

FROM THE CITY OF MY DREAMS
TO THE LAND OF THE DEAD...



FLATMATES V ZOMBIES

coming to get you in 2017



Supported using public funding by
**ARTS COUNCIL
ENGLAND**



our performance

Thank you for attending our work-in-progress performance. We have spent the last three days working very hard getting it ready for you. What you see is in fact a world premiere. We will all be learning about it at the same time. Even if you don't like it, it is a privilege to come to a premier.

The Story so Far...

You come into this story after three years of work. Not constantly. We can't. None of the team has independent means, however what you see is three years of chipping away at a project we love and all believe in

In Feb 2013, Hyun Ju Baek a student on the Goldsmiths MA in Musical Theatre sat next to a writer, Christopher Hogg in a class called 'Social and Cultural Analysis of the Musical'. They decided to try and write a musical of Hyun Ju's experience of being a stranger in London. Six months later, there was a 45-minute show, called *Flatmates V Zombies*. It premiered at the Camden Fringe, and had a short but successful run at the Tristan Bates Theatre as part of Goldsmiths' annual festival of new musicals. Neither of the two composers, Julia Sukan and Michael Neo had written musicals before, but together they penned six good musical numbers, three of which have made it into the new show.

Since that time, the creative team has been joined by Korean composer Hwal Ran Min and a UK by Reggae producer Dan Donovan (Ex Big Audio Dynamite).

Korean culture is both very old, yet still has the ability to absorb other cultures, copy them and then innovate...

On the production side, the UK team has been strengthened by sage talents of Richard Shannon, a musical lecturer at Goldsmiths, as well as Won XXXX and Ginny Kim. Both successful producers in Korea.

Earlier this year the team succeeded in securing an International development grant from the Arts Council. This has galvanised the process and enabled what you are seeing and hearing today. It is a research grant, and we are not 100 per cent sure what will emerge. In mid-July Chris Hogg, Richard Shannon and Julia Sukan del Rio, the UK composer fly to Seoul to continue work, this time with a Korean cast and co-composer. Both workshops will be directed by Hyun Ju Baek.

What will emerge is to be discovered. But we know that such a grass-roots collaboration to be a rare thing. A unique co-creation that will lead to something truly original.

what is it?



Image from Flatmates V Zombies 2015

A Korean K-POP zombie comedy horror musical

But aren't Zombies are so passé?

There are many different types of Zombie. They each represent slightly different things. Zombies evolve as we evolve. They have different abilities. However if you want to get deep then Zombies are a cultural archetype that represent aspects of our powerlessness in life. So no, Zombies are not passé. And anyway, FVZII is really a ghost story.

Ghosts and Zombies?!!

Yes. This is the story of a Korean Ghost that doesn't know she is dead. She comes to London to start a new life. Breaks the city, causes a Zombie apocalypse but then fixes it.

How does she fix it?

You'll have to read the full synopsis for that.

But isn't all that Gangnam stuff kinda over?

The growing confidence and popularity of Korean culture was first noted in the mid 90s. It was called 'Hallyu' It literally means 'Flow of Korea' or 'Korean Wave'. It takes many forms from Samsung technology, popular TV dramas to K-POP. The wave is an expression of a kind of cultural genius, a singular and solid will. Korean culture is both very old, yet still has the ability to absorb other cultures, copy them and then innovate. What we see feels fresh and original and relevant. We have only just begun to see all the impacts that Asian culture has on the west.

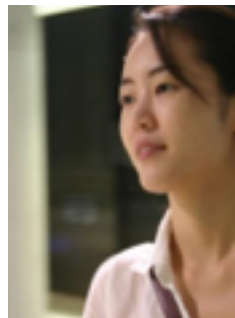
Why is it called Flatmates V Zombies II?

Flatmates V Zombies I was the first show we did at the Tristram Bates. This is a second show – hence II. Also, we can't seem to find a better title. Suggestions welcome.

the creative team

DIRECTOR, CO-CREATOR, TRANSLATOR AND KOREAN LYRICIST **HYUN JU BAEK** (AKA **WHITE**)

White Hyun Ju Baek is a director, playwright and performer. She did MA



Theatre and Performance at Goldsmiths College. She performed many musical shows in Korean include musical *Chicago*, *Kiss me*, *Kate* and *SpamAlot* and Korean creative musical shows.

Currently, she has focused on directing her own projects of not only musical theatre shows but also experimental performances. Her recent productions include: adopting and directing for *Lady of Burma*, movement directing for the musical *One Day* for the 19th Muju Firefly Festival and directing *Sound Factory* for the Pusan Cultural Foundation, directing *Today And* for Kyunggi Cultural Foundation, directing site-specific performance *Zombie Camp*.

BOOK WRITER, CO-CREATOR, LYRICIST

CHRISTOPHER HOGG

Christopher has done many things, he is dramatist, stand-up comic, technologist, librettist and sometimes even an actor. In 2011 he reached the final of the 'Storyteller of the Year' competition. This marked for him a distinct turn away from stand-up comedy and a move to something more dramatic. Since 2012 his writing output has been purely for the stage. He has had staged readings at the Arcola Theatre and a play at Theatre 503 and operatic



songs performed at the National Portrait Gallery. Christopher is studying for a PHD at the Institute for Creative and Cultural Entrepreneurship at Goldsmiths where he also sometimes teaches. In 2014 he achieved a distinction in his MA in Writing For Performance. *Flatmates V Zombies II* is his first musical. christopherhogg.net

COMPOSER, LYRICIST, MUSICAL DIRECTOR **JULIA SUKAN**

Julia Sukan del Rio has pursued a very diverse career in the Arts, working predominantly in photography, film and music. Her most recent projects include writing/directing/composing *When You're Ready* a short film that premiered at the 12th London Short Film Festival, production-managing Idil Sukan's acclaimed photography exhibition *This Comedian*, and editing/composing music for the trailer of the 20th London Turkish Film Festival. Julia's passion lies with narrative music, writing her MA thesis on the meaning, form and conventions of film music. She has composed for both film and musical theatre, co-composing and musically directing the original production of *Flatmates V Zombies* in 2013.



KOREAN COMPOSER, LYRICIST **HWAL RAN MIN**

Hwal ran Min is a composer of musical theatre. She gained a distinction in her BA in Piano department at Ehwa Wonmans university of Korea. She composed music for *Kiss of the spider woman* of Korean production and directed music for some Korean creative musical theatres including *Hoyshow*, *Music Hal*. She also has many experiences as a pianist in musical theatres including *42nd Street*, *Evita*, *Guys and dolls*, *The rocky horror show* of Korean productions.



CREATIVE PRODUCER, DRAMATURG, **RICHARD SHANNON**

Richard Shannon is a playwright, director and lecturer, working in theatre and radio. He read English at New College, Oxford and studied theatre direction at the Bristol Old Vic Theatre School. He is a Fellow of

the Royal Society of Arts and teaches radio drama and documentary at Goldsmiths, University of London and playwriting at Warwick University. Richard is the Chair of the Myanmar Group at Goldsmiths. This group is working to create links with arts organisations and universities in Myanmar. His credits as a writer include: *Sabbat* (the story of the Pendle witches) produced in 2012 by the Dukes Theatre, Lancaster and published by *Oberon Modern Plays* and *The Lady of Burma* (the story of Aung San Suu Kyi) which premiered at the Old Vic in London and went on to the Edinburgh



Festival 2007, ran in London at the Riverside Studios and toured nationally. The play is published by *Oberon Modern Plays* and has been performed in Poland, India, Ireland and Norway. Richard was also one of the founding directors of *Independent Radio Drama Productions*. His directing credits include: *Saddam's Arms* by Simon Beaufoy starring Nerys Hughes and *No Boy's Cricket Club* by Roy Williams starring Donna Croll.

PRODUCER, KOREA, **EUI WON JUNG**

Eui Won Jung is an experienced production manager and programmer. He will be responsible for co-producing the show in Korea and setting up contacts for the project. He did his MA in musical theatre department of Goldsmiths.



His recent work includes: Programmer and production manager at the Seoul Musical Festival and company manager for the musicals *The King & I* and *All Shook up*. He was working for Sejong Art center which is one of biggest theatres in Korea as stage manager.

cast list

MINSOO
ARTHUR LEE



Arthur Lee made his acting debut in 2014 as arch antagonist on HBO action series *Strike Back*, shortly after completing his training at The Poor School in London. Arthur recently completed a successful run at the Arts Theatre West End playing famous ancient warlord LüBu in an English-adapted Chinese historical classic *Diaochan: Rise of the Courtesan*, and is soon to commence filming for his next role in Stan Lee's *Lucky Man* on Sky1.

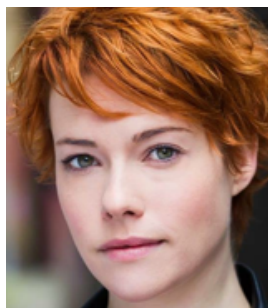
WARREN
ADAM COURTING



Adam started his actor training at the age of eight at Anna Scher's Theatre School, and has since gained a wealth of experience on and off stage. He now tells anyone that will listen that he is not just an actor but an improviser (with 'The Rubiks'), playwright, producer, singer/songwriter, stand-up comic, deviser, compère, sketch comedian (with 'Strong Spoons'), and co-founder of not-for-profit company: Bears and Vagabonds Productions.

Zombies v Flatmates is his first commitment to musical theatre — a genre that dominates his CD collection. Yes, he still uses CDs. He is extremely excited about the production and has had immense fun working with the ZvF family, playing the unpredictable wonder that is Warren. Theatre credits include: Aaron the Moor, Malvolio, Mark Antony, Puck, Tybalt, Scrooge, Borachio, Antonio (Merchant). Television credits: *Crimewatch*, Ben Earle's *Deception*, *The Apprentice*.

NENA
FRANCESCA REID



Francesca Renée Reid trained at East 15 Acting school in not only acting, but also writing, directing, clowning and puppetry. Since graduation she has worked internationally in musical theatre and comedic productions in both English and Spanish.

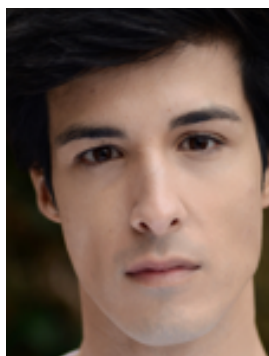
These days, she predominantly works as a stand up, singer, improviser and presenter but has begun to come back to her roots as a theatre actor. Her recent endeavour is as Justin Bieber's biggest fan, Brent Would — drag King at Large. You can also catch her on her podcast Define Werk! and a number a of short films due to be released this year.

MR CHIN
ANTHONY CHISHOLM



Anthony is a trained actor and chef. In the last few years he has turned his attention solely and passionately to his acting career; recently gaining further training in Strasberg's Method. His various screen credits has seen him appearing on all the main television channels in dramas, thrillers, soaps and C4 comedy skits throughout this year. Several stage credits include a well received performance in last years anniversary edition of the musical *Jesus Christ Superstar* as Simon Zealotes. He has just completed two great supporting roles in a feature film. Anthony is now "very excited about this workshop, I'm working with a very talented team, playing Mr Chin in this exciting re-birth of Flatmates V Zombies".

MIGUEL
JOÃO CARVALHO



João started working in the industry in Portugal in 2008. Since then, performed during 3 years in the biggest Casino of Europe (Casino Estoril) and simultaneously, in 2009, started to have singing and musical training and participated in several national TV contests and musicals. After a contract on board of *The Allure of the Seas* (Royal Caribbean), he moved to London in 2013 and start a 2 years intensive course in Musical Theatre, at The MTA. During his training he had the chance to be one of the original cast members of *Cool Rider* (a stage adaptation of the mythic *Grease 2*), at the Lyric Theatre, and performed in several other West End and off-West End shows, like *West End Women UK Tour* (New Wimbledon Theatre), *MOBO Awards* (SEE Arena), *Julie Atherton's Rush of Life Album Launch*, *Songs From the Playground* (Landor Theatre) and *Christmas in New York* (Palace Theatre). Joao was also the soloist in *Something Old Something New 2015* (Bridewell Theatre), a revue show produced by The MTA in association with director and choreographer Cressida Carré. He's been a lead singer for TED Group for the past year and performed consistently in their shows in Tenerife and Crete.

LEO
CONNAH ANDREW



Connah Andrew trained in Acting and Musical Theatre at Laine Theatre Arts, graduating in 2013. Since graduation he has worked on assorted tours, fringe projects, short films, and music videos. He is excited to be working with the Flatmates Vs Zombies team to help develop the musical further and hopes you enjoy seeing it as much as he has enjoyed working on it.

MRS CHIN
MARTYNA BAKER



Songstress, songwriter and performer, Martyna Baker's is from that rare breed of singers whose unique voice cuts across genres. Her self penned songs are a heady mix of soul, indie, dance and world music, the result being a truly mesmerising and eclectic selection. Having written on Gorgon City's top ten album, Martyna went on to work with House legend Todd Terry and Drum and Bass prodigy Lenzman. Alongside this she wrote and produced her debut EP *Fear the Fall* which was released in November 2015. A regular on the London circuit, her live performances have been known to pull in crowds, her voice lighting up the atmosphere in any venue. Martyna also leads workshops with groups of vulnerable women helping them to express themselves through the medium of song and create a sense of support and community.

JI EUN
JUDY LEE



Graduated Music, Art and Performance Department in Keimyung University in Korea, have a major in Classic Vocal. Judy has considerable experience as a stage actress in Opera and Musical Production in the University (*Opera AIDA / Musical Next To Normal, Elisabeth, Les Miserables*), and has worked in a number of Goldsmith's shows.

SCHATZI
MATT COLYER



Matt Colyer began his formal performance training at the Brit School, there he studied Musical Theatre for four years. He then trained at Arts University Bournemouth graduating in 2014. Since then Matt has had the privilege of working across Europe and the UK in a variety of productions. Matt is currently based in London, auditioning and creating his own work. Matt is thrilled to be a part of the *Flatmates V Zombies* cast.

the characters

JI EUN (25)

From Seoul in South Korea, Ji Eun is London's newest arrival. She is in London, trying to build up her life after the death of her boyfriend in a rooftop protest that ended in a terrible fire.

NINA (28)

She is Swiss international student who comes from a good family in a village high in the mountains. She has been in London a year, likes the fine things in life, and expects them. She loves precision, she likes getting things absolutely right. She left her home town in the Alps because she had to whisper the whole time in case of causing massive and deadly avalanches. She has a soft spot for Leo, though she would never admit it.

LEO (23)

Young, French always on heat and forever in lust. He has been in London one-and-a-half years. He loves to joke, he is very cheeky. He works for bankers in the City of London, they are all bastards to him, but he doesn't care. He has come to London, because the French socialist dream doesn't work for him and he wants to be rich. He is favorite moment as a child was when France won the World Cup in 1998. He is constantly trying to re-capture that moment, the one he shared with his father when the whistle went, before his father left home.

MIGUEL (31)

From Madrid, Spain. He is in London to complete his 2nd PhD. He has been in London four years. He is very academic and thinks that he knows a lot about everything. He has the expectation that a mother will always be looking after him. He looks at the flatmates as his family. He knows nothing about cleaning and is convinced the toilet cleans itself.

SCHATZI (25)

Is gender neutral. Neither male, nor female, neither straight nor gay. He is 'Ze and Hir'. Always both. Ze is also the baby of the group. Ze is from Germany, and ze arrived only a month before Ji Eun. Ze knows nothing about London but loves the city more than anyone. Ze needs to be protected from the Zombies at all times. Ze wants to be their friend. Schatzi found Hirs gender, when ze and his best friend went for drunken Tattoos, and ze returned with the name of his best friend on his arm. It felt so right. (These are not typos, but rather non-geneder specific pronouns)

MR. CHIN (48)

He is the Jamaican landlord of the 100 Camden road. He is highly intelligent and well very educated. However, he was passed by for just one too many jobs and became self-employed painter and decorator, and finally a landlord. Now he lives for his rent and he wants it on time. He has fatherly qualities. Especially in connection with Ji Eun. The flatmates don't really take him seriously, as he is over 40. He doesn't care about the Londoners, and is devoted to his mother - Mrs Chin.

MRS CHIN (73)

Mr Chin's mother. She was once the first black headmistress in London. But now retired, been struck with a dementia. Her dementia was brought on by age, and agony at the death of one of her children at a New Cross fire in 1981. Her daughter was called, Yvonne. Mrs Chin is based on Sybil Phoenix MBE.

WARREN (43)

He owns nothing but the street that he lives on. He is an ex-banker who for many years warned about the impending financial collapse. He got fired from the City and decided that his gift of foretelling the future is best spent on people walking past him. No one believes anything that he foretells. He doesn't care. He has a mantra. '99 times I will be wrong, and once I will be right!' That is good enough for him.

MINSOO.(29)

Ji Eun's boyfriend. He survived the Jongsan fire. Is trying to get on with his life in Korea. Is being haunted by Ji Eun.

ZOMBIE LONDONERS X 3

The 'Zombie Londoners' used to be a London 3 piece busking band. Like all other zombies in the city, they have tried to reform, make it all work again. However, once of them was cut in two, by some tube doors, another's arms fell off during a drum solo. They also play awful music, through broken instruments. They sing a dreadful noise. Anyone can join the band at the end of the show. There will be a story of broken instruments for that purpose. They play musical interludes between scenes.

full synopsis

ACT I

JI EUN, a twenty five year old Korean girl arrives in London to start a new life. Her old life ended when her boyfriend MINSOO died during a rooftop protest in Seoul. As the riot police moved in, a fire started which engulfed the protesters. JI EUN was not able to save her boyfriend. In fact she was the only survivor. Out of respect for her mother, she doesn't commit suicide. She decides to follow the plans that she made with Minsoo. She moves to London.

JI EUN responds to an ad for a flat-share in Camden. Pale and overwrought, she arrives suitcases in hand and meets her first Londoner - WARREN, a homeless Rastafarian who lives outside the flat. WARREN has been waiting for JI EUN to arrive. He is a seer, who knows what part she has an important part to play in a coming disaster. He holds out his hand and keys drop from one of the flatmates who lives in an oversized converse shoe stuck to the side of the building. This is Camden. He hands the Keys to JI EUN. She opens the door.

JI EUN meets NENA from Switzerland, LEO from France, MIGUEL from Spain and SCHATZI. They all have questions that they ask her from a prepared list. NENA doesn't really think JI EUN is right the delicate ecosystem that is their tiny London flat. They move her towards the exit. Only SCHATZI takes a liking to her. He marvels at the blackness of her hair, the whiteness of her face, the smoothness of her complexion. She is the coolest Asian Goth he has ever seen. LEO also likes her a bit, but only for sleazy reasons. JI EUN is very confused. She didn't understand that she was in an interview situation. As she is being shown to the exit, she has nowhere else to go. Just as pushed out, she is stopped by the Jamaican landlord MR CHIN. He has come to collect the overdue back rent. Without means to pay him, the flatmates realise that they are all in danger of being thrown out on the street. JI EUN offers to pay MR CHIN. A delighted MR CHIN takes her money, and JI EUN finds herself as one of the flatmates. MR CHIN says he will come back for the final rent in a few days. JI EUN very nearly smiles for the first time. The flatmates thank her and want to take her to East London for some FUN!

JI EUN is shown to her tiny room. She unpacks a black dress from her bag and hangs it up. She is about to carry on unpacking when she takes a match and lights the candle. The place is very musty. The candle will scent the room nicely. She becomes transfixed by the flame and then takes the palm of her hand and places it deliberately over the it and then looks up at the ceiling and waits. The ghostly flicker of a man appears. He looks as if he has been called from the deep. He pulls JI EUN'S hand away from the flame. It is her boyfriend MINSOO, the one who died in Seoul. He tells her not to hurt herself, but also he is also exasperated. He is not from this place. He had asked her not to contact him anymore. Each time it freaks him out. JI EUN tells him she called because she wanted to share the fact that she is in London! Where they had wanted to start a life together! He tells her to leave him alone. He disappears as SCHATZI knocks on JI EUN'S door and invites her out to try London's delights.

The flatmates have a blindingly brilliant night out. They return with hangovers the size of the Alps. JI EUN who remains sober and decides to become their 'hang-over fairy'. Gently coaxing them back to the land of the living through doing lovely things to them. As soon as they are rebuilt, they all go out again. This time

JI EUN doesn't join them. She starts university the next day. This time JI EUN returns to her room, but doesn't light the candle that calls MINSOO.

One the way to her first day at University her bus crashes and her bus driver eats all the injured passengers but not her. The Zombie apocalypse has started. She manages to get home, and finds all her flatmates desperately packing and trying to call their parents for help. Panic ensues as one form of digital communication after another stops working. They all realise that they are alone. The flatmates are amazed at the speed of disaster. The electricity fails, then the telephone, then the TV. Only the radio works, and through that they find out that it is just native Londoners who have been effected by the zombie-ism, and that it has been decided to quarantine London by building a wall around it. NINA explains to JI EUN that Leo is missing and that she has a plane ticket to GENEVA. MIGUEL explains how they need to move fast. JI EUN goes to find her candle. Foreigners are advised to make their way to the various exit points for repatriation. As they leave they are confronted by MR CHIN. LEO is discovered hiding in NENA'S bag. LEO confronts MR CHIN and attacks him with NENA's hair straighteners. MR CHIN falls down. The flatmates run away, and join the routed human mass of foreigners on their way to the nearest exit at Gatwick. As they arrive, the flatmates see the final piece of wall come down right before their very eyes. They are stuck. Behind them Zombies are congregating in a menacingly for an attack.

ACT II

Half-dead with exhaustion, the Flatmates return to Camden. They find WARREN the Seer under a pile of rubble by the front door. They fish him out, and congratulate him on the accuracy of his prophecies. WARREN is also pleased. He can finally relax. The flatmates desperately try and get back into the flat, but the locks have been changed. They are confused and fear another Zombie attack whilst stuck on the street. WARREN accidentally makes a new prophecy that one of the Flatmates is going to die, and that it is probably going to be NENA. His new mantra is 'Survival is the name of the game'. NENA is terrified and angry. JI EUN realises that they should simply ring the doorbell. They do. MR CHIN answers. MR CHIN is alive. The Flatmates don't know if he is a Zombie or not. They sheepishly climb the stairs and find that MR CHIN doesn't recognise them as his previous tenants. He welcomes them each in turn, before getting to LEO and hitting him repeatedly with a Cosh. LEO agrees to pay the last of the back-rent. Mr CHIN turns the Internet back on, and the flatmates try and call their parents. MR CHIN admits that it is his mother, who is ill with dementia and isn't a zombie. He ask the flatmates if they might look after his mother MRS CHIN for a short time whilst he tries to find an escape route for her out of the City. JI EUN agrees to do it.

JI EUN calls MINSOO again. He is more angry this time and tries to explain to JI EUN, that she is the one who died on the rooftop in Seoul, and that he is haunting him. JI EUN is heartbroken and confused. Surely MINSOO is the ghost. JI EUN goes to speak with SCHATZI. She tells him that she feels that there is a secret about her that she doesn't want to say. SCHATZI

interprets this as a desire to change her gender. He tells her not to worry. He will prepare the ground and make things perfect for her. Suddenly there is a scream from the Kitchen. LEO and NENA are fighting on the ground. NENA is trying to stay on top of the apocalyptic chaos with a house rota. LEO thinks this is pointless. It becomes obvious that LEO and NENA are into each other. MIGUEL explains that they need to conserve their water supplies very carefully. The flatmates hear the most terrible moaning. NENA is concerned this noise will cause a Zombie attack in which she will be eaten. She gives JI EUN a pillow and encourages her to murder MRS CHIN.

SCHATZI becomes the spirit of the Blitz, and decides that despite other flatmates protests, he will go and get JI EUN the ingredients so that he can bake her a 'Coming Out' cake. He wants JI EUN to have a coming out party. Like the one that he never had. SCHATZI leaves for the supermarket with a leg of MIGUEL's emergency Jamon for protection.

Meanwhile, JI EUN has gone downstairs to MRS CHIN'S room. Once inside she finds that she can understand every moan that MRS CHIN makes. She places her pillow under her head. MRS CHIN explains that she was the first black headmistress in London. She thinks that JI EUN is one of her old old students come for extra tuition. She sees JI EUN's burns, and she realises that JI EUN is really her daughter Yvonne who died in 1981 in the New Cross Fire. She asks JI EUN to read from Yvonne's diary. As she does, MRS CHIN asks if JI EUN suffered much in the Fire. JI EUN understands her role is to release MRS CHIN's shame at not being able to protect her daughter. MR CHIN comes back having found a way out of London. MRS CHIN tells MR CHIN what a wonderful son he has been. MRS CHIN passes away. MR CHIN is distraught. JI EUN realises that she really is a ghost. However, the fact that she can understand the meaning of shapeless moans, means that there might be something for her to do in London.

ACT III

SCHATZI meets WARREN in the supermarket. He finds the last set of eggs in the whole of London. SCHATZI invites WARREN to JI EUN'S coming out party. The whole time SCHATZI is waving his leg of emergency Jamon and wakes up the ZOMBIES ORCHESTRA in the supermarket. SCHATZI explains that they have a bathfull of water back at the flat and that he would love to give WARREN a make-over. He returns to the flat WARREN and with the ZOMBIE ORCHESTRA following.

Meanwhile at the flat, NENA and MICHAEL are fighting. NENA let out the bath water because it has glitter in it. MICHAEL accuses NENA of having 'killed the flat'. NENA announces that her and LEO are an item. SCHATZIE comes back in looking fabulous, like a bride and covered in Glitter. He shows the flatmates the rainbow cake he has made. The cake is on the windowsill cooling. SCHATZI is about to announce that Warren is also there, when NENA notices that the moaning from downstairs has stopped. She assumes that JI EUN has smothered MRS CHIN. She is relieved.

JI EUN returns to her flat. SCHATZI readies the flatmates for the big announcement. JI EUN announces that she is dead.

SCHATZI doesn't understand. NENA is relieved at WARREN'S prophecy can't come true as JI EUN is already dead. Suddenly SCHATZI sees that his rainbow coming out cake is being eaten by at the window. WARREN emerges from SCHATZI'S room completely transformed. He has multi-coloured rainbow dreads that stick from his head like a dandelion. He looks amazing and healed. MR CHIN arrives explaining that he is now free and will be leaving London. He gives the house keys to the flatmates. JI EUN gives them to WARREN. He gives JI EUN a kiss. At this moment, JI EUN begins to understand the sounds that the zombies are making. WARREN explains how London needs JI EUN to help release its pain like she did with MRS CHIN. JI EUN explains about the Korean concept of HAN – the rage at being powerless in the face of shame. In Korea, her shame made her a ghost, but that here it turned the Londoners into Zombies. JI EUN interprets the moans of the Zombies who ate the coming out cake. After each interpretation she kisses them firmly on the lips. JI EUN teaches the flatmates how to copy her the Zombies also do the same. The flatmates and zombies leave the flat with a plan to do a lot of kissing.

press release

FLATMATES V ZOMBIES RETURNS TO LIFE, INVADES SEOUL AND LONDON

A bilingual Korean ‘KPop’ comedy zombie horror musical set in London will return to the West End in 2017 after a run in Seoul.

Flatmates V Zombies premiered in 2013 through a partnership between Goldsmiths, University of London MA Musical Theatre student Hyun Ju Baek and writer Chris Hogg. It made its sold-out debut at the Camden Fringe Festival before transferring to the Tristan Bates Theatre, Covent Garden.

Three years later and with two new characters, the remake - *Flatmates V Zombies II* - is now in development, with a Korean director, and British lyricists and composers creating a score to die for.

Through two teams working together, but 5,000 miles apart, FVZii’s a real monster mash-up of creative sensibilities. With a less-than-subtle satirical take on current affairs, a poignant message, and loads of blood and guts, it’s now set for production in both languages and in both countries.

The story begins during a disastrous rooftop protest in Seoul before moving to London, where Ji-Eun — the only survivor — comes to start a new life. Everything’s fabulous, until all the native Londoners suddenly turn into walking, flesh-eating, corpses.

Only those born abroad are unaffected. For Ji Eun and her European student flatmates this leaves them with a dilemma. Do they try and escape the city they love, or try to save it?

What would you do if the country you call home turns against you?

Backed by Arts Council and British Council funding, the *Flatmates V Zombies II* creative team explain that this is the kind of cultural project that’s only really possible through universities:

“Originating out of the highly respected Goldsmiths MA Musical Theatre – a course and a university that attracts talented students from across the world — this is the kind of project that may well become rare in the visa-restricted days of the future,” says writer Chris Hogg, a Goldsmiths alumnus, novelist, poet, actor and entrepreneur.

At each step of the process, the difference between our cultures has been celebrated. Putting this musical together has been an absolute blast. We’ve created a show that works equally well in both cultures and used those differences to our advantage. Each confusion has helped us be original.”

If you’re Korean you will read what you see one way, and if you’re British you’ll get a different story. We adore Korean quirkiness, but we hope to bring a musical story that goes beyond that.

Sometimes cities have more in common with each other than the countries they reside in, and we see Flatmates V Zombies II as two cities singing to each other. It’s about so much more than just flesh eating zombies. Essentially, it asks whether the London dream really exists, and do you have to be from overseas to really appreciate that dream?”

Hyun Ju Baek, co-creator and director says: *“We love musicals in South Korea, we have dozens running at any one time. It was my dream to come here, yet when I got here from Asia, I found Londoners so strange. This must be the experience of many people coming to London for the first time, so it became the inspiration for the story. We definitely see tourists in London loving this show.”*

Producer and dramaturg Richard Shannon adds: *“When we began working on the project we had no idea that the themes that we were writing about would become so prescient. What began as a joyous comic romp has become pressing satire. Written two years before Brexit, this musical has come of age, and is a grassroots project that we hope won’t become more difficult in future.”*

Through the help of the Arts Council and British Council, the team have organised a series of research workshops in Seoul and London.

Flatmates V Zombies II will run in South Korea before coming back to London in 2017.

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