

embryonic

Embryonic is the second collaborative project between Islington Community Theatre and the Biochemical Society, following the success of *Hive 9* by Ali Taylor in 2009. Over two workshops and an intensive writing period, four professional playwrights have created four new ten minute plays, inspired by the response of young people to the ideas surrounding stem cell research.

The performers, all of whom come from Islington Community Theatre's three young companies and who are aged between 11 and 21, were involved from the very start of the project, taking part in a workshop exploring the ethics and implications of stem cell research with John Turner and Dale Bancroft. They first read their plays this morning and have been working throughout the day at the Biochemical Society towards their final 'script-in-hand' presentation. Each piece has been led by a young director from our *Work in Progress* young company.

The Right Way

by Tim Cowbury

Directed by Kwami Odoom

About the play: Max is about to have an operation. Tina is there to support him. Then Robbie arrives. In the minutes before the operation, the family finally has to confront what they've been avoiding. Can religion and science be reconciled? *The Right Way* explores the emotional, psychological struggle that might arise for ordinary people, should stem cell research become a commonplace practice in future years. **TC**



Tim Cowbury is a playwright and writer-deviser for performance. His work has recently been seen at the Old Vic Theatre, Soho Theatre, Shunt Vaults and Bush Theatre. He has also developed work at the National Theatre Studio and Royal Court Theatre. Tim is one third of the new theatre company, Made In China.

What If

by Maxine Quintine-Kolaru

Directed by Rochelle Rose

About the play: It is 3048 and all embryonic creation is made by a Single Female, controlled by The Patent Department. When The Patent Department tries to introduce a new synthetic in vitro species, which will mark the end of the Single Female, she takes drastic measures to protect her life. When she is put on trial it is up to Ten ordinary Men to decide her future and the future of the last vestiges of Humanity. **MQ-K**



Maxine Quintine-Kolaru has been shortlisted for the Alfred Fagon Awards in 2006 and 2009. She has also been shortlisted for the Verity Bargate Award 2007, and is currently on the Royal Court's Writers Super Group. She has completed an attachment at the Royal Court and is on the Writers' Group at Soho Theatre, where she has a short play staged. She has written three full length plays and is currently working on a short film, based on her latest full length play, Take Me 2 Manhattan.

Time, Please

by Joy Wilkinson

Directed by Daniel O'Keefe

About the play: The workshop was buzzing with big ideas. Discussions leapt from stem cells to religion, ethics, and then to immortality. If you could extend a life by weeks, months, years, what effect would that have on the way we lived, the way we loved? I've tried to capture that big idea in a short play, exploring how the amount of time we have together changes relationships and asking how much is enough. **JW**



Joy Wilkinson's plays include Acting Leader, which opens at the Tricycle Theatre next week, Now is the Time (Tricycle), Fair (Finborough Theatre & Trafalgar Studios), Felt Effects (Theatre 503) and The Sweet Science of Bruising (National Theatre Studio). She also writes for radio and TV and is a graduate of the BBC Writers' Academy.

For the Good of Mankind

by Hassan Abdulrazzak

Directed by Daniel Rickler

About the play: Mice have taken over the world. Dr. Calvin Goodwill is facing murder charges for experiments he conducted as a stem cell biologist. Will he succeed in persuading a jury of mice to spare his life? **HA**



Hassan Abdulrazzak is a stem cell biologist. His first play, Baghdad Wedding, was shown at Soho theatre (London) and Belvoir St theatre (Sydney). He is the winner of the George Devine, Meyer-Whitworth and the Pearson theatre awards.

Performers

Aisha Ajona

Jemima Ajona

Naomi Bell

Kai Blyth-Foster

Phoebe Burrows

Raphael Braithwaite

Truchelle Carthy

Calvin Dickson

Luke Donnelly

Sean Dottin

Amika Ezer

Alex Kampfner

Dayna Kellman

Aaron Miller

Kofi Odoom

Rakeama Reid-Akbar

Hayley Thomas

Esther Uwejeyah

Heaven Yemane

ISLINGTON COMMUNITY THEATRE

Artistic Director

Associate Director

Administrator

Ned Glasier

Anne Tipton

Jo Gibson

For more information on our work with people (young, old and in between) in Islington go to:

www.islingtoncommunitytheatre.com

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