

THE *gallery*
PLAYERS
present



DI



AND
VIV



AND
ROSE

By **Amelia Bullmore**

THE *gallery*
STUDIO
THEATRE
ipswich

Director's notes

I saw this play after its transfer from Hampstead Theatre to the West End in 2015, loved it and immediately added it to my 'to do' list.

Di and Viv and Rose is a humorous and thoughtful exploration of friendship's impact on life and life's impact on friendship and, in particular, female friendship. This gem of a play premiered in the Hampstead Theatre's downstairs space in 2012, before a revival in its main theatre in 2013 and a subsequent successful transfer to the Vaudeville in the West End in 2015, starring Tamzin Outhwaite, Samantha Spiro and Jenna Russell.

The story line is seemingly simple; three students at a northern university decide to share a house in 1983.

Rose, whose stepfather buys the property, is a free-spirited art history student who sleeps with any boy she likes the look of. Her companions are Di, a sports-loving lesbian who is taking Business Studies, and Viv, a Sociology student with a fierce work ethic. On the surface, they seem unlikely friends. But amongst many things that is precisely Amelia Bullmore's point: her play, which takes us up to 2010, shows how the three women's solidarity precariously survives physical separation, varied career paths and even mortality.

Over time much has been written about the nature of friendship. What is friendship? What makes a good friend? Is there something special about the way that females bond? These questions prompted much discussion during the rehearsal period.

Friends don't always behave well, we accept and relish the bits we love and 'get' about them and forgive them the bits that sometimes bug us. Friends are not perfect, sometimes they are hard work but friends bring different things into our lives, which is why *Di and Viv and Rose* work as a trio.

We all gather friends and they add to our lives much in the same way as we gather objects as we move through life and which become important to us. For this reason I chose to design a set with objects which reflected the girls path through life.

Di and Viv and Rose get on and remain friends despite their ups and downs; each of them has different strengths and weaknesses. A good friend will also tell us straight if they feel we have got something wrong.

Rose sums it all up when she says, **'When a person cares, they come at you hard or they come at you soft, they never come at you normal'**.

This has been a lovely play to direct; there are so many layers to peel away. I have to confess to an absolute passion for the rehearsal process and working with such a talented trio of actresses has been an absolute pleasure. The process has been very collaborative; we have had lengthy discussions and both laughed and cried. Thank you, ladies!



Steve Wooldridge



Amelia Bullmore

Amelia Bullmore is an English actress and writer. She was born in London and studied drama at the University of Manchester. *Amelia* started working as an actor but turned to writing in 1995. She continues to do both.

Amelia is a very familiar face on British television, with numerous roles beyond *I'm Alan Partridge* including *The IT Crowd*, *Ashes to Ashes*, *Sherlock*, *The Olympics Mockumentary Twenty Twelve* and *Happy Valley*.

Her recent appearances on TV include *Gentleman Jack* and *The Crown*. However, you may be most likely to recognise her as *Steph Barnes* from *Coronation Street*, whom the actress played from 1990-1995.

Amelia's writing credits include episodes for *This Life* (for which she won a *Writers Guild of Great Britain Award*), *Attachments* and *Black Cab*. *Amelia* was a finalist for the *Dennis Potter Award* in 2000 for her 90-minute drama entitled *The Middle*. Her major writing breakthrough came in 2012, when she was hired to write seven episodes of the drama series *Scott & Bailey*. The episodes written by her were telecast in 2012, 2013, and 2014. In addition to writing for the series, she also played *DCI Gill Murray*, a supporting role in the series

Amelia Bullmore's latest writing project was forensic drama *Traces*, a six-part series set in Dundee which followed three forensic scientists as they try to uncover the truth about a murder.

Di and Viv and Rose is *Amelia's* second play. Originally staged at Hampstead Theatre in 2012 the play eventually transferred to the West End in early 2015, where it ran at the Vaudeville Theatre.



Cast

Rose Emelia Green (née Petryszyn)
Viv Emily Slade
Di Jo Lewis

The play takes place in various locations from 1983 - 2010.

*A hall of residence, 'Mossbank' a shared house,
Marylebone railway station, Little Timperly, a small village,
New York and a hill in London*

Creative Team

Director Steve Wooldridge
Set Design Steve Wooldridge
Lighting Design and Operation Ken Friars
Costumes Angela Whatling
Soundscape and Music Steve Wooldridge assisted by Will Dowe
Stage Manager Georgie Beard
Assistant Stage Manager Maggie Mudd
Props Maggie Mudd, Mike and Judy Wadman
Sound Operative Rachel Doy
Prince Choreography Sally Broatch
Hair & Make Up Charlotte Rose Sampson
Graphic Design Wade Ablitt
Photography Mike Kwasniak
Programme Content Steve Wooldridge
Programme Design Steve Taplin
Audio Visual Will Dowe
Set Construction Kevin Snell, Stuart Reavell (Deben Homes Ltd.)
Rachel Doy, Will Dowe, Mike Wadman, Norman Rutterford, Georgie Beard



Di
Jo Lewis

Reflections *by the cast*

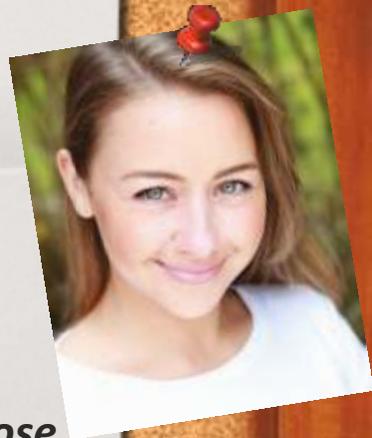
Friendship has been such a lovely theme to explore during the rehearsals of this play. Taking three new friends brought together at such a pivotal point in their lives and seeing how they unfold and why they unfold in that way. When I think back to that time in my life and those first meetings with people who are now some of my dearest buddies, it makes me so happy and thankful that they were the people who I was given to create my life with – 20 years on and they are everything to me – so much so that one of my flatmates from college is now my husband! If you had told us that back then we would have laughed in your face!!

Standing beside your friends as you grow together, take on life, the good and the bad, create work, find life partners, start families, hit milestone birthdays – it's an amazing thing to consider and a privilege to share. It is something to marvel at and treasure. I feel very lucky. This is something I feel I share with *Di's* attitude in the play. She may not realise it straight away but as life unfolds for her, friends and friendship become her greatest value.

Straight after Steve contacted me regarding the play, I bought a copy and I literally could not put the book down! Not only was the play so well written and thought provoking, the themes and characters were so attractive to me as an actor. It's become one of my favourite plays to have the opportunity to explore and perform. The stories that we tell as *Di*, *Viv* and *Rose* are sure to be so current and relatable to a lot of people.

The rehearsal process has been very explorative and collaborative where we have all input our thoughts and ideas and discussed our own life experiences relating to the themes within the play- the main one being friendship.

Friends are such a huge part of growing up and in developing as a person and quite often even the most special friendships have their ups and downs. They play a big part in our happiness while combatting loneliness and life's ups and downs and they always giving us someone to talk to and rely on. I really hope we manage to portray this in our interpretation of the play.



Rose
Emilia Green

I'm now at a time in my life where I've had the same few friends for a few years - and the luxury of being able to reminisce about the past, whilst supporting and working towards the future is one I try not to take for granted. My friends are the best. Obviously. But true friendship is layered and complicated - and the complications make them all the more meaningful.

When I first read the play I was drawn to the character of *Viv*. Parts of her felt so familiar to me, whilst others felt so alien. I could see myself in moments - and other times I had to dig deep to understand what she was going through and why. She was things I'd wanted to be - things I was scared I'd become - she was both erratic and constant in her behaviour - and more than anything she was exciting! The opportunity to explore and portray such a challenging, complex, interesting woman is utterly amazing.

Viv
Emily Slade







'I should have to say! I shouldn't have to! A friend shouldn't have to spell it out. The other friend should get it.' **Di**

What Others Say About Friendship

Friendship is born at that moment when one person says to another, 'What! You too? I thought I was the only one.' **C.S. Lewis**

Walking with a friend in the dark is better than walking alone in the light.
Helen Keller

Lots of people want to ride with you in the limo, but what you want is someone who will take the bus with you when the limo breaks down. **Oprah Winfrey**

Many people will walk in and out of your life, but only true friends will leave footprints in your heart. **Eleanor Roosevelt**

If you live to be a hundred, I hope I live to be a hundred minus one day, so I never have to live without you. **Winnie the Pooh**

It's the friends you can call up at 4 a.m. that matter. **Marlene Dietrich**

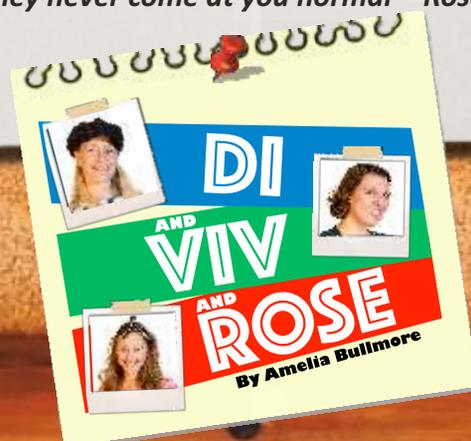
There is nothing better than a friend, unless it is a friend with chocolate. **Linda Grayson**

Reviews for *Di and Viv and Rose*

"It connects emotionally with the audience, and is wittily written ... Bullmore makes you like, and believe in, her three characters ... The play also has a careering energy ... impossible not to like." **Michael Billington, Guardian**

"Funny, universal and wise. It is about friendship, sexuality, and sex, growing up and changing tack, intimacy and comradeship, corsetry and careers, success, disaster and dissatisfaction. It compasses illness, loss, loneliness and loyalty... It's a play that will last." **Libby Purves, The Times**

'When a person cares, they come at you hard or they come at you soft, they never come at you normal' - Rose.



Acknowledgements

New Wolsey Theatre
 Claire Staddon at Emmaus
 IODS
 Alan Ayres, Co-op Juniors
 Sally Broatch
 Mark of Felixstowe Mobility Scooters
 Phil Rawe
 Nazima Abulkhairi
 Charlotte Rose Hair
 Georgy Jamieson, BBC Radio Suffolk
 Jon Tavener, Eastern Angles Theatre Company
 Donna at The Coffee Cat, The Stables, Holywells Park
 Doug Mockridge, Headgate Theatre
 Kevin Snell, Stuart Reavell, Deben Homes Ltd.



Every penny spent in our social enterprises goes back into supporting people across Suffolk

emmaus Suffolk

- Upcycled Furniture
- Community Café
- Pre-loved Clothing & Accessories
- Refillable Eco Products
- House Clearances
- Second-hand furniture & homewares

Find us:

- The Royal Oak, Community Café & Pre-loved Emporium**
Felixstowe Road, Ipswich, IP3 8EB
- Emmaus Suffolk @ The Dales**
218 Dales Road, Ipswich, IP1 4JY
- Emmaus Suffolk @ Sainsbury's Shopping Centre**
Sainsbury's Shopping Centre, Ipswich, IP1 3EB
- Felixstowe**
10-12 Great Eastern Square, Felixstowe IP11 7DY

Scan me to find out more

www.emmaussuffolk.org.uk
hello@emmaussuffolk.org.uk

01479 22627

Facebook: @emmaussuffolk Instagram: @emmaussuffolk

emmausuffolk is a charity registered in England and Wales (112895)



CHARLOTTE ROSE HAIR SPECIALIST

DEBEN HOMES LTD



Mill House
 Broad Green
 Wetheringset
 Stowmarket
 IP14 5QD

Tel:- 01728 861099
millhouse123@btinternet.com

1985 Cowardy Custard, 1986 Happy as a Sandbag, 1987 Sail Away, 1988 Something's Afoot, 1989 Company, 1990 The Best Little Whorehouse in Texas, 1991 The Hired Man, 1992 Snoopy - The Musical, A Little Night Music, 1993 Stepping Out, Cabaret, 1994 Assassins, The Ghost Train, Into the Woods, Hobson's Choice, 1995 Man of La Mancha, Steel Magnolias, City of Angels, Scent of Flowers, 1996 Little Shop of Horrors, The Most Happy Fella, Blue Remembered Hills, 1997 Dancing at Lughnasa, Pacific Overtures, Chicago, Hard Times, 1998 The Resistible Rise of Arturo Ui, Sweeney Todd (The Demon Barber of Fleet Street), Shadowlands, Something's Afoot, 1999 Carnival, Trip to Bountiful, The Boys From Syracuse, Tons of Money, 2000 On Golden Pond, The Bakers Wife, Kiss of the Spiderwoman, A Slice of Saturday Night, One Flew Over The Cuckoo's Nest, 2001 Mrs Warren's Profession, A Funny Thing Happened On The Way To The Forum, Billy, Breezblock Park, 2002 The Memory of Water, Flora The Red Menace, A Slice of Saturday Night, Radio Times, 2003 Kiss Me Like You Mean It, Days of Hope, Honk!, And A Nightingale Sang, 2004 Bouncers, Merrily We Roll Along, Talking Heads, You're A Good Man Charlie Brown, 2005 Kindertransport, She Loves Me, A Night At The Dogs, 2006 Amy's View, Passion, With Love, Colder Than Here, 2007 This Happy Breed, Grand Hotel, You Want Chilli Sauce With That & Marry Me A Little, The Sunshine Boys, 2008 Oh Kay!, Spend Spend Spend, To Kill A Mockingbird, 2009 The Long Road, Follies, Flare Path, 2010 Ordinary Days, Rent, Spring & Port Wine, 2011 My Mother Said I Never Should, Our House, Heroes, 2012 Putting it Together, Love Story, Be My Baby, 2013 A Man of No Importance, Into the Woods, The Importance of Being Earnest, 2014 Oh What a Lovely War!, Galileo, The History Boys, 2015 A Day in the Death of Joe Egg, Hairspray, A Streetcar Named Desire, 2016 Jumpers For Goalposts, The House Of Bernarda Alba, Spring Awakening, Ushers, 2017 Urinetown, Far From The Madding Crowd, 2018 Wolf Hall, Grow Up Grandad, Lucky Stiff, 2019 The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee, The Lady In The Van, A New Brain, 2020 Gallery @ 35 (an online celebration), 2021 The Mystery of Edwin Drood, Macbeth, Bully Boy/Mortuary Sisters (a double bill), 2022 Celebrating Sondheim, Gutenberg - The Musical, Di & Viv & Rose.

Future Productions:-

2022 May:- **Come back to the Five & Dime Jimmy Dean, Jimmy Dean.** July:- **The Secret Diary of Adrian Mole aged 13 3/4 - The Musical.**
September:- **Blink.** November:- **Sunday in the Park with George** (for more info on all these wonderful shows please see our website)



Gallery Players started back in 1985. *Pat Taplin* decided, with a group of friends, that in order to get the kind of *Theatre* they wanted to see performed locally, they'd have to do it themselves.

Mounting lesser known, rarely produced plays and musicals has always been our forte and we'd like to think we've been doing it rather well for close to 40 years!

Although this direction brings many freedoms, to uncover hidden and forgotten gems of theatre that other groups wouldn't tackle, it can also be financially challenging for us, as we inevitably take more box office risks.

In 2021 we took another 'leap', moving into our very own premises, **The Gallery Studio Theatre**. A dream for a decade had been realised. The opportunities the **Studio** gives us are immense, no rushed get-ins a couple of days before opening night, the ability to rehearse and build a show in the same space it will be performed in - all huge positives.

The 'flip' side, of course, will be paying a 'commercial' rent and all the associated costs that go with running and maintaining the building. Since 2019 **Gallery Players** has been a *Charity* and every penny we make goes back into the shows and the upkeep and improvement of **The Studio**.

So, we're asking for a little help from you, our dear friends and supporters.

We don't just want to 'get by with a little help as the *Beatles* sang, **we want to Thrive and Flourish!**

We were hoping you'd consider making a manageable monthly donation?

Perhaps **£2.50, £5 or £10**, nothing silly (unless you wanted to!) which over a year would build to be incredibly useful to us and most welcome. Furthermore, if you are a tax payer this amount could grow 25% at no cost to you through *Gift Aid*.

More details of the scheme are on our website (www.galleryplayers.co.uk) along with a link to join it. There's also leaflets in the Studio foyer .

Thanks so much for being one of our supporters, and we do hope you'll consider becoming a 'Gallery Friend'!

getting by with a little help from our friends.....

www.galleryplayers.co.uk for more info.

Gallery Players (CIO). Charity number:- 1186641

SUE TOWNSEND'S

THE SECRET DIARY OF

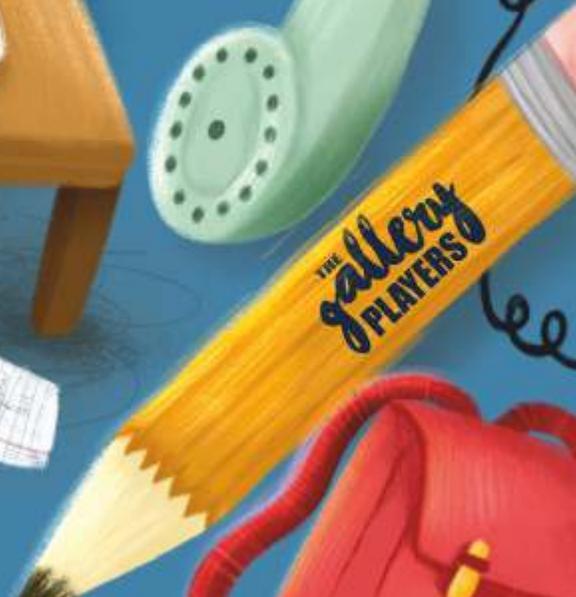
ADRIAN MOLE

AGED
13 ³/₄

The Musical

13th-23rd
July

BOOK & LYRICS BY
JAKE BRUNGER
MUSIC & LYRICS BY
PIPPA CLEARY
TICKETS FROM £10
GALLERY STUDIO THEATRE.CO.UK





**COME BACK TO THE
FIVE & DIME**

Jimmy Dean,

Jimmy Dean

By Ed Graczyk

THE
gallery
STUDIO
THEATRE
IPSWICH

23 - 28 MAY

Tickets from £10

The Gallery Studio Theatre

by kind permission of Samuel French

THE
gallery
PLAYERS