

**‘Unseen’ Tour**

**October 2024**

**Audio Drama Cast Biographies**

**Lily An** (she/her) is a multidisciplinary London-based artist originally from Hong Kong who became blind in 2014. She is a photographer, filmmaker, art director and now theatre maker and audio description consultant. She has a BSc (Hons) in Psychology and studied film at UAL. She has performing, directing, theatre design, lighting design and writing credits with Extant, and recently showcased plays at Canada Water Theatre and the Cockpit Theatre. Lily was Assistant Director for ‘I Dream In Colour’ at Camden’s People’s Theatre for Sprint Festival 2023 and ‘Self & Other Monologues’ with Criptic Arts in March 2024 at HOME, Manchester. Lily performs as Zoe and Sandra in ‘Unseen’ and was part of the research team.

**Anita Barzey** (she/her) is a visually impaired performer, writer and tutor who enjoys working with diverse groups to create untold stories that inspire and motivate. She has worked on various creative projects In the UK and abroad and loves travelling and exploring new cultures through the medium of art. Anita has worked extensively with Extant on various projects from radio plays to festivals.

**Aqua Ephraim** (she/her) is an actor and an aspiring “late bloomer.” She started her working life as a Personnel & Training Manager in retail but over time her interest in drama grew. She studied performing arts/drama at Barking and Dagenham College and gained a Performing Arts diploma at Newham College of Further Education. She has performed at the Broadway Theatre, Camden Roundhouse and Lyric Theatre.

**Michelle Felix** (she/her) is an actor for screen and stage. She is also a visual awareness consultant and coach, and recent projects include HETV, National Trust projects and fitness industry engagements. Following the Unseen Report, she is currently collaborating with Safe Lives in the development of a toolkit and training. In her spare time, Michelle loves to salsa and to write songs: she was a finalist of Dance Westminster and made it to the finals of The UK Songwriting Contest.

**Steven George** (he/him) developed a passion for performing at a young age and went on to graduate from East 15 about 25 years ago. In 2014 he was diagnosed with a rare genetic condition that caused sight loss. He thought his acting career was over, but he quickly found Extant who helped him to see things differently and his career continued to flourish. In his spare time, Steven enjoys sports, comedy, reading and podcasts. He also volunteers for a variety of sight loss organisations and is a member of Equity’s Deaf & Disabled Members Committee. TV & Film credits include Silent Witness, Eastenders, Chewing Gum and Holmes & Watson. Theatre includes Catching the Ghost (Extant), Where Will we Live (Southwark Playhouse), Journey’s End (Greenwich Theatre), Iceberg Right Ahead! (Upstairs at the Gatehouse) and Foreskin’s Lament (Pleasance Edinburgh).

**Maisie Greenwood** (she/her) is an actor. Theatrical credits include *Fragile,* (5050 theatre), *The Resurrection of Bobby Awl* (Avalon, Edinburgh Fringe), *Winter (*Young Vic) and *Tether (*Edinburgh Fringe). Television credits include *Eastenders (*BBC). Maisie is thrilled to have worked with Extant for the first time and worked on her first audio drama. She also performs weddings, celebrations and funerals.

**Georgie Wyatt (formerly Morrell)** (she/her) is an actor and writer. Her TV and radio credits include BBC Radio 4 Quote Unquote, Jayne Lake (Best Debut Performance nominee: BBC Audio Awards), and Cosima Unfortunate Children's book series for RNIB talking books. Georgie has written for Sky, Mighty Bunny Productions, Silversalt Films, BFI, and the Guardian.

**Audio Drama Creative Team Biographies**

**Ben Wilson** (he/him) is Extant’s Trainee Artistic Director. He is a blind actor, theatre maker and audio description consultant. He trained at Birmingham School of Acting (now Birmingham Royal Conservatoire). Ben spent five years as the Ramps on The Moon Agent For Change at Sheffield Theatres and co-founded both creative audio description company Hear The Picture and theatre company Brick Wall Ensemble. He recently received a commendation at the National Theatre and Sunday Times prestigious Ian Charleson awards. As an actor and creative some of his recent credits include Much Ado About Nothing and Guys and Dolls for Sheffield Theatres; Lord of the Flies, Macbeth, Oliver Twist and Rode for Leeds Playhouse; Three Billy Goats GRUFF (Derby Theatre); Midsummer Night’s Dream, (Royal Shakespeare Company) and both Henry 5 and Meic On The Mic for Brick Wall Ensemble.

**Ian Rattray** (he/him) studied music technology at the Royal National College for the Blind in Hereford. He’s worked in the audio field for 16 years and has experienced a variety of audio-based projects including producing a podcast for Disability Arts Online for the last 4 years. Recently he’s worked with Arts Council England and the Europe Beyond Access project for the British Council and participated in the Extant Pathways Crew and Design course which has led to several further opportunities in theatre sound design and education. Ian is an Associate Artist with Extant.

**Anna Clarkson** (she/her) is an actress and immersive theatre maker living in the North of England. She has a BA in Theatre Arts from Rose Bruford and an MA in Writing for Performance from Leeds University. As an actress Anna has worked with Hull Truck, Vanessa Redgrave’s Moving Theatre and London New Play Festival. TV includes Peak Practice, The Bill and Dalziel and Pascoe. Anna has written for Bolton Octagon, Hull Truck, Soho Theatre, The Bush Theatre, Leeds Playhouse. Anna is a BBC Writers Room Future Talent Award winner.

**Esther Irving** (she/her) is an actor, theatre maker, and facilitator from North Yorkshire. She has worked across the UK in touring theatre and community engagement projects with a particular interest in young people and the deaf, disabled, and neurodivergent communities. Recent theatre work includes Guildford Shakespeare Company, Riding Lights Theatre Company, and The LAMPS Collective. She’s created two pieces of theatre exploring her own experience of visual impairment and facial difference called ‘Her Face/My Face’ and ‘Me/dusa’ which she plans to expand further.

**Georgie Wyatt** (formerly Morrell) (she/her) is an actor and writer. Her TV and radio credits include BBC Radio 4 Quote Unquote, Jayne Lake (Best Debut Performance nominee: BBC Audio Awards), and Cosima Unfortunate Children's book series for RNIB talking books. Georgie has written for Sky, Mighty Bunny Productions, Silversalt Films, BFI, and the Guardian.

**Tafsila Khan** (she/her) is a registered blind access consultant and theatre maker in Wales with a passion for real stories and giving a voice to those who are usually unheard. She is motivated to create change within society and her work has accessibility at the core to develop wider engagement within the arts. Tafsila is currently working at Taking Flight Theatre Co. as a Trainee Access Coordinator and has worked with the Wales Millennium Centre as a Creative Associate. She is a board member of both National Theatre Wales and Arts Council of Wales.

**Tam Gilbert** (she/her) is a Bournemouth-based practitioner with specialisms in inclusive practice and community theatre. She is passionate about making accessible work which creatively embeds Audio Description and has recently provided AD Consultancy for Indigo Moon, Valise Noire Storytelling and Wimborne Community Theatre. Tam was part of Extant’s Pathways Directors and Writers Programmes and was commissioned by Extant to write a short play, ‘One 2 One’. Her recent project ‘Sensing Helen’ looked into the lives of visually impaired women in Victorian Dorset and included creative drama workshops to engage young people with the research material and a documentary film. Tam is Co-Director at Millstream Theatre, a company of learning-disabled actors based at the Museum of East Dorset which she co-founded with State Of Play Arts in 2014.

**Louise Hall** (she/her) is a writer, performer, workshop facilitator, dramaturge, and public speaker based in London. Her work is wide ranging and has included collaboration and solo freelance work for the BBC, Disney Channel, University of Exeter, County Sounds Radio, Royal National Institute of the Blind, Guide Dogs, Extant, Devon and Cornwall, and Metropolitan Police. Louise relishes working in collaboration with others, particularly when this involves giving voice to the otherwise voiceless, and she has coached many other creatives.

**Martia Bevan** is a BACP Accredited counsellor and RNIB Accredited Sight Loss Counsellor. She has worked and volunteered with domestic abuse and sight loss agencies. She is a Therapeutic Writing Practitioner and facilitates small groups using creative writing as a tool of expression. Her connection with Extant arose when writing a script reflecting a visually impaired survivor in 2017. Her lived experience has fuelled an interest for this complex topic to be given exposure in the hope of increasing awareness, and involvement as consultant and facilitator of therapeutic writing for the devising team has been a valuable experience.

**Helena Ascough** (she/her) is a spoken word performer, theatre maker and actor based in the North West. She gained her PGCE during the pandemic and has worked as a supply teacher in the British school system. She aspires to create thought provoking, inclusive and imaginative work through her lived experience of disability, community led practice and love of storytelling. Helena was an Associate Artist with Extant in 2023, and the company produced a work-in-progress of her play ‘No Future’ as part of Sprint Festival at Camden People’s Theatre. She is currently developing a new play for children called ‘F(able)’.

**Louisa Sanfey** (she/her) is the Artist Development Manager for Extant, and a freelance Director, Dramaturg and Audio Describer. For Extant, she has produced Associate Artist productions including ‘Past Life’, ‘I Dream in Colour’ and ‘No Future’. Freelance directing includes theatre work for Croydonites Festival, National Theatre Pristina and Dublin Fringe. Audio drama includes ‘Snake Oil’ (Derby Theatre) and ‘BREAKS’ (RTE).