

Kay Adshead

Writer

Kay Adshead is a writer, theatre maker, performer, filmmaker, and producer. She trained at RADA as an actress, winning the Emile Littler Award for Outstanding Talent. Leading roles in TV, film, and theatre include Cathy in the BBC classic serial *Wuthering Heights*, Linda in Mike Leigh's *Kiss of Death*, Sue McKenna in Film on Four's *Acceptable Levels*, Tanzi in *Trafford Tanzi* at the Mermaid, (learning to wrestle for the role.) She sang the role of Clara Twain in Adrian Mitchel's *White Suit Blues* and played Betty in Stephen Lowe's *Touched*, both productions at the Old Vic. She played Moll Gromer in Philip Martin's *Thee and Me* at the RNT.



She has written over 25 plays, and has been published by Methuen, Faber and Faber, and Oberon, with commissions or productions at the Royal National Theatre, the Royal Court, the Young Vic, The Lyric Hammersmith(main House) The Cockpit, the Bush, the Arcola, Soho Theatre, and many more. Awards include Fringe First, Adelaide Fringe Sensation Award, Adelaide Best Fringe Performance Award, M.E.N. best Fringe Performance, Scene Savers Best Play 2023 for *The Last little Girl*, and she won a Houston Purposeful Artist Award for the same play. She has been a Susan Smith Blackburn finalist three times for *Thatcher's Women*, *The Bogus Woman*, and *Bites*. She was nominated for an E.M.M.A and Encore Magazine best Play of the Year, for *Animal*. Alex Sierz of The Tribune describes her as "the great survivor", and The Times reviewed her play *I am Sad you are dead Mrs. T* for Theatre503 as "a poetic mortar bomb."

In 1999, with Lucinda Gane, she co-founded multi-award-winning theatre company Mama Quilla. She has devised and directed more than 10 large-cast experimental and live art, site-specific projects, often working within hard-to-reach communities creating empowering performance within vulnerable and disadvantaged communities.

Her experimental film bricolage *Stormy - The Opera* was a finalist in the 57 year old WorldFest-Houston International Film Festival, an award winner in [WRPN Women's International Film Festival](#), and won the Kudos Award 2023 in the Depth of Field International Film Festival. *PANGOLIA*, a film made from The Pangolin Project produced at the Alexandra Palace in 2022, won Best Experimental in the Miami Indie Film Awards and Madrid Art House Film Festival, Both films have been Official Selections over 15 times at international film festivals. She is currently editing a short film, *Sea Glass*, and has completed filming *The Silent Lyre* shot in Berlin.

Her short screenplay *Teratoma* is in development and so is a new full length play " *As yet untitled*"

Agents

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Credits

Film

Production	Company	Notes
PANCOLIA 2022	The Pangolin Project	Produced at the Alexandra Palace in 2022, won Best Experimental in Miami Indie Film Awards & Madrid Art House Film Festival.
STORMY - THE OPERA 2023		Winner in WRPN Women's International Film Festival, won the Kudos Award in Depth of Field International Film Festival.
THE SILENT LYRE 2024		Shot in Berlin
ACCEPTABLE LEVELS 1983	Channel 4 / Film on Four	Directed John Davies, played Sue McKenna

In Development

Production	Company	Notes
TERATOMA 2024		Short screenplay
SEA GLASS 2024		
UNTITLED 2024		New full length play

Production	Company	Notes
THE CAROLEANS 2024	A Kay Adshead/Mama Quilla Production	
PRELUDE 2024	STINGAREE PRODUCTIONS	Short film in post-production
THE DRIFLIN 2024	STINGAREE PRODUCTIONS	Short film (writer/ director)
WORKING GIRLS 2024	La Compagnie Yorick/Mama Quilla	Part of the Soho Project

Radio

Production	Company	Notes
HANGING 2002	BBC Radio 4	Produced by Catherine Bailey
OF THE END	BBC Radio 3	Homage to Samuel Beckett. Writer and Performer.
THE BOGUS WOMAN 2001	BBC Radio 3	Produced by Catherine Bailey

Short Films

Production	Company	Notes
THE COUNT		Written and directed by Kay Adshead
THE LAST LITTLE GIRL		Written by Kay Adshead, dir. by Quason Matthews
THREE LOTUS FLOWERS	SheSpeaks Productions	Adapted from theatre poem written by Kay Adshead, directed by Eugenia Low
AFTER THE PARTY	Club X/Channel 4	
ORANGES AND LEMONS	BBC City Shorts	

Theatre

Production	Company	Notes
THE WOMEN WHO - AN EVENING OF NEW WORK BY WOMEN 2023	Alexandra Palace	Devised and directed by Kay Adshead

Production	Company	Notes
STORMY THE OPERA (a bricolage) 2020	STINGAREE	Created as an online production https://youtu.be/QwcZGMCA9TE live-streamed on Youtube on October 3 2020. Funded by Houston Arts alliance.
STORMY THE OPERA 2019	STINGAREE PRODUCTIONS	Performed at MATCH Houston Texas November 2019. Written and directed by Kay Adshead.
THE QUEER STATE 2019	Alexandra Palace, Mama Quilla	Experimental performance inspired by LGBTQIA experience, performed in workshop on October 13 2019. Writer/director
HARINGEY HAS PRIDE: SECTION 28 AND THE QUEER STATE 2019	Jackson's Lane / Harringay Council / Alexandra Palace	Promenade performance at Alexandra Palace as part of Jacksons Lane 'Haringey Has Pride'
THE LAST LITTLE GIRL 2019	Houston Play on Purpose / MATCH Houston	written and directed by Kay Adshead as part of Houston Play on Purpose's Showcase of Shorts (S.O.S)
TEN LOVERS 2018	Anything Goes	written and directed by Kay Adshead
HISTRIONICS 2018	Mama Quilla productions	written and directed by Kay Adshead
VIRILICUS 2018	Mama Quilla / Theatre Absolute, Coventry	
A CRACKED PLASTER 2017	FUTURES	Written and Directed by Kay Adshead
WORKING CLASS 2017	Mama Quilla / Broadway Theatre	A Play in a Day workshop, as director
ACTS OF DEFIANCE - THE FESTIVAL 2016	Mama Quilla and Theatre 503	A weeklong festival produced by Kay Adshead comprising - six new plays by various authors, inc. <i>Entering Incomplete Map Data Area</i> , written and directed by Kay Adshead, 25 specially commissioned short films, including <i>The Count</i> , written and dir. Kay Adshead, and two work-in-progress community projects, including <i>The Soldiers Son</i> , written and directed by Kay Adshead.
ACTS OF DEFIANCE 2016	Mama Quilla & the Omnibus	Three Plays written by Kay Adshead: <i>The Last Little Girl</i> , dir. Michael Batz <i>Happy Ending</i> , dir. Kay Adshead <i>Three Lotus Flowers</i> , dir. Kay Adshead

Production	Company	Notes
ACTS OF DEFIANCE 2015	Mama Quilla and Theatre 503	Three short plays written and directed by Kay Adshead including <i>Primrose</i> , <i>The Singing Stones</i> , <i>Mama Quilla</i> , written and directed by Kay Adshead, performed at the Arcola Theatre with a cast of nine women and one man.
VEIL 2014 - 2015	Mama Quilla	A theatre poem by Kay Adshead, directed by Kully Thiarai and performed with an immersive installation created by Shanaz Gulzar, performed at Theatre at The Mill Bradford, Z-arts Manchester, and The Hub Leeds, transferring to the South Bank for the Alchemy Festival.
HAPPY ENDING 2013	Natural Shocks/PEEP	Performed at Edinburgh's most intimate venue
I AM SAD YOU ARE DEAD MRS T 2013	Theatre 503	Three Eulogies written for THATCHERWRITE
F.O.M.O 2013	Mama Quilla/Broadway Theatre Barking	An interactive performance about social networking written and directed by Kay Adshead
ACTS OF DEFIANCE 2013	Mama Quilla/Broadway Theatre Barking	A series of short films, public interactions or interventions (ongoing to be published on line September 2013) devised , written or produced by Kay Adshead. Ten monologues filmed separately were performed as an epic poetry theatre event at the Broadway Barking for one night only.
MATTER 2012	Mama Quilla/Broadway Theatre Barking	Written and directed by Kay Adshead performed as work in progress
FROM THE STREETS OF REVOLUTION 2012	Roundhouse	A day of debate and performance - a series of linked events exploring recent global events and the nature of protest.
BREAKING 2011	John Lyons Theatre	Work in progress transferring to Camden Fringe.
IF ANYONE RECOGNISES THESE YOUNG PEOPLE 2011	Mama Quilla	Performed in workshop at the Broadway Theatre Barking to be performed at The Round House in 2012.
THE LAST LITTLE GIRL 2011	La Compagnie Yorick/Theatre Vitry at Cine Robespierre	Dir. Michael Batz

Production	Company	Notes
BOYS TALKING 2010	Mama Quilla/Broadway Theatre, Barking	Devised and directed by Kay Adshead
SWEET PAPAYA GOLD 2010	Mama Quilla/Broadway Theatre, Barking	Devised and directed by Kay Adshead.
PROTOZOA 2010	The Red Room/Jellyfish Theatre	The Oikos Project was shortlisted for the Whats On Theatre event of the year. PROTOZOA was performed at The Jellyfish Theatre, the first fully recyclable theatre in Europe. Published by Oberon Books in THE OIKOS PROJECT.
THREE POLICE STATEMENTS TAKEN FROM WORKING GIRLS 2010	Mama Quilla with The English Collective of Prostitutes and The City Lit	
POSSESSED 2009	Soho Theatre Company	Part of Everything Must Go
FIVE CRIMES RECONSTRUCTED 2009	Mama Quilla/Broadway Theatre, Barking	Devised and directed by Kay Adshead
STUFFED 2008	Mama Quilla/Broadway Theatre, Barking	Devised and directed by Kay Adshead
OTHERS 2008	LAMDA	Part of LAMDA Long Project.
BONES 2007	Calypso, Dublin/La Compagnie Yorick	
BONES 2006	Mama Quilla/Leicester Haymarket/Bush	Writer and Director
THE BOGUS WOMAN 2005	Leicester Haymarket	Dir. Kully Thiarai. Toured to Adelaide where it was awarded Best Performer, Best Play and the Sensation Award at the Adelaide Fringe Festival. Also Brits Off Broadway (New York).
BITES 2005	Mama Quilla/Bush Theatre	Writer and Director. Finalist for Susan Smith Blackburn Award.
ANIMAL 2003	The Red Room	Dir. Lisa Goldman. Soho Theatre/National Tour.
METAL AND FEATHERS 2003	Cockpit Theatre	Part of 'Small Objects of Desire'

Production	Company	Notes
THE SNOW EGG 2001	Tiebreak Theatre/Lyric Studio	Tour, ending at Lyric Theatre Studio, Hammersmith.
LADY CHILL, LADY WAD, LADY LURVE, LADY GOD 2001	National Theatre	Shell Connections
THE BOGUS WOMAN 2000	Mama Quilla/Traverse Theatre/Bush Theatre	Dir. Lisa Goldman. 2000 Fringe First Award. Nominated for 2001 Susan Smith Blackburn Award.
BOGUS PEOPLE'S POEM 2000	The Red Room/BAC	
JUICY BITS 1998	Lyric, Hammersmith	
BACILLUS 1996	The Red Room	Performed at the Red Room following rehearsed readings at the Cockpit and Hampstead theatres
THE SLUG SABBATICAL 1995	The Red Room	
RAVINGS: DREAMINGS 1993	Manchester Library	
THE STILL BORN 1993	Soho Theatre	
THEE AND ME 1987	RNT	Played Moll Gromer
THATCHER'S WOMEN 1987	Paines Plough/Tricycle Theatre	Nominated for Susan Smith Blackburn Award
FEARS AND MISERIES OF THE THIRD TERM 1987		