A close-up photograph of three people's faces, each covered in a thick layer of gold glitter. The central face is in sharp focus, showing closed eyes and slightly parted lips. The faces on either side are slightly out of focus. The background is dark and textured.

Collide Theatre
in partnership with Elizabeth Filippouli
and in association with the Arcola Theatre
present

FABULOUS CREATURES

Written by **Quentin Beroud & Emily Louizou**
Directed by **Emily Louizou**

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

Ever since I first read Homer's *The Odyssey*, I was instantly fascinated by the scale and depth of it, the sheer richness of the characters and landscapes. Three characters, in particular, kept troubling me. Not the usual suspects! Scylla, Charybdis and the Sirens—or the Monsters—only appear briefly in Book 12 of *The Odyssey*. But the more I was reading about them, the more I felt like they had such a thrilling story to tell. A story about resilience, justice, and retribution.

And this was the start of *Fabulous Creatures*. A show about these mythical female monsters: about their transformation, their sisterhood, their survival instinct... and their murderous habits.

In this hybrid of a play we not only get to meet these creatures and hear their stories, but also get to go on a journey with them. I won't disclose too much about what their top secret mission is (they are after all some of antiquity's most renowned killers!), but they will meet another famous female killer along their way: Clytemnestra. Or rather a woman whose story could resemble that of her ancient equivalent.

I do believe in theatre's power to tell new stories (or old stories in a new way), its power to re-shape preconceived ideas, to mould opinions and to ultimately change social order.

Scylla, Charybdis, Siren and Clytemnestra stand for women who were punished, ostracised and vilified for reasons that were quite absurd or short-sighted. I wonder, just because someone has been assigned the label 'ugly' or 'evil', is that good enough reason for us to continue perceiving or treating them as such? Even millennia later?

This journey wouldn't have been possible without the talent, skill, commitment and sensibility of all the incredible artists that worked tirelessly to develop this project with us. We are very grateful to Mehmet, Leyla and the Arcola team, as well as to Elizabeth for believing in this show when it was still an idea.

Lastly, our biggest thanks go to Anna Bella Inglessis, Stamatia Comninos, Effie Mitsopoulou, Dimitris Ballas and one more special friend – your support made it all happen.

Emily Louizou
Artistic Director
Collide Theatre



ABOUT COLLIDE THEATRE

Collide is a female-led international theatre company based in London. Founded in 2015 by director Emily Louizou, Collide has collaborated with more than 60 international artists coming from all disciplines.

Over the past decade, Collide has created 9 music-dance-theatre productions, ranging from site-specific promenade performances to black box theatre shows. Their mission is to experiment with non-traditional forms (adapting poems, myths, stories, novels), blending text with movement and music.

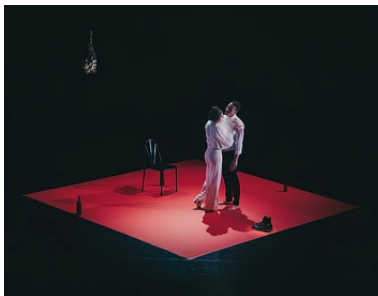
Their production of Kafka's *Metamorphosis* (2019) was featured in the Incoming Festival 2019, which showcased the UK's most "explosive" work from emerging artists! In 2022, Collide presented a new expressionist production of Georg Kaiser's *The Coral* at the Finborough Theatre (dir. Emily Louizou), with the Guardian hailing them as "clearly a company to keep an eye on". In 2023, they partnered with the Omnibus Theatre and presented a new adaptation of the myth of Daphne and Apollo called *The Woman Who Turned Into A Tree*.



The Woman Who Turned Into a Tree (2023)
Omnibus Theatre



The Coral (2022)
Finborough Theatre



Ms Julie (2020)
The Place



Metamorphosis (2019)
HOME Manchester & New Diorama

MEET THE MYTHS

MONSTER (n., adv., & adj.)

- From the latin "monstrum," meaning "divine omen, usually representing misfortune".
- Something extraordinary or unnatural; an amazing event or occurrence; a prodigy, a marvel. (c1384–1710)*

SCYLLA ('Skil-ah')

*"She has twelve dangling legs and six long necks with a gruesome head on each, and in each face three rows of crowded teeth, pregnant with death."***

Scylla was a sea-monster who lived in a sea cave and haunted the rocks of a narrow strait opposite the whirlpool of Charybdis (hence the phrase 'between a rock and a hard place').

Scylla was the daughter of the River Crataeis, and known to be a beautiful maiden. Glaucus loved her, and asked the witch Circe for a potion to make Scylla fall in love with him. But Circe loved Glaucus. When she couldn't convince Glaucus to love her back, she gave him poison but told him it was a love potion. He poured it into the pool where Scylla bathed, transforming her into a monster



CHARYBDIS ('Kuh-rib-deez')

*"Beneath, divine Charybdis sucks black water down.
Three times a day she spurts it up; three times she glugs it down."*

Charybdis was a sea-monster whose gigantic whirlpool swirled in the straits of Messina opposite the cliffs of the monster Scylla. She was daughter of the Earth goddess Gaia and the sea god Poseidon.

1. "Monster, N., Sense 2." Oxford English Dictionary, Oxford UP, March 2024, <https://doi.org/10.1093/OED/1204087675>.
2. Homer, *The Odyssey* (Book XII). Translated by Emily Wilson (2018)

She was turned into a whirlpool by Zeus after she angered him. Stories about how Charybdis offended Zeus differ—in some accounts, she helped Poseidon steal land from Zeus. In others, she stole oxen from Heracles, Zeus' son.

SIREN ('Sigh-ren', plural: 'Sigh-reens')

*"First you will reach the Sirens, who bewitch all passerby. [...] Around them lie, great heaps of men, flesh rotting from their bones, their skin all shrivelled up."****

The Sirens were monstrous sea-nymphs who seduced sailors with their bewitching song. They were formerly hand-maidens of the goddess Persephone. When she was secretly abducted by Hades, Demeter gave them the bodies of birds to assist in the search. They eventually settled on the flowery island of Anthemoessa, where they sang their song, luring sailors to their death. Despite their many kills, famous near misses include Jason, Hercules, Aeneas and Odysseus. According to some myths, after failing to kill Odysseus, the Sirens flung themselves into the sea and perished, thus fulfilling a prophecy said that they would have to die if any man heard their song and lived to tell the tale.

Fabulous Creatures loosely weaves together two Greek myths: (1) Siren, Scylla & Charybdis – as told by Homer in The Odyssey, Book XII; and (2) Clytemnestra from Aeschylus' Oresteia & Euripides' Iphigenia in Aulis

In Greek mythology, Clytemnestra is the daughter of Leda and Tyndareus, Queen and King of Sparta. Clytemnestra was married to Tantalus, until he and their newborn child were killed by Agamemnon. The latter then took Clytemnestra as his wife, and subsequently murdered their first-born child, Iphigenia, to appease the gods before he set off to war in Troy.



THE CAST



**HANNAH VAN DER
WESTHUYSEN**
CHARYBDIS

Hannah is best known for playing the lead role of 'Stella' in *Fate: The Winx Saga* (Netflix). They can also be seen playing a recurring role in Paramount's *Sexy Beast* and the hit Warner Bros production *The Sandman* (Netflix). Their film roles include 'Becca' in *The Bay of Silence* and 'Clelia' in *Lamborghini*.

They have performed at venues such as the Leicester Square Theatre and Pleasance, and most recently co-starred in *Salty Irina* at the Roundabout as part of Paines Plough's 2024 Summer season.



JAZZ JENKINS
SIREN

Jazz is a native New Yorker and relocated to London to train at LAMDA where she graduated in 2023.

Fabulous Creatures marks her UK professional stage debut.

Theatre credits whilst training include: *The House That Will Not Stand* ('Agnes'), *RENT* ('Joanne'), *The Caucasian Chalk Circle* ('The Singer') and *The Seagull* ('Nina').



KATE NEWMAN
SCYLLA / CLYTEMNESTRA

Kate is a classically-trained actor, neo-burlesque performer, writer, producer and the creator and host of *Like A Virgin* Cabaret.

She trained at The Drama Centre and The Cheek of It School of Burlesque.

Her burlesque alter ego, Have Your Kate and Eat It, has performed at The Barbican, Battersea Arts Centre and The Hippodrome Casino.

TV credits include: *Alder* (ITV) and *Smothered* (Sky Comedy).

THE CREATIVE TEAM



EMILY LOUIZOU
WRITER & DIRECTOR

Emily is the Founder and Artistic Director of Collide Theatre. She has an MFA in Theatre Directing from Birkbeck, University of London and she has worked as a Resident Assistant Director at the Royal Shakespeare Company and at HOME in Manchester.

Selected theatre credits include: *The Woman Who Turned Into A Tree* (Omni-bus Theatre), *Symptoms of Weightlessness* (Little Theatre of Ancient Epidaurus, Greece), *The Coral* (Finborough Theatre), *Labor* (Poreia Theatre, Athens), *Metamorphosis* (HOME; New Diorama).



QUENTIN BEROUD
WRITER & LYRICIST

Quentin is a writer and director for stage and screen, with a particular interest in European theatre and the tragic-comic.

His translation and adaptation of Mariveaux's farce *The Game of Love and Chance* (★★★★★ Hackney Gazette) was Arcola's first major production to open their new Outside Space post-COVID.

As Writer & Adaptor, credits include: *The Game of Love & Chance* (Arcola Theatre). As Dramaturg: *The Coral* (Finborough Theatre).



ELIZABETH FILIPPOULI
EXECUTIVE PRODUCER

Elizabeth Filippouli is a writer and executive with a career across media and social entrepreneurship. She is the Founder of the international organisations Global Thinkers Forum and Athena40. Her sold-out play *Alexander the Great: Between Dreams and Imagination* was produced for the British Library in London in 2023. In her work she combines storytelling with activism. Her degrees include: MBA from Oxford's Saïd Business School, MA in Journalism from London City University, ALM in Creative Writing from Harvard University. Her book *From Women to the World* was published by Bloomsbury (2021).



IOLI FILIPPAKOPOULOU
MOVEMENT &
CHOREOGRAPHY

Ioli is a Greek performer, movement director and teacher based in London.

As a Movement Director, selected credits include: *Symptoms of Weightlessness* (Little Theatre of Ancient Epidaurus, Greece), *Paradise Now!* (Bush Theatre), *The Coral* (Finborough Theatre), *Julius Caesar* (LAMDA), *Ms Julie* (The Place), *Timon of Athens* (RSC), *Metamorphosis* (HOME; New Diorama), *MedeaMaterial* (UAL).

Ioli is currently an Associate Movement Teacher at the London Academy of Music and Dramatic Arts (LAMDA) and a Visiting Lecturer at the Royal Central School of Speech and Drama (RCSSD).



IRENE SKYLAKAKI
MUSIC & SOUND DESIGN

Irene is a musician and songwriter, originally from Athens, Greece. To date, she has released five studio albums: *Wrong Direction* (2012), *Before Dawn* (2014), *Matterless* (2018), *Souvenir* (2020) and *Hydra* (2022).



Scan to listen to Irene's music.

During the past four years Irene has also written music for TV and theatre, most notably collaborating with director Emily Louizou on *Labor* (Poreia Theatre, Athens) and *Symptoms of Weightlessness* (Little Theatre of Ancient Epidaurus, Greece).



ISMINI PAPAIOANNOU
COSTUME & SET DESIGN

Ismini is a London-based scenographer and architect from Athens. She is currently pursuing an MFA in Scenography at the Royal Central School of Speech and Drama with the A. G. Leventis Foundation Scholarship. She also holds an MA in Architecture from the National Technical University of Athens.

She has collaborated with the Young Vic, JW3, and Hoxton Hall, for the UK Festival of Performance Design 2023.

Recent theatre design credits include: *O Sonho Europeu/The European Dream* (dir. Marcos Barbosa, Lisbon), and *As You Like It* (dir. Neil Bartlett, London).

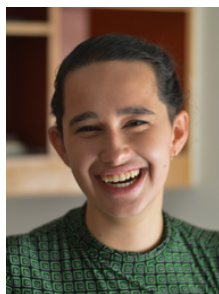


DAVID DOYLE
LIGHTING DESIGN

David is an award-winning lighting designer working across the UK and Ireland.

Recent credits include: *Bullring Techno Makeout Jamz* (Royal Court Theatre), *The Last Show Before We Die* (The Yard Theatre), *SAP* (Atticist and Ellie Keel Productions), and *we were promised honey!* (YESYESNONO).

He was nominated for an Offie for Best Lighting Design for *EAST* at King's Head Theatre. David also works as a producer and is currently the Executive Producer of Jermyn Street Theatre.



COSTI LEVY
ASSISTANT
DIRECTOR

Costi is a director and writer working across the UK, Spain and Argentina. She studied Philosophy and

Spanish at Oxford University, and trained at Teatro Estudio El Cuervo (Buenos Aires), La Casa Invisible (Malaga) and through the National Theatre's Getting Started: Directing' programme.

Recent directing credits include: *The Tempest* (Oxford Playhouse, 2023), *Hands and Flowers* (Edinburgh Fringe Festival, selected for National Student Drama Festival, 2022), *A Deed Without A Name* (online, 2021), *Still Life* (online, 2020).



**IBRAHEEM
HAMIRANI**
STAGE MANAGER

Ibraheem grew up in Oman and is a London-based Stage Manager. He is a graduate of Stage Management

from the Royal Birmingham Conservatoire.

His credits include: *La Bohème* (OperaUpClose), *Scoring A Century* (British Youth Opera), *The Tempest* (Wildcard Theatre), *An Inspector Calls* (PW Productions), *Bad Roads* (Fourth Monkey Productions), *Duck* (Katy Galloway Production), *Rumble In The Jungle* (Rematch), *Don't Destroy Me* (Two's Company Theatre).



**GLERREN
BANGALAN**
ASSISTANT
PRODUCER

Glerren Bangalan is a Filipino writer and producer based in London. She is currently

taking up an MFA in Creative Producing at the Royal Central School of Speech and Drama and has been awarded the Michael Grandage Scholarship. She started her career in 2016, writing, directing, and producing live-reading shows. Her work has been staged in various venues in Manila including DITO: Bahay ng Sining, Pineapple Lab, the Yuchengco Museum, and the Cultural Center of the Philippines.



**UGNE GARCIA
VELICKAITE**
ASSISTANT
DESIGNER

Ugne is currently studying Costume Design at the Wimbledon College of Arts. She loves

to take an experimental route with her work, playing around with texture, movement and surface decoration. She enjoys going for unexpected interpretations—going deeper with the research and creating detailed characterisation through costume.



**ANASTASIYA
SISIS**
ASSISTANT
PRODUCER

Asya is an international theatre practitioner, born in Ukraine and currently based in

the UK. She graduated in 2022 from RCSSD with an MA in Creative Producing. Her first directorial and producing work was *Cockroaches*, an adaptation of Bulgakov's play *Flight* (Camden Fringe 2016, Edinburgh Fringe 2017, Etcetera Theatre 2018).

ADDITIONAL CREDITS

Make-up Design: Teck Kroll
Promotional Images: Mariza Kapsabeli
Production Images: Sophie Giddens
Production Trailers: Vasilis Katsaros

Research Assistant: Jessica Weaver
Head of Development: George Turner
PR: Kevin Wilson Public Relations

Special thanks to Sinéad O'Keeffe for lending her voice as Clytemnestra's mother.

With thanks to all the actors who helped us develop this project: Tessa Bonham Jones, Ellie Nunn, Hannah Donelon, Esme Scarborough, Joanne Mason, Andreanne Rellou, Charlie Culley, Georgia Vyvyan, Hannah Wengard, Vere van den Broek, as well as Gabriel Gawin and the students at Rose Bruford.

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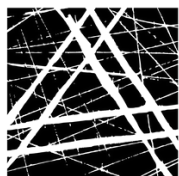
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Arcola Theatre was founded by Mehmet Ergen and Leyla Nazli in September 2000. Originally located in a former textile factory on Arcola Street in Dalston, in January 2011, the theatre moved to its current location in a former paint-manufacturing work-shop on Ashwin Street.

Arcola Theatre produces daring, high-quality theatre in the heart of East London and beyond. They commission and premiere exciting, original works alongside rare gems of world drama and bold new productions of classics. Their socially engaged, international programme champions diversity, challenges the status quo, and attracts over 65,000 people to their building each year. Ticket prices are some of the most affordable in London.

Arcola has won awards including the UK Theatre Award for Promotion of Diversity, The Stage Award for Sustainability and the Peter Brook Empty Space Award.

Artistic Director

Mehmet Ergen

Deputy Artistic Director & Executive Producer

Leyla Nazli

Marketing Manager

Millie Whittam

Marketing Assistant

Monique Walker

Production Coordinators

Imy Wyatt-Corner
Katharine Farmer

Production Assistants

Rebecca Hobbis
Clarisse Makundul

Operations Managers

Catriona Tait
Carmen Keeley Foster

Finance Manager

Steve Haygreen

Participation Manager

Charlotte Croft

Technical Manager

Matthew 'Lux' Swithinbank

Software Developer & IT Support

Oliver Brill

Trustees

Andrew Cripps (Chair)
Naz Yeni (Vice Chair)
Ben Todd
Gabriel Gbadamosi
Lynne McKenzie
Abdullah Tercanli

With grateful thanks to our Front of House, Technical and Bar teams, as well as all of our Supporters and Volunteers. Finally, thank you to our wonderful cleaner Milton Vargas Rodriguez.

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Photography: Mariza Kapsabeli
Programme design: Glerren Bangalan