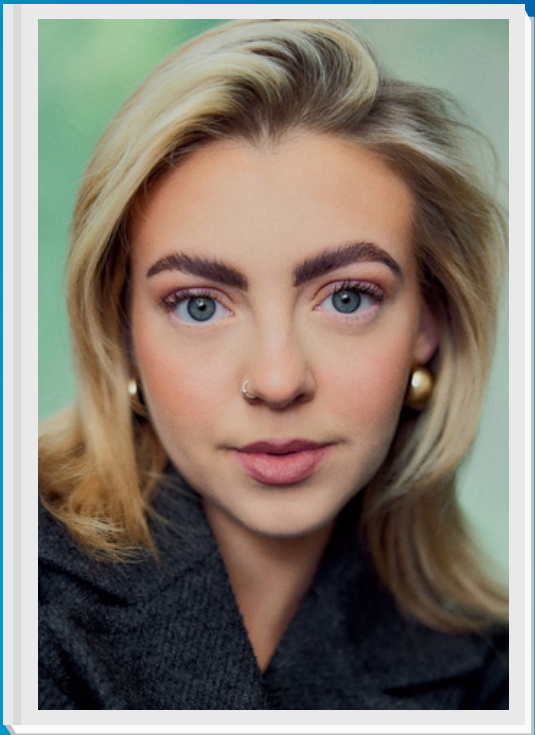


JESSE NORTH IS BROKEN

By Martha Godber



PROGRAMME



MARTHA GODBER

Jesse/Writer

Martha is Hull-born and bred and is the founder of *The Godber Theatre Foundation*.

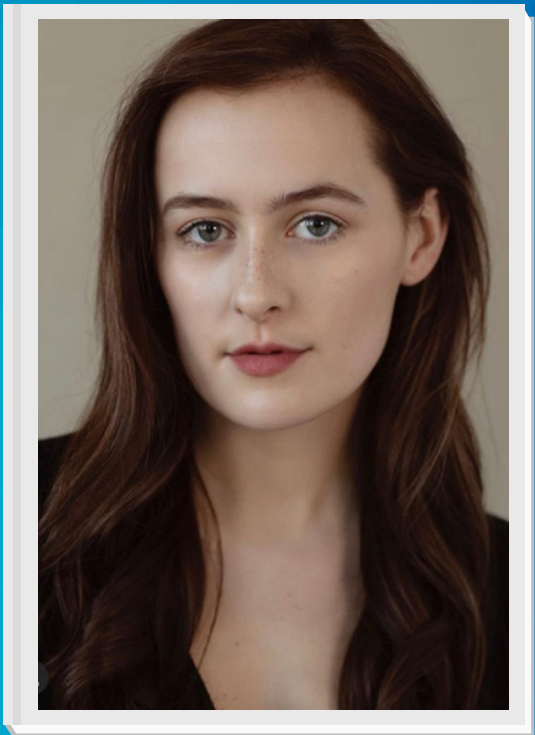
Martha trained at Liverpool Institute for Performing Arts.

Theatre Credits include: DO I LOVE YOU? (National Tour), ALICE IN WONDERLAND (Shakespeare North Playhouse), PLEASANT LAND (Derby Theatre), LADIES UNLEASHED (Hull Truck Theatre), HOME GIRL (Derby Theatre), TEECHERS LEAVERS '22 (Hull Truck Theatre), SHAKE THE CITY (Leeds Playhouse), SUNNY SIDE UP (UK Tour, John Godber Company), MOBY DICK (John Godber Company) SUNNY SIDE UP (Stephen Joseph Theatre), ANGELS OF THE NORTH (Theatre Royal Wakefield), THIS IS NOT RIGHT (Wiltons Music Hall), KINGS (Slung Low Shorts), RIGHT (The Old Vic) and UP N UNDER (Hull New Theatre).

Screen credits include: Ree Nathans in DOCTORS (BBC), THE FULL MONTY (Disney+), Maud in SOUTH RIDING (BBC1), ODDSQUAD (BBC Television), RESIDUE (Matador Pictures) and THE LAST LAUGH (Visualise Films).

Radio Credits include: FLIXBROUGH (BBC Radio 4), HOUSE RULES (BBC Radio 4), FORGET ME NOT (BBC Sounds), ESSENTIALS (BBC Radio Humberside), TALK TO ME: HP LOVECRAFT (BBC Radio 4), D FOR DEXTER (BBC Radio 4), FACT TO FICTION (BBC Radio 4), THE GIFT (BBC Radio 4) and JOURNEY TO STARLIGHT MOUNTAIN (BBC Radio 4). Martha has done voice-over work for productions such as DOCTOR WHO (BBC), AFTER THE FLOOD (ITV) and Channel 4's DANCE SCHOOL.

As a **writer**, her debut play SPIDERS premiered as a rehearsed reading at the Bush Theatre in 2024. This was followed by ONE PUNCH, co-written with BAFTA winner Jane Thornton, which opened at HOME Manchester. She recently wrote and directed her first short film, RIGHT HERE IN HULL, which is currently on the festival circuit. She is now developing her next short film, HAPPY BIRTHDAY ELLIE, produced by Bridge Way Films. Alongside this, she is working with LA-based production company Alóm Media to develop her debut feature, MISS XX LONG BEACH. Martha is a member of *Women in Film and TV*.



MILLIE GASTON

Director

Millie is currently completing an MA at the University of Oxford in Creative Writing before starting her PhD at the University of East Anglia later this year.

Having begun her career with the John Godber Company, she is delighted to return to direct this vital and exciting new play.

Directing:

Love's Labour's Lost (Guildford Shakespeare Company & Orange Tree Theatre, Associate), The Holy Rosenbergs (Menier Chocolate Factory, Associate), An Unprecedented Birth workshop (Sheffield Theatres, Director) Emma (Bath Theatre Royal and UK Tour, Associate), The Highwayman (Shakespeare North/John Godber Company, Co-Director), Six of Spades (Etcetera Theatre, Director), Farm Hall (Theatre Royal Haymarket - BTR West End transfer, Associate), Bronco Billy (West End workshops, Assistant), Farm Hall (Jermyn Street Theatre and Bath Theatre Royal, Assistant), Shake the City (Jermyn Street Theatre, Associate), The Northern Voice (Northern Broadsides, Assistant).

Writing:

Our Escape (short film), Shake the City (Leeds Playhouse & Jermyn Street Theatre), Footprints: Monarchy (Jermyn Street Theatre), Shake the City (Leeds Industrial Museum), The Robin and the Holly Tree (Slung Low), Hon3y92 (Northern Broadsides - film), The Happy Warrior (York Army Museum & Leeds Playhouse).

SIOBHAN ASHTON Company Stage Manager

Originally from Nottingham, Siobhan studied at Hull University, graduating with a BA in Drama in 2022 and MA in Theatre in 2024, going on to work as a Stage Manager for theatre, events and touring.

Her work with The John Godber Company includes: 'Happy Jack' (2024), 'One Punch' (2024) & 'A Christmas Carol' (2025). Other works include: Pocklington Arts Center 'Jingle All The Way' (2025), The Duke's Playhouse Lancaster 'The Borrowers' (2024) & 'The Wizard of Oz' (2025), Hull Truck 'GUTS! The Musical' (2024) 'Pride & Prejudice' (2025) & 'Macbeth' (2026), and East Riding Theatre 'Under Milk Wood' (2023), 'Toad on The Wolds' (2023), 'Confusions' (2024) & 'The One Good Thing' (2025). Siobhan has also worked with Underbelly Edinburgh Fringe (2024), ARCADE 'Wardrobes' Tour (2023) and She Productions 'The Pirates of Christmas Island' Tour (2022).

GRAHAM KIRK Production Manager/ Lighting & Set Design

Graham trained at East 15 Acting School before touring the length and breadth of the country and beyond for many years as a Stage Manager. After spending a number of years as production manager for Hull Truck Theatre Company, Graham formed Kirk Production, specialising in production management, lighting design, scenic design and construction.

During his career, Graham has worked with numerous companies on over 350 theatre, film and television productions. Recent projects include THE KINGS OF HULL, PRIVATE LIVES, UP N UNDER, SCARY BIKERS, SUNNY SIDE UP and BOUNCERS.

FURTHER CREDITS

ELIZABETH GODBER

Producer

JOHN GODBER

JANE THORNTON

Company Directors

AMY ASHWELL

Production Administrator

ALEESHA NEILL

Creative Assistant

RICH LAKOS

Key Art Photography

A WORD FROM THE WRITER

"I'm thrilled to be bringing **Jesse North Is Broken** to York Theatre Royal. It feels like the perfect venue to premiere the show. As someone from Hull, I've always been drawn to telling Northern stories, and this piece does exactly that. I'm passionate about creating female characters who are unapologetic, bold and command the stage, celebrating the Northern female voice in all its complexity. At its heart, the show explores connection, pain, love and loss, set against the realities of government policy, the care system, mental health in women and the social pressures of a working-class town. It's a fearless piece of new writing, and I hope it resonates deeply with contemporary audiences.

As well as writing from my experience of my grandparents having carers, I interviewed young carers across the country to shape the reality of the piece."

Martha Godber

THE GODBER THEATRE FOUNDATION

The Godber Theatre Foundation is an initiative formed by Martha Godber and the John Godber Company to support students from Hull & East Yorkshire who are studying the Arts, offering them mentorship, industry seminars, professional experience and financial aid.

The Arts are one of the most difficult industries to break into, particularly if you are from a working-class background. John and Jane Godber have been working with young people in Hull for over a quarter of a century, and have seen many students they have worked with go on to have successful careers and gain places at leading drama schools. The Godber Theatre Foundation continues this legacy.

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