



CASTING

Waterside presents its first in-house production — a powerful new play by emerging writer Liam Mansfield, inspired by his work as an LGBTQ+ youth worker.

Set inside a youth club, a space of refuge, resistance and radical self-expression, the story follows a group of queer young people navigating identity, belonging and the beautiful chaos of becoming themselves. At its heart is their fiercely protective but emotionally drained youth leader, alongside an outsider whose suspicion threatens the fragile safety of the group.

Honest, funny and deeply compassionate, the play explores what it means to be seen, supported and held by community. It celebrates the vital importance of spaces where queer young people can exist without explanation, while confronting the tensions that arise when those spaces are misunderstood or challenged.

This is a story about care, conflict and the power of showing up for one another. *Clothes Swap* is the first in-house production by Waterside Arts and was originally developed by Green Carnation Theatre.

Rehearsals: 04 – 29 May 2026

Tech: 01 – 02 June 2026

Production Dates: 03 – 06 June 2026

Written by Liam Mansfield

Directed by Nathaniel J Hall

Produced by Waterside Arts

Closing date for all Casting submissions **12 March 2026, 17:00**



ROLES

ASH

- Male presenting
- Open to actors who are Male, Transgender – Male, Non-Binary
- Playing age: 16 – 20 years
- Any height

ASH (he/him, male presenting) 16 years old. Confident, excitable, and naïve. Typically he acts before he thinks, which is a catalyst for conflict within the play. Conversations about his home life or political topics are quickly shut down and deflected with talk about Ash's favourite topics of pop culture and musicals. Ash should be seen as a likeable character, despite him sometimes acting in ways that contradict this.

This is a play about queer people and the lived experiences of young LGBTQ+ people; submissions from queer actors are heavily encouraged.

Local hire: we are looking for actors based in NW, within commutable distance to Waterside Arts in Sale, Trafford, Greater Manchester.

**Height and ethnicity are not a limiting factor to any particular role.*

***Trans/nb performers will be considered for all suitable roles*

Actors will be paid in line with the Independent Theatre Council's rates of pay. (<https://www.itc-arts.org/resources/rates-of-pay/>)



ROLES

TATUM

- Non-Binary
- Playing age: 16 – 20 years
- Any height

TATUM (they/them) 17 years old. Quiet, intelligent, and mature. They run a popular YouTube channel about Pokémon and are also passionate about music. Tatum is new to the youth club but quickly takes on the role of mediator. Throughout the play Tatum finds their voice more clearly and attempts to bridge divides.

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ROLES

DEN

- Female presenting
- Open to actors who are Female, Transgender – Female, Non-Binary
- Playing age: 16 – 20 years
- Any height

DEN (she/her, female presenting) 16 years old. Passionate, political, can sometimes appear antagonistic. She is often found discussing the hypocrisy of society and is annoyed by Ash's ambivalence towards the struggles of queer people. Den holds people to a high standard and can become frustrated when these standards are not met. However, she also finds this draining and isolating sometimes causing Den to seek out peace and calm.

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ROLES

CHRIS

- Female presenting
- Open to actors who are female presenting
- Playing age: 30– 40 years
- Any height

CHRIS (she/her, female presenting) 30+ years old. Certain, confrontational, and a mother-figure. She is sure of herself and her opinions, though she can sometimes struggle to listen to others and find common ground with those she disagrees with. She talks to the young people like adults and is protective of them and the safe space they have created together.

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ROLES

VAL

- Female presenting
- Open to actors who are female presenting
- Playing age: 60– 70 years
- Any height

VAL (she/her, female presenting) 60+ years old. Traditional, anxious, and bold. She shares the youth club building to run a women's group, which she is protective of. She acts as the antagonist to the youth group but she should not be portrayed as a villain. She sees the young people as noisy, disruptive, and possibly a threat to her status quo.

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INFO

SUBMISSIONS FOR CONSIDERATION

- Casting Call Closes: 12 Mar, 17:00
- Self Tape Request Deadline: 20 Mar
- Group Audition Day: Mon 30 Mar
- Rehearsals: 04 – 29 May 2026
- Tech: 01 – 02 June 2026
- Production Dates: 03 – 06 June 2026

Please send to casting@watersidearts.org

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