

At Moot Hall, The Stow, Harlow CM20 3AG

GLASS CEILING

Sam - Ben Hawkins Harry - Nathan Ryan Jay - Dan Powell Rob - Tyrone Samuels Louise - Kerry Rowland Kate - Claire Quley

Production team: Anne Farr, Tony Edwards, Geoff Leeds, Jacqui Leeds, Henrietta Branwell, Bridget McAlpine

Set: Anne Farr and Paul Regeli

Props and Costume: Michael and Rosie Caswell

Technical Team: Joe Tomlinson, Phil Waite, Michael Branwell.

Special thanks to: David Stevens for filming our YouTube video and getting our sound together; John Hawkins for sourcing rehearsal spaces; The Hare Pub for supplying the mini fridge and also for the hospitality when planning this show.

There will be one interval

After one too many drinks in a Soho bar called De Hems, the idea of a joint return to the stage after 5 years was raised. The next morning the consequences of our decision hit hard like a very strong headache. We wanted this production to be bold, contemporary and as fearless as possible. Then that weekend in August, during the disturbances now etched into our memories, a text was sent between two members of the cast stating simply "we have found our play".

Over the course of the next 5 months, we created what you see tonight. We are proud that Glass Ceiling fulfils our initial aim: a strong, fastpaced piece of contemporary theatre devised using a mix of improvisation and script writing. Taking its cue from this year's riots, this play makes a fascinating and moving comment on contemporary life. "The UK's social problems have exploded in our face...the worst cases of greed, irresponsibility and entitlement", David Cameron, 2011.

Sam sits nervously outside the interview room, completely unaware of what faces him inside. As he looks around at Leeds University's grand architecture, he feels small, insignificant and unworthy. Sam knows that this is his big chance to escape; escape his dead-end life in a dead-end town...the haunting fate that he has been scurrying from all his life. But what can Sam do when he cannot escape, no matter how hard he tries, cannot avoid the same uninspiring destiny as his peers and cannot break through the Glass Ceiling? This personal account of the rioting in England and its deep-rooted social, economic and political causes is intended to produce not only an engaging story but a strong, often uncomfortable, set of moral / political questions for our society.

Whilst this play is not set in or based on this town, certain aspects of this performance have Harlow running through its veins. We are indebted to those who have supported us along the way and hope that, at the very least, this piece forms an opinion in our audience.

MOOT HOUSE PLAYERS offer to all performers, (experienced or newcomers!) ADULTS' DRAMA CLASSES every Wednesday evening (except the first week of every month) in the Moot House Small Hall from 8.00 p.m. to 10 p.m. *Price £4.00 per class** *plus one-off annual membership of Moot House C.A. if not already a member For more information phone 01279 639170

DATES FOR YOUR DIARIES

22nd - 24th March – "My Mother Said I Never Should" by Charlotte Keatley. Said to be the most performed play in the English language written by a woman playwright. The players first gave it in the 1990s, and we think it's due a revival. An engaging reflection on the lives of four generations of women in a family, the times in which they lived and the way that social change influences their lives. Great drama.

10th - 12th May – "Life and Beth" by the ever popular Alan Ayckbourn.

12th - 14th July – "The New M.P.". Michael Branwell is writing a political "who's doing it" (as opposed to a "who done it"!). Known internationally for his excellent and workable translations and adaptations including last season's "Booty", Michael is turning his talents to a wholly original full length play. Like "Glass Ceiling" it takes its inspiration from recent political events.

Moot House Players acknowledges with thanks the help of their parent organisation, the Mark Hall and Netteswell Community Association.

Moot House Players can be contacted at moothouse.players@ntlworld.com

Details of past and future productions can be found on the Company's website www.moothouseplayers.com

If you are not on our mailing list, please leave your name and address at the Box Office - if you have an e-mail address we can use, please let us have it, as we can, more easily, reach everyone by e-mail in advance of each production.