (Live Theatre); *Mary Stuart* (West End); *HYEM* (Theatre 503 & Northern Stage); *RE:ACT The Woods* (Royal Court); *When The Boat Comes In* (The Customs House); *Burning Bridges* (Theatre 503); *Valhalla* (Theatre 503).

Radio credits include: *PICA* (BBC Radio 4).

DEAN LOGAN – DEAN



Wallsend born Dean was part of Live Youth Theatre from ages 12-17 and has acted professionally since he was 16.

Theatre credits include: *Gerry & Sewell* (Theatre Royal Newcastle, Live Theatre & Laurels); *A Christmas Carol* (NTC tour); *The Wind In The Willows* (NTC Tour); *How Did We Get To This Point* (Alphabetti Theatre); *Frank Sumatra* (Theatre N16); *The Man & The Donkey* (Customs House); *Death At Dawn* (Linskill Centre, Newcastle); *Skellig* (Bloomsbury Theatre, UK national tour & New Victory Theater, Broadway); *Alf Ramsey Knew My Grandfather* (Theatre Royal Newcastle/Darlington Civic/Gala Theatre); *Beamish Boy* (Gala Theatre).

TV credits include: *Coronation Street* (ITV); *Doctors* (BBC); *Boy Meets Girl* (BBC); *Tracey Beaker Returns* (BBC); *Inspector George Gently* (BBC); *Steel River Blues* (ITV).

Radio/Voiceover credits include: *Homefront*; *Tommies*; *The Ferryhill Philosophers* (BBC Radio 4).

EMILIE ROBSON – WRITER



Emilie Robson is a screenwriter and playwright from South Shields. In 2019, their play *Moonlight on Leith* (co-written with Laila Noble) was named runner up at Theatre Uncut's Political Playwriting Award ceremony. Robson's short *Sebastian (et moi)* was broadcast on BBC Radio 3's *The Verb* and her audio drama *PICA* received a full production with BBC Radio 4 after receiving special commendation at the Alfred Bradley Bursary Award 2021. She was one of 12 participants on the Channel 4 2021 Screenwriting Program, selected from a record 3,800 submissions and currently has projects in development with Kudos, New Pictures and Heyday TV amongst others.

MARIA CROCKER – DIRECTOR

Maria Crocker is a theatre director and dramaturg. She has recently directed the west end production of *Hadestown* (Olivier nominated for Best Revival). She is a Headlong Origins alumni, runner up for the Sir Peter Hall RTST Directors Award, an MGC Futures Bursary recipient, a Lilian Baylis Assistant recipient, a JMK regional practitioner, and trained on the National Theatre Directors Course.

Her work in theatre as director includes: *You Heard Me* by Luca Rutherford (BAC & UK tour); *The Sorcerers Apprentice* at Northern Stage; *Scarborough Porpoise* at Pilot Theatre, *Amal Vangu* at Live Theatre; *Assassins* at Mountview; *Little Bits Of Light* (workshop) at National Theatre Studio; *Pronoun* at ALRA; *Growth* at Northern Stage; and *Found* at Alnwick Playhouse. Her work as associate director includes: *Hadestown* for The National Theatre; *Local Hero*, for The Edinburgh Lyceum; *Meek* for Headlong and Birmingham Rep; *Gods Are Fallen and All Safety Gone* for Greyscale (International tour); *The Gamblers* for Greyscale and Dundee Rep. Her work as assistant or staff director includes: *Pinocchio* at The National Theatre; *Mood Music* at The Old Vic; *Animal Farm* at Northern Stage; *Catch 22*, UK tour.

MATTHEW TUCKEY – SOUND DESIGNER

Matthew is a Sound Designer and Sound Artist working across theatre, installation, and film. He was recently appointed to the Board of the Association for Sound Design and Production. His recent work as Sound Designer includes: *Dogs On The Metro*, *Champion* and *Saint Maud* (Live Theatre); *The Bounds* (Live Theatre and The Royal Court); *Festen* (Royal Central School of Speech and Drama); *Love It If We Beat Them* (Emmerson & Ward in association with Live Theatre); *The Sorcerer's Apprentice* (Northern Stage); *Repeat Signal* and *Lost Found And Told: New Tales For Northumberland* (November Club); *Wolf!* (Kitchen Zoo in association with Northern Stage); *joey* (Gobscore in association with Greyscale Theatre); *Floorboards*, *Trolley Boy*, *Walter* (Alphabetti Theatre).

His work as Associate Sound Designer includes: *Macbeth* (English Touring Theatre at the Lyric Hammersmith); *Underdog: The Other Other Brontë* (Northern Stage and National Theatre); *You Heard Me* (Luca Rutherford); *A Christmas Carol* (Northern Stage); *Oh No, George! (Can't Sit Still)*; *Stella* (Filskit Theatre).

Work as Sound Artist includes: *The Rime* (multichannel immersive installation); *An Audio Diary in Binaural*, Jan 2021 (digital piece for headphones); *South Bend* (05-06/20) (digital EP).

AMY WATTS – SET AND COSTUME DESIGNER

Amy Watts is a recently returned North East, Set and Costume Designer. Graduating from Wimbledon College of Art with a BA (Hons) in Theatre Design and since has worked over a decade in the industry on a wide variety of different projects.

Designer: *Peter Pan And Wendy* (Durham Gala); *The Deep*, *Stones In His Pockets* (Eastern angles); *Champion*, *Three Acts Of Love*, *Good Timin*, *West End Girls* (Live Theatre); *Bat With No Bite*, *Hound Of The Baskervilles* (Northern Stage); *Much Ado About Nothing* (Creation Theatre); *Hedda Gabler*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Reading Rep); *Rapunzel*, *Jack*, *Mum And The Beanstalk*, *Princess And The Frog* (Hull Truck); *The Massive Tragedy Of Madame Bovary* (Jermyn Street Theatre); *The Unlocked Door* (Seaton Delaval Hall with The November Club); *The Wasp* (Customs House); *Hound Of The Baskervilles* (East Riding Theatre); *The Remarkable Robin Armstrong's Extraordinary Christmas Adventure* (Hexham Theatre); *Legend Of Sleepy Hollow* (UK Tour); *Story Project Rage*, *Romance And Resolution*, *Miss Havisham's Wedding Night*, *12 Poems Of Emily Dickinson* (Arcola Theatre); *Grand Hotel*, *Lend Me A Tenor*, *9 To 5*, *King Of Hearts* (London School of Musical Theatre).

Support

If you have been affected by any of the themes in this show and need additional support please refer to local and national contacts below:

Rape Crisis 0800 035 2794; Sunderland Counselling Services: 0330 2230099;

Mind: 0330 1743174; SomeOne Cares 0191 2578094.

If at any point during the show you need to step out of the theatre, our staff will be on hand to show you to a quiet space. There are support materials in the Undercroft.

Coming soon...



Forum Books reading list

Thanks to our Friends at **Forum Books** for curating this suggested reading list.

Happening by Annie Ernaux; *The Eternal Return of Clara Hart* by Louise Finch; *Lads: A Guide To Respect And Consent* by Alan Bissett; *The Night Alphabet* by Joelle Taylor; *Treacle Town* by Brian Conaghan; *Underdogs: The Truth About Britain's Working Class* by Joel Budd; *Pity* by Andrew McMillan; *Gender Theory* by Madeline Docherty; *King Kong Theory* by Virginie Despentes; *Fix The System, Not The Women* by Laura Bates.

<https://uk.bookshop.org/lists/dogs-on-the-metro-reading-list>

What Did You Think?

It's important to find out what audiences really think so we can improve the Live Theatre experience.

After the show, please take a couple of minutes to complete a feedback card or email feedback@live.org.uk or join in the conversation on social media using #DogsOnTheMetro

Donate

You can help us invest in North East talent today and ensure we reap the dividends for the artists and audiences of tomorrow.

Donate at Live Theatre's Box Office, text **LIVE 5** to **70460** to donate £5 or give online at www.live.org.uk/donate

