



Loudon Moran Productions

World premiere and UK 2021 Tour

In The Sea There Are Crocodiles

The true story of a refugee child

Adapted from the international bestseller

In The Sea There Are Crocodiles

by

Fabio Geda

LoudonMoranProductions

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Rt Revd Lord Harries
Sally Phillips
Cayenna Ponchione-Bailey
Jude Pullman
Julian Rhind-Tutt
Juliet Stevenson
Harriet Walter

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**We are deeply grateful for your
generous support and friendship**

In February 2019, I discovered Young Roots, a charity providing immediate & long-term support to child refugees in the UK, through its patron, the actor Juliet Stevenson. I was so moved by the work that it does that I swore to her that I would find a way to raise money for it. I had no idea how.

I'd read the true story *In The Sea There Are Crocodiles* some years earlier, and it haunted me ever after. I'd read how, at the age of ten, Enaiat Akbari's village fell prey to the Taliban; how, fearing for his life, Enaiat's mother (in an act of astonishing courage and maternal sacrifice) led him across the border where she left him, alone, to fend for himself. I'd read about Enaiat's five-year ordeal: traversing bitterly cold mountains, near-suffocating in the base of a truck, steering an inflatable raft in violent seas. I'd marvelled how that young boy crossed Pakistan, Iran, Turkey, and Greece - discovering brotherhood, witnessing death, and losing everything but hope - before arriving in Italy, aged fifteen.

In August 2019, while on holiday, it hit me: the book would make an incredible play, and the play could be the fundraiser. I sent the book to the renowned youth theatre director Nicola Moran, and asked if we could meet over tea in a café in September. She agreed. Before we'd even ordered tea, she said, "This would make a brilliant play." I said, "I know. I'm going to produce it; you're going to write it." She said, "But you're the author; you should write it." I said, "No way. I've just written a novel. I'm knackered. And you've done adaptations before and they are fantastic. You are the one." She said, "Have you ever produced a play before?" I said, "No, but I love a challenge."

We began work, right there and then in the café. Three months later, LoudonMoranProductions was formed, we'd bought the UK theatre rights to the book, Nicola adapted it into the play, we cast some wonderful young actors, booked professional theatres, and I started fund-raising for the considerable production costs.

Then, the pandemic struck. However, we were determined, and determined not to let people down. We didn't cancel. We postponed the planned Autumn 2020 tour, and later rearranged it from scratch, admittedly with the sad loss of five professional venues in the process, whose scheduling had been rendered chaotic by repeated lockdowns. Nonetheless, with huge efforts all round, we did it. I sincerely hope those efforts will richly reward you, our audience, with an experience that we are, at last, so glad to share with you.

How I wish the play were fiction. How I wish it were not more relevant now than ever before. Our 21-year-old Afghan composer, Arson Fahim, is a former refugee himself and just as our cast went into rehearsals, he left Afghanistan for the US, to take up a prestigious scholarship to a music conservatoire. It could be the greatest adventure of his life. A fortnight after his arrival, Afghanistan was taken over by the Taliban. Arson is a long way from home. He is a long way from his family, who are in hiding. It should not be this way for anyone. It is appalling that it is.

In the Sea There Are Crocodiles is one child's epic tale of hope and survival. As unaccompanied children around the world continue daily to seek asylum, and as the people of Afghanistan in particular suffer in ways that few of us can even imagine, this is a tale that is lived by children just like ours, every single day.

Thank you for coming to our play. Thank you for your support.

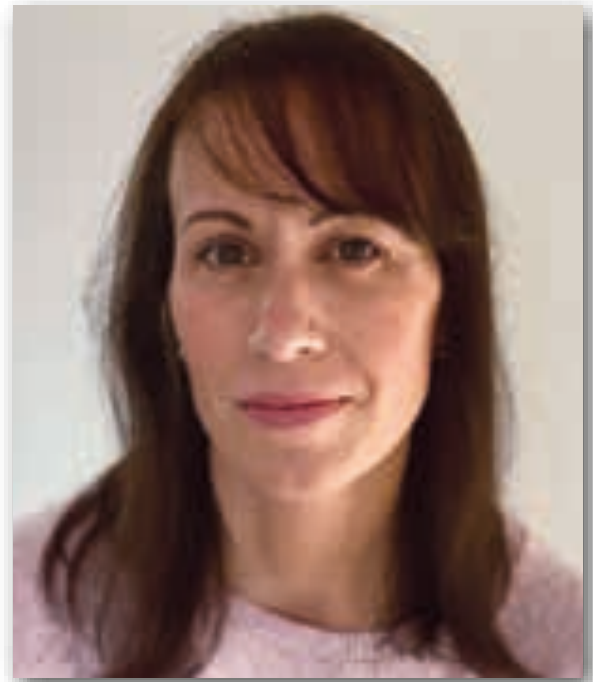
Mary Loudon



Mary Loudon

Producer

Mary Loudon is the bestselling author of five books of non-fiction and fiction, published in the UK, USA, Canada, Australia, South Africa, France, Germany, Holland, Italy, Portugal and Norway. She has also contributed essays and poetry to six anthologies. An experienced public speaker, Mary has chaired and taken part in many public discussions, and has made over 200 radio and TV appearances. She has been a judge for the Whitbread Prize & Costa Book Awards. Mary has won four writer's prizes, as well as being short-listed for *MIND Book of the Year* and long-listed for *Richard & Judy Book of The Year*. Her recent novel, *My House Is Falling Down*, is being adapted for stage in 2022.



Nicola Moran

Director

Nicola Moran trained at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama, where she graduated with a First Class Honours degree in Acting and was presented with the finalists' gold medal for outstanding achievement. She performed on screen & stage for many years before starting her own drama academy. With a very strong interest in cultivating young talent, Nicola focuses on developing the acting skills of children of all ages, and her students have had many successes at UK drama festivals. She also coaches students preparing for LAMDA exams. Nicola has written, adapted & directed numerous plays including *DNA*, *Kindertransport*, *Jane Eyre*, & *Evacuees*. She is on the Board of Trustees of the Pegasus Theatre in Oxford.



Arson Fahim

Composer

Arson Fahim is a 21-year-old pianist, composer and conductor from Afghanistan. Born a refugee, in a Pakistan camp for displaced Afghans, his father worked in the camp as a teacher. However, money was so scarce that when Arson was three, his parents placed him in an orphanage 90 miles away, in the hope that he would receive a good education. There he remained until he was twelve, when the family reunited and returned finally to Kabul. It was there, in a children's learning centre, that Arson saw a piano for the first time. It was being played: a piano teacher was giving a lesson to another child; but he let Arson come to the piano and touch it, key by key. Later that day, Arson received his first lesson.

Arson graduated from the Afghanistan National Institute of Music - where he was the conductor

of the Afghanistan National Symphony Orchestra - in 2021. It is a perilous position to hold: musicians are Taliban targets. During one student concert that Arson missed because he was ill, a suicide bomber attacked the school, killing an audience member.

Arson began to play his own compositions dedicated to people killed in the ongoing conflict in Afghanistan. In 2020, the South Asian Symphony Foundation selected him as its ambassador for peace.

Arson is currently studying piano performance at the Longy School of Music in Cambridge, Massachusetts. He arrived in the US just two weeks before the recent Taliban takeover. His family is in hiding in Kabul.

Cast

Enaiat

Ruairí Hopkins-McQuillan Young Enaiat/Ensemble

Max Burnett Enaiat/Ensemble

Daniel Metcalfe Older Enaiat

Company

in order of appearance

Rosie Reeves Mother/Site boy/Ensemble

Tiago Boeing Kaka Rahim/Longbeard/Kahled/Greek man/

Abrar Naqvi/Ensemble

Hailey Hepburn Kaka Zaman/Site boy/Majid/Trafficker/Walker/Ensemble

Jane St George Laleh/Hazara boy/Trafficker/Wahid/Daniela/Ensemble

Benedict Hutchinson Baluchi boy/Policeman/

Trafficker/Jamal/Businessman/Ensemble

Luke Hipkin Foreman/Policeman/Farid/Sultan/Marco/Ensemble

Alex Hopkins-McQuillan Osta Sahib/Fundamentalist/

Rahmat/Payam/Ensemble

Leo Thrower Baluchi boy/Tajik Man/Hamid/Ansari/Trafficker/Walker/

Commissioner/Ensemble

Laurence Burzynski-White Sufi/Matteo/Ensemble

Grace Moran Hazara boy/Site boy/Bengali boy/Hussein Ali/Ensemble

Phoebe Cowhig Hazara boy/Factory boy/Young boy/Ensemble

Madelyn Macgregor Site boy/Moaning boy/Francesca/Ensemble

Lucy Moran Liaqat/Ensemble

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Producer **Mary Loudon**

Director **Nicola Moran**

Adaptation **Nicola Moran**
Set & Costume Designers **Nicola & Lucy Moran**
Lighting Designer **George Jackson**
Sound **George Jackson**
Stage Manager **Emma Harrison**
Assistant Stage Manager **Lucy Moran**
Music Editor **Lucy Moran**
Movement **Nicola Moran**
Language advisor **Safoora Teli**
Props **Rosalynde Hopkins-McQuillan**
Costume and sheet alterations **Gemma Graham**
Company Press & Publicity **Mary Loudon**
Tour Manager **Mary Loudon**
Financial Director **Mary Loudon**
Social Media Manager, Instagram & Facebook **Lucy Moran**
Social Media Manager, Twitter **Mary Loudon**
Assistant Social Media Manager, Twitter **Rob D Barrow**

With special thanks

John Gale, Hannah Newton, Rick Holroyd & Pam Stokell in WANTAGE
Vicky Cooper, Melanie Rowntree in NEWBURY
Ken Palmer, Liz Peretz, Nikos Paplomatas, Cayenna Ponchione-Bailey in OXFORD
Ian Hargreaves, Andrea Byrne, Emma Evans in CARDIFF
&
Toni Racklin at the Barbican, LONDON

Fabio Geda & Einaiat Akbari

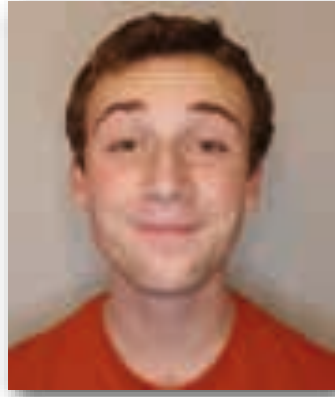
با عشق

Cast



Tiago Boeing

Tiago grew up in Brazil: aged five, he moved to the UK, where he has lived ever since. He has a Pegasus Theatre Diploma in Performing Arts, and he would like to have a full-time career in theatre.



Max Burnett

Max has lived in Oxfordshire for ten years. He has a Pegasus Theatre Diploma in Performing Arts. He is hoping to continue to develop as an actor.



Laurence Burzynski-White

Laurence grew up in Oxfordshire. He is currently studying for a degree in architecture at The University of Nottingham.



Alex Hopkins-McQuillan

Alex is studying English at Oxford University, where he is involved in student productions. As a child, he performed at the Watermill Theatre, Newbury. He is interested in working in theatre, film or TV.



Ruairi Hopkins-McQuillan

Ruairí is at school in Newbury, where his favourite subjects are History, Drama and Dance. He has been very involved in school drama and dance productions and has performed at the Watermill Theatre, Newbury. He wants to carry on acting in the future.



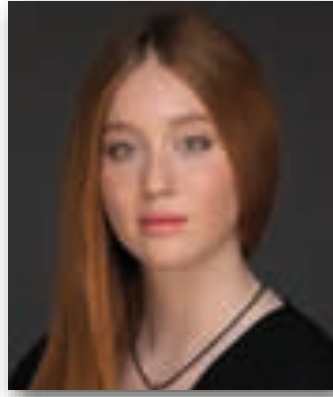
Benedict Hutchinson

Benedict is a third-year student at Cardiff University, studying English Literature and Creative Writing. He would like to pursue a career in film after he leaves.



Phoebe Cowhig

Phoebe grew up in Berkshire. She graduated this year from Tring Park School for the Performing Arts with a diploma in Professional Dance. She is due to begin studying Natural Sciences at the University of Cambridge, this autumn, after which she hopes to perform professionally as a dancer and actor.



Hailey Hepburn

Hailey Hepburn, though originally born in Oxford, grew up in Malaga, Spain. She has a Pegasus Theatre Diploma in Performing Arts. She is due to begin a degree in Theatre and Performance at Warwick University, where she hopes to further her career as an actor.



Luke Hipkin

Luke lives in Oxfordshire and is studying for the Pegasus Theatre Diploma in Performing Arts, in Oxford. He hopes to pursue a career in both film and theatre.



Madelyn Macgregor

Madelyn lives in Berkshire and started acting when she was six years old, when she began training with Nicola Moran. She has since performed with a number of theatres and production companies.



Daniel Metcalfe

Daniel is going to study at the Oxford School of Drama and hopes to work as an actor in the future.



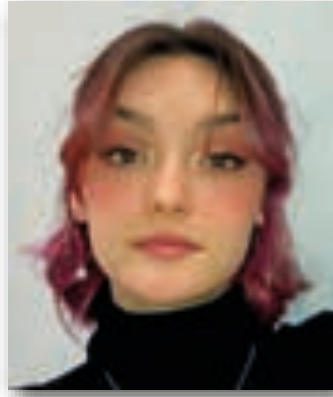
Grace Moran

Grace is studying for her GCSEs in Berkshire. She has trained in drama and dance, and regularly performs with the Newbury Corn Exchange Youth Theatre. Grace hopes to pursue an acting career when she leaves school.



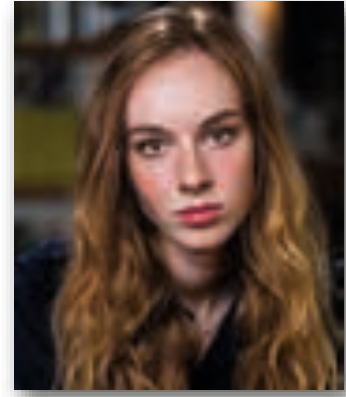
Lucy Moran

Lucy is studying Musical Theatre at The Urdang Academy in London. She hopes for a future performing in the West End.



Rosie Reeves

Rosie is going to study Anthropology at the University of Manchester. She has performed in musicals and plays as extracurriculars, and hopes to continue performing alongside studying for her degree.



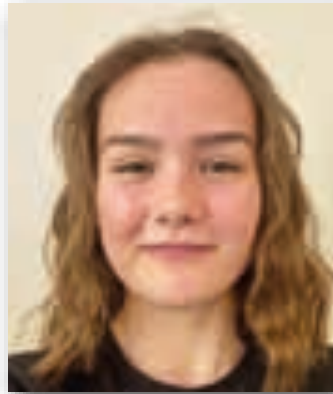
Jane St George

Jane St George grew up in Oxfordshire and mid-Wales. She has worked with Netflix, Optimum and Lionsgate since she was fifteen, and is currently studying English Literature at the University of Edinburgh. She hopes to work in film and television.



Leo Thrower

Leo Thrower is a dancer, actor and singer living in Oxford. He is studying at the Northern Ballet School in Manchester and hopes to work in musical theatre.



Emma Harrison

Stage Manager

Emma Harrison is currently studying for A levels in Biology, Drama and Mathematics. She has a keen interest in Stage Management, and is hoping to study at University next year.



George Jackson

Technical Director

George started JT Stage Productions in 2013, after graduating from university. He has a wealth of experience in sound engineering for theatre and live events, and provides technical support for hundreds of shows a year.

Young Roots works with young refugees aged 11-25, supporting them to improve their wellbeing and fulfil their potential, through intensive 1:1 Casework, weekly youth and sporting activities, English language mentoring, youth leadership and access to expert therapeutic and legal advice.

IN SUPPORT OF

Young Roots supports around 650 young refugees and asylum seekers each year, the majority of whom are without their families and particularly isolated. Most have not arrived in the UK through safe routes and have experienced severe trauma.

We recognise the huge potential and remarkable resilience of the young people we support. Our approach is informed by the needs and wishes of each individual and the trusted relationships we build ensure they feel able and ready to access the support they need. Young people often describe us as a 'second family'.



Anjarut's Story

I have been coming to Young Roots since 2017, after Social Services disputed my age and I was moved out of young person's housing and into a hostel.

I was really sad about my experiences in Afghanistan and en-route to the UK, especially in the Calais Jungle. My bad living situation made me feel worse about the things I had experienced.

With Young Roots' support, I have achieved a lot. I have got my papers, I have learned English, I have made friends, I have got my driving license, I am going to college, I have a travel document, I had a good solicitor who helped me to win my case and can help me again. I still feel a bit sad about things in my life, but it is better than when I first arrived. I still miss my family.

SCAN TO DONATE



Thank you for supporting young refugees like Anjarut



youngroots.org.uk

[@weareyoungroots](https://www.instagram.com/weareyoungroots)

[justgiving.com/youngroots](https://www.justgiving.com/youngroots)





“The function of freedom is to free someone else.”
– Toni Morrison