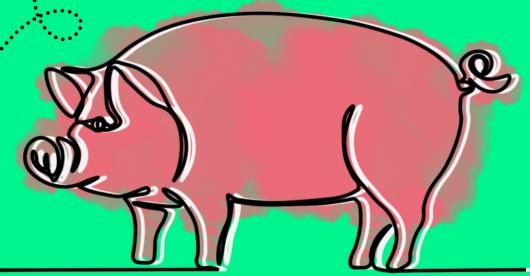


## 

BY WILLIAM GOLDING ADAPTED BY NIGEL WILLIAMS







Promotional Photograph by Hannah Couzens Production Photography by Elliott Franks

## Lord of the Flies

By William Golding

Adapted by **Nigel Williams** 

Directed by **Faith Turner** 

Presented by OVO's youth ensemble

28th - 31st August 2025
The Roman Theatre of St Albans



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## William Golding

Born in Cornwall in 1911, William Golding grew up surrounded by the rugged coastal landscapes that would later shape the atmosphere of his writing. His father was a teacher and his mother a suffragette – influences that gave him both a love of learning and a sharp awareness of human struggle.

Golding studied at Oxford, first pursuing science before turning to English literature. After graduating, he became a teacher, a role that gave him an acute understanding of the behaviour of young people – experience that would feed directly into his most famous novel.

During the Second World War, Golding served in the Royal Navy, an experience that exposed him to both the heights of human courage and the depths of cruelty and destruction. These wartime experiences had a profound impact on his outlook, convincing him that the veneer of civilisation is thin and fragile.

Lord of the Flies, published in 1954, was his debut novel and remains his best-known work. Initially rejected by several publishers, it went on to become one of the most widely read books of the 20th century, studied by generations of school children. Its stark vision of children stranded on an island, sliding from order into chaos, captured Golding's belief that darkness exists in all of us.

Golding continued to write throughout his life, producing novels, plays and essays. In 1983 he was awarded the Nobel Prize in Literature, recognised for his novels which, in the words of the Nobel Committee, illuminate "the human condition in the world of today." He was later knighted in 1988.

He died in 1993, leaving behind a body of work that remains urgent, unsettling, and profoundly human.

### **Director's Notes**

"We did everything adults would do. What went wrong?"

William Golding's Lord of the Flies is a story that has unsettled, provoked, and fascinated readers for over seventy years. It asks urgent questions about who we are when the rules of society are stripped away – about leadership, belonging, survival, and what lies beneath the surface of civilisation.

Bringing this story to the Roman Theatre, with its own long history of human gathering and spectacle, adds a powerful layer to the tale. The ancient stones have witnessed centuries of human drama, and here they become the backdrop for a group of young people wrestling with what it means to build (and to lose) a community.

Working with OVO's youth ensemble has been a privilege. Our company this year is almost thirty strong, drawn from nineteen schools across the local area, aged between 11 and 17. Their talent, commitment and imagination are extraordinary. They have thrown themselves into this demanding piece with courage and creativity, finding new truths in Golding's story that speak powerfully to the world they are growing up in – one that can sometimes feel uncertain and divided.

This is not an easy story, nor should it be. But in its darkness there is also light – in the resilience, energy, and vision of the young people performing it. I hope you feel, as I do, that Golding's novel, and Nigel Williams' gripping stage adaptation, are as relevant today as ever.

Faith Turner August 2025

## Cast

#### **Team Ralph**

Piggy Elena

Ralph Jonah

Mary **Amelie** 

Simon Megan

Perceval Martha

Student/Narrator Clem

#### **Team Jack**

Jack Sam

James Noah

Roger **Billie** 

Bill **Amira** 

Henry Sophie

Maurice Felix

Hunter Alfie

Hunter Sadie

Hunter **Tilly** 

Sam Bethany

Eric **Devan** 

## Cast

#### **Team Island**

Pilot **Elena** 

Student John

Student/Fly Leader Elsie

Student/Fly **Hannah** 

Student/Fly Camilla

Student/Fly Alayna

Student/Fly Arla

Student/Fly **Daisy** 

Student/Fly **Eleanor** 

Officer Charlie Clee



## **Creative Team**

Directed by Faith Turner

Assistant Director Jai Britto

Assistant Movement Director Stephanie Allison

Dramaturg Janet Podd

Set Designer Simon Nicholas

Costume Designer Eva Windahl

Stage Manager Zoë Watkins

Sound Designer Ryan Rusconi

Sound Operator Ollie Welland

Lighting Designer & Operator Caitlin MacGregor

Producer Mark O'Sullivan

Production Assistant Honey Kirby

A special thank you to Nicholas Brakespear School, Vanessa Baker, Kira Turnpenny and the parents of our ensemble for their generous clothing donations.



Bio: Amira performed the role of Constance in the Olivier Award winning musical Standing at the Sky's Edge at the National Theatre.

Name: Amira



Bio: Alayna has recently finished as Young Connie in Standing at the Sky's Edge in London's West End.

Name: Alayna



Bio: Felix is excited to be in his first production with OVO after being in many school performances.

Name: Felix



Bio: Elena performed in Kernow Chamber Players' Richard III, OVO's The Secret Garden, and Shakespeare's Globe Youth Theatre.

Name: Elena



Name: Noah

Bio: Noah has performed in three plays at the Roman Theatre - The Railway Children, The Secret Garden, and Richard III with the Kernow Chamber players.



Bio: This is Sadie's first OVO production after discovering an enjoyment for acting in school productions.

Name: Sadie



Bio: Megan is so excited to spend a third Summer with OVO, having previously been part of the company for The Railway Children and The Secret Garden.

Name: Megan



Name: Billie

Bio: Billie began acting in school productions, falling in love with the stage. Roles include: Tiana in Princess and the Frog, Lady Macbeth in Macbeth.



puppeteer in OVO's production of The Secret Garden last year. Most recently she was the title role of Daisy in Daisy Pulls it Off, and Athena in The Odyssey.

Name: Elena



Bio: Eleanor loved performing in OVO's production of The Secret Garden last year as part of the ensemble and can't wait to return again this year.

Name: Eleanor



Name: Alfie

Bio: Alfie performed in OVO's The Secret Garden last year and is excited to return. He also performed in The Beat Goes On and On, and in the Welwyn Garden City Youth Drama Festival.



Name: Sam

Bio: Sam has performed in Cinderella, as Little Scrooge, Tiny Tim in A Christmas Carol, as The PantoLand Guide in Once Upon A Time and Fridge in Treasure Island. This will be Sam's debut with OVO.



Bio: Camilla is currently working towards her LAMDA grade 5 exam. Performing on stage is something she hopes to continue to do so for many years to come.

Name: Camilla



Fairy Godmother in his school production of Cinderella. When he's not performing, you'll find him playing cricket.

Bio: Devan played

Name: Devan



Name: Clem

Bio: Clem's past roles include; Ensemble/Crow in The Secret Garden (OVO), Elf/Child in Elf the Musical. Rabbit in Hansel and Gretel. Gomez from The Addams Family and Willy Wonka from Charlie and the Chocolate Factory.



Name: Amelie

Bio: This is Amelie's first production with OVO's youth ensemble. Amelie's past roles include: Mrs Dearly in 101 Dalmatians, Babyface in Bugsy Malone, and Louie in Matchgirls.



Bio: Bethany played Azalla, in Shadows of the Stage, Jan in Grease, and has taken part twice in the National Theatre Youth Connections Festivals.

Name: Bethany



Bio: Jonah's past roles include: ensemble in NYMT's Into the Woods, (Southwark Playhouse), Aladdin (Watford Palace Theatre) and ensemble in Carousel (Regents Park Open Air Theatre).

Name: Jonah



Bio: Daisy's past roles include: Lavender in Matilda and parent in School of Rock (School Productions). Daisy is excited to make her OVO youth ensemble debut with Lord of the Flies.

Name: Daisy



Name: Tilly

Bio: Tilly's past roles include: Tabitha in The Secret Garden, Gran in The Amazing Adventures of Superstan, Rabbit 1 in Hansel and Gretel.



Bio: After performing in The Secret Garden last year, Elsie is excited to return to OVO's youth ensemble again for Lord of the Flies.

Name: Elsie



Name: Arla

Bio: This will be
Arla's second
performance with
OVO after playing
Basil/ensemble in
The Secret Garden.
Past roles include
Watt Cobblers in
What a Night.



Bio: This is Sophie's second year in OVO's youth ensemble after performing in The Secret Garden last year.

Name: Sophie



Bio: Hannah's past shows include: Hansel and Gretel, Andrew Lloyd Webber Tribute, and The Secret Garden (OVO).

Name: Hannah



Bio: Martha's past shows include: The Wizard of Oz (The Alban Arena), The Secret Garden (OVO and Peter Pan (The Alban Arena).

Name: Martha



Name: John

Bio: This is John's first performance with OVO's youth ensemble! Past roles include being a Munchkin in Wizard of Oz. Outside of theatre, John enjoys rugby.





#### Name: Charlie Clee

Bio: Charlie trained at the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland. Having worked with OVO for a few years, previous appearances include Victor in Private Lives, Perks in The Railway Children, Algernon in The Importance of Being Earnest, Demetrius in A Midsummer Night's Dream and Orlando in As You Like It. Charlie was nominated for Best Actor for the short film 1 Star Review. Theatre credits include: Hamlet, As You Like, Edward II (Bard In The Botanics), Dear Scott, Dearest Zelda, Henry IV, Troilus and Cressida, Bubble (RCS), Wind In The Willows, A Tale Of Two Cities (The Royal & Derngate) Crashing, Chelsea's Choice (Alter Ego) Online Credits include: Philip The Bastard: King John (The Show Must Go Online) Fraser Fox: Daisy's Christmas Party, Presenter: Dragon Fireworks!, Countryside Adventure, Hopes Vegetable Treasure, Pirate Treasure Hunt! (Animatey's). Short Film credits include: The Milk Situation (John Ferrer) The Private (Warner Bros. Studios) Tequila Dream, Because of the Kids, Wizard of Job (MET Film School) Guilty Conscience, Eva, The Recruit ('71), Saved By Grace (Various Film Schools).



Faith Turner
Director

Faith has acted with OVO for over a decade – most recently as Jem in The Highwayman, Jenny in Mosquitoes, the Professor in Little Women and the title role in Hedda Gabler. She studied Political Philosophy and Text in Performance at York University, where her interest in theatre as a vehicle for change led her to work within Education. She has since enjoyed working with a range of theatre companies, practitioners and performing arts schools, including 10 years as Deputy Director of Drama at St Paul's Girls' School, London. With a love of devising and physical theatre, she has created and directed young people in numerous productions; including last year's OVO Youth Ensemble production of The Secret Garden. Other highlights include The Permanent Way by David Hare, Rachel Cusk's Medea, Sarah Ruhl's Eurydice and many original pieces of verbatim theatre.

**Stephanie Allison** Stephanie studied Drama at Exeter University and specialised in Directing, Choreography and Applied Theatre. She made her debut with OVO in 2014 playing Ariel in The Tempest and has been part of the company since. Notable performances include Phoebe in As You Like It, Helena in A Midsummer Night's Dream, Mrs Marshall in Playhouse Creatures, Leah/Laura in Fugue and Katie Howard in The Regina Monologues. More recently she has been part of the company's creative team – she was Movement Director and Choreographer for Peter Pan, Mosquitoes, The Threepenny Opera, The Winter's Tale, and Co-Directed Poison, Scissor Sisters, Little Women, Romeo and Juliet, and The Highwayman.

Jai Britto Acting throughout her time at St Paul's Girls' School and in the National Youth Theatre and National Youth Music Theatre, Jai developed a love for and commitment to theatre. She read History at University College London, during which time she worked on several productions and short films. She co-directed An Ideal Husband at the Bloomsbury Theatre, co-wrote and produced the film Last Lights Out and played Duke Vincentio in Measure for Measure, Martha in Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf and performed at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival. After graduating with a BA (First Class Honours), Jai completed the Intensive Foundation Year at the Fontainebleau School of Acting in France. She is now training on the MFA Acting Program at the University of Southern California in Los Angeles

Honey Kirby Honey holds a Certificate of Higher Education in Acting and Theatre Arts from East 15 Acting School and is currently pursuing a BA (Hons) in Acting for Stage, Screen and Digital Media at Performers College.

Caitlin MacGregor Caitlin is an emerging lighting designer, having recently graduated from RADA. She is London based, and has particular interest in new writing and contemporary takes on classic works. Caitlin is thrilled to be working on this production as her first design as a graduate

Ryan Rusconi Ryan is a London-based composer, sound designer and audio engineer. He began studying music at the age of four and went on to perform the cello with prestigious youth orchestras, including the NCO and LSSO. While leading the cello section at the University of Surrey Orchestra, he earned a First Class Honours Bachelor of Music. He later completed an Advanced Diploma in Audio Post Production for Film and TV at Abbey Road Institute, and a Composition for Film and TV course at the National Film & Television School. Ryan has received multiple accolades for his work, most recently winning The David Lovatt Music Composition Prize. His work blends classical training with a deep understanding of audio storytelling and electronic innovation.

**Simon Nicholas** As a Co-Founder of OVO, Simon helped get the ball rolling, playing the Friar in OVO's inaugural production of Romeo and Juliet. He pioneered the innovative use of film in the company's work, most recently for the tour of Mosquitoes. Simon has built OVO's theatre within the Roman Theatre since 2016. He has created sets for dozens of OVO open air shows including As You Like It, Much Ado About Nothing, The Winter's Tale, Peter Pan, The Comedy of Errors, The Importance of Being Earnest, Little Women, Romeo and Juliet, The Railway Children, The Threepenny Opera, The Merry Wives of Windsor and The Secret Garden. This year his designs will feature in all four of OVO's productions.

Mark O'Sullivan Mark is a writer, actor and producer. He is best known for his Channel 4 sitcom Lee and Dean which he wrote and played Dean. He created ITV drama Tell Me Everything, which has just premiered its second season. His Channel 4 documentary, My Sexual Abuse: The Sitcom broadcast earlier this year to rave reviews, and recently won Best Arts programme at the RTS Awards. He continues to write alongside producing for OVO, and has written the adaptation for this year's production of The Great Gatsby.

Janet Podd Janet has directed numerous productions for OVO since 2012, including Playhouse Creatures, The Crucible and Hedda Gabler, as well as co-directing many classic plays with OVO's Artistic Director, Adam Nichols. She began her performing career in a number of roles in Oxford, including Sonya in Uncle Vanya at The Playhouse and Lika in The Promise at the Burton Rooms. Her directorial debut was Pinter's The Birthday Party which toured Oxfordshire schools. She began the Drama Department at the North London Collegiate School where she directed over 40 plays, including two on the Edinburgh Fringe. Her work in opera includes Dido and Aeneas for the Scottish Music School and The Marriage of Figaro at Prior Park College, Bath.

Zoë Watkins Zoë trained at The Royal Central School of Speech and Drama and toured nationally in the UK before moving to New York. Off Broadway includes: The Report (NYC and London) When I was a Girl I used to Scream and Shout (Fallen Angel: Theatre Row) The Pigeon In The Taj Mahal (Irish Rep) Agamemnon Home (Phoenix Theatre Ensemble), Rosemary and Time, The Round Room (1st Irish Festival), Gwendolyn In The Importance of Being Earnest (Phoenix Theatre Festival in Nyack) and most recently The GateKeeper in Last Call For Babe Reilly (First Irish Festival, nominated for Best Actress). Film and TV includes: Louie, The Blacklist, Wall Street English, Got Skillz, Weekend at the Agamemnons, and the recurring character, Steph, on the Channel 4 comedy, Lee & Dean.

Ollie Welland Ollie is a recent graduate of the School of Audio Engineering. He has recorded with independent artists, including Blank Xpression, Jeans for Julian, and Abbey Road Alumni & BBC Introducing artists kohzee. Ollie is currently working as a freelance audio engineer and live AV technician at Harpenden Arts Society.

**Eva A Windahl** Eva is a Finnish costume department professional, who has established a career as a designer in the film world with projects like Truckload (2025) starring Jodie Whittaker and the BAFTA award winning Rock, Paper, Scissors (2024). She worked as a costume supervisor at the Roman Theatre earlier this summer and she is delighted to work with the director and team on Lord of the Flies.



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#### For OVO:

Artistic Director: Adam Nichols Operations Director: Martin Sharman

Directors of OVO Productions Ltd: Kiffer Weisselberg, Chad Tatum

Trustees of OVO Charitable Incorporated Organisation: Andy Sawford, Tim Boatswain

Company Secretary: David Widdowson Creative Producer: Mark O'Sullivan Associate Director: Kelly Stewart Marketing: Faye Ferriday, Holly Anglin

PR: PR4

Casting Director: Emma Wright Venue Manager: Helena Davies Technical Manager: Martin Ruff

Membership Ambassador: Liz Widdowson

Front of House Duty Managers: Freya Woolgrove, Alex Edwards, Natalie Sharman and Anna

Photography: Hannah Couzens, Elliott Franks and Kira Turnpenny

Videographers: Knut Aage Dahl, Simon Nicholas

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