

The Company



Harvey Brough (Composer and Conductor) is one of the UK's most accomplished and diverse musicians and has worked as a freelance performer, arranger, conductor, producer and composer, having great success with **Harvey and the**

Wallbangers in the 1980s throughout Europe. His compositions have been performed at the Barbican, Royal Opera House, Queen Elizabeth Hall, St John's Smith Square, Cadogan Hall and many other major venues. For twelve years, Harvey has been composer in residence and patron of **VOX HOLLOWAY**, presenting a regular series of innovative concerts creating new and eclectic programmes.



Carole Hayman (Libretto) is a Writer, Producer & Presenter. A regular contributor to the BBC, Carole writes for radio, television and film and has made many documentaries and podcasts. She is well known as writer of the Radio 4 hit series "**Ladies of**

Letters" which ran for many series on Radio 4 and ITV and is currently on tour. The Hive is her first Opera, loosely based on material gained from prior research into female serial killers. Carole has now embarked on her second – **The Rotters Opera** – a contemporary take based on scurrilous goings on in her home town of Deal during the late 19th century.



Ellen Cairns (Designer) After training at Glasgow School of Art she completed a post graduate degree at The Slade in London. She has worked extensively in both this country and abroad. Passionate about live performance, recent productions

include "**Educating Rita**" starring Lenny Henry and Lashana Lynch at Chichester, a full orchestra and chorus production of "**West Side Story**" for Estonian National Opera and a "doorstep pantomime" production of "**Jack and the Beanstalk**" in Kent during lockdown!



Paulette Randall (Director) is a British theatre director, working alongside Danny Boyle as the Associate Director for the opening ceremony of the **London 2012 Olympics**.

After graduating from Rose Bruford College of Speech and Drama, she and two fellow students set up the **Theatre of Black Women**, in response to the lack of roles for black actors at the time. Appointed an MBE in 2015 for services to drama, she was awarded an honorary degree from Brunel University in the same year. In 2016 she was given a lifetime achievement award for her work as a director and playwright in film and TV at the inaugural WOW Creative Industries Awards, presented by the Women of the World Festival at the Southbank Centre.

Stage Manager

Chloe Astleford

Lighting Designer

Avery Elliott

Production Co-ordinator

Dermot McLaughlin

Executive Producer

Carole Hayman

Associate Producers

**Helene Mathieson
Pat Wilson**

Photographer

Josh Pulman

Sound Recordist

Charles Wong

Musicians

Sarah O'Flynn

Flute

Matthew Ward

Violin 1

Rebekah Allan

Violin 2

Oliver Wilson

Viola

Laura MacDonald

Violoncello

Lucia Polo Moreno

Contrabass

Gabriella Dall'Olio

Harp

Jay Carroll

Piano

Graham Instrall

Percussion

Hive Opera presents a scratch performance of

a new opera by Harvey Brough and Carole Hayman

THE HIVE

7TH JULY
7:30PM

“NO ONE ESCAPES”

MUSIC BY HARVEY BROUGH WORDS BY CAROLE HAYMAN
DIRECTED BY PAULETTE RANDALL SET DESIGN BY ELLEN CAIRNS

THEHIVEOPERA.UK

H HOXTON HALL
BOX OFFICE: 020 7684 0060

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A story as beguiling as it is shocking.

THE HIVE is an opera based in the world of forensic psychiatry. It fuses verbatim interviews with Harvey Brough's scorching operatic score to explore our fascination with serial killers – from grim tales to the real thing; from the first act of murder to the protracted effect of psychopathic darkness.

Conceived and written by Carole Hayman, the libretto was inspired by research she had done as a Fellow at Kings College London – a study of women who commit serial murder. This became a 4-screen video installation of verbatim interviews with those intimately connected to killings. Carole returned to the project a few years later with a workshop at the Out of Joint Theatre Company. From that came The Hive libretto – the title from a forensic psychiatrist who said in an interview, 'Women kill close to the hive'.

Together, the Hive words and music aim to address some of human nature's darkest depths, yet move rather than horrify, while keeping us emotionally charged. Quite the challenge!

Cast & Singers

Olivia Bell (Mezzo, Gretel, Griselda, Dr M) a joint recipient of the national Joaninha Award, was awarded the Director's Award for Excellence and won Trinity's Gold Medal and Audience Prize. A former young artist at Bury Court Opera, recent roles include Nancy, *Albert Herring*, St Paul's Opera, cover, *Haïch Syllable*, Trinity Laban / Theatre O. A keen librettist, she has been commissioned by the Royal Opera House and London Mozart Players. She is delighted to have been awarded a scholarship to study on the Opera Makers programme at the Guildhall School from September.

British Baritone **Will Diggle (Bass, Ensemble)** has performed extensively both in the UK and internationally. His operatic career began at the Royal Academy of Music where he gained a BMus degree with a first with Hons. He went on to gain a master's in music from the Royal College of Music. Most notable international roles include: Germano from Rossini's *La Scala di Seta* at the Teatro Signorelli, Italy, *Don Giovanni* & *La Traviata* at Sydney Opera House, performances at Tsaritsyno Palace, Moscow and the role of Dulcamara in *L'elisir d'amore* by Donizetti in the New Generation Festival, in Florence Italy.

Lucy Elston (Soprano, Ensemble) an award-winning soprano based in Warwick and London appeared previously at Hoxton Hall with Gothic Opera as Anna in the UK premiere of *La Nonne Sanglante* by Gounod. Operatic roles include Pamina, *Die Zauberflöte*, Euridice, *Orfeo ed Euridice*, Galatea, *Acis and Galatea*. In 2020 she was a winner of Wilton's Music Hall's 'Music 4 all' competition in the Opera Category, mentored by English National Opera. She founded 'Opera In The Meantime' in 2017.

Sasja Haeck (Mezzo, Ensemble) is a Mezzo Soprano from Amsterdam who has just completed her Masters at the Royal Northern College of Music. Performances for RNCM include Baba / Madame Flora in *The Medium*, Marcellina in Mozart's *Le Nozze di Figaro*, Margarita in Ermanno-Wolff's *Quattro Rusteghi*, La Pêrichole in Offenbach's *La Pêrichole* and Cherubino in Mozart's *Le Nozze Figaro*. She has also performed in Opera Spanga's *The Other*, a newly composed opera film, and most recently sang in their chorus of *Carmen*.

Shafali Jalota (Soprano, Cinders, Maid Marion, Red Riding Hood) is a prizewinning British-American soprano. Recent performances include Susanna in Mozart's *Le nozze di Figaro* with Hampstead Garden Opera and Romilda in Handel's *Serse* with Opera Neo. Equally at home on the concert stage, Shafali has sung at the Holywell Music Room in Oxford, UK, and the Phillips Collection in Washington, D.C., as well as with the Durham Symphony Orchestra and the North Carolina Symphony Orchestra. Shafali is a graduate of the Maryland Opera Studio and UNC Chapel Hill. She is currently based in London.

Tenor **Christian Joel (Hunter)** from Trinidad and Tobago began his musical training at 18. After completing a degree in French and Spanish, he moved to Europe to pursue his passion for singing and performing. A highly experienced concert soloist he appeared as the tenor soloist in Handel's *Israel in Egypt*, Handel's *Messiah*, and has performed numerous Bach cantatas all over Switzerland and many concerts in Lyon. He was an artist at the International Opera Studio at the Opera de Lyon for the 2019-2020 season.

Baritone **Matthew Kellett (Dr T, Hansel)** is a graduate of The Royal Northern College of Music and Trinity College of Music, where he was awarded the TCM Trust's Silver Medal for vocal studies. A regular performer throughout the UK, most often seen with Charles Court Opera, his roles include: Papageno, *The Magic Flute*, Basilio, *The Barber of Seville*, Robin Oakapple, *Ruddigore* and Dick Deadeye, *HMS Pinafore*. Later this year, Matthew will tour with The National Gilbert and Sullivan Opera Company as The Lord Chancellor in *Iolanthe*.

Janette Legge (Barrister, Crystal), acted in many productions at The Royal Court, Bush and Soho Theatres, all associated with producing the works of new writers; being in plays by Edward Bond, Sarah Daniels, Jane Thornton, Sue Townsend, Arnold Wesker. Her involvement with tonight's production began 7 years ago in a Workshop with Out of Joint.



Bass **Kevin Neville (Dr G, Ensemble)** hails from Limerick, Ireland. He completed his BA (Hons) in Music and English Literature at Trinity College Dublin and his MMus with First Class Honours at the Conservatory of Music and Drama D.I.T. An alumni of the Northern Ireland Opera Studio, Kevin made his début with Irish National Opera as Schlemihl in Offenbach's *The Tales of Hoffmann* in 2018. He has performed as a soloist at the National Concert Hall, St. Patrick's Cathedral, University Concert Hall and Ulster Hall, recently creating the role of George Hare in a new site specific opera called *No. 2 Pery Square* by Fiona Linnane.

British soprano **Rosie Rowell (Dr B, Ensemble)** made her Welsh National Opera debut in 2019 as Sister Rose in *Dead Man Walking*, debuting with Grange Park Opera debut in 2021 as Stesha in Rimsky-Korsakov's *Ivan the Terrible*. Other roles include Fiordiligi, *Così fan tutte*, Miss Wordsworth, *Albert Herring* and Atalanta, *Xerxes*. Josie graduated with Distinction from the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama David Seligman Opera School, where she was awarded the Adelina Patti Prize and the Elias Singing Prize for Soprano. She is also the grateful recipient of a Sybil Tutton Opera Award from Help Musicians UK.

Tenor **Andrew Woodmansey (Dr J, Ensemble)** is a Master's student at Trinity Laban supported by the Elliot Rosenblatt Memorial Scholarship, the Prowdes Trust, and the Williams Trust. A keen exponent of Contemporary music, he has appeared in World and UK premieres, including works by Michael Gordon, Peter Wiegold and John Sturt. Roles have included Tamino, *Die Zauberflöte*, Don Ottavio, *a reduced Don Giovanni*. Soloist engagements have included Beethoven's *9th Symphony*, *Carmina Burana* and Bach's *St John Passion* (arias and Evangelist) among several others in venues such as Christchurch Priory, St John's, Guernsey and The National Center for Arts, Mumbai.

Find out more

For more information, a synopsis and clips from performances, visit <https://thehiveopera.uk>

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