



CAST

Ned.....	Rob Graham
Dale.....	Michael Curry
Joy.....	Emily Fairman

CREATIVE TEAM

Director	Danny Swanson
Assistant Director	Georgia Sutcliffe
Production Secretary & Costumes	Wendy Bage
Stage Manager	Nigel Rive
Assistant Stage Manager	Nick Jackson
Set Facilitator & Set Build	Ian Bage
Lighting, Sound & Operator	Tristan Cameron
Technical support	John Cude
Properties	Sheila Grimant
Rehearsal prompt	Janet Lloyd
Poster Design & Projection Images Creator	Ben Evenett

FROM THE DIRECTOR

I am delighted to be putting on *Parlour Song* in the Studio. The play looks at seemingly ordinary lives that are spinning out of control. Set in darkest Hertfordshire, where the writer Jez Butterworth went to school, it references many places familiar to all of us. It is beautifully constructed and written - imagine *Abigail's Party* combined with *The Office* and a sprinkling of Harold Pinter's *Betrayal* thrown in for good measure.

It is unsettling to direct because it has an elusive quality, a feeling of knowing and not knowing at the same time, a bit like real life! The studio is a great place to present something naturalistic as the actors have no space to hide, no divide between the audience and themselves. Each move, each thought is seen in close up. It calls for a high level of technical control and the ability to act ‘in the moment’. The actors all learnt their lines before the first rehearsal so we could focus on the more exciting stuff and find those interesting choices. The studio also allows you to risk a bit and try things out because it does not have the same pressure of getting bums on seats as a main house production has. But I am glad that your bum is on one of the seats tonight!

We rehearsed in the week before we went up 10am-10pm every day. It was a throwback to the intensity and fun many of us in the Youth Group had working on Simon Turner’s ‘Productions in a Week’ which we did way back in the early 1980s. I hope you enjoy watching it today as much as we have enjoyed getting it ready.

Jez Butterworth is one of the UK’s leading playwrights. His plays include: *Mojo* (Royal Court Theatre, London, 1995; West End, 2013); *The Night Heron* (Royal Court, 2002); *The Winterling* (Royal Court, 2006); *Parlour Song* (Atlantic Theater, New York, 2008; Almeida Theatre, London, 2009); *Jerusalem* (Royal Court, 2009; West End, 2010; New York, 2011); *The River* (Royal Court, 2012) and *The Ferryman* (Royal Court and West End, 2017).

COMING UP AT THE BARN

