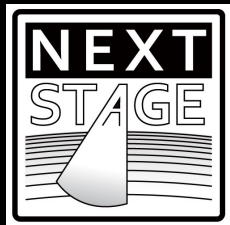


Four Minutes Twelve Seconds



PROGRAMME



James Fritz lives in London and graduated from the Central School of Speech and Drama with an MA in Writing for Stage and Broadcast Media. *Four Minutes Twelve Seconds* - his first full-length play - premiered at Hampstead Theatre in 2014, and earned an Olivier Award nomination. In 2015 the play won the Most Promising Playwright - The Critics' Circle Theatre Awards. Fritz made history in 2017 by becoming the first playwright to win both the Imison and Tinniswood BBC Audio Drama Awards in the same year.

From an interview at Hampstead Theatre with James Fritz in 2014:

Can you describe *Four Minutes Twelve Seconds* in a nutshell?

It's a dilemma play about two parents and their child, and the different relationships they have to three things – to sex, technology and each other.

What inspired you to write *Four Minutes Twelve Seconds*?

A very scary conversation with my mum.

Who are your playwriting heroes?

If I had to pick one, it'd be Caryl Churchill. People like Tim Crouch, Chris Goode and Daniel Kitson have helped push my idea of what writing for performance can be, while I'm constantly nicking stuff from Pinter, Simon Stephens, Dennis Kelly, Duncan Macmillan, Sarah Kane. They all write stuff that somehow, on reading, feels both super-clear and super-ambiguous. I love that.

What do you think the job of the playwright is?

People often say being a playwright is about 'having something to say', but I'm not really sure what that means. Everybody has something to say, don't they? I think that maybe it's more about having something you want to do to people. Or, actually, it's about having something you want a group of people (your cast) to do to another group of people (the audience), and working out the best way to help them achieve that. That's not just the job of the playwright alone, of course, everyone involved in making a show is in the same boat – but it's your words and ideas that everything bounces off, and that's a really exciting and occasionally terrifying responsibility to have.

What's the best advice you've ever been given in life?

Writing-wise, Dennis Kelly once talked to a course I was on and said something along the lines of: "A lot of people tell me they have to be a writer. It's the only thing they can see themselves ever being happy doing. But there's loads of things you can do that will make you happy. If the only thing you can picture doing in your life is being a writer, you need to have a long hard look at your life." Or at least, that's how I remember it. It was a lovely thing to hear when I was starting out in an industry that can make you feel like getting anywhere is all about 'how much you want it', in a kind of pumped-up Ironman sort of way. I try and come back to it whenever I get stressed about my writing.





Rehearsal Photographs

Cast	David.....Richard Matthews
	Di.....Hayley Fitton-Cook
	Nick.....Fin Hancorn
	Cara.....Becca Jefferis

Production Team	Director.....Ann Ellison
	Stage Manager.....Andrew Ellison
	Sound Design.....Brian Howe
	Lighting Design.....Kris Nuttall
	Sound and Lighting Operative.....Andrew Ellison
	Set Design.....Ann Ellison
	Rehearsal Images.....Ann Ellison
	Front of House.....Members of Next Stage

Setting	<p>The play is set in present-day Croydon. The action of the play takes place over the course of a few summer weeks in various locations around the town.</p> <p>The play will run without an interval, at the end audiences are invited to stay on and meet the actors in the bar for an informal Q&A.</p>
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Acknowledgements	 <p>Next Stage wishes to acknowledge and thank the Angels whose generosity has contributed to the staging of this production.</p> 
	<p>Our grateful thanks also go to:</p>
	<p>Minuteman Press..... 01225 442000</p> <p>Enlightened Lighting..... 01179 727123</p>

<p>This production is by special arrangement with Berlin Associates.</p>

Burdall's Yard		<p>Next Stage Theatre Company is delighted to bring <i>Four Minutes Twelve Seconds</i> to Burdall's Yard as the first theatrical production of Bath's newest Community Centre and Arts Hub. If you'd like to find out more about Burdall's Yard, please visit www.burdallsyard.co.uk, or email burdallsyard@outlook.com for any enquiries.</p>
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Hayley Fitton-Cook - Di

Hayley has enjoyed a range of roles with Next Stage, but this will be her first revival with the company. Hayley originally played Di in 2016 and has found it interesting to revisit the character six years later. Di has changed with Hayley, as her own children are now older and her job has more focus on Online Safety and internet awareness. Coronavirus has developed our obsession with technology – Zoom calls, working from home, TikTok; there's just so much of it out there, and as the play says '*It means so much more to [this generation] than it ever did to us*'.



Richard Matthews - David

Four Minutes Twelve Seconds is a very powerful play that touches on many relevant contemporary issues around consent, our use of social media, how families deal with uncomfortable truths, and how much they are willing to believe in order to keep their family together. For an audience, this play shifts perspectives right until the last line, and leaves the audience wondering what is the truth, and where do allegiances finally rest? It has been interesting to feel these shifts of morality going on under the character's skin as the truth is slowly drawn out.



Fin Hancorn - Nick

Fin has been with Next Stage Youth for almost 2 years and played Callum - his favourite role so far - in the company's production of *Noughts & Crosses* in October 2021. Fin trains in ballet & tap and is about to play Brit in *We Will Rock You*, at the Roper Theatre, April 2022. In this current production Fin has learnt a great deal from his older cast members and is very grateful for the opportunity to be playing the crucial role of Nick. He feels that *Four Minutes Twelve Seconds* tells a story that is more relevant than ever in the digital age and should be shared with a wide range of audiences.



Becca Jefferis - Cara

Becca is very excited to be performing in her first Next Stage production. Becca was last seen on stage at The Mission Theatre in Bath University Student Theatre's (BUST's) production of *The Importance of Being Earnest*. Having performed in over 10 productions with BUST and trained with the National Youth Theatre last summer, Becca is delighted to be taking to the stage again, and says, "*It is a real privilege to be a part of telling Cara's story. Although fictional, Cara's experience powerfully highlights a tragic outcome many young women face in the broken system that fails to protect them.*"

Issues raised in ***Four Minutes Twelve Seconds*** are at the centre of much public, government and media interest in 2022:

SEXTING

Sending indecent photographs to a friend or lover using a smartphone is known as sexting.

The creation of explicit images or materials that include children aged under 18 is a criminal offence and is considered child pornography in all cases, regardless of the circumstances of their creation. As such, an image created and shared by two consenting 17 year olds would be held in the same severity as an image created without consent, between an adult and a minor. Similarly, a child who was coerced or blackmailed into producing indecent images of themselves would also be held accountable for producing child pornography.



If a young person tells you they have been involved in sexting it's important to be understanding and non-judgmental. Try to find out a bit more about what's happened, including who sent the image and who has seen it. Never view, share or save explicit images, videos or messages.

You should take steps to get an explicit image or video removed if it's been posted online:

- > Report the image to the site or network hosting it.
- > Contact the [Internet Watch Foundation \(IWF\)](#).

Children and young people under 18 who are worried that a sexual image or video of them may have been shared online can use Childline and IWF's Report Remove tool to see if it can be taken down.

CYBERBULLYING

In-depth interviews with 35 teenagers at two London schools found that girls as young as 11 were being asked to send 'special photos' to boys they knew. In some cases, the girls had to write a name in black marker pen on a part of their body to show it was the 'property' of a certain boy. The teens also faced a 'barrage' of messages from boys demanding intercourse or oral sex. Such sexting is an extreme form of cyber-bullying.

INFORMATION FROM THE AVON AND SOMERSET POLICE

Sexting can cover a broad range of activities. It can range from the consensual sharing of an image between two children of a similar age to instances of children being exploited, groomed, and bullied into sharing images, which in turn may be shared with peers or adults without their consent.



KNOW THE LAW

If you are under 18, it is against the law to:

- > Take, have or distribute a sexual photo; this includes a selfie
- > Have or pass on indecent images of someone under 18
- > Encourage or incite someone to take or send 'sexts'
- > Take a photo of their own genitals whether the image is shared on or not

POLICE ACTION – THE PROPORTIONATE APPROACH

All reports of sexting by under 18s are recorded as a crime. Recording a crime does not mean the person will have a criminal record. A police officer will establish the facts. This will include assessing whether there are any aggravating factors such as the presence of exploitation, coercion, a profit motive, or adults as perpetrators in the creation of the images. If there are aggravating factors, or significant risks are identified, the police will take control of the incident and an investigation will take place.

If there are no aggravating factors, the police will support victims and assist a school and family through education and intervention. They will record a crime has been committed but that taking formal action is not in the public interest. This is known as utilising 'Outcome 21.'

OUTCOME 21

This outcome code allows the police to record a crime as having happened but for no formal criminal justice action to be taken. Crimes recorded this way are unlikely to appear on future records or checks, unless the young person has been involved in other similar activities which may indicate they are at risk. The discretion about whether to disclose non-conviction information rests with each Chief Constable managing the process. Although no guarantee can be provided, it will be a very small number of unusual cases which may lead to a further disclosure.

GUIDANCE AND SUPPORT

The [NSPCC](https://www.nspcc.org.uk) website provides valuable information on sexting, including how to talk to your child about sexting.

Remember you can contact the NSPCC helpline 24 hours a day on [0808 800 5000](tel:08088005000) to speak with a counsellor if you are worried or need further advice.



Next Stage Youth Theatre Company

Sundays in term time, 4.30-6pm at Burdall's Yard

Welcoming youngsters of all abilities with no audition or pre-selection process, Next Stage Youth (NSY) is one of Bath's leading theatrical youth companies. Meeting weekly in three, 10 week terms per year, and with the advantage of their own rehearsal space at Burdall's

Yard, and theatrical space at The Mission Theatre, NSY usually stage one or two main productions a year.

Next Stage Youth places emphasis on performance as a means to enhance teamwork, build self-confidence and to provide a professional grounding in theatre arts. Anyone aged between 11 and 18 is welcome and Next Stage has a policy of using NSYouthers whenever possible in adult productions.

**Next Stage Youth meets on Sundays
4.30-6pm at Burdall's Yard,
7a Anglo Terrace, Bath BA1 5NH**

**More information and images can be found at
www.next-stage.co.uk
www.burdallyard.co.uk**

**To register your interest,
Email nextstagebath@aol.com
or call 01225 428600**



Noughts and Crosses 2021

Forthcoming at The Mission Theatre:



**Next Stage Theatre Company
presents**

Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?

by **Edward Albee**

Mon 28th March - Sat 2nd April 2022 7.30pm



George, a middle-aged professor in a small New-England college, and his wife, Martha, stumble home, drunk from a faculty party. Martha announces, amidst general profanity, that she has invited a young couple - opportunistic new professor, Nick, and his shatteringly naïve bride, Honey - to stop by for a nightcap. As the drinks flow and inhibitions melt, it becomes clear that Martha is determined to seduce the young professor, but her husband appears to be indifferent to the fact.

As the young couple are drawn into a traumatic night of dangerous fun and games, it becomes apparent that underneath the edgy banter, which is cross-fired between both couples, there lurks an undercurrent of tragedy and despair in the personal hell that is George and Martha's marriage. Finally, the root of the couple's inhuman bitterness towards one another is revealed, providing a stunning, almost unbearable climax that has shocked audiences for years.

Tickets £15 (£13 concs)

Online Box office: www.missiontheatre.co.uk

Enquires: 01225 428600 or email nextstagebath@aol.com

****For an extra £1, reserve your seat. Call 01225 428600****