

**Saturday 14th &
Sunday 15th | 5pm
October 2023**

*“My friend’s been disappeared
and now they want to disappear me”*

The Morphing

**Written and directed
by Rowenna Mortimer**



BLOOMSBURY
FESTIVAL
13 - 22 OCTOBER 2023



The Morphea

Morphea's home is the canal, but her peace is being disturbed - rents are rising, people are losing their homes, her friends are mysteriously disappearing - so off she sets on a journey to get help from the highest authority in the land...

Sometimes a fairytale, sometimes a harsh realistic story, this physical theatre production explores ideas of transformation, metamorphosis and change, as the canal is embodied in the central character Morphea.

Cast and Creatives

Writer and Director

ROWENNA MORTIMER

Rowenna began writing as a performer with the Teatro Experimental de Cali, Colombia as part of a collective creation process for 'La Femme Douce' at Plessis Theatre, France. As well as 'The Morphea', writing and directing work includes the dramatic monologue 'I Am Not Freda' - House Letters, 2020; 'Mary, Mary...' an ACE funded project about Mary Wollstonecraft, Bloomsbury Festival 2018 and the Mary Wollstonecraft academic conference event 2019; 'Here', shortlisted for the Radius Festival of Drama, 2022. Rowenna is co-producer of Further Than The Edge and is inspired to create stories of hope and possibility.

Movement Director

SALLY MARIE

Sally Marie has loved working on the movement direction of this show; it's been a constant collaboration and very fulfilling. She also directs her own company Sweetshop Revolution, which produces theatre production with movement at it's heart. Current full length touring works for the company include a children's production entitled 'I am 8', as well as a piece called 'Your Heart is Too Loud' about the end of our lives. There have been numerous awards and nominations, including Best Independent Company and Best Female Performance from the National Dance Awards. Her current interest is in the creation of work, where physicality and feeling exist in tight hug.



The Morphea **ELLA MCCORMACK**

Ella trained as an actor at Royal Central School of Speech and Drama and Fourth Monkey Actor Training Company before making her professional debut as Morphea at The Greenhouse Theatre in July 2023. Ella is excited by stories that move people and female-led work as well as physical and political theatre. She loves working on The Morphea as it encompasses many of her theatrical passions as well as offering a new and exciting challenge of performing solo alongside a supportive and creative team.

Photo © Alan Howard



The Drummer **MICAH BAKER**

Micah is a drummer, percussionist and composer, recently completing a Bmus degree in percussion and drum kit at Trinity Laban Conservatoire. He plays for several commercial ensembles, a rock band, brass ensemble Beyond The Bell, Afro band the Amalgam, and is a founder of award winning duo Cymbiosis. Working on The Morphea has been a thoroughly enjoyable experience because of how unique the rehearsal process has been, and is definitely unlike any other project Micah has been part of!

Lighting Designer **FERDY EMMET**

Ferdy is a lighting designer and theatre maker based between London and Dublin. His design credits include OffComm Winner 'Outlier' (Jack Studio Theatre), 'Just a Minute' (Dublin Fringe), 'Next Door's Baby' (Tabard Theatre), 'Where Are You From' (Peacock Stage, Abbey Theatre), and 'The Epiphany of Eileen O'Keefe' (Irish Tour). He has also worked as lighting crew on 'United Queendom' (Les Enfants Terribles), as production manager of 'Painkiller' (Theatre Royal Stratford East) and as a Venue Manager at the Edinburgh Fringe.

Production info

The Morphea, started out at the Rosemary Branch Theatre, for Anima Theatre Company's 'Place to Be: The Canal' as a 15 minute monologue about a character who lived on the canal and her struggles to stay on the water. Once I'd done that, I realised she had more story in her, so I took her on an adventure into a 60 minute script. In December 2019 Further Than The Edge did an R&D (supported by Studio Wayne McGregor) with a movement director and performer looking at the dance/physical aspects of Morphea, and then in July 2023 we were selected to preview the play at The Greenhouse Theatre with Ella McCormack playing Morphea.

Following the Bloomsbury Festival 2023 we are now set to take The Morphea into a bigger creative adventure - acoustically, visually, physically, narratively, geographically...

Rowenna
Writer and Co-producer

If you're interested in the project and want to find out more, then get in touch: contact@furtherthantheedge.com

If you're an artist and wish to introduce yourself: artists@furtherthantheedge.com

If you're interested in any of the themes raised in the play you may find these websites useful: NBTA (National Bargees and Travellers Association) nbtalondon.co.uk, Republic republic.org.uk, London Renters londonrentersunion.org

The Morphea is brought to you by Further Than The Edge as part of the Bloomsbury Festival 2023 New Wave Theatre programme, a platform for emerging talent.

furtherthantheedge.com
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The Studio Theatre
RADA Studios
16 Chenies St
London WC1E 7EX

Tickets
£12 standard | £10 concessions
bloomsburyfestival.org.uk/events/the-morphea/
#Getatheatreticket- if you're part of this initiative for Camden community groups - Free

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Supported by Studio Wayne McGregor FreeSpace programme



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