

TUESDAY

Alison Carr

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With a Welsh-language translation

UN BORE MAWRTH

by Daf James

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London

www.nickhernbooks.co.uk

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To everyone who has had their lives turned upside-down

Author's Note

Tuesday was born after I fell down an internet rabbit hole reading about parallel universes and multiverses. I wanted to write something about choices and consequences, about 'what if' we got to look a path we didn't take in the eye. I wanted to write something that would excite, entertain and intrigue the young performers taking it on, and set theatrical challenges to explore and overcome. I think I have done this. I hope so. If you're embarking on producing this play, it's yours now to find and make and tell as you will. I hope you have fun.

Thanks

Thank you to Ola Animashawun and everyone at National Theatre Connections, and to all of the young performers and their teams who have taken on *Tuesday* - or are about to!

A.C.

Tuesday was commissioned as part of the 2020 and 2021 National Theatre Connections Festivals and premiered by youth theatres across the UK, including a performance at the National Theatre.

Each year the National Theatre asks ten writers to create new plays to be performed by young theatre companies all over the country. From Belfast to Greenock, from Aberystwyth to Norwich, from Plymouth to Peckham, Connections celebrates great new writing for the stage – and the energy, commitment and talent of young theatremakers.

www.nationaltheatre.org.uk/connections

Characters

| | |
|------------|------------|
| 'US' | 'THEM' |
| ALEX (F) | JAY (M) |
| ASH (F) | MAGPIE (F) |
| BILLY (M) | SAM (F) |
| MACK (F) | CAM (M) |
| FRANKY (M) | |

Plus an ensemble of as many performers as you wish, including:

ALI
REMY
CHARLIE
NAZ
LOU

FIGURE 1

FIGURE 2

For the purposes of writing the script, the principal characters have been allocated a sex (5F, 4M), but this can be changed as required. Associated pronouns can also be altered (he/him, she/her, they/them).

Note on Text

The dialogue should be performed with pace.

Direct address to the audience, telling them the story of what happened, is in italics.

Dialogue between characters in the moment is not.

Stage directions are in italics and brackets.

There are no breaks between the narration sections and the scenes. Each section flows quickly and smoothly into the next.

Lines that are not allocated to named characters (indicated with a —) can be performed by individuals or multiple speakers. I'd encourage the performers to find characters in the unallocated lines too.

Please perform the play in your own accents and alter any regional specifics (e.g. 'mam') if needed.

There is no set and there are two named props (an orange and a bag).

- *It happened on a Tuesday.*
- *Which is surprising, cos nothing decent ever happens on a Tuesday.*
- *Everyone knows that.*
- *Tuesdays - they're nothing.*
- *They're grey.*
- *Beige.*
- *Lame.*
- *Boring.*
- *But this Tuesday...*

It started off the same as any other.

Wake up.

- *Alarm.*
- *Snooze.*
- *Alarm.*
- *Snooze.*
- *Alarm.*
- *Snooze.*
- *(As a parent shouting.) Get up!*

ALL. Groan.

- *Have a wash.*
- *Get dressed.*
- *Have breakfast.*

- *Brush teeth.*
- *Shoes on.*
- *Coat on.*
- *Bag on.*

ALL. *And go to Lane End School.*

- *Even the name is dull. It's not even at the end of a lane.*
- *Old concrete buildings and plastic annexes. A sports field. A yard. A car park.*
- *Just a normal school.*
- *We do Breakfast Club before lessons. Have some cornflakes and then do aerobics. It's fun.*
- *It's knackering.*
- *Morning registration.*
- *Here, miss.*
- *Here, sir.*
- *A sneaky last look at our phones before we have to put them away for the day.*
- *(As a teacher.) Is that a phone?*

ALL. *No.*

- *(As a teacher.) Give it to me. Now. You'll get it back at the end of the day.*

ALL. *Groan.*

First lesson.

- *Physics.*
- *English.*
- *Art.*

- *PE.*
- *History.*

ALL. *Bell rings.*

Break.

- (As a teacher.) *Wait. The bell is for me, not for you. You are dismissed.*

ALL. *Break.*

Second lesson.

- *Geography.*
- *Chemistry.*
- *French.*
- *Business Studies.*
- *Maths.*

ALL. *Lunchtime.*

- *And that's when it happened.*
- *It started off the same as every other Tuesday lunchtime.*

I was eating a Mars Bar.

- *I was in detention.*
- *I was kicking the football with Josh and Tia.*
- *I was standing in the lunch queue.*
- *I was on the toilet.*
- *I was biting my nails.*
- *I was avoiding Mr Simmons.*
- *I was sneezing.*
- *I was crying.*
- *I was playing hockey.*