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SF PERUSALS

BOBBY & AMY

by Emily Jenkins

SAMUEL FRENCH

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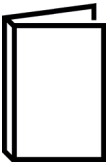
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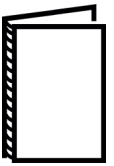
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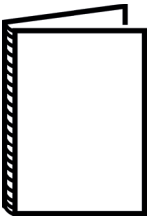
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ABOUT THE AUTHOR



Emily is a winner of the Fringe First for her play *Rainbow* and had her West End debut with *COOKIES* at Theatre Royal Haymarket. She has written plays for Paines Plough (*Dark Matter*), Traverse Theatre (*The Bed*), Specifiq (*Quarantine*; *Christmas at Newton Park*) and attended the Royal Court Young Writers' and Studio Writers' programmes.

As a director her work includes: *Bobby & Amy* (Upstairs at Pleasance Courtyard), *Serious Money* (Sainsbury Theatre), *Quarantine* (National Maritime Museum), *Vinegar Tom* (Royal Derngate Theatre), *Merry Wives of Windsor* (Royal Derngate studio), *KCS* (Southwark Playhouse), *Rainbow* (Fringe First, Zoo Southside), *Mojo Mickybo* (Old Red Lion) and *Fame* (Northcott Theatre).

Emily is also a text coach and Shakespeare practitioner working at Shakespeare's Globe Theatre. Her productions for Shakespeare's Globe include: *The Tempest* (Dir. Jeremy Herrin), *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Dir. Dominic Dromgoole) and *King Lear* (Dir. Bill Buckhurst). She also teaches at LAMDA and has worked as text coach for the National Youth Theatre company. Productions as text and voice coach include *Romeo and Juliet* for the Ambassadors Theatre (Dir. Kate Hewitt) and *The Tempest* for Royal & Derngate (Dir. Caroline Steinbeis).

AUTHOR'S NOTE

In February 2001 foot-and-mouth was discovered at an Essex abattoir and it quickly spread across the UK. The highly infectious disease, which mainly affected cattle, pigs, sheep and goats, plunged the agricultural industry into its worst crisis for decades. During the outbreak over six-million cows and sheep were killed in an eventually successful attempt to halt the disease. However, the devastation it left behind was much more long-lasting.

The day the cows started burning many communities were changed forever. I grew up in a little village in Gloucestershire and I still remember the day the fields were taped up, buckets of disinfectant were left at every gate and sty, and my friends and I – who had always freely roamed the rolling fields – being suddenly confined to tarmac and concrete. Pictures of burning animals – pyres of them – were then splashed across the news channels and, for a while, no one would eat British beef.

Foot-and-mouth had a huge impact on farms, families, livelihoods, and the UK economy, and yet it struck me that nothing in the theatre I'd seen – or anything, really – was talking about an event that deeply affected the childhoods of so many of us, or about the continuing erosion of a way of life centuries in the making.

So I decided to write a play about it all. To talk about what happened and to celebrate British agriculture, small rural communities and the huge amount they contribute to the wider world. The characters and the town in *Bobby & Amy* are fictional, but the story comes from the events in many towns and villages across the country.

Bobby & Amy is also a love letter to the nineties. To Take That, Tamagotchis, Dip Dabs, and Pog swaps. To Kickers, hair mascara and curtain haircuts. To necklace chokers, stick-on earrings, Hubba Bubba, and Ring Pops. And to friendship. To those friends you make when you think no one in the world

will ever understand you. I hope everyone, somewhere, has a Bobby or an Amy in their life.

So here's to all that. And to growing up in a truly magical place where there were cows dotted across every field and the sun always shone!

...Ok, maybe my spectacles are a little rose-tinted, it's still British weather we're talking about.

Emily Jenkins, 2019

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BOBBY & AMY

After a limited preview run at the Vault Festival 2019, *Bobby & Amy* premiered at Upstairs at the Pleasance Courtyard on the 31 July 2019.

Produced by Emma Blackman Productions and Emily Jenkins

CAST

AMY	Kimberley Jarvis
BOBBY	Will Howard

CREATIVE

DIRECTOR – Emily Jenkins
PRODUCER – Emma Blackman
SOUND DESIGNER – Dinah Mullen
LIGHTING DESIGNER – Holly Ellis
COSTUME DESIGNER – Kaajel Patel
STAGE MANAGER & OPERATOR – Roshan Conn

CHARACTERS

BOBBY
AMY

Other characters played by **BOBBY** and **AMY**:

AMY
- **GOAT TIFF**
- **SLAYER SLATER**
- **KID 2**
- **BOBBY'S MUM**
- **BOBBY'S DAD**
- **AMY'S MUM**
- **FARMER ROG**
- **MR PATEL**
- **BUILDER**

BOBBY
- **GOAT KELLY**
- **GOAT STACE**
- **TUCK**
- **KID 1**
- **FISHBAR JIM**
- **MRS M**
- **UNCLE RYAN**
- **MS H**
- **COUNCILLOR**
- **POLICEMAN**

This is a multi-rolling, multi-locational play. The characters and various locations should be created by the physicality of the actors without the need for additional props and costume.

There is no interval.

AMY *(to audience)* out back by the fields is the old folly – bright stone barbed wire and buttercups – inside a rickety ladder reaching raw to a platform so high up – splintered stone and warping wood wind their way through spiders' webs and water stains – at top the sun shoots and splices through a single window with one large beam butting and jutting into the light – black and white cows polka dot the distance in the blue and the green of fields and skies – i'm thirteen – this is my safe place – this is where i hide

BOBBY *and* **AMY** *are thirteen.* **AMY** *is hiding in the folly.*

BOBBY hello – who is that – what are you doing

AMY go away

BOBBY what are you doing

AMY shhh

BOBBY why

AMY i'm hiding

BOBBY i can see you

AMY most people don't look up

BOBBY how did you get up there

AMY are they coming

BOBBY who

AMY the goats

BOBBY goats – there's cows just past the mill

AMY just leave me alone

BOBBY why are you hiding from goats

AMY duh stupid they're not actual

BOBBY i don't understand

AMY girls from school

BOBBY oh – i don't understand

AMY shhh – hide

BOBBY three necklace chokers six blue eyelashes five stick on earrings hubba bubba hubba bubba ring pop and two tamagotchis

AMY kelly topper and the tamagotchi tappers – kels tif and stace

The **GOATS** *give out a bleaty laugh.*

GOAT KELLY so he was like so i was like – uh no

GOAT TIFF girl power kels girl power

GOAT STACE my tami has three hearts happy – that good

GOAT KELLY cause you look exactly like stephen gately – not

GOAT TIFF more like mikey – barf – yeh that's good

GOAT STACE urgh mikey's gross

GOAT KELLY talk to the hand inglis like literally

GOAT TIFF yeh coz the face ain't listening

GOAT STACE he done a poo he done a poo

GOAT KELLY whatever

The **GOATS** *laugh.*

AMY *(they wait)* they gone

BOBBY yes

AMY i'm coming down

BOBBY are you going to jump

AMY uh no – i'd break every bone in my body

BOBBY that's what i thought

AMY i'm coming down the ladder

BOBBY but it's not safe

AMY why's your shirt ripped

BOBBY kenny slater

AMY you know slayer slater

BOBBY my daddy works up farm for his daddy – farmer rog – he helps with the cattle and the combine

AMY i heard slayer once fed a kid through the combine harvester – so he did that

BOBBY yes

AMY where

BOBBY hay bails

AMY slayer slater – arms like shockwaves – face like a crater

BOBBY up the black plastic bails – sixteen bottom nine middle four top – top of the pyramid – can see over the hill for miles – slayer slater

SLAYER SLATER you wanker you weird robot pussy wanker you're a pussy get off my dad's bails

BOBBY seventy nine houses one church steeple

SLAYER SLATER hey tuck wassuup

TUCK wathuuup thlayer

SLAYER SLATER AND TUCK wasssssssssuuuuuupppppp

SLAYER SLATER look what we got here – we got weird robot boy

TUCK alwight wobot – cwathy wobot – what you doing on hith bailth

SLAYER SLATER your daddy know you're here

BOBBY forty-eight stones in broken down wall – eighteen loose straws two tractors sixty two –

SLAYER SLATER your daddy thinks you're a moron – he told me – he told my dad – he told everyone down the pub he told – said your mum's a munter and she must have shagged a spaztic to have you – that's what he says

TUCK haha thagged a thpathtic

SLAYER SLATER you gonna get off them bails them's my bails knob cheese

TUCK *(sung)*

GAGAGAGLADIATORS

contenda weady glathiataw weady

SLAYER SLATER AND TUCK three – two – one

SLAYER SLATER *and* **TUCK** *grab* **BOBBY** *and start hitting him.*

BOBBY ow

SLAYER SLATER wanker little baby wanker with little baby penis wanker wanker penis pussy little girl vagina pussy – take that – and that

TUCK and that – ha puthy – puthy penith wanker – wickle bwoken wobot wa wa wa

BOBBY ow – leave me alone get off get off get off

SLAYER SLATER *grabs* **BOBBY** *and shakes him.* **BOBBY** *panics, reaches towards the ground and throws some poo in* **SLAYER SLATER***'s eyes.*

SLAYER SLATER argh – argh you little – my eye my eye there's shit in my eye – i'm going to get you get him tuck

TUCK i'm wunning and wunning – wait you wickle wobot

BOBBY running running feet slap in cow pat skid and swerve but stay straight – three stripe adidas and flashing trainers catching up then fading fading – across the mud and down the hill then falling – down the slip slide down on to the bump bump scratch bruise tumble tumble thump

breathe breath – head pain – hip pain – shirt shirt's ripped – horizontal to vertical and lopsided limp – and then this scrunch of red hair ducking past the mill wheel and over the bridge and into the folly – and that's when i met amy – two nine twelve fifteen

AMY what are you doing now

BOBBY counting

AMY counting what

BOBBY buttercups

AMY why

BOBBY it makes me feel better – numbers are safe

AMY that's stupid – you're weird – i'm going

BOBBY can i come

AMY why

BOBBY i don't know

AMY no you can't i don't know you

BOBBY i'm bobby i'm thirteen years nine months two days seven hours and thirty-three minutes

AMY you don't go to the big school

BOBBY no – i'd like to

AMY i'm going on an adventure after school tomorrow – i suppose you can come too if you have to

BOBBY ok

AMY sleepy cotswold town – market square – river – fish shop – old church famous windows – co-op – farm shop – fields and cows

BOBBY the local secondary school – up the lane – iron gates shield of blue and gold – shrill ring then nine hundred navy jumpers black shoes eight big buses windows banging – boys voices high then low then low then squeak

KID 2 get out of the way dumbarse

KID 1 fuck off weirdo

KID 2 dickhead

BOBBY cower against cotswold concrete

KID 2 you see the rack on clare today – 'parently she's wearing proper bras now – her mum took her to swindon weekend – marks and spencer – the goats saw her

KID 1 mate mate i would have that – i would have that twice – wanna swap pogs

KID 2 yeh and how many girls have you actually had

KID 1 plenty – you know me and stacey did

KID 2 not what she said

KID 1 what

KID 2 *(mimicking)* – where do i put it where do i put it

KID 1 shut up shut up she's lying

KID 2 what i heard

KID 1 shut your mouth or i'll shut it for you

KID 2 sure you don't want to wait till your balls have dropped

KID 1 fuck you – *(to* **BOBBY***)* what you looking at

BOBBY duck squeeze through carpark cars step in dog poo but stay statue – crawl through gravel socks and shoes

AMY hey

BOBBY hey

AMY what you doing down there

BOBBY crouching

AMY you're a freak – get up before someone sees

BOBBY three pairs of black leather kickers – laces tucked in

AMY the three goats

The **GOATS** *laugh.*

GOAT KELLY ooh look what we have here – aimless amy

GOAT TIFF aw hello aimless amy

GOAT STACE aimless amy

AMY hello

GOAT KELLY who's this aimless amy – is this your boyfriend

GOAT TIFF is that your boyfriend

GOAT STACE he's cute – not

AMY no

BOBBY thigh high socks

AMY knot in shirt

BOBBY jewels in belly button

AMY AND BOBBY glitter

GOAT KELLY what's your name amy's boyfriend

GOAT TIFF yeh what's your name

GOAT STACE what's your name

BOBBY onetwothreefourfivesixseveneight

AMY stop it bobby

GOAT KELLY bobby – bobby – he's ugly – what you looking at you taking the piss

GOAT TIFF he's in love

GOAT STACE yeh he's in love

AMY no he's not

GOAT KELLY amy and bobby up a tree

GOAT TIFF k-i-s-s

GOAT STACE i-n-g

They laugh.

AMY no – we're not boyfriend and girlfriend – i don't even know him

BOBBY you do know me

AMY shut up i don't

GOAT KELLY you know your girlfriend's a weirdo – she's always hiding in break – under the stairs – in the stationery cupboard – she's like the school troll hiding away in dark corners

GOAT TIFF haha troll

GOAT STACE troll

BOBBY i like the dark

AMY stop talking

GOAT KELLY hark at him – you like the dark do you – well looking at you both it's where you belong – two ugly trolls – loser double loser *(hands make two L shapes)*

GOAT TIFF as if *(hands make an A)*

GOAT KELLY whatever *(hands make a W)*

GOAT TIFF your mum works in mcdonald's *(M)* and your dad works in burger king *(W on top of head like a crown)*

GOAT KELLY loser – get the picture *(L into picture frame)*

GOAT TIFF living in loserville *(L into roof)*

GOAT KELLY population – one *(P followed by 1)*

GOATS KELLY AND TIFF you *(point)*

GOAT STACE you *(point)*

GOAT TIFF hold up kels it's slayer – slayer's coming over

GOAT KELLY oh my life – how's my gloss

GOAT TIFF yeh fit

GOAT STACE totally fit

GOAT KELLY alright kenny – like yer curtains.

SLAYER SLATER alright kel

GOAT TIFF alright kenny

GOAT STACE alright kenny

SLAYER SLATER stace tiff – *(to* **KELLY***)* – kels i hear you might go out with inglis

GOAT KELLY might do might not haven't decided yet

SLAYER SLATER he said you let im break one of ya shag bracelets so he fingered you down tennis court

GOAT KELLY so – dun't mean we're married – i'm keeping my options open

GOAT TIFF options open

GOAT STACE and her legs

GOAT KELLY no one likes you stacey – where's your thidekick

SLAYER SLATER tuck – detention – he bunsened emma evans' hello kitty case in third

GOAT KELLY cool

GOAT TIFF cool

GOAT STACE wicked

SLAYER SLATER *(to* **BOBBY***)* what the fuck you doing here robot

BOBBY nothing

GOAT KELLY he's grinning at me like a pervert

SLAYER SLATER fuck off before that smile smacks porcelain and plumbing prick

GOAT KELLY yeh go on kenny bog flush the spaz

BOBBY i'm not a spaz

AMY bobby

GOAT KELLY *(to the theme tune of Pinky and the Brain)* the spaztic – the spaztic – *(***SLAYER SLATER** *joins in)* – and the troll troll troll troll – troll troll troll troll.

AMY leg it – past the bins – through the staff carpark – down the back road – past the church –

BOBBY where are we going

AMY the folly

BOBBY into the dark and spiders' webs – up up up the ladder – settle on slats – so high up – little window – long way down

In the folly.

AMY i hate them i hate them i hate them i hate them i hate them – my lungs feel tight

BOBBY maybe you're asthmatic – it's dusty

AMY i am asthmatic idiot – this is your fault – why couldn't you shut up

BOBBY do you have an inhaler

AMY i want to rip your head off

BOBBY you don't have the upper body strength

AMY i'm crying you're meant to make me feel better

BOBBY how

AMY say something nice

BOBBY i like your uniform – i wish i had one

AMY go away

BOBBY want to meet my mummy – she'll make us our tea

AMY why are you following me i don't even know you – leave me alone

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