

# HOW NOT TO DROWN

BY NICOLA McCARTNEY AND DRITAN KASTRATI

A ThickSkin and Traverse Theatre Company production, supported by Theatre Royal Stratford East.  
Commissioned by ThickSkin and Lawrence Batley Theatre.

**A painful yet uplifting true story of a child asylum-seeker arriving in the UK.**

During its first life in 2019, How Not To Drown won multiple awards and recognition for its authentic portrayal of Dritan's real-life experience and his performance within the ensemble of five actors. With ThickSkin's trademark physicality and slick production values, How Not To Drown presents an action film for the stage. The show was first performed on 4 August 2019 at Traverse Theatre, Edinburgh produced with Tron Theatre and Lawrence Batley Theatre and developed with support from the University of Edinburgh.

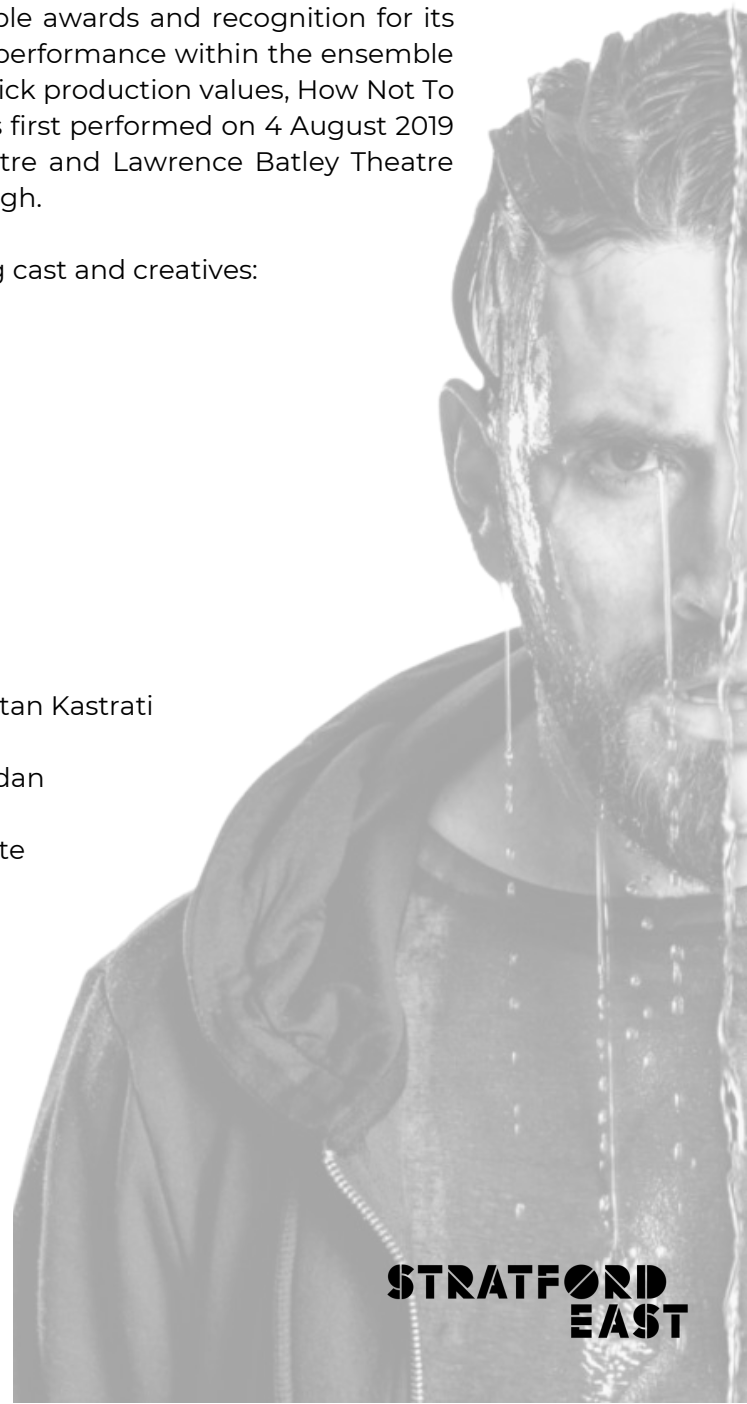
The production is touring the UK in 2023, with the following cast and creatives:

## CAST

Dritan Kastrati  
Ajjaz Awad  
Esme Bayley  
Daniel Cahill  
Samuel Reuben

## CREATIVE TEAM

Writers	Nicola McCartney and Dritan Kastrati
Director	Neil Bettles
Choreographers	Neil Bettles & Jonnie Riordan
Designer & Costumes	Becky Minto
Composer & Sound Designer	Alexandra Faye Braithwaite
Lighting Designer	Zoe Spurr
Associate Sound Designer	Hattie North
Deputy Stage Manager	Izzy Thurston
Stage Manager	Alice Reddick
Relighter	Charly Dunford
Scenic Construction	Jack Poole
Executive Producer	Laura Mallows
Production Manager	Tom Robbins
Production Administrator	Abi Beaven
Marketing	Make A Noise
Press	SM Publicity
Publicity image	Helen Maybanks & Matt Hodges



## Support Refugee Charities

Take a piece of How Not To Drown home with you. Merchandise is available at venues on tour and online, with funds from tote bag sales donated to local charities.

[thickskintheatre.co.uk/shop](http://thickskintheatre.co.uk/shop)

## Besa Tote Bag - £5.00 at the theatre / £6.00 online

All profits raised from our 'Besa' totes will be donated to refugee & asylum charities. 'Besa' is an Albanian word that describes a code of honour - to shelter and help others in need.

## Playtexts - £6.50 at the theatre / £12.00 online

The full script by Nicola McCartney and Dritan Kastrati, complete with programme notes.

## Stay in touch

Be the first to hear about new shows, auditions and opportunities to work with us by signing up to our mailing list at [thickskintheatre.co.uk](http://thickskintheatre.co.uk).

**What did you think?  
Click here to fill in our two  
minute survey!**

## About ThickSkin

ThickSkin is reinventing theatre for the next generation. We are reimagining what theatre can be and looking to share human stories through quality, future-facing, multi-disciplined formats. We're developing 360° artists of the future for a hybrid world where physical and digital collide in more ways than ever before.

We produce bold and ambitious theatre; using our distinctive physicality and cinematic style to reach and inspire young, new, and diverse audiences across the world. We develop the most exciting new talent from around the UK, providing unique opportunities for early-career artists to work alongside world-class creative teams. Our creative activities for young people provide thrilling and relatable experiences, building pathways into the arts.

## Theatre Royal Stratford East

Stratford East champions talent and creates hard hitting, boundary pushing shows in the beating heart of East London.

They have been telling stories since 1884. Many leading actors, writers and directors have been part of the family including Meera Syal, Barbara Windsor, Don Warrington, Indhu Rubasingham, Tanika Gupta, Roy Williams and Cynthia Erivo.

With Artistic Director Nadia Fall at the helm, they present a bold programme of reimagined classics, timely revivals and ground-breaking new work.

#HowNotToDrown  
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