

**John
Godber**
COMPANY

Written by John Godber & Elizabeth Godber

RUBY

"A quirky new musical"
The Stage

★★★★★
Musical Theatre Review

& THE

VINYLL

a kind of love story but not

Directed by John Godber & Jane Thornton

Music by Ruby Macintosh

HERE
FOR
CULTURE

INTRODUCTION

About six years ago I was on a Radio programme with a young woman from Wakefield who played and sang her own songs. Her name was Ruby, but that wasn't her real name, she was born in Rotherham, her aunty lives near the Humber Bridge and she had studied music at LIPA in Liverpool. How strange; my first theatrical experience was in Rotherham, I live near the Humber Bridge and my youngest daughter went to LIPA. The first incarnation of this show was commissioned by East Riding Council's Word-Quake festival to tour the region. Along with students from Hull University, my eldest daughter Elizabeth and I concocted a thirty-five minute piece for Libraries, Ruby wrote the music and sang the songs.

The response was encouraging.

Years later and many things have happened, Elizabeth went to one University, Hull, then another, Leeds, then back to another Hull, where she is reading for a PhD. Theatre's across the world completely closed down for two years, but as the end of lockdown loomed, we were keen to produce something that was original, fresh and uplifting.

As a family, perhaps like so many others, we had spent much of the last two years glued to Netflix, watching Rom Com 's and what were up until recently called, Box Sets. We had become so engrossed in The Walking Dead that when, quite by chance, we met Andrew Lincoln, no one could quite take it in. We also couldn't believe that Andrew had spent so much of his youth living three miles from the Humber Bridge.

Was it destiny or the randomness of life?

All these experience went into the mix when we were configuring this revamped version of our acoustic musical. It's been a real joy collaborating with Ruby once again, and working with Liz's characters and her alert mind certainly kept me on my toes. Who knows what kind of theatre will we find appropriate for after the pandemic. There's certainly a sense amongst some, that we are starting again, and you might say that the moral to all this is; you never know what's going to happen next!

John Godber OBE.

CAST



RUBY MACINTOSH

Ruby Songwriter

Ruby has been playing music, singing, and writing songs since she was a little girl. Her first band "Fawn" - formed while she was studying at Wakefield college - was invited to play at the infamous Colne Blues Festival. She went on to study at LIPA where she hustled her way into a solo support slot for The Kooks, played at The Cavern Club, and had a one on one songwriting session with Sir Paul McCartney himself. It was here that her stage pseudonym of Ruby Macintosh developed into the vintage inspired, tenacious, and vivacious powerhouse we all know and love.

After finishing her degree at LIPA she applied for funding from The Princes Trust to help her kickstart her career as a solo musician. As an ambassador for The Trust she played in front of, and met, HRH Prince Charles.

During a Radio Leeds "We Love Wakefield" broadcast, John Godber was being interviewed and Ruby was asked to play some songs. One phone call later and the original version of "Ruby and the Vinyl" was born some years ago. Like any creative endeavour it's been an organic and collaborative process. This the 3rd time Ruby has composed music for The John Godber Theatre Company. The first incarnation of "Ruby and the Vinyl" did a stint at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival, the second was entitled "The Kings of Hull" and was commissioned for Hull City of Culture.

CAST



MILLIE GASTON

Lillie

Millie is an actress from North Yorkshire and trained at Manchester School of Theatre graduating in 2018. This is Millie's second time working with the John Godber Company. She loved working on A Christmas Carol in December 2021 and is incredibly excited to be working on Ruby & the Vinyl! Millie has recently played Maria in Twelfth Night, Cordelia in King Lear and Maya in Snowflake. Millie also produces her own work. Her play SHAKE THE CITY will be premiering at Leeds Playhouse in April 2022.

TRAINING: Manchester School of Theatre. Recent Credits includes: THREE EMOS (Regional Tour; UK Tour), THE REMARKABLE TALE OF DOROTHY MACKAILL (Hull New Theatre), THE ACCIDENT DID NOT TAKE PLACE (York Theatre Royal), MT FEST (The Other Palace), TH'IMPORTANCE OF BEIN' EARNEST (Drayton Arms Theatre), HON3Y 92 (Digital Theatre with Northern Broadsides), KING LEAR (Here To There Productions), TWELFTH NIGHT (JL Productions), SHAKE THE CITY (Forge Theatre; VAULT Festival) CROWN PRINCE: PART OF A CLIMATE EMERGENCY (Wakefield Theatre Royal). SNOWFLAKE (Malvern Theatres) A CHRISTMAS CAROL (John Godber Company)

CAST

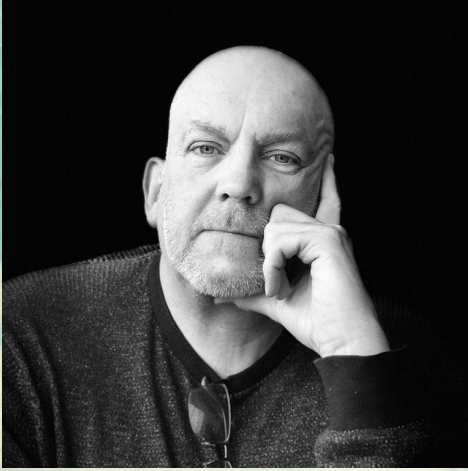


**GEORGE
REID**

Tam

George is an actor and musician from Penistone, South Yorkshire. He graduated from Guildford School of Acting in 2018. Since then, George has performed at The Globe (London) as well as touring Macbeth (UK) and Romeo & Juliet (Spain). George is also a musician and has performed all over the world, including New York, Berlin and Paris. George won the Sir Richard Stilgoe Songwriting Competition in 2018. As a teenager, having sat in the audience many times watching John Godber shows, it became a dream that one day George would be performing on a stage as an actor. Now years later, about to perform with the John Godber Company it seems like a full circle. He is very excited to work on 'Ruby & the Vinyl' with the company!

CREATIVES



**JOHN
GODBER**

Writer/Director

John Godber was born in Upton, a mining village in West Yorkshire. Educated at Bretton Hall College and Leeds University, he has become well known as a playwright, having won BAFTA's, Olivier Awards, Los Angeles Drama Critics Awards, Edinburgh Fringe Firsts, and the Yorkshire Arts Personality of the Year Award. He has written for theatre, film and TV and was awarded an OBE for his services to the arts in 2018. He lives near the Humber Bridge.

CREATIVES



ELIZABETH GODBER

Writer

Elizabeth is a theatre-maker born and raised in Hull. She studied Creative Writing BA at the University of Hull and an MA at the University of Leeds, and is currently an English Literature PhD student, at the University of Hull, currently working with the archives of Princeton and Yale.

As a writer, Elizabeth has had her work performed across the UK, in venues including the Stephen Joseph Theatre, Scarborough, Greenwich Theatre, Oldham Coliseum, CAST in Doncaster, and Hull New Theatre with her own theatre company Smashing Mirrors.

Other writing credits include: BBC Sounds (2021), Channel 4's Random Acts, "Dressed in Time" at Leeds Playhouse for Marks and Spencers, and BBC Upload Festival National Selection/BBC Iplayer (2020).

Elizabeth is also a huge advocate for dementia-awareness and dementia-friendly theatre and has frequently worked on schools, outreach and charity projects surrounding this cause.

As a stage manager, Elizabeth has worked across the UK, including London venues, and has also worked internationally at the Institute of the Arts in Barcelona.

CREATIVES



JANE THORNTON

Director

Jane is co- director of the John Godber Company.

As a director Jane has done many productions for the John Godber Company and has also worked for Big Telly, Hull Truck, Nottingham Playhouse, Derby Playhouse, The Old Red Lion, the Edinburgh Festival, the Ambassadors Theatre, East Riding Theatre, Theatre Royal Wakefield and the Institute of the Arts Barcelona. Writing credits are numerous for both stage, radio and TV. Jane has been the recipient of two BAFTAS and has been a finalist for the Susan Smith Blackburn Award and a Writer's Guild award.

As an actor, Jane played Hazel in in the original Olivier Award-winning production of Up 'n' Under. and has appeared in the original casts of many of John Godber's plays including: Happy Jack, September in the Rain, April in Paris, Scary Bikers and most recently Sunny Side Up. Jane has had extensive experience working in theatre, film, tv and radio dramas most recently in D for Dexter for radio 4.

Jane's first job was as a drama supervisor working with Young Offenders and has subsequently done lots work in schools, with the National Youth Arts Trust and The Godber Theatre Foundation. This year Jane will receive an Honorary Doctorate for from the University of Hull for services to theatre in the city.

CREATIVES

GRAHAM KIRK

Production Manager/Set Design

Graham trained at East 15 Acting School before touring the lengths and breadth of the country and beyond for many years as a stage manager. After spending a number of years as production manager for Hull Truck Theatre Company, Graham formed Kirk Production, specialising in production management, lighting design, scenic design and construction.

During his career Graham has worked with numerous companies on over 350 theatre, film and television productions. Recent projects include The Kings of Hull, Private Lives, Up n Under, Scary Bikers and Sunny Side Up.

CREATIVES

PRODUCTION MANAGER

Graham Kirk

COMPANY MANAGER

Elizabeth Godber

CHOREOGRAPHY

Martha Godber

POSTER DESIGN

Anonymous Design

GRAPHIC DESIGN

Martha Godber

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VENUES & DATES

THEATRE ROYAL WAKEFIELD

3RD-12TH FEBRUARY 2022

www.theatreroyalwakefield.co.uk

EAST RIDING THEATRE, BEVERLEY

2ND-26TH MARCH 2022

www.eastridingtheatre.co.uk

**THE OLD LAUNDRY THEATRE,
BOWNESS-ON-WINDERMERE**

29TH MARCH 2022

www.oldlaundrytheatre.co.uk

LIVERPOOL'S ROYAL COURT STUDIO

30TH MARCH - 2ND APRIL 2022

liverpoolsroyalcourt.com

BRIDLINGTON SPA

7TH-8TH APRIL 2022

www.bridspa.com



THE GODBER THEATRE FOUNDATION

The Godber Theatre Foundation is an initiative formed by Martha Godber and the John Godber Company to support students from Hull & East Yorkshire who are studying the Arts, offering them mentorship, industry seminars, professional experience and financial aid. The Arts is one of the most difficult industries to break into, particularly if you are from a working class background. John and Jane Godber have been working with young people in Hull for over a quarter of a century, and have seen many students they have worked with go on to have successful careers and gain places at leading drama schools. The Godber Theatre Foundation continues this legacy. Since launching in 2020 The Godber Theatre Foundation has been a finalist in the Heart of East Yorkshire awards, a finalist in the National Drama & Music in Education Awards as well as Founder, Martha Godber winning East Yorkshire Young Volunteer Of the Year in 2021.

If you have downloaded a programme tonight, please consider donating to The Godber Theatre Foundation.

£10 will pay for a newly published script

£30 will pay for one students ring light

£50 will pay for one students drama school audition fee

£80 will pay for one student's train travel from Hull to London

£100 will pay for one students Spotlight membership

£250 will pay for one students professional headshots

£400 will employ a Foundation member with the John Godber Company for a week.



Thank you!