

**PROGRESS**  
Y♥TH

**1 - 4 November 2023**

[progresstheatre.co.uk](http://progresstheatre.co.uk)



# *Blood Wedding*



**By Federico Garcia Lorca, translated by A. S. Kline**

**Directed by Phil Stanier**

# Welcome to Progress!

Founded in 1946,  
we're the oldest producing  
theatre in Reading.

A self-governing, self-funding theatre group, run entirely by volunteers. We are members of the Little Theatre Guild and the National Operatic and Dramatic Association, and are a registered charity in England (no. 1182798). Our patron is Sir Kenneth Branagh.



## The artwork on display in the foyer was created by Michèle Gibbs

Michèle is a local artist based in Wokingham and is a member of the Wokingham Art Society. She paints in acrylics on block canvas using brushes, palette knives and fingers! She absolutely loves to paint, and likes to challenge herself with a wide variety of subjects including: portraits of dogs, people and children; local scenes, the sea and countryside; and abstracts.

Most of her commissions are for dog portraits, which she particularly enjoys painting. She loves colour and often paints animals using colours in a free, exciting and individual style. She hopes her love and joy of painting, and her sense of fun is reflected in her work.



# 10 Shows per year

We put together a varied and challenging programme of shows every season, including our traditional Open Air Shakespeare production at Reading Abbey Ruins each Summer.



## An Intimate Venue

Our intimate 96 seat venue has a fully licensed bar. There is wheelchair access and a hearing loop, and we are committed to making further improvements in the coming years to make our building more accessible.



## Youth Theatre

We have a vibrant and happy Youth Theatre, split into 4 groups by age. Regular workshops involve theatre games, improvisations and skills development. Youth Theatre shows are often challenging and always performed to a high standard. Many past members maintain an interest in theatre and numerous aspects of performance art as adults, some of them professionally!



## Award Winners

In June 2020, we were very honoured to receive the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service.

This award is equivalent to an MBE (Member of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire), and is the highest award given to volunteer groups across the UK, to recognise outstanding work done in their own communities.




# Director's Notes

*Blood Wedding* is a poignant and haunting play penned by the acclaimed Spanish playwright, Federico García Lorca. First premiered in 1933, it stands as a powerful testament to Lorca's mastery of poetic drama and his exploration of themes that resonate deeply with the human condition.

Set in rural Spain, *Blood Wedding* delves into the timeless themes of love, passion, and fate. At its core, the play revolves around a love triangle between the Bride, Leonardo, and the Bridegroom, whose forbidden attraction defies societal norms and sets the stage for a gripping and tragic tale.

Lorca's writing in *Blood Wedding* is renowned for its lyrical beauty, drawing heavily from Spanish folk traditions and symbolism. The play skillfully weaves together elements of tragedy and ritual, evoking a sense of impending doom that hangs over the characters and their choices.

As the drama unfolds, *Blood Wedding* delves into the complexities of human desire, the inexorable pull of family ties, and the inevitability of violence in a world where passions run deep. This masterpiece continues to captivate audiences worldwide, transcending its cultural and temporal origins to speak to the universal emotions that drive humanity. It is a testament to Lorca's enduring legacy as one of the foremost playwrights of the twentieth century.



Directing *Blood Wedding* is a personal passion of mine. I first encountered this play as a teenager when I studied it, and I fell head over heels for its emotional intensity and rich poetry. The production I saw back then was incredible, and it left an indelible mark on me. Working with the youth theatre members last year reminded me that I wanted to return to the play, and create an interpretation with them.

Lorca's exploration of love and the human spirit's complexity still speaks to me. I want to capture that essence and share it with audiences in a way that's as impactful as the production I saw during my teenage years.

**Phil Stanier** – Director



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## **BUILD YOUR THEATRE KNOWLEDGE WHILE LEARNING LIFE SKILLS**

Based in our gorgeous working theatre, we offer a supportive environment for young people to improve their skills, gain confidence and make friends.

We grow a passion for theatre in our young people, stimulate their imagination, and help develop their enthusiasm and confidence to ask questions about the world around them.



**School years:** 3, 4 & 5

**Meetings:** Saturdays, 9:30 - 11:00

**Fees:** £80 per 10-week term

### **BIRDIES**

Our Birdies group encourages young people to learn new skills, make friends and have a go! During the sessions, we will focus on theatre games, short devising tasks and a bit of improvisation which positively stimulates the imagination and improves the confidence of our young members. Birdies will have the opportunity to work with a script, perform on our stage and enjoy the culture of respect and kindness we actively maintain.



**School years:** 6, 7 & 8

**Meetings:** Saturdays, 11:30 - 13:00

**Fees:** £80 per 10-week term

### **PARCANS**

Our Parcans group gives young people the chance to develop their theatre skills, learn in an encouraging environment and make new friends. During the sessions, we will focus on improvisation, devising tasks and games which stimulate the imagination and improve the young people's creative practice. Parcans will have the chance to work with published plays, from Brechtian drama to contemporary writing, all of which will inform the development of our own work. There are also opportunities to perform in our in-house youth productions.

**TASTERS & MEMBERSHIP** To try a **FREE** taster session, join us or just to ask for more information, please get in touch!



**Youth Theatre Administrator**  
youthgroup@progresstheatre.co.uk

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## FLOODLIGHTS

At Floodlights we offer participants the opportunity to delve deeper into theatre practices: investigating practitioners, processes and performance. Workshop sessions explore improvisation, devising and scripted work and participants will learn from the masters of classical text and contemporary writing to inform the development of new work of their own. Through this, young people can strengthen their technical skill as actors and enhance their capabilities in literary analysis and critical thinking.

**School years:** 9, 10 & 11

**Meetings:** Mondays, 5.00pm–7.00pm

**Fees:** £100 per 10-week term



## BLINDERS

At Blinders we focus on building knowledge around different theatrical practitioners, focusing on advanced skills on stage and developing technical production skills backstage. We start the year looking at classical theatre skills and finish the year looking at contemporary theatre practice. We aim to produce at least 1 show a year that is open to the public.

**School years:** 12 & 13

**Meetings:** Mondays, 8.00pm–10.00pm

**Fees:** £100 per 10-week term

We teach

**LAMDA**

— Exams & Qualifications

Alongside the weekly PYT sessions, we also offer one-to-one short workshops to support those young people who would like to work towards a LAMDA (London Academy of Music & Dramatic Art) exam. This is a great opportunity for students to formalise the learning they have been doing in our weekly workshops, work one-to-one on specific scenes and gain a recognised qualification. PYT members also receive a discount.

We are delighted to be an Arts Award Supporter, to allow our Youth Team team's expert knowledge and activities to support young people who are already doing their Arts Award within a centre. As a Supporter we welcome links Art Award centres such as schools and youth groups as we can provide stimulus and opportunities to compliment the work done by an Arts Award adviser who will be ensuring that the young people complete their award.



See our website for details: [progresstheatre.co.uk/accreditation](https://progresstheatre.co.uk/accreditation)

**TASTERS & MEMBERSHIP** *To try a FREE taster session, join*



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[youthgroup@progresstheatre.co.uk](mailto:youthgroup@progresstheatre.co.uk)

*us or just to ask for more information, please get in touch!*



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# Cast

**Bridegroom** Declan Grey

**Mother of the Bridegroom** Rachel Hayward

**Neighbour/Father to the  
Bride/Wedding Guests** Sam Singleton-White

**Mother-in-law of Leonardo** Charlie Coomber

**Wife of Leonardo** Bel Jones

**Leonardo** Joey Burke

**Girl/Young Girl/First and Second  
Girl/First and Second Boy** Charlotte Noone

**Maid to the Bride** Flora Paulo

**Bride** Lois Judd

**All other roles played by the cast**



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WE THANK YOU TO:

- not smoke
- keep the aisles of the auditorium clear at all times
- not take photos or recordings of the performance
- turn off your mobile devices during the performance



# Production Team

<b>Directors</b>	Beckie Moir, Phil Stanier
<b>Assistant Directors</b>	Ali Carroll, Liz Carroll
<b>Producer</b>	Laura Mills
<b>Assistant Producer</b>	Liz Paulo
<b>Stage Manager</b>	Lauren Boys
<b>ASM</b>	Juliet Moir
<b>Lighting Mentor</b>	Lawrence Bird
<b>Lighting Design &amp; Operation</b>	Arlo Haigh
<b>Sound Mentor</b>	Stuart McCubbin
<b>Sound Operation</b>	Paige Woodcock
<b>Set Design</b>	Phil Stanier
<b>Set Build</b>	Theresa McConalogue, Stuart McCubbin, Aidan Moran, Cast & Crew
<b>Costume Coordinator</b>	Helen Wernham
<b>Costumes</b>	Wendy Hobson, Rowena Sterry
<b>Props Coordinator</b>	Tony Powell
<b>Photography</b>	Richard Brown
<b>Poster Artwork</b>	Bel Jones
<b>Poster Design</b>	Laura Mills



# Biographies

## Joey Burke (he/him)

### *Leonardo*

Joey is a new member of Progress Youth Theatre, joining in March 2023. Joey has not done any other performances at Progress yet but has been in a number of other productions elsewhere including *The Addams Family*, *Beauty and the Beast*, and *The Tempest*. He is very excited to attempt the challenge of playing Leonardo as it is a type of character he has not played before.

## Declan Grey (he/him)

### *Bridegroom*

Declan joined Progress Youth Theatre two years ago when lockdown ended, after finding an interest in theatre. He spent the first year doing youth workshops then appearing on the Progress stage in *Life is a Dream* last December. Then in April this year, he appeared in *Chaos* before going to Reading Rep for *Rock of Ages*. He recently returned to the Progress stage in September for WriteFest. Now he is back again in *Blood Wedding* and is excited to take on the challenge of a larger role as the Bridegroom.

## Charlie Coomber

### *Mother-in-law of Leonardo*

Charlie is new to Progress Youth Theatre, joining in September. She is new to acting but has built up an interest in theatre through the encouragement of family members. Charlie has enjoyed the rehearsal process, especially the character work and getting to know the cast really well.





## **Rachel Hayward**

*Mother of Bridegroom*

Rachel has been a member of the Progress Youth Theatre for two and a half years and is currently a part of the Blinders group on a Monday. She has previously helped as an ASM for *Twelfth Night* in the open-air and is excited for her first time performing onstage at Progress Theatre.

## **Bel Jones (she/her)**

*Wife of Leonardo*

This is the first performance Bel has been a part of as a member of Progress Youth Theatre and only her second production overall. She fell in love with the performing arts after playing the character of Oliver Twist in a school play at the age of ten. She has particularly enjoyed connecting with the rest of the cast and developing her monologue skills. Bel also helped design the poster providing the central image of the Bride.

## **Lois Judd**

*Bride*

Lois joined Progress Youth Theatre in 2021 after having an interest in theatre since she was very young. *Blood Wedding* will be the first play she has done as part of PYT and she is pleased to have the role of the Bride. Lois has participated in other plays outside of Progress, but is very excited for you all to see *Blood Wedding*.





## **Charlotte Noone**

*Girl / Young Girl / First and Second Girl / First and Second Boy*

Charlotte has been a part of the Progress Youth Theatre for around three years and has been in two previous productions, including a monologue performance and *Life is a Dream* as Clarin. She has always enjoyed theatre as a whole, but after finding Progress Youth Theatre she decided to actually give acting a try. In her current play *Blood Wedding*, Charlotte is playing a multitude of roles: all of the girls and boys.

## **Sam Singleton-White**


*Neighbour / Father to the Bride / Wedding Guests*

Sam has just started at Progress Youth Theatre in September. She joined PYT after taking part in the Play in a Week Summer Workshop. Sam wanted to try out Progress Youth Theatre after hearing about it from her older brother who used to be a member. Sam is enjoying her new hobby and is pleased to be involved in a production so soon.

## **Flora Paulo**

*Maid to the Bride*

Flora has been a member of Progress Youth Theatre for fourteen years and has been involved in many productions both on stage as well as back stage. Shows as an ASM include *When They Go Low, Great Expectations, Jeeves and Wooster in Perfect Nonsense, and The Welkin*. She was also the stage manager for *Silver Lining*. Flora has also operated lights for last year's youth production, *Life is a Dream*. Flora has been in many production at Progress Theatre including *Daisy Pulls It Off, His Dark Materials, The Tempest, A Million Tiny Plays About Reading, Romeo and Juliet, Wyrd Sisters, Twelfth Night, Maskerade* and most recently in this year's WriteFest in *The Execution Chamber*. She is excited to bring the Maid in *Blood Wedding* to life.



## **Lauren Boys (they/them)**

*Stage Manager*

Lauren has been a member of Progress Theatre since 2019 and is slowly trying every role! They have been an Assistant Stage Manager for *Romeo and Juliet* (2021) and *Catch-22* (2022), Stage Manager for *Life is a Dream* (2022), Assistant Director on *Silver Lining* (2023), Director in WriteFest 16 (2023), sound in WriteFest 17 (2023) and will be Producer for *Albion* in January. They are enjoying being part of another youth group show for this talented group of young people!

## **Ali Carroll**

*Assistant Director*

Ali has been with Progress for twenty-three years as an actor, director, mentor, youth leader, writer, Inclusion Officer and Chair. She has had the pleasure of being youth leader for 17 of those years! Ali has always been amazed by and proud of our Youth Theatre – they are creative, committed, full of enthusiasm and talent. It has been a joy to be a small part of seeing this exciting production develop and shine. Enjoy!

## **Lawrence Bird**


*Lighting Mentor*

Lawrence has been with Progress Theatre for several years. While experienced in all things tech, Lawrence has been acting on stage and TV since the age of 9. Lawrence was a youth theatre member with the Royal Shakespeare Company, performing in productions around the UK, as well as advocating for Shakespearean theatre in school and local groups. Since then he has taken a more backstage role as Technical Director at his previous theatre group and working on several plays at Progress with lighting and sound design.

## **Liz Carroll**

*Assistant Director*

Liz has been part of Progress for over 19 years. She has directed, co-directed and is lucky to have been cast in some superb productions - playing very different characters. Liz assisted Ali for seventeen years with past youth groups and their productions. She is passionate about Progress providing theatre experience for young people and is proud to have been a small part of a team who have ensured that this production was staged. Liz has been impressed with the enthusiasm, talent and hard work of the young cast in *Blood Wedding*. They have earned their spotlight.



## **Arlo Haigh**

*Lighting Operator/Design*

Having joined Progress Theatre this year as an ASM for *Twelfth Night*. *Blood Wedding* will be Arlo's third production with the theatre. Learning lighting for the first time at WriteFest in September, Arlo immediately took to it and is very excited to be part of it again. He has really enjoyed working with the whole cast and crew and is hoping to be involved with more productions over the coming season.

## **Laura Mills**

*Producer*

Laura has been a member of Progress Theatre for over 30 years and started herself in Progress Youth Theatre. PYT helped to develop Laura's passion for creating theatre particularly in behind-the-scenes roles, from writing and directing to producing and stage managing, each role is vital to creating great theatre. In 2021 Laura became the Youth Theatre Manager at Progress Theatre and continues to champion this fantastic group to anyone who will listen, and even those who don't!

## **Stuart McCubbin**

*Sound Mentor*

Stuart has been coming to see shows at Progress for around 30 years, but became more involved in the last dozen or so. When he's not doing Front of House duties or helping with set build, he can be found in the tech box designing and operating sound. Previous shows he has worked on are *The Effect*, *The Lonesome West*, *The Welkin*, *Life is a Dream*, *The Pride*, and *Jeeves and Wooster in Perfect Nonsense*.

## **Beckie Moir**

*Director*

Beckie has been active in creating theatre for many years; as a teacher, performer, stage manager and director. Having fallen in love with theatre at an early age, she chose to share her joy of performance by qualifying as an acting and drama teacher. She has pursued this career for twenty-three years, working with hundreds of young people. She is delighted to have had the privilege of working with such a lovely and hard-working cast on this production. Her personal thanks go to Liz, Ali, Lauren, Stuart, Arlo, Lawrence and Laura for their incredible support throughout this process.





## **Juliet Moir**

*Assistant Stage Manager*

Juliet is a new member to Progress Youth Theatre, but is no stranger to the stage. Having appeared as Kit in *Top Girls* on this very stage five years ago. Juliet has, historically, appeared on stage dancing, most notably as part of Team England, and is a six-time World Cup Gold medal winner. Juliet is rehearsing for *The Ballad of Maria Marten* at South Hill Park and is looking forward to learning more about acting and developing her skills in this area. She is delighted to be working backstage on this production.

## **Helen Wernham**


*Costumer Coordinator*

Helen has been a member of Progress Theatre since 2000 and has been known to tread the boards, particularly in the open-air Shakespeare in Reading Abbey ruins. She directed *Colder Than Here* in 2013, *Happy Jack* in 2018 and has been assistant director and producer for other shows: *Blue Orange*, *Blackbird* and *The Merry Wives of Windsor* in 2015. She has been costuming shows for the last 16 years and enjoys sourcing for period plays. Although Helen has chaperoned many Progress Youth Theatre shows, this is the first time she has been involved with costuming their show. Helen is also Little Theatre Guild rep for the theatre.

## **Phil Stanier**

*Director*

Phil is new to directing at Progress Theatre as this will be his first full youth production. However he started last year to run the Birdies and Parcans youth groups. Phil is a theatre maker, teacher, and artist. He is very excited to be directing *Blood Wedding* as it was one of the first plays he ever studied for theatre.



## **Paige Woodcock**

*Sound Operator*

Paige joined Progress a year ago and was an actor in the *Chaos* performance. This allowed her to see what goes on backstage and sparked an interest. She also enjoys acting but wants to explore her options of theatre production. This then led onto her being a part of the sound crew in *Blood Wedding*. She hopes to have the opportunity to do more backstage things as she enjoys them.

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# 2023/24

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#### Production Manager

Vacant

#### Marketing Manager

Vacant

#### Theatrical Resources Manager

Chris Gunner-Lucas

#### Fundraising Coordinator

Vacant

#### Inclusion Officer

Lauren Boys

#### Members' Rep

Steph Dewar

#### Communications Manager

Lawrence Bird

## Supporting Roles

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#### Theatre Manager

Emily Goode

#### Box Office Manager

Chris Moran

#### Bar Manager

Richard Brown

#### Wardrobe Manager

Helen Wernham

#### Props Master

Tony Powell

#### Safeguarding Lead

Fiona McNeil

#### FoH Manager

Stuart McCubbin

#### FoH Supplies Manager

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#### Programme Designer

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#### Key Co-ordinator

Alex McCubbin

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#### Curtain Up Editor

Laura Mills

#### Assistant Treasurer

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#### LTG Rep

Helen Wernham

#### PPC

Andy Camichel

Sahar Hemami

Liz Paulo

Mark Taylor

Alison Tooth

#### Digital Theatre

Aidan Moran

Tony Travis

#### Archivist

Laura Mills

#### Marketing Team

Sam Bessant

Lawrence Bird

Lauren Boys

Ken Deeks

Emily Goode

Chris Moran

Mark Taylor

Megan Turnell Willett

# Our 77th Season

2023

**4 - 9 SEPTEMBER**

*The Effect* by Lucy Prebble

**27 - 30 SEPTEMBER**

17th Annual WriteFest

**1 - 4 NOVEMBER**

*Blood Wedding* by Federico Garcia Lorca, translated by A. S. Kline

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**7 - 16 DECEMBER**

*Hogfather* by Terry Pratchett, adapted by Stephen Briggs

2024

**29 JANUARY - 3 FEBRUARY**

*Albion* by Mike Bartlett

**11 - 16 MARCH**

*The Last Quiz Night on Earth* by Alison Carr

**26 APRIL - 4 MAY**

*Under Milk Wood* by Dylan Thomas

**12 - 15 JUNE**

Progress Premiers Presents:  
*Moles* by Sarah Wright and *Dirt* by Caroline White

**3 - 6 JULY**

Youth Week  
Showcase performances from  
all our Youth Groups

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**17 - 27 JULY**

*The Importance of Being Earnest* by Oscar Wilde  
Open Air at the Abbey Ruins

**PT**▲