

PLASTIC BODIES (Work in Progress)

An Opera about Opera. How does an industry so obsessed with the voice leave its performers without one?

CONTENT WARNING: images of disordered eating; mentoon of suicide; misogyny; racism; homophobia; mature language; skin peeling; brief references to sexual violence; emotional abuse. Please take care and feel free to leave at any point.

she moves

A co-creation by Amy Bryce (composer, deviser), Rosie Middleton (deviser, performer, researcher), Sarah Parkin (performer, deviser, movement practitioner) Maya-Leigh Rosenwasser (pianist, electroacoustic composer-performer, deviser), Catherine Valvë (filmmaker, director of videography, editor) with movement and dramaturgy input from Sofia Bagge.

This work was supported by a Cooper Hall residency and Morag McClaren

she speaks

A co-creation by Amy Bryce (composer, deviser), Rosie Middleton (deviser, performer, researcher), Maya-Leigh Rosenwasser (performer, electroacoustic composer-performer, deviser), Catherine Valvë (filmmaker, visual director, editor) with movement and dramaturgy input from Sofia Bagge.

This work was created while on residency as Britten Pears Young Artists (2020) (CAPPA) and Made at the Red House. Pre-recorded sound samples provided courtesy of House of Bedlam.

ARTISTS

Amy composes with a focus on contemporary music in collaborative theatre making, and educational settings. With a growing reputation in the UK choral scene, Amy was commissioned last year by BBC Radio 3 for the centenary of the BBC. Their work, 'So All Voices Can Fly' for choir, organ and trumpet was recorded for broadcast by the BBC Symphony Chorus. This year, they worked with the London Youth Choirs on a large-scale commission for their 10 year anniversary at the Royal Albert Hall. Amy is a 2023 Royal Philharmonic Society composer, and a 2020 Britten Pears Young Artist.

Mezzo-soprano Rosie Middleton works across experimental music, opera and performance art. Her collaborations include *voice(less)* with Laura Bowler, Mira Calix and Esin Gunduz (Tate Modern, Dark Music Days), *12 HOURS* with Catherine Kontz (Luxembourg 2024), and *quiet walls of flame* with Lola de la Mata (HCMF 2023). Recent opera roles include *The Blue Woman* (Laura Bowler, Royal Opera House) and *Carmen: cours d'assises* (Diana Soh, Ars Nova/Ensemble Lucillin) and *A Kinder Society* (Stiftung Kunst und Musik für Dresden). Other 2022-23 work includes *Versionland* (Jamie Hamilton, Phaedra Ensemble), *Wernicke's Area* (Emily Howard, Irish Museum of Modern Art) and Athanasia Kontou's *Antigone* with Liverpool Philharmonic Ensemble 10/10.

Soprano Sarah Parkin (she/her)

Select performances include: *Roll Up!* (Jack McNeill & Claire Willoughby - Mahogany Opera); *Voices of the Sands* (Michael Betteridge); Student 3, *Innocence* (Kaija Saariaho - Cover - Royal Opera House); p.e.r.s.o.n.a.l.c.l.u.t.t.e.r. (Dark Music Days); *A Kinder Society* (Amy Bryce -Stiftung Kunst und Musik für Dresden); *Robe* (Alistair White - Tête-à-Tête and Métier). In 2023-24, Sarah will be co-creating 'On Being Vocal', a one-woman micro-opera with composer Rania Chrysostomou; and will take part in the inaugural cohort on VOICEBOX (Juliet Fraser with Britten Pears Arts; City, University of London; Sound Festival and Dartington Music Summer School).

Maya-Leigh Rosenwasser (they/them) is a performer, composer and researcher specialising in performing and composing new works for piano, live electronics and multi-disciplinary ensembles. Their research at Trinity Laban Conservatoire (PhD) explores queered processes in electroacoustic music and improvisation. Notable performances, compositions and broadcasts: BBC Radio 3's *Freeness: Circular Wanderings*, Sound and Music podcast: *Queerness*, *A Kinder Society*, Amy Bryce - Stiftung Kunst und Musik für Dresden), Made at the Red House residency with Wild Plum Arts, Residency and performance with Kirkos Ensemble (flxnflx), solo and chamber recitals at Bishopsgate Institute, Kyriakides Steinway gallery, Greyfriars Kirk, Sounds like THIS festival and Daylight Music. Maya-Leigh is also a 2020 Britten Pears Young Artist.

Catherine Valve (she/they) is a multi-disciplinary filmmaker. She has worked with PLASTIC BODIES before, directing 'A Kinder Society', (Amy Bryce -Stiftung Kunst und Musik für Dresden). Catherine will also be filmmaking for 'On Being Vocal', a one-woman micro-opera with composer Rania Chrysostomou.

Music is a huge influence on her visual style and she revels in the surreal and experimental.

Sofia Bagge (she/her) is a director and dramaturg from Sweden exploring themes of interconnectedness, care and the future. Recent work includes direction and dramaturgy for *Stag King* at Bristol Pride 2023 and *Decommissioned* at the Pleasance April 2023. In 2022 she was commissioned by The Royal Dramatic Theatre of Sweden to contribute to *A Climate Archive*. Past work in opera includes movement direction for Rosie Middleton's project *voice(less)*, including on pieces by Laura Bowler and Mira Calix. Sofia is joint artistic director

of Wise Ram Theatre. She regularly teaches and facilitates workshops on climate theatre and sustainability.