

DIRECTOR'S NOTES

This is the first play I have had the pleasure of directing at the Theatre Royal. (It was previously staged as a rehearsed reading in 2017, under the watchful eye of Jenni Rushton.)

Di and Viv and Rose is a very funny play. It is a wonderful opportunity to show the trials and tribulations of three young women meeting at a Northern University for the first time in 1983 and to track their lives and friendship through the years, to 2010. Covering such a long time period means that the audience need to 'suspend their disbelief' when seeing older cast members playing their younger selves but this only adds to the play's poignancy.

The play was first performed (under the direction of Anna Mackmin) at the Hampstead Theatre in London in September 2011 and again in 2013, with Anna Maxwell Martin, Tamzin Outhwaite and Gina McKee appearing as Rose, Di and Viv. It has been performed all over the country by amateur and small repertory companies.

You cannot fail to connect emotionally with this comedy. It is witty and it also has some dark moments which are quite shocking. The script has made us all laugh and cry during our rehearsals. We hope that ***Di and Viv and Rose*** will cause you to rock in your seats – both in response to the lines and in time to the 1980s music that accompanies the women on their journey.

The cast have worked well together and have all helped one another to develop their strong characters. We hope you will agree that this show richly deserves a popular run at the Theatre Royal.

Stephanie Daly-Parks, Director

The play is in two acts with a short interval.

Act 1 starts in a Northern University town in the autumn of 1983 and ends in 1986. Act 2 starts in November 1986 and moves through various locations in England, finishing in August 2010.

Warning: There is some strong language.

CAST

Di Ruth Hellen
Viv Anne Bowmer
Rose Rebecca Wilson

Director Stephanie Daly-Parks

CREW

Lighting design Geoff Brinicombe
Sound and light operators Morgan Sweeney, Luke Ritson, Geoff Brinicombe, Tony Magorrian
Set design & construction Geoff Brinicombe & the set building team
Stage manager Scott Ashton
Wardrobe Helen Earl
Props Viv Young, Chris Jackson and Muriel Armstrong
Graphic design Peter Daly, Dawne Daly and Emma Morgan
Prompt Val Brown
Photos Chris Lewis (<https://www.chrislewisphoto.co.uk/>)
Film Julia Parks (<http://juliaparks.co.uk/>)

With grateful thanks to Impact Furniture, for help with delivering and providing furniture, and to others not mentioned elsewhere, notably the front of house team.