

# The Predicament of Living

A new play by  
**Maddie  
Beautyman**

Directed by  
**Anthony  
Hoskyns**

Presented by  
**Multistory  
Productions**



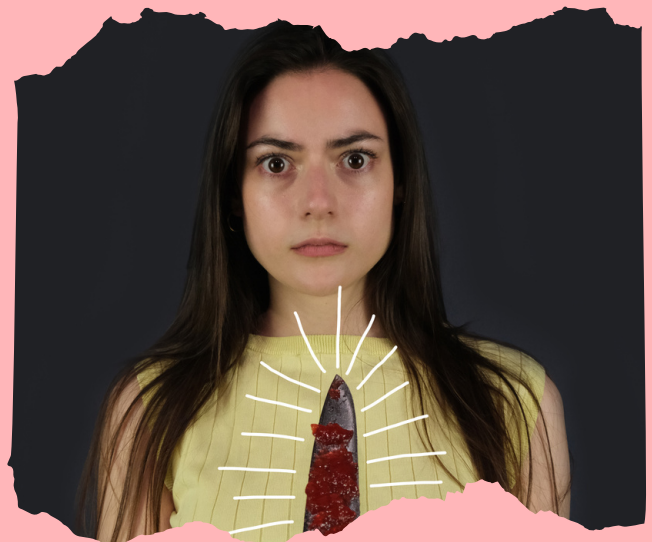
# The Predicament of Living

## What is the play about?

She can't stop thinking about stabbing her stepdad. But just because she's thinking about it... doesn't mean she will do it, right?

She speaks to us from her family kitchen, which now feels too big for two. Remnants of loved ones grace the walls that come to haunt her. She only has her Amazon Alexa and the audience to speak to but they never quite understand what she's saying. The environment around her becomes a character, defying her orders, rebelling against her. Exploding, much like her mind.

How do you live when living has come at the cost of surviving the crash that killed your family? Will the intrusive thoughts ever stop? Harrowing but hopeful. She tells us her predicament of living - it's a play about Obsessive Compulsive Disorder, grief and identity.



**"A play about OCD which (without undermining the seriousness of the subject) is funny, winning, clever and acute."**

-David Edgar, Playwright

# THE TEAM

Introducing the people behind  
'The Predicament of Living'



**Maddie Beautyman**  
Playwright

Maddie is a writer and theatre maker from Scotland. She graduated from the Bristol Old Vic Theatre School MA Drama Writing masters in 2020. Alongside her previous work in theatre, including 3 consecutive years at the Edinburgh Festival Fringe, she has credits writing for screen and experience working in High End TV Drama as a Writers' Assistant.

Maddie writes what she thinks people feel, but don't talk about enough. Her work strives to utilise all the theatrical elements of the stage.



**Anthony Hoskyns**  
Director

Anthony is a theatre director and acting coach, with over 15 years of professional experience - performing, directing and teaching. Having trained at Guildhall School of Music and Drama and Birkbeck. And having worked for the Rose Theatre, Lyric Hammersmith, RADA, BAC, BBC1, BBC Radio4 and Take the Shot.

My personal experiences have very much shaped my desire to work with new writing, looking for new perspectives from those that haven't had the opportunity to tell their stories before. Alongside working on classic texts in order to explore relationships and themes through my own unique lens.



**Rosa Samuels**  
Actor

Rosa trained at the Oxford School of Drama. She is an actor, producer, assistant director and co-founder of Multistory Productions. Rosa often finds herself complaining about the state of the world, and theatre is the one way she feels like she might actually be able to make a difference. She fell in love with The Predicament of Living two years ago and is over the moon to be part of telling such an important story.

Previous acting work includes feature film Mirrors (Brando Pictures); Multistories: A New Writing Festival (Bread and Roses Theatre); Clean: The Musical (Cockpit); small (Soho Theatre)

# THE TEAM CONT'D



## **Tom Rouvray**

### Producer

Tom is a Director of Multistory Productions Ltd and the lead producer on this project. Previous to Multistory he has produced three shows at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival. For Multistory he has Co-Produced on all ventures so far including; *Speak The Cockpit*, *Paines Plough Roundabout/Rose Theatre*. *Multi Stories: New Writing Festival*, *Bread and Roses*. *Multi Stories* podcast. *The Importance of Being Earnest* Radio production. He is excited about taking the lead on this project and cannot wait for audiences to witness Maddie's beautifully crafted story.



## **MultiStory Productions**

<https://www.multistoryproductions.co.uk/>

Multistory is a 15-strong collective of international creatives. Our multiple stories and backgrounds provide the foundations we work from. Voices built from regional towns, cities, and abroad are brought together to stage new writing, reimagine classic stories and translate international work.

Praise for Multistory's last production:

"Very moving story."

"Thought provoking."

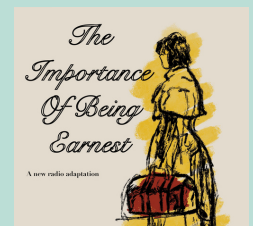
AUDIENCE MEMBERS FOR PREVIOUS  
PRODUCTION SPEAK. 2022

# WORK BY MULTISTORY



Formed in November 2019, just three months before the outbreak of a global pandemic it has been an interesting start for Multistory. Despite these challenges however we have remained proactive and creative during this period.

In the midst of the 2020 lockdowns we remotely recorded and produced our own newly adapted version of **Oscar Wilde's 'The Importance of Being Earnest'** for regional radio stations across the country.



In 2021 we continued our remote work and produced the first season of our **Podcast: Multistories**. Which focuses on the promotion and celebration of emerging writers and their work. Each week we invited a new emerging writer on the show as a guest, read a short excerpt from an unproduced script or screenplay of theirs as a "Rehearsed Reading", and then had a chat to our guest about their work, their lives as writers and anything else that came up.

In 2022 we **produced our first stage play "Speak."** by **Lewis Wood**, which was originally shared with us in episode two of the podcast. The production was a huge success when it premiered at The Cockpit, London in April. As a result, it was later programmed as part of the Paines Plough/Rose Theatre Roundabout Festival in July 2022.



Continuing on from the success of "Speak." we programmed our **first festival of new writing** named after our podcast "Multi Stories", which took place at the Bread and Roses in September 2022. **Three sold out nights involving 17 Pieces, 16 Writers, 30 Actors, 15 Directors** and a whole load of talent!

# DEVELOPMENT OF THE PLAY

Maddie began developing the play while studying at the **Bristol Old Vic Theatre School**. While on the MA Drama Writing course she completed an early draft of the idea.

**Bristol Old Vic  
Theatre School**



In September 2022, **an extract of the script was chosen by Multistory** to be performed at our new writing festival which took place at the Bread and Roses. Maddie, Anthony and Rosa worked together for the first time on bringing the opening extract of the play into performance. They decided after this to **continue developing the story together**, with Multistory.

Maddie began a **partnership with charity OCD UK** to involve people living with OCD in the development of the play. Assisted by Multistory, Maddie and Anthony led creative workshops with the charity for its service users based on questioning how OCD could be represented in the theatre through the different theatrical languages, focusing primarily on light and sound.



In May 2023, **an extract of the play was selected** amongst a high number of entrants to be workshopped and performed as part of the monthly 'Stage to Page' Glasgow. A possible ending for the play was presented to an audience followed by feedback and discussion with Maddie.

We have completed two periods of **R&D rehearsals at the Rose Theatre in Kingston** this year. Firstly, to consolidate our findings from workshops with OCD UK and then to expand and explore the best theatrical structure for the story.



**"We think the play sounds amazing - it is such an innovative way of exploring what it is like to live with OCD and we are happy to promote it"**

Zoë Wilson, Children, Young People and  
Parents lead, OCD UK

# We are looking for a **home**

- We recently had an industry showing for the piece on Thursday 3rd August 2023. Which was filmed.
- If you would like to view the footage please contact our producer Tom at the below email.

[Tom@multistoryproductions.co.uk](mailto:Tom@multistoryproductions.co.uk)



**"An excellent piece  
which deserves a  
production."**

-David Edgar, Playwright