WITCH GIRL SUMMER

BY MARGARITA VALDERRAMA

Content Advisory: Strong language, adult themes, violence, animal cruelty, loud noises, flashing lights

During the pandemic, like many, I began to rely more on the online world for connection and I descended into “Skincare Tok”. But what began as an innocent education quickly soured into an ugly obsession. In hindsight this need to “fix my face” was driven by fear and loneliness during a very difficult time. But knowing all that, do I still use vitamin c serum? Yes. Yes, I do.

My proclivity for doom scrolling has me questioning how we engage with the online world. Gone are the days of sharing whole photo albums from a night out with people you had the night out with. Instead we consume more content than we can healthily process - wellness tips, recipes, a stranger’s home renovation, tell-all videos about why someone got a divorce. But what does an endless algorithm accomplish? These platforms that should make us feel more connected seem to be dividing and isolating us, leaving little room for nuance. People are either idolized or vilified, and today’s hero becomes tomorrow’s villain and it’s scary to see this binary thinking seeping into our world IRL. So I have some questions for you. What does it mean to take accountability? Where do your own contradictions lie? How do you reconcile them?

Witch Girl Summer is an exorcism of my nagging insecurities and resentments for the forces responsible. It’s a bid for shared laughter. It’s an excuse to be ugly on stage. And hopefully, a reminder that “fixing” how we look cannot actually fix our relationships or how we feel about ourselves.

-Margarita Valderrama, Playwright

Cast:

Elinor Coleman: Witch

Giullianna Martinez: Girl

Creatives:

Writer, Producer, Costume Designer:

Margarita Valderrama

Director, Producer, Sound Designer: Kay Brattan

Associate Producer: Amanda Hart

Stage Manager: Harri Compton

Lighting Designer: Ciara Moss

Set Designer: Valentina Turtur

Composer: Deanna H. Choi

Dramaturg: Claren Grosz

Photos by Miguel Torres Umba

Exec Voice: Mitchell Leblanc

This production is the world premiere of

Witch Girl Summer

Little Lion Theatre Company would like to thank David Brady, Nance Turner, and the team at The Lion and Unicorn for their support.

CAST

WITCH

ELINOR COLEMAN

Elinor Coleman is a British actor and voice artist working across television, film and audio. Her screen credits include Doctors, Emmerdale and Coronation Street, with short film work including It’s No Picnic (2025), Zong (2022) and Hair Ties (2021). She also appears in the video game Senua’s Saga: Hellblade II. A winner of the BBC Radio Drama Norman Beaton Fellowship, Elinor has worked extensively for BBC Radio. Originally from Birmingham, she trained at The Royal Central School of Speech and Drama and works across stage and screen.

GIRL

GIULLIANNA MARTINEZ

Giullianna Martinez is a Colombian-American actress, writer, and producer trained at the Royal Birmingham Conservatoire. She became the first Latinx actress to play Tituba in The Crucible (Crucible Theatre, 2024) and wrote, produced, and performed her one-woman show HóPe at Brighton Fringe 2023, nominated for an Off West End Award. Giullianna was a finalist in the first CSA Latine Global Casting Call and featured in Latino Life Magazine’s 2024 spotlight on Latina actors in Britain. She is passionate about increasing Latinx visibility across theatre, film, and classical work, creating opportunities for Latinx performers in previously underrepresented spaces.

CREATIVES

PLAYWRIGHT

MARGARITA VALDERRAMA

Margarita is a Colombian-Canadian playwright and actor. She has a flair for the dramatic, and she's interested in how genre enhances a story. She focuses on the joy her culture brings her and on showcasing characters whose struggles and dreams go beyond what some audiences imagine when they hear the word "immigrant" or "Queer". She's a shortlist nominee for the Playwrights Guild of Canada Emerging Playwright Award, and an alum of the Canadian Film Centre's Norman Jewison Writers Lab. Her produced short-films have completed festival circuits across North America, UK, and Australia

www.margaritavalderrama.com

DIRECTOR

KAY BRATTAN

Kay Brattan is a Toronto-born, London-based theatre director, dramaturg, producer, and actor. A graduate of Humber College's Theatre Performance program and East 15 Acting School's MA Theatre Directing. Kay's international practice spans Canada, the UK, and Europe. Her work focuses on new writing, adaptations, and bold reimaginings of classical texts. Kay is Co-Founder of how.dare.collective, creators of the Toronto Fringe hit Lysistrata (Best Ensemble Nominee, My Entertainment World Awards), and the current Artistic Director of Little Lion Theatre Company. Through her work, Kay continues to champion imaginative, inclusive, and socially resonant theatre that celebrates bold voices and reimagines the classics for contemporary audiences.

LIGHTING DESIGNER

CIARA MOSS

Ciara is a lighting designer and theatre technician who graduated from the Royal Central School of Speech and Drama in 2022. Her notable works are Youth In Flames (Dare Theatre), Lovers Actually (The Other Palace), Alone (Alchemy Theatre), Letters to Joan (Samatha Streit)

SET DESIGNER

VALENTINA TURTUR

Valentina Turtur trained in Scenography at the Rome Academy of Fine Arts. She designs across theatre films and commercials. Her design for Theatre includes work for young audience, modern classics and new writing. Recent credits are: "Paper Swans" at SoHo Theatre for Vyte Garriga and Flabbergast Theatre (which has been nominated for best set Design by the Fringe Theatre Awards), "Beneath the Family Tree" at Riverside studios for No Name Creatives and "Love you More" at the etcetera theatre as Set consultant, “Red Riding Hood” for Petite Pantos at Stanley Arts.

STAGE MANAGER

HARRI COMPTON

Harri is a London-based Stage Manager and Production Assistant. Previous work includes Trial By Jury (Garsington Studios, 2026); R&D and Industry Sharing for Polly: a 21st Century Love Story (The Other Palace, 2026); we'll burn that bridge when we get to it: and i guess that's now (The Lion & Unicorn, 2025); R&D for Beautiful Young Man (2025); R&D for Polly (2025).

Upcoming projects include Much Ado About Nothing with Far Between Theatre and A Midsummer Night's Dream with Shakespeers. They are currently part of the 2026 cohort for the Serena Fenwick Programme run by British Youth Opera and Garsington Opera.

ASSOCIATE PRODUCER

AMANDA HART

Amanda is a creative producer passionate about bringing classic stories to new audiences. She graduated with an MA in Shakespeare Studies from King's College London in 2023, and she now works in-house at Shakespeare's Globe contributing to the creation of theatre for young people. In addition to her work at the Globe, Amanda has produced theatre in various venues around the UK, including at the Edinburgh Fringe, at Riverside Studios in London, and on tour. She is thrilled to be working with Little Lion Theatre Company on Witch Girl Summer.

COMPOSER

DEANNA H. CHOI

DEANNA H. CHOI is an award-winning composer and sound designer with a background in neuroscience. She explores the interaction of sound, evolution, architecture, and the impact of live performance on human behaviour. She has collaborated on over 150 productions across two continents as a designer and associate designer, with companies including the National Theatre, the Unicorn, Jamie Lloyd Company, RADA, Royal Central School of Speech and Drama, the Almeida, the Hampstead Theatre, and Punchdrunk.
www.splitbrainsound.com

DRAMATURG

CLAREN GROSZ

Claren Grosz is a multidisciplinary artist and runs Pencil Kit Productions. Select projects: Co-Director, Reina (PKP, Buddies in Bad Times 2025); Director, Cat Sitters short film (PKP, 2024); Creator/Performer, I love the smell of gasoline (PKP/Expanse/Nightwood/RUTAS, 2022-25); Poet/Illustrator, starting with the roof of my mouth chapbook (Gap Riot Press, 2022); Director, CHICHO (PKP/Theatre Passe Muraille, 2019); Director/Co-Creator, Shadow Girls (PKP 2018).
www.claren.ca

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Tell your friends, tag us on Instagram @little_lion_theatre_company #WitchGirlSummer, and share your thoughts at littleliontheatrecompany@gmail.com.

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