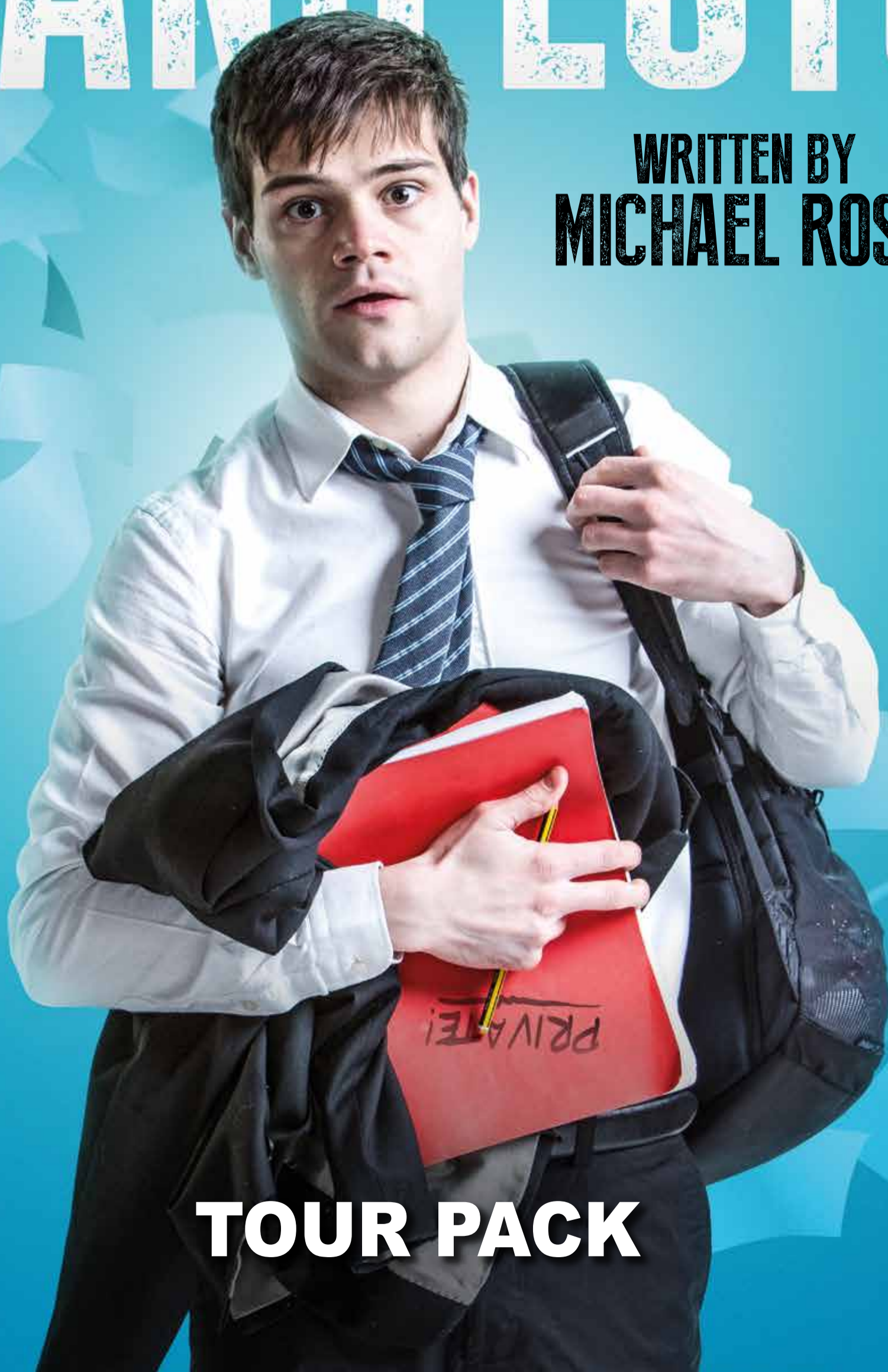


THE SHY MANIFESTO

WRITTEN BY
MICHAEL ROSS



TOUR PACK

THE PLAY

17 year old Callum is proud to be shy and he thinks you should be too, because what this noisy, crazy world needs right now is a bit more self-restraint. The Shy Manifesto is a bittersweet coming-of-age comedy drama about a shy boy who is fed up of constantly being told to come out of his shell. Tonight he is to address an audience of radical shy comrades and incite the meek to finally rise up and inherit the earth. But memories of the previous night's drunken escapades at a classmate's end-of-term party keep intruding, and threaten to upend the fragile identity he has created for himself.

The Shy Manifesto is a solo piece that takes the experience of being shy as its central subject- something which has rarely been explored in drama, and yet which touches on many audience members lives.

Callum delivers his manifesto, exploring adolescence, isolation, self-loathing and sexuality. His irreverent lightness of touch, and multi- rolling as the other characters in his story endear him to the audience, encouraging us that we, too, can be proud to be shy.

Length: 1 hour

Similar to: The History Boys by Alan Bennett, Punk Rock by Simon Stephens, I, Shakespeare series by Tim Crouch

THE COMPANY

Michael Ross // Writer

Michael studied scriptwriting at Bournemouth University and playwriting with the Royal Court's Young Writers Programme. His previous plays include Happy To Help (Park Theatre) published by Bloomsbury Methuen Drama and shortlisted for the Liverpool Hope Playwriting Prize, and praised by critics as 'a funny witty take on the bizarre world of indentured corporate servitude' (Exeunt) 'sharply written' (Aleks Sierz) 'What a delight it is to see a new comedy on the London stage, moreover oset in England with plenty to say about the way we live now' (Broadway World).

In 2017, his play Eyes Full Of Pornography was selected for the Samuel French Off-Off Broadway Festival in New York. In 2018, his play Work Makes You Free was performed to critical acclaim at the VAULT Festival; 'Ross's virtuoso script... an unexpected highlight of the VAULT this year' (Fringe Guru) 'Promising new writing about work and the values we attach to it' (The Stage) 'The writing is sharp and imaginative... in one moving scene, tears quietly rolled down the face of the man sitting next to me.' (British Theatre Guide) 'a current,



relevant commentary on many of the aspects of life we see every day' (LondonTheatre1)
'an exceptional piece of writing from Michael Ross... intelligent stimulating drama that's
brimming with a satire that's very, very funny' (Once A Week Theatre).

He also wrote a new version of Lorca's Blood Wedding for Anglia Ruskin University in 2017
and is currently developing a new play The Good Landlord with new company Metamorph
Theatre. His short plays have been performed at the Arcola, Theatre503, Southwark
Playhouse and the Old Red Lion and he's had rehearsed readings at RADA and Greenwich
Theatre. His debut short film Dawn Rescue premiered at the 2012 Portobello Film Festival.

Cat Robey // Director

Cat is Associate Artist of
award-winning companies
Fat Rascal. and Ransack
Theatre, 2016 graduate of
the Birkbeck MFA in Theatre
Directing and was Resident
Assistant Director at HOME
Manchester 2015-2016.

Cat is currently developing
Black Shirts: the 18b
Testimony of Flora Poole,
Spinner by Nicola Baldwin,
supported by ACE and The
Lowry, On Arriving... by
American playwright Ivan
Faute and Weathered, a
Cuban play by Abel González
Melo.



For Fat Rascal, Cat has directed 3 musicals: the critically acclaimed gender- swapped
Beauty and the Beast, Buzz: A New Musical and Tom and Bunny Save the World.
Buzz and Tom and Bunny are both Edinburgh Fringe 2017 award-winning shows. She
also directed the award-winning The Prophetic Visions of Bethany Lewis, an adult
puppet show, in Edinburgh. Previous directing includes After Party (Pleasance), No
Signal (RADA), Enveloped in Velvet (Arts Theatre), Yerma (Fourth Monkey), Hatch
(Park Theatre), Rewritten (Tristan Bates), Freedom, Books, Flowers, and the Moon
(Waterloo East), Unknown/Small Chances (Brighton Fringe & Leicester Square),
Ondine (White Bear), Feathers (Edinburgh Fringe),
The Utility People, A Woman of No Importance...
or Somewhat Little Importance Anyhow, The
Inappropriateness of Love (all at Hen & Chickens).



Associate and Assistant Directing includes The
Emperor (Theatre for a New Audience in New York,
Young Vic, HOME, Theatre de Villes in Luxembourg),
Chamaco, Inkheart, The Oresteia, Wallflower (all
at HOME), Summer. Autumn. Winter. Spring. (Old
Grenada Studios) and Dogs Barking (RADA).
Cat is a reader for the Bruntwood Prize and teaches
at, and is on the interview panel for the MFA in
Theatre Directing at Birkbeck.

Theo Ancient // Callum



In 2017 Theo graduated from RADA. He is currently playing Albus Potter in Harry Potter and the Cursed Child in the West End. Other theatre includes Hatch (Park Theatre), The Hatchling (Theatre Royal Haymarket), Where the Wild Things Are (The Place Theatre Bedford), All One Fabric (The Yard Theatre), Faith (Courtyard Theatre) and Boys Plays (Above the Stag Theatre).



Joe C Brown // Producer

Joe C Brown is currently Associate Programmer and Producer for Assembly Festival. Previously he was Production Associate for Emma Brunjes Productions, where he both line managed the theatre department and general managed a wide variety of commercial productions. Prior to joining Emma Brunjes Productions Joe worked for the Royal Shakespeare Company on their production of Matilda The Musical in London's West End. Joe has previously worked for the Bush Theatre, Theatre 503 and Theatre Royal Stratford East.

Joe recently produced La Boheme at Trafalgar Studios which has been nominated for a 2018 Olivier Award for Best New Opera Production.

Joe's producing credits include: Iconic – A Brief History of Drag (International Tour), Velma Celli's West End Christmas (Underbelly Christmas in Leicester Square), La Boheme (Trafalgar Studios 2), Strangers In Between (Trafalgar Studios 2), Hair The Musical (The Vaults), tick, tick... BOOM! (Park Theatre), I'm Gonna Pray For You So Hard (Finborough Theatre), Exactly Like You (Old Red Lion Theatre, Edinburgh Festival Fringe – Underbelly, Crazy Coqs and Vault Festival), Andy Capp The Musical (Finborough Theatre), Dirty Laundry (Latitude Festival, Edinburgh Festival Fringe – Underbelly), Lost in the Neuron Forest (for Bread & Goose – UK tour) and Hurried Steps (for New Shoes Theatre – Three UK tours).

More information can be found at www.joecbrown.co.uk



Anthony Hollis // Producer & Production Manager

Anthony has developed multiple award winning and nominated productions, specialising in site specific and immersive content internationally.

Anthony started his career working as a Production Runner for The Bank, London where he soon moved into TV and Film working for a number of UK and international productions and advertising campaigns. He was previously Technical Production Manager at Fourth Monkey until 2016 where he joined the team at Les Enfants Terribles Theatre Company and Les Petits Theatre Company as Head of Production where he continues to develop and create both their immersive and theatrical productions worldwide.

Notable credits include : Inside Pussy Riot (The Saatchi Gallery), Dinner at the Twits (The Vaults), The Terrible Infants (Wilton's Music Hall), The Trench (Southwark Playhouse), Britains Got Talent (ThamesTV), The First Hippo on the Moon (International Tour), Captain Flinn and the Pirate Dinosaurs (International Tour) The Marlowe 450 Season (The Marlowe Theatre), The Night that Flows (Printworks), The Golden Needle (Hong Kong)and Freedom (GiffGaff).



Education & Outreach

We are pleased to be able to offer workshop sessions to accompany this production, our Education officer is available to cater the content for a range of ages and/or examination boards to ensure appropriate content for the curriculum or aims of the session.

Theo has over six years experience running drama workshops for children and young people in the UK and abroad. He feels passionately about bringing drama opportunities to all children, especially those living in hard to reach or rural areas.

Theo currently runs regular youth drama sessions at Phoenix Theatre Arts (Harlow, Essex) and works freelance for Polka Theatre's education department in London. He has training as a child counsellor and has worked closely with drama therapists in collaboration with Greenwich and Lewisham Young People's Theatre and the Children and Adolescent Mental Health Service, his work involving confidence building drama sessions for young people.

Whilst training as an actor at the Oxford School of Drama, Theo set up and ran a drama club for young people living in Tackley Village, Oxfordshire. He then went on to train at RADA where he had further training as an actor, and experience touring Shakespeare to secondary schools.

The Shy Manifesto has strong themes that are relatable to many young adults, and Theo would like to offer the opportunity for the exploration of these themes through drama.



Example Workshop Brief

The education and engagement programs available in association with The Shy Manifesto include a Q & A, resource packs and theatre workshops. These workshops will be adapted to suit the exam board and specification to suit the students participating and can be adapted to apply to both GCSE and A Level courses.

The Q & A will:

- Provide opportunities for students to investigate the thematic elements of the show in greater detail with the cast (A04)**
- Provide students with an opportunity to understand the technical elements of the performance and hear the terminology used to describe and explain the design process (A03)**
- Provide opportunities for discussion so that students are equipped to analyse and evaluate the production for live theatre analysis (A04)**

The workshop will:

- Discuss how an idea can blossom into a show with the help of collaborators (director, designer, producers etc) (A03)
 - Include warm ups and exercises that students can use in their own rehearsals and devising workshops (A02)
 - Explore ways to develop characters and differentiate between them when multi-rolling (A02)
 - Explore approaches to physical performance skills including the practices of Michael Chekhov, Jacques LeCoq and Rudolf Laban (A02)
 - Develop improvisational structures to allow students to manifest their character work, which can be reproduced as devising methods for student's own projects (A01)
- Invite opportunities to reflect on and evaluate their own work and the work of others (A04)

The Drama resource pack will:

- Provide a context for the show including the purposes and intentions of the production team (A03)
- Include interviews with the production team to aid students in completing Live Production Analysis tasks (A04)
- Include images of the original drafts of design ideas including annotated images with design terminology to assist students in writing design response questions (A03)
- Include sample answers to examination style questions annotated with marker's notes as a model for students' own writing (A04)
- Include ideas from the workshops about Michael Chekhov, Jacques Lecoq and Rudolf Laban's physical approaches to character development (A02)
- Include ideas to help students generate devising tasks based on characters and characteristics in people (A01)

The PSHE resource pack will:

- Provide a scheme of work designed to cover the Key Stage 5 PSHE unit on relationships in connection to the ideas presented in The Shy Manifesto. This scheme of work will be classroom ready with resources that teachers can use in lessons to generate discussions and cover curriculum points in an accessible and engaging way.

Bookings & Enquiries

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