

Life of Ryan is a new play by Katy Martinwood – a dark comedy featuring a cast of 3 female characters and a disabled dancer.

It deals with the complexities and daily grind of life as a carer to a disabled person, permeating the social care system, being a parent when everyone out there knows best., single motherhood, friendship, class, disability and mental health.

The play uses dance and movement to portray emotion, as well as to move the plot on. Its comic elements act as a good holding form, as do the characters – all women, not young and mainly northern.

Supported by:



Arts Council England bid pending

THE PRODUCTION

Synopsis

Hayley returns to her home town of Sheffield after her marriage breaks down with her 10 year old disabled son Ryan and her new - born - non - sleeping baby. She tries to get her son into a much sought after special school by grappling with a dysfunctional care and education system.

Befriending her old school mate Vonny, whom she initially feels she has little in common with now, turns out to be a much needed support and basically a 'right laugh' as they trawl through activities offered by single parent support group SLOPS.

As the pressure mounts for Hayley, her friendship with Vonny and indeed her own mental health begin to deteriorate.

When Hayley feels her back is against the wall she goes to extremes in order to get what she needs for her son...

Technical

Get in/out: 4-5 hours

Stage: Thrust

Footprint: 5x6m square

THE COMPANY

MARDY BRAS
THEATRE CO.



Kate Wood (Martinwood)

Writer



Rod Dixon

Director



Stacey Sampson

Actor / Dramaturg

Kate Wood trained as an actor at the Rose Bruford College of speech and drama and has an MA in creative writing from Leeds University. She has over 30 years experience of working as a professional actor in theatre (Brassed Off, The Full Monty, Beautiful Thing) & TV (Coronation St, In the Flesh, This is England, Gunpowder, Emmerdale).

Rod Dixon became Artistic Director of Red Ladder Theatre Company in 2006, following his role as associate director at the Barbican Theatre in Plymouth. He ran The Hub Theatre School in Cornwall and has been an actor with several companies including Kneehigh Theatre. Directing credits for Red Ladder include The Shed Crew, Mother Courage and Her Children, Glory and Smile Club.

Stacey Sampson is a Sheffield based performer and writer. As an actor she has worked across TV and film for many years, playing Jennifer in two series of This is England as well as guesting in Luther, Waking the Dead, The Syndicate, Casualty, Holby City, Coronation Street, Heartbeat and many more.

CAST



Stacey Sampson
Actor / Dramaturg

Stacey Sampson is a Sheffield based performer and writer. As an actor she has worked across TV and film for many years, playing Jennifer in two series of This is England as well as guesting in Luther, Waking the Dead, The Syndicate, Casualty, Holby City, Coronation Street, Heartbeat and many more. She has toured nationally with plays and musicals, and is a Regular Collaborator with Third Angel, with whom she devises as well as performs.

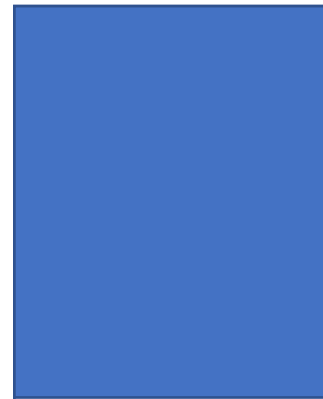


Actor TBC



Melanie Crawley
Actor

Melanie Crawley works as an actor and voice artist, she is a member of Equity and Spotlight. She received a 2:1 BA(hons) in drama and visual arts at MMU 1988-91 going on to work in film exhibition / festivals / development. She returned to acting in 2015, mainly working in theatre and audio, most recently she performed in the arts council funded northern UK tour of 'Tannie & Tannie' by Claudine Bennet a show she also produced.



Dancer TBC

LEARNING & WRAP AROUND ACTIVITIES

We will be asking for support from Arts Council England to enable us to provide learning and creative opportunities linked to the themes of the play.

Director & producer apprenticeships

We aim to offer opportunities for young people to work alongside our Director and Producers to gain vital skills for future careers in theatre



Writing workshops for carers

We would like to offer writing workshops for carers to explore the themes from the play, to encourage connection and increase wellbeing via self expression through writing.



Carer connections

We are hoping to enable carers to connection via social media and other platforms by offering a safe space to talk about challenges, experiences, joys and opportunities



Your support can help us achieve these aims

PRESS & PUBLICITY

Support so far...

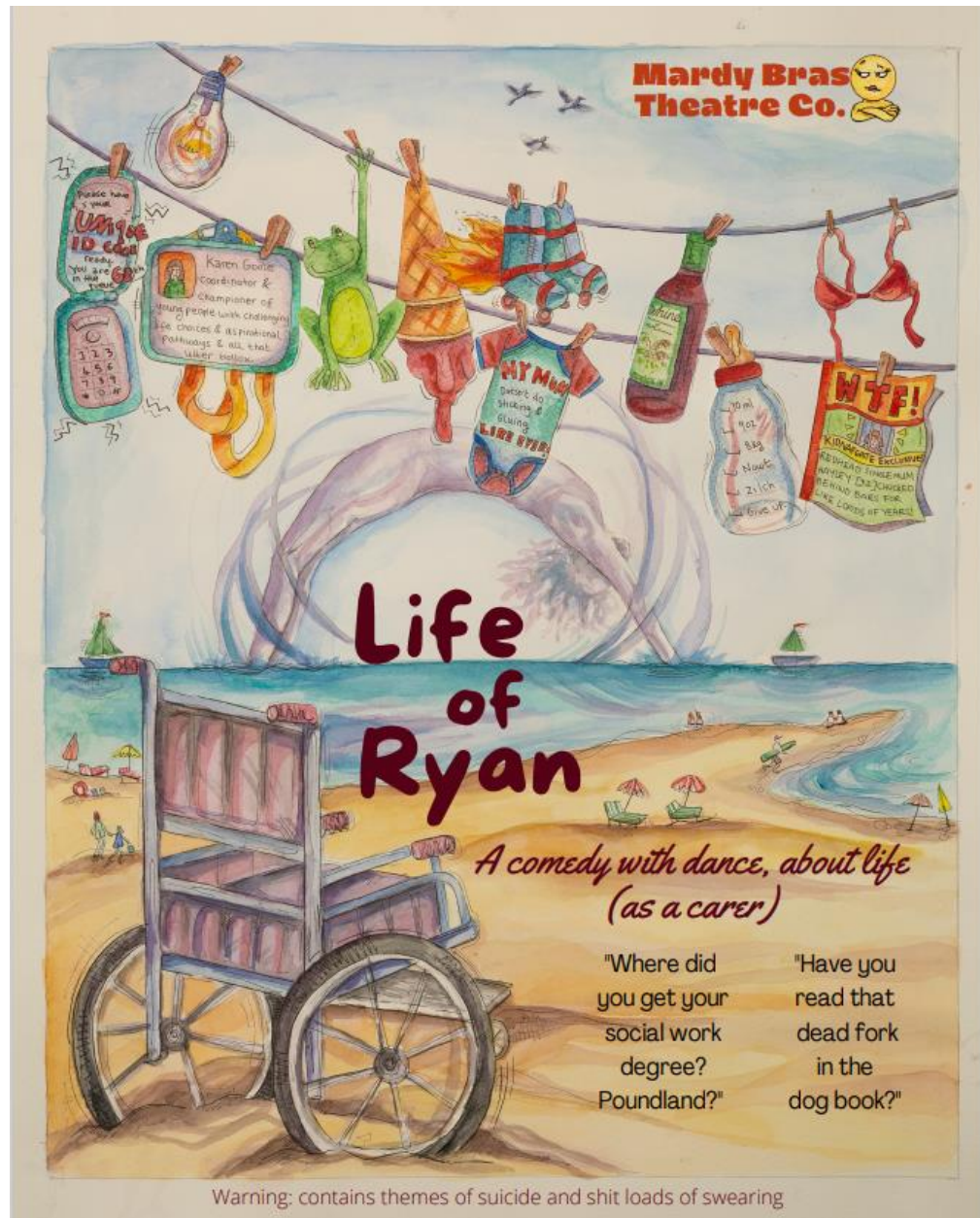
Red Ladder Theatre, CAST Doncaster,
Alnwick Theatre, Derby Theatre, Sheffield
Hallam University, Sheffield City Council,

Website: <https://lifeofryan.co.uk/>

Writing Life of Ryan - Katy

Martinwood: <https://youtu.be/Jl-hdGj2HHw>

Promo (theatre poster/portrait flyer)



THE DEAL

We are asking for at least 1 night at each venue, ideally on a 70/30 box office split or £700 guarantee, whichever is higher.

The play will open at Alnwick Theatre in the first week of March 2023. We are looking to tour the North East then Yorkshire, closing at CAST, Doncaster via London.

We are currently asking for written support for our ACE bid which will be submitted April 2022. If you are interested (and we really hope you are) please send a brief letter or email of support to Katy Martinwood @ katemartinwood@yahoo.com

Thank you from the Life of Ryan team – and Ryan





Supported by:

