

The North Wall presents

Brown Boys Swim

Written by Karim Khan

Directed by John Hoggarth

Cast

Mohsen Anish Roy
Kash Varun Raj

Creative Team

Director	John Hoggarth*
Set and Costume Designer	James Button
Composer and Sound Designer	Roshan Gunga
Movement Director	Sita Thomas
Lighting Designer	James Bailey*
Assistant Director	Amelia Thornber*

Production Team

Producer	Ria Parry*
Production Manager	James Bailey*
Marketing Manager	Amy Walters*
Associate Producer	Amelia Thornber*
Press Representative	Chloé Nelkin Consulting
	*on behalf of The North Wall

With huge thanks to Humphrey Battcock for his generous support of this production.

Tour Dates

3 – 28 August 2022

22 – 24 September 2022

26 September – 15 October 2022

Pleasance Dome, Edinburgh
The North Wall, Oxford
Soho Theatre, London

Brown Boys Swim was originally co-commissioned by The North Wall and Oxford Playhouse.

Production Sponsor



CAST

Anish Roy | Mohsen

Anish Roy trained at Royal Welsh College of Music & Drama. Recent stage credits include: *The Father and the Assassin* (National Theatre); *The Toll* and *Uncle Vanya* (Richard Burton Company); *The Merchant of Venice* (RWCMD); *Elyria* (Ma-Yi Theater Company) and *Marjana and the Forty Thieves* (Target Margin Theater).

Varun Raj | Kash

Varun Raj has a BA (Hons) Psychology and Drama degree from the University of Winchester along with an MA from Mountview Academy of Theatre Arts. Recent screen credits include: *It's the Blackness* (Film); *Shakespeare & Hathaway* (TV); *Baar Baar Dekho* (Feature film) and *Gold* (Feature film). Recent stage credits include: *The Girl on the Train* (ETF); *Mushy* (Watford Palace/UK Tour); *The Wolf, The Duck and The Mouse* (Unicorn Theatre) and *Dubailand* (Finborough Theatre).

CREATIVE TEAM

Karim Khan | Writer

Karim Khan is a screenwriter and playwright, based in Oxford. He's written an episode for Series 3 of Channel 5/PBS show *All Creatures Great and Small* (TX Autumn 2022). He is currently writing episodes for two new shows for the BBC, and has been in a number of writers' rooms.

He is in development on several original projects and adaptations with BBC/ Clerkenwell, New Pictures, Kudos, The Ink Factory, World Productions and Left Bank Pictures. This year, he was awarded the inaugural Pillars Artist Fellowship – sponsored by Netflix and Amazon studios – supported by Riz Ahmed's Left Handed Films.

Karim is also developing a new TV project with his mentor Mike Bartlett as part of the ITV/Dancing Ledge/ScreenSkills writers' initiative.

In 2019, Karim graduated from the MA Screenwriting course at the National Film and Television School with a scholarship sponsored by Toledo Productions and Channel 4. Karim has been a part of the Soho Writers Lab and the Royal Court Writers Group.

His stage writing credits include: *Corrosive* (Pegasus Theatre), *Beyond Shame* (Derby Theatre) and *Orange Juice* (The Pleasance, Burton Taylor Studio). Karim has contributed to Radio 4 sketch show *Sketchtopia* (TX April 2018), and has written three short animation films, *A Bird with No Legs*, *Pigeons* and *Cabin Pressure*.

John Hoggarth | Director

John Hoggarth was born and brought up in Whitby, North Yorkshire. He worked as an actor for several years before expanding his work to include writing and directing. In 2003 he became joint artistic director of the National Youth Theatre and for several years combined the artistic directorship of the NYT with a prolific writing career. In recent years he has had his writing produced for television, radio and the stage.

John has developed a reputation for developing burgeoning comedy talent and has seen collaborations lead to several comedy awards including the winning of both *So Think You're Funny?* and the BBC new talent award. John co-wrote and directed the sketch show *The Ginge*, *The Geordie* and *The Geek*, which had sell-out runs at three consecutive Edinburgh Fringe Festivals and was commissioned by BBC2 for a six-episode series where John was writer and creative producer.

He is currently Co-Director of The North Wall Arts Centre. In 2018 he directed Monica Dolan in the *The B*east*s at the Edinburgh Fringe. The show transferred for an extended run at The Bush Theatre and was nominated for an Olivier Award for Outstanding Achievement in an Affiliate Theatre.

James Button | Set and Costume Designer

James Button trained at Wimbledon School of Art. His stage credits include: *Comedy of Errors* and *Little Shop of Horrors* (Mercury Theatre); *Neville's Island* (Queen's Theatre); *Snow White and the Happy Ever After Salon*, *Breaking the Code*, *Relatively Speaking*, *Beauty and the Beast*, *Love on the Links*, *Jack and the Beanstalk*, *Worst Wedding Ever*, *Hedda Gabler*, *Little Shop of Horrors* and *On Golden Pond* (Salisbury Playhouse); *The Bolds*, *Othello*, *Baddies the Musical*, *Jason and the Argonauts*, *The Nutcracker and the Mouse King*, *Velveteen Rabbit*, *Not Now Bernard*, *Henry V*, *Dr Korczak's Example* and *A Winter's Tale* (Unicorn Theatre); *Romeo and Juliet* (Theatre Trier, Germany); *Zigger Zagger* (Wilton's Music Hall); *Disgraced* and *Charlotte's Web* (Singapore Rep Theatre); *Island Nation* (Arcola Theatre); *Jane Wenham the Witch of Walkern* (Out of Joint/tour); *Albion* and *The B*east*s (Bush Theatre); *Absent Made Present* (Linbury Theatre); *Orpheus and Eurydice* and *Our Days of Rage* (Old Vic Tunnels); *Jefferson's Garden*, *The Trial*, *Gulliver's Travels* and *Grimm Tales* (Watford Palace Theatre); *Relish* (Tramshed, Shoreditch), *Rewind* and *King Lear* (Young Vic) and *The Seed* (Goat and Monkey Theatre).

Roshan Gunga | Composer and Sound Designer

Roshan Gunga is a graduate of the National Film & Television School (MA) with a mentorship under the Academy Award-winning film composer, Dario Marianelli. His works include: Comedy Central UK series *Drunk History: Black Stories*; *Azaar*, which received a BAFTA nomination for best British Short Film in 2020; *Wild Tokyo* (ITV) and *Eva Kor: The Holocaust survivor who forgave the Nazis* (BBC). He has also worked as an assistant for Emilie Levenaise-Farrouch with her music for *Rocks*, directed by Sarah Gavron. Other notable scores include *The Grandfather Machine*, a video game which was nominated for the Grads in Games Best Student Game Award 2018; and *Mother's Ruin*, an animated musical starring Paul Whitehouse and Jaime Winstone.

Sita Thomas | Movement Director

Dr Sita Thomas is Artistic Director of Fio theatre company based in Cardiff. She is Creative Associate at Wales Millennium Centre, Associate Artist at National Youth Theatre, and Headlong Origins Director.

Directing credits include: *Coventry Embraces*, a large-scale site-specific production as part of Good Chance's *The Walk with Little Amal*; *Go Tell The Bees*, a co-created community led feature film about Pembrokeshire for National Theatre Wales; *Press Play Here*, short films for Theatre Royal Stratford East; *Under The Mask*, a binaural audio drama about the NHS for Tamasha and Oxford Playhouse. As assistant, associate and staff director, Sita has worked at National Theatre, Royal Court, Theatre Royal Stratford East and Royal Festival Hall. Sita holds a PhD from the University of Warwick and a Masters in Movement Direction from Royal Central School of Speech and Drama. She is a trustee of Emergency Exit Arts and Young Vic, and is part of the advisory groups for Refugee Week and Movement Directors' Association. Sita is also a presenter of Channel 5's *milkshake!*

James Bailey | Lighting Designer / Production Manager

James is currently the Theatre Technician at The North Wall. Lighting Designer credits include: *The Snow Queen* (Paper Finch, Theatre Clwyd) and *The Nutcracker* (Paper Finch, Theatre Clwyd). He was the recipient of the Judges' Award at the National Student Drama Festival for his Production Design work on *Departures: A Song Cycle* (Versimo Theatre, Pleasance London).

Amelia Thornber | Assistant Director / Associate Producer

Amelia is a working-class, mixed-race, multi-disciplinary artist who grew up in Derbyshire but now lives in Oxford. She graduated from Oxford Brookes in 2019 and began working as a stage manager, before moving into producing. She is currently Associate Producer at The North Wall Arts Centre.

As Director she has followed the training route of RTYDS schemes, as well as being a Tamasha Director 2021–2022, and as Producer she has been on Stage One's Bridge The Gap and China Plate's Optimists. As Assistant Director she has worked with Emma Rice on *Bagdad Cafe* (The Old Vic), John Terry on *The Mountaintop* (Chipping Norton Theatre) and Anna Glynn on *Animal Rocks* (Oxford Playhouse). Amelia is passionate about breaking down barriers and supporting early-career artists to get into the industry. She also wants to increase representation within stories on stage, in backstage creative teams, in our audiences and at leadership level – creating an industry that is more reflective of our society. She cares greatly about making high-quality work locally. Outside of theatre, she loves live music and attending gigs and festivals, she is also a bedroom-DJ and music producer.

Ria Parry | Producer

Ria is Co- Director of The North Wall Arts Centre. She was previously co-founder and producer of Iron Shoes Theatre Company, touring small-scale new work across the UK and at the Edinburgh Festival. She has won Fringe First Awards for new plays by Gbolahan Obisesan, Paul Charlton and Marika Mckennell. As a director and producer she has worked with organisations including the Bush Theatre, Young Vic, Unicorn Theatre, Salisbury Playhouse, Southbank Centre, Out of Joint, Regent's Park Open Air Theatre, RADA, LAMDA, New Earth Theatre and Touretteshero. Ria was previously a Creative Producer at Watford Palace Theatre and is an alumnus of the National Theatre's Step Change Leadership Programme. She was awarded the Leverhulme Bursary for Emerging Directors in 2010, becoming Resident Director at the National Theatre Studio.

About The North Wall

The award- winning North Wall Arts Centre opened in 2007, and brings together artists and audiences from Oxford and beyond to make, share and experience art of the highest quality. Comprising a theatre, gallery and studio spaces, the venue's public programme places an emphasis on contemporary work, amplifying diverse voices and providing a platform for untold stories.

Alongside its programming, The North Wall supports artists through its ArtsLab programme, which offers established and early-career artists the chance to develop and showcase new work through residencies, mentorship and training.

In addition to this, the venue runs a participation programme with children, young people and families at its heart; forging long-term partnerships with local schools and community groups to co-create projects which bring people together through creative opportunities.

The North Wall is grateful for the continued support of its principal sponsor, St Edward's School.

Co-Directors	John Hoggarth & Ria Parry
Programme & Marketing Manager	Amy Walters
Technical Manager	Clive Stevenson
Participation Manager	Abigail Walton
Gallery Manager	Nicky Laird
General Manager	Wendy Weiss
Associate Producer	Amelia Thornber
Front of House Manager	Gabi Wilson
Theatre Technician	James Bailey
Front of House Supervisors	Guendalina Degl'inocenti
	Ethan Powell

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