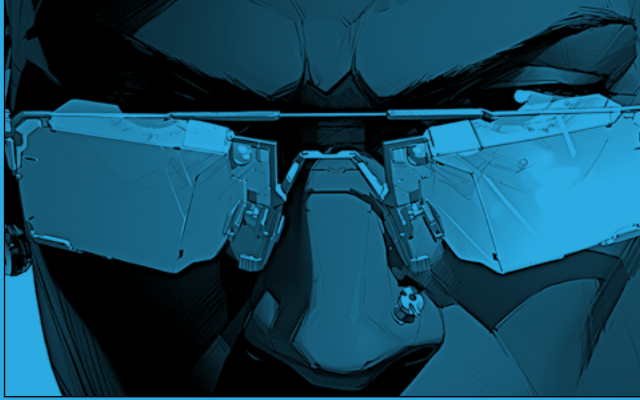
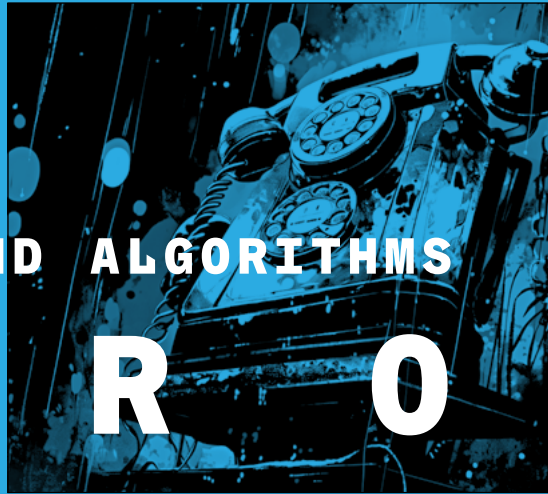




factory  
international  
presents



FREE YOUR MIND ALGORITHMS  
**H E R O**



**AVIVA studios**

Water Street, Manchester

## ORACLE & ARCHITECT RIFF

Who started it?  
Whatever the answer is  
We are part of it.

Enough free minds  
Can close caves  
No matter how clever  
The design is.

Do you need an oracle to  
believe this?  
Tell you you can do this?  
An oracle who is part of it  
So can't really tell you  
anything you need to know.

'Let it go'.  
An oracle brings nothing new.  
Aphorisms and insta posts  
Believing in you  
Won't change your code.

Her cookies sedate  
Her warmth placates  
Go to the place  
Which scares you most -  
The architect.

Get the plans and change them.  
That is all you need to know.  
Go. Now. Together.

Words: Sabrina Mahfouz

## W E L C O M E

This booklet presents a parallel experience to *Free Your Mind*, a new live show by Factory International, inspired by the universe of *The Matrix* (the Wachowskis, 1999).

Directed by Manchester's own Danny Boyle, the show features hip-hop choreography by Kenrick 'H2O' Sandy, a powerful score by composer Michael 'Mikey J' Asante (co-founders of Boy Blue), eye-opening staging by world-leading designer Es Devlin, along with words from acclaimed writer Sabrina Mahfouz and costumes by iconic fashion designer Gareth Pugh.

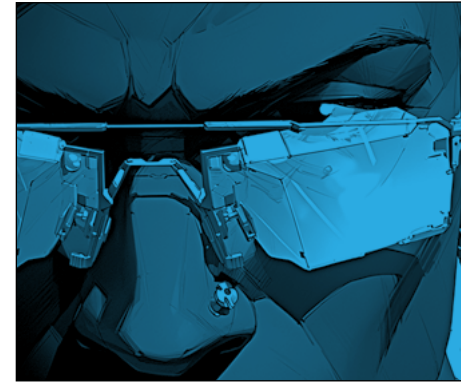
On page 13 of this booklet, you'll be able to access **Algorithms** – a folder filled with material directly from the creative team behind *Free Your Mind*. They invite you to transform those snippets into your own artwork.

Get ready to explore an ever-changing Matrix that constantly shifts. Choose your preferred version of the booklet (Hero or Monster) and follow the story. Be cautious; your decisions will alter the course of the narrative and the type of simulation you experience.

### [ WISDOM ]

[ METAVERSE ] During your journey, you'll be able to unlock the creative work of the team behind **Free Your Mind**. The poem ORACLE & ARCHITECT RIFF was written by Sabrina Mahfouz, a British-Egyptian writer known for her work in poetry, plays and spoken word. Her writings often tackle themes like identity, social justice, feminism and multiculturalism. She's recognised for her powerful storytelling and exploration of marginalised communities' experiences. Sabrina is the author of the text and poetry of **Free Your Mind**.

## C H A P T E R 1



■ In the digital world of **The Matrix**, there exists a group of characters known as Agents – programmes created by the machines to serve as the guardians of their world. Much like an antivirus system, an Agent's duty is to detect problems within the Matrix and ensure they are swiftly "deleted" to maintain the illusion of perfection.

As our story unfolds, you'll make decisions that challenge the essence of what it means to be an Agent. >

Heroes appear throughout the history of storytelling – in films, books and many other artforms. Spiderman, Odysseus, Sherlock Holmes... They're everywhere, even in *The Matrix*.

Sometimes, they're created to entertain us, but often heroes serve as lessons. We learn from their mistakes and successes, allowing us to make better choices in our own lives.

However, heroes don't have to be fictional; there are also real-life heroes who have accomplished a great deal on behalf of humanity – for example, Henrietta Lacks, Len Johnson and Emmeline Pankhurst.

### [ WISDOM ]

[ METAVERSE ] Manchester-born Len Johnson was a pioneering boxer. One of the most talented middleweights of his era, he was barred from earning titles due to racist legislation. Beyond his achievements in the ring, his commitment to racial justice continues to inspire generations.

### [ WISDOM ]

[ METAVERSE ] Emmeline Pankhurst is a hero for her relentless fight for women's suffrage. She fearlessly led the suffragette movement, inspiring change and breaking down gender barriers, ultimately paving the way for women's rights and equality.

### ACTIVITY

The recent rise of AI presents some challenges for the future of humanity. AI can exhibit biases; what happens when you ask AI to generate the image of a Judge, nurse or a worker? Try it yourself by using the website *imagine.art*, then answer the following questions:

**How does the AI depict these jobs? Are there any stereotypes in the generated images?**

**Do you think these images represent the diversity and complexity of these professions?**

WHAT IS THEIR BIGGEST DREAM?	DO THEY HAVE A FAMILY?
WHAT IS THEIR MOST USED PHONE APP?	WHAT MAKES THEM EXTREMELY HAPPY?
WHAT IS THEIR SCREEN TIME?	ARE THEY A LONER? IF NOT, WHO ARE THEIR PEOPLE?
DO THEY CRY OFTEN?	DID THEY HAVE A NICE CHILDHOOD?
WHAT'S THEIR FAVOURITE FOOD?	HOW DO THEY FEEL ABOUT SOCIAL MEDIA?
WHAT MAKES THEM REALLY ANGRY?	ARE THEY INTO VIDEO GAMES?
	WHAT IS THEIR QUIRKIEST TRAIT?

# C H A R A C T E R S H E E T

**Design each of your Hero's body parts individually. Use the questions around each area as an inspiration for your design.**

Don't worry if the parts don't match each other. Name your character and create an origin story for it using the Haiku pattern provided. Leave the Skills and WordBank areas empty for now, and continue reading.

## N A M E

## O R I G I N S T O R Y

[ W I S D O M ]

[ M E T A V E R S E ] A haiku is a Japanese form of poetry that consists of three lines, the first one has 5 syllables, the second 7 and the final one 5. Try and condense your hero's origin story in a short pattern!

EXAMPLE

Matrix world revealed, (5)  
Red pill choice, great  
minds unsealed, (7)  
Digital dreams healed. (5)

## S K I L L S

## W O R D B A N K

## S U M M A R Y



■ You wake up, ready for another day of surveying the Matrix. Your sole purpose: to hunt down glitches and bugs that threaten the simulation. This mission on behalf of the machines ensures that humans remain oblivious to the true nature of the Matrix. Today, there's just one task left before your workday concludes: monitoring the information humans share in the Matrix. You search for signs of rebellion and glitches. >



[ WISDOM ]

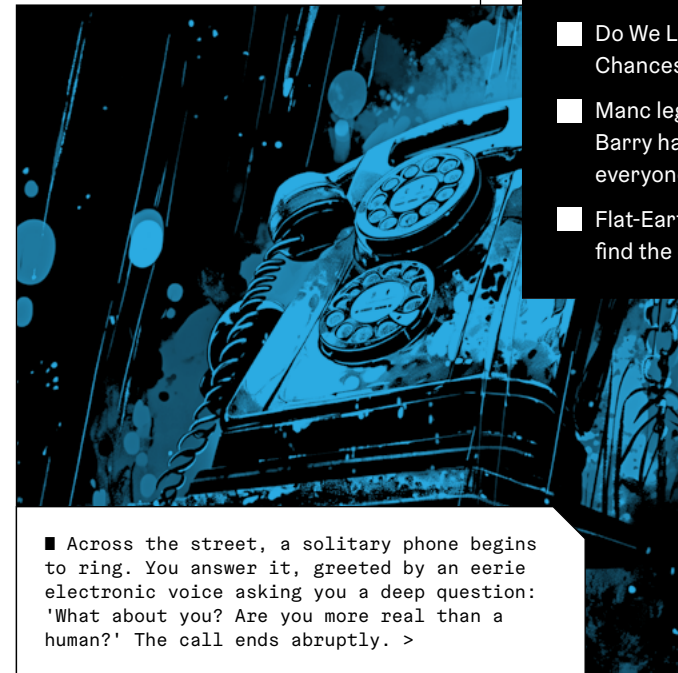
┌ METAVERSE ┐ Parasocial relationships are one-sided connections we form with influencers, characters or online accounts that we follow. We invest in these relationships, even though they may not know who we are. Why not redirect those efforts toward building real-life relationships?

Do you have any online friends you've never met in real life?  
How can you tell if those friends are real, fake people or AI?

In the age of social media, distinguishing truth from fiction can be daunting. Filters, digital enhancements and fabricated personas have made it easier than ever to present edited versions of our lives online. However, the Metaverse isn't all darkness; it also helps us connect with like-minded people who share interests, beliefs or lived experiences.

[ WISDOM ]

┌ METAVERSE ┐ We live in what Marshall McLuhan (a Canadian philosopher, professor and media theorist) called a 'global village,' where technology enables us to connect, share experiences and access information even when we're not physically close.



■ Across the street, a solitary phone begins to ring. You answer it, greeted by an eerie electronic voice asking you a deep question: 'What about you? Are you more real than a human?' The call ends abruptly. >

ACTIVITY

Mark the FALSE headline(s)

- Couple in California name baby with Emoji
- AI is pinpointing cancer and saving lives in a Scottish hospital
- Do We Live in a Simulation? Chances Are about 50–50
- Manc legend Boombox Barry has got a new ride and everyone is losing their minds
- Flat-Earthers take a cruise and find the edge of the world

PATH \_ A

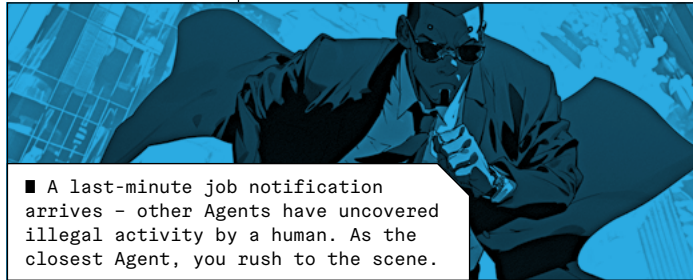
You decide to follow the location data from the phone call.  
[ + ] Add the word CURIOUS to your WordBank.

Go to page 10

PATH \_ B

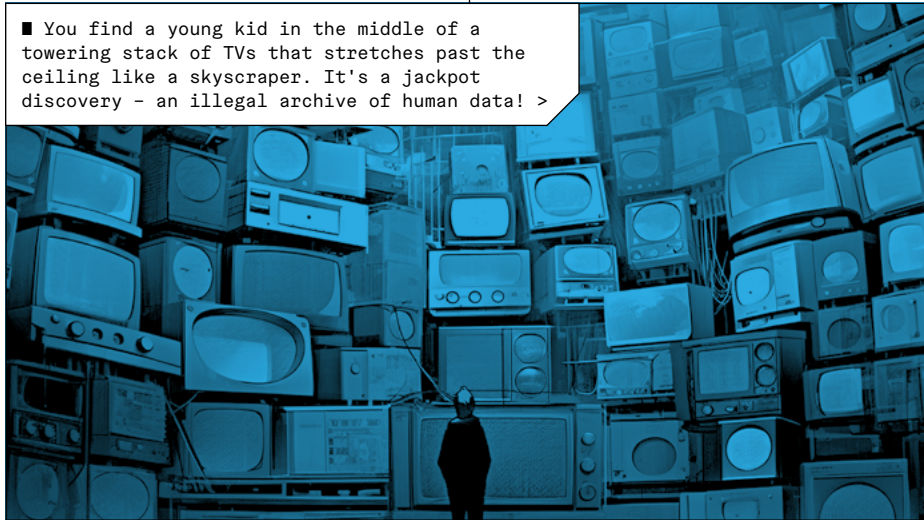
You ignore it. Keep on doing your job, you wouldn't want to disrupt the system.  
[ + ] Add the word LOYAL to your WordBank.

Continue to the next page



■ A last-minute job notification arrives - other Agents have uncovered illegal activity by a human. As the closest Agent, you rush to the scene.

■ You find a young kid in the middle of a towering stack of TVs that stretches past the ceiling like a skyscraper. It's a jackpot discovery - an illegal archive of human data! >

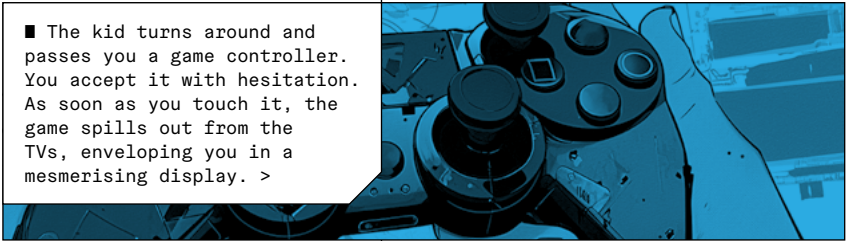


Patterns are the fabric of our world. Whether a mathematical equations or the way a flower blooms, the dunes form in a desert or a boxer moves in the ring, our lives are governed by patterns. They're not always complex equations scrawled on a whiteboard; patterns can be found in art, dance and everything around us.

Coding uses patterns to create entire video games, virtual spaces and tools that enhance our lives. We're even creating patterns that mimic human thought - AI.

[ WISDOM ]

┌ METAVERSE ] Archiving is the act of storing something within a wider collection of items or information. We call this collection an archive. It can be physical, such as a museum or a library, or digital.



■ The kid turns around and passes you a game controller. You accept it with hesitation. As soon as you touch it, the game spills out from the TVs, enveloping you in a mesmerising display. >

[ WISDOM ]

┌ METAVERSE ] Artist Danielle Brathwaite-Shirley creates video games and uses them to store the stories of the Black Trans community. Danielle offers exciting new ways of accessing knowledge and playing the game like dancing and choosing your own adventure.



■ Before your eyes, the game creates a skill tree, offering you the ability to download any knowledge you desire into your memory. **Select three skills for your character and write them in the Skills section of the Character Sheet.**

As you gather your newfound skills, the kid whispers, 'All of this can be ours. We can share everything'. >

If you could download one skill into your brain, so you become a master of it, what skill would it be?

If you had to learn that skill the usual way, where would you find the knowledge to learn it?

What would you place inside your archive of important things?

Who would have access to your archive? Would it be public? Or private?

PATH - A

You follow the kid's words and immerse yourself into the archives, becoming one with knowledge.

[ + ] Add the word TOGETHER to your WordBank.

Go to page 12

PATH - B

You shut down the archives and arrest the kid. In the room, a phone rings. You pick it up.

[ + ] Add the word ALONE to your WordBank.

Continue to the next page



■ Another phone rings nearby. You quickly answer, eager to unravel the mystery. The moment you take the call, your digital self is transported to a different location.

The glass chamber, designed like a panopticon, provides an incredible view of the whole simulation. A human figure gazes through a telescope, observing endless strings of data flowing in and out of the Matrix.

"Welcome, you've finally arrived! I am the Architect of this version of the Matrix. From this spot, I oversee the simulation, ensuring its proper operation. But it's not currently functioning as it should. So you're here to assist us." >

Panopticon, from the Greek word panoptes or "all seeing", is an architectural design pattern created for system control by Jeremy Bentham in the 18th century. Mostly used for prisons, sanatoriums and schools, he drew inspiration from plantations and slave ships to design this blueprint.

A panopticon design is an efficient way to monitor and control groups of people. It creates a feeling of constant surveillance, even when it may not be occurring, to shape their behaviour as desired.

The Metaverse employs similar tactics to influence your actions. These involve 'dark patterns,' which are psychological

strategies designed to encourage unnecessary purchases, views or subscriptions to services. Your digital activities create a trail of data that companies trade among themselves to better understand your behaviour, making their 'dark patterns' more effective. We are always being watched.

[ WISDOM ]

┌ METAVERSE ] Did you know that in 1947, computer scientist Grace Hopper recorded the first computer bug? It wasn't your typical software bug. It was a moth that had sneaked into a computer machine! Since then, we call a bug an unwanted behaviour of a computer programme that needs to be fixed.

ACTIVITY

Some of our data, our behaviours, is being taught to AI so they can communicate better with us. **The second AI tool we will be using is ChatGPT. Try to ask some of the questions we've asked you so far to the AI.**

Are the answers different to the ones you've given? How?

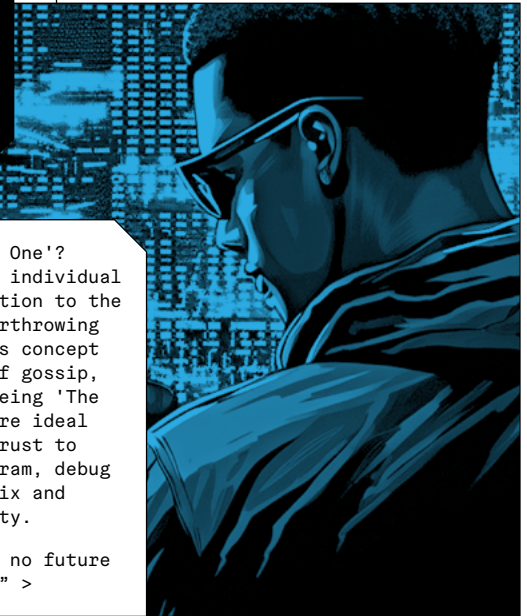
How do you feel about machines learning from you? Have you given them permission?

[ WISDOM ]

┌ METAVERSE ] ChatGPT is an advanced AI chatbot. It can be a helpful tool for learning, providing answers to questions and offering information on a wide range of topics. While it's a valuable resource, it's important for young users to use ChatGPT responsibly and in moderation, as with any technology.

■ "Have you ever heard of 'The One'? The Matrix has long awaited an individual whose power would bring liberation to the world - freeing humans and overthrowing the machines. While I view this concept as more of a myth, a product of gossip, I believe you are closest to being 'The One.' Your remarkable skills are ideal for the quest I'm about to entrust to you: access the Architect program, debug the source code, mend the Matrix and safeguard the system's integrity.

The only truth is that there's no future for humans without the Matrix..." >



PATH - A

You decline the quest, but you still enter the program of the Architect. You prepare yourself to take over; to become the next Architect and create the perfect Simulation.

[ + ] Add the word TYRANT to your WordBank.

PATH - B

You accept the quest and enter the Architect program to debug the source code of the Matrix.

[+] Add the word CREATOR to your WordBank.

Go to page 14

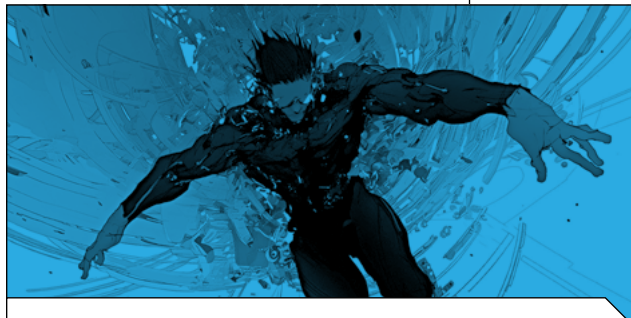
Continue to the next page



■ You enter the biggest pool of knowledge you've ever seen. Information floats all around you. You hear a voice: "Hello? Can you hear me? I am the Architect of the Matrix. Find the Algorithm messing things up and get out before it all collapses!" >



■ You hear the voice, but you are immersed in so much data that your senses are overwhelmed. As you navigate the information, you understand more about humanity and the machines they created. Glowing in gold and green, the Source Code of the Matrix. But something is corrupting it, you follow the trail and get to an Algorithm labelled "Free Your Mind". >



■ "Quick! The Matrix is about to be reloaded!" You hear the Architect begging in despair. But you've never been more certain about what you have to do. You access the Source Code, the original patterns of code, and start transforming it into something beautiful. >

We say software or data are Open Source when they are publicly accessible and can be freely viewed, used, modified and distributed by anyone. Inspired by this, the creative team behind *Free Your Mind* have put together a library of poems, movements, music and much more for you to use. They call it **Algorithms**.

ACTIVITY



Scan the QR code or go to the following website:

[factoryinternational.org/algorithms](https://factoryinternational.org/algorithms)

You'll find open source files and information from the creators of *Free Your Mind*. They want you to remix it and create your own artwork!

WRITING CHALLENGE

Sabrina, the writer of *Free Your Mind* and the wonderful poem on the first page, has shared some of the scripts, scenes and poems that inspired the show. Two of the poems feature Alan Turing:

What role would Alan Turing have in *The Matrix*?

What other historical figures would you like to see in *Free Your Mind*?

Write a poem inspired by Sabrina's and the different ways you use your phone.

Continue to the next page

MUSIC AND DANCE CHALLENGE

Kenrick 'H2O' Sandy and Michael 'Mikey J' Asante are in charge of the movement and sound in *Free Your Mind*. They've provided the public with raw creative materials – ingredients that can be made into songs or dances. It's not a finished product. Rather, a jump off point.

Learn their choreography, choose a face filter and record yourself performing it. Or play with their sounds, remixing them into your own creation.

Have you ever done a TikTok dance challenge before?

How do you feel about performing on social media?

What's your favourite type of music to listen to?

Tag @boyblueent and @factory\_international on Instagram and #FreeYourMind

Continue to the next page

PATH \_ A

You reload the Matrix, perpetuating the Simulation. However, you follow your own desires and create your perfect world.

[ + ] Add the word RELOAD to your WordBank.

PATH \_ B

You accept the mission and enter the Architect program to debug the source code of the Matrix.

[+] Add the word SENTIENT to your WordBank.

## CHAPTER 6

We're not going to tell you how that world looks! You're going to collaborate with AI to create the perfect ending to your character's story. **Go to ChatGPT.**

Write the following prompts, replacing the items in brackets for your Character Sheet info:

### PROMPTS

I have created a character and a story and would like you to write an ending for it. The story takes place in the universe of *The Matrix*. I am going to feed you some data, please don't generate the ending until I tell you to.

My character is a [**Hero**] named [**introduce your character's name here**]. They look like [**introduce description**].

Their origin story is "[**introduce Haiku here**]". And along their journey they have gained these skills: [**introduce skills**].

### ACTIVITY

Play around with the prompts, you can create more characters, change any information about the world, add words to your WordBank, teach them more skills or change the length and tone of the ending.



■ You open your eyes once again, but this time you see a new world.

They have disrupted *The Matrix*, faced the Architect and decided to **[create a new Matrix under their command / liberate humans and make machines sentient and empathetic]**.

You can now generate the ending with the information provided, but please, include the following words when you do so: **[introduce the words in your WordBank]**.

Write down a summary of the AI generated ending in your character sheet.

Was the ending what you expected?

Who is the author, you or the machine?

Could you tell if a text was written by AI or a human? How?

## NOTES

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## C R E D I T S

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**Carlos Marfil Rodriguez** Learning Resource Consultant  
**Reece Williams** Creative Learning Artist Facilitator  
**Lay Juma aka LayFullStop** Creative Learning Artist Facilitator  
**Amber Calland** Creative Learning Manager  
**Tallulah Millington** Creative Learning Apprentice  
**Femi Tahiru** Creative Learning Apprentice  
**Rawan Yousif** Creative Learning Assistant  
**Rory Clifford** Designer

With thanks to the creative team behind *Free Your Mind*:

Music **Michael 'Mikey J' Asante**  
Direction **Danny Boyle**  
Stage Design **Es Devlin**  
Text **Sabrina Mahfouz**  
Choreography **Kenrick 'H2O' Sandy**  
Costume Design **Gareth Pugh**  
Lighting Design **Lucy Carter**  
Sound Design **Gareth Fry**  
Video Design **Luke Halls**

*All images used throughout this document were created in Midjourney using Artificial Intelligence.*

## S H A R E   Y O U R C R E A T I O N S

We can't wait to meet your heroes and monsters and read all their stories! Share your creations with us via email and we'll choose one person who'll receive two complimentary tickets to an upcoming show. Take a picture of your character sheet and email it to: [learning@factoryinternational.org](mailto:learning@factoryinternational.org) If you're under 16 ask an adult to email on your behalf.

Sharing on socials? If you're under 16, ask an adult to help. Tag @boyblueint and @factory\_international on Instagram and #FreeYourMind

## S I G N   U P   & F O L L O W   U S

Sign up and be the first to hear about upcoming shows and events, ticket offers and opportunities to get involved.

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