



YVE BLAKE is a composer, lyricist, playwright and screenwriter born on the lands of the Eora Nation (Sydney, Australia). She is best known for writing the book, music and lyrics for the smash-hit musical *FANGIRLS*. In 2019, *FANGIRLS* premiered at Queensland Theatre and Belvoir to multiple five-star reviews and sell-out crowds, and in 2021 it returned by popular demand for an Australian tour. *FANGIRLS* was awarded the 2019 Sydney Theatre Award for Best Mainstage Musical, the Matilda Award for Best Musical or Cabaret, and received the 2020 AWGIE award for Music Theatre. Previously, Yve has had her work developed and presented at Soho Theatre, Southbank Centre, Old Vic New Voices, the National Theatre Studio, The Barbican, Griffin Theatre Company and the Brisbane Powerhouse. She was the inaugural recipient of the atyp Rebel Wilson Theatre-Maker Scholarship, is an alumni of the Royal Court Writers' Programme, and has also been a visiting artist at Princeton University. In 2019, Yve took the stage in front of five and a half thousand people as a speaker at TEDxSydney. Her talk 'For the love of *Fangirls*' has since been promoted to an official TED talk on TED.com, where it has received more than a million views. Currently, Yve is developing several other new works for stage, film, TV and podcast audio.

# ***FANGIRLS***

***YVE BLAKE***



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# Contents

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|  |      |
|--|------|
| Introduction                           |      |
| Alastair Blanshard                     | vii  |
| Director's Note                        |      |
| Paige Rattray                          | xi   |
| Acknowledgements                       | xiii |
| <br><i>FANGIRLS</i>                    |      |
| Act One                                | 1    |
| Act Two                                | 43   |
| <br>How <i>FANGIRLS</i> got made:      |      |
| A Q&A with Yve Blake and Jonathan Ware | 85   |

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*FANGIRLS* was developed and produced across Australia on the lands of the Gadigal, Wangal and Bidjigal people of the Eora Nation, the Wurundjeri and Boon Wurrung peoples, the Kurna people, the Wonnarua people, and the Jagera and Turrbal people. We, the creators, acknowledge each of these as the Traditional Custodians of the lands on which we were privileged to craft this work. We pay our deepest respects to their Elders past and present, as well as to all First Nations peoples across Australia. Sovereignty was never ceded. These lands always were, and always will be, Aboriginal lands.

## CHARACTERS

- EDNA, 14. A misfit. Lovably awkward. Fiercely intelligent. Wild imagination. Lives in a tiny flat with her single mum. Hates superficiality. Loves Harry.
- JULES, 14, but thinks she's 21. Obsessed with boys. Wants to always be in control. Secretly terrified of being abandoned.
- BRIANNA, 14. She'll snort-laugh at your jokes even when they're not funny. Uncomfortable in her body. Hates conflict.
- CAROLINE, Edna's mum. Works night shifts as a nurse to make ends meet. Tired. Loves Edna more than anything. Thinks True Connection (Harry's band) is problematic.
- HARRY, 18. He's the clear favourite in the world's biggest boy band; True Connection. British Midlands accent. Breathtakingly gorgeous. Hair that 'gives you life'.

## THE FANS

These characters might all live in different cities / have different accents.

- LILY, 13. Radiates sweetness until she's angry, then she might actually kill you. Can riff like Mariah Carey.
- ASH, A kid. Comically earnest. For her, loving Harry actually hurts.
- DOM, teens. Horny for Harry. A bit goth.
- GRETA, teens. An enthusiastic dork. Spectacularly uncoordinated.
- SALTYPRINGL, A queer fanboy (or nonbinary kid) who is friends with Edna through the internet (and who lives in a different country from Edna). The internet is the only place where Salty can be him/themself, and being in the fandom gets Salty through life. Ultimately, Salty just wants to make the world a better place.

## **OTHER CHARACTERS**

ROSA, CAM, TAL, NAZ, fans who live in the same city as Edna  
RIWA, a fan in Tasmania  
YAEL, GEORGIA, two fans who are hyper and naughty  
COP 1, experienced cop  
COP 2, rookie cop

## **VIDEO CHARACTERS**

In the original production, the following characters appeared in videos that were projected on enormous LED screens that formed the show's set. In other productions, they could also appear live:

VIDEO FAN CHORUS  
NEWSREADERS  
HARRY'S MUM  
RADIO BRO  
SUE CRELLEN

## **MEMBERS OF THE BAND TRUE CONNECTION**

REES, the bad boy  
ZAK, the buff one  
LEO, the sensitive one  
MYLES, the prankster

## **CAST**

The original production was performed by a cast of seven, with roles distributed as follows:

EDNA / TRUE CONNECTION MEMBER  
HARRY  
JULES / GRETA / CAM / COP 1 / TRUE CONNECTION MEMBER  
BRIANNA / DOM / COP 2 / TRUE CONNECTION MEMBER

CAROLINE / ASH / TAL / TRUE CONNECTION MEMBER

SALTY / ROSA / YAEL

LILY / RIWA / GEORGIA / NAZ

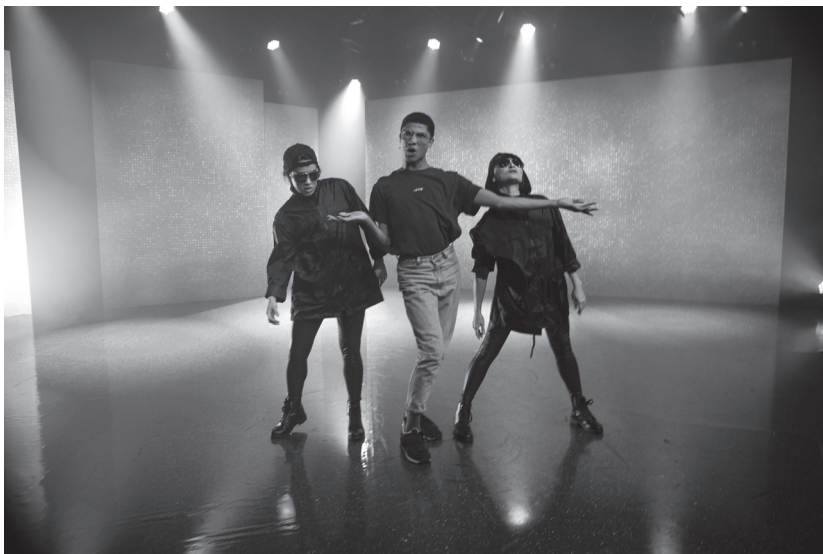
The company was expanded to a cast of nine for the 2021 tour.

## NOTES FOR READERS

/ indicates a cue to overlap the next line

[ ] indicates either a stage direction or an idea or place that can be localised per venue

dialogue in **bold** indicates lyrics / sung text.



*From left: Kimberley Hodgson, James Majoos and Sharon Millerchip in the QT / Brisbane Festival / Belvoir 2019 co-production. (Photo: Brett Boardman)*



## ACT ONE

---

### *SCENE 1—A DARK ALLEYWAY—NIGHT*

*The sound of police sirens fills the space. Two COPS run on with flashlights.*

COP 1: You sure he went this way?

COP 2: It looked like him.

COP 1: [*into his chest radio, annoyed*] Alley is clear. He's not here.

RADIO: [*voice-over*] Any sign of the girl?

COP 1: [*into his chest radio*] Nowhere. They're probably on the road by now.

RADIO: [*voice-over*] I'll get the choppers on it.

COP 1: [*to COP 2*] C'mon, newbie.

*COP 1 exits. COP 2 begins to follow, but then she sees it: a big bin.*

*Alone now, she kicks it. She lifts the lid when ...*

*EDNA pops out of it. She pounces on COP 2 and clamps a hand over her screaming mouth. They struggle. COP 2 manages to throw EDNA to the ground.*

*But then, HARRY appears, holding a knife. He grabs COP 2 and stabs her repeatedly. She crumples. HARRY lifts her limp body over his shoulder.*

HARRY: Bin!

*EDNA holds the bin steady while HARRY folds COP 2's body into it. Sirens sound.*

Run.

*Hand in hand, they run. Strings swell up.*

*Instantly they appear elsewhere. Safe now. As they sing to each other, they dance a duet. This is the most intense young love you've ever seen. It's hot.*

## SONG: 'LET THEM'

## VERSE 1

EDNA: **I was. Waiting. For my life to begin  
Homesick. For a place. I had never been  
In just one look, I realised.  
I found that place, was in your eyes  
And now I'll never feel alone again**

## VERSE 2

HARRY: **Fake smiles. Tight chest. Trapped in his own skin**  
EDNA: **You were just like me**  
HARRY: **Dreamt of. Running. From everything that was 'him'**  
EDNA: **I had to set you free**  
HARRY: **In just one look, could not deny**  
EDNA: **Without me you've only**      HARRY: **Without you, I've only**  
**Been half alive**                      **Been half alive**  
HARRY & EDNA: **Now I'll never feel alone again**

## PRE-CHORUS

**Let them all say we're wrong  
Let's leave them in our dust  
'Cause now the only real thing ...**

*They giggle.*

*An epic CHOIR joins them.*

## CHORUS 1

|                     |  |
|---------------------|--|
| EDNA: <b>Is us</b>  | HARRY: <b>Is uuuuus</b>                      |
| <b>Just us</b>      | <b>Just us</b>                               |
| <b>Just us</b>      | <i>Starts riffing impressively.</i>          |
| <b>Uu-u-u-us</b>    | <b>Baby, you know it's just u-u-u-us</b>     |
| <b>Uu-u-u-us</b>    | <b>You set me fre-e-e-ee</b>                 |
| <b>Just uuuuuu—</b> | <b>And I will never let you go, no-o-o-o</b> |
|                     | <b>Just uuuuuu—</b>                          |

*Right as they're about to kiss:*

SCENE 2—EDNA'S BEDROOM

CAROLINE: [*calling from offstage*] EDNAAA?

*The music cuts. EDNA and HARRY look at each other, horrified.*

*Edna's mum, CAROLINE, calls through her bedroom door.*

Edna? Dinner's in five—

EDNA: I'M BUSY, MUM!

*Snap: we are in Edna's bedroom. EDNA is at her laptop, a pop song blaring out of her headphones. CAROLINE bursts in.*

CAROLINE: What are you looking at?

EDNA: Homework! Mum! CAN YOU KNOCK?!

CAROLINE: Well. Come get some dinner.

EDNA: I will later, Mum, I'm just REALLY busy.

*EDNA puts her headphones on.*

CAROLINE: Ed— [*Lifting a headphone*] C'mon, I wanna hear about your day before I leave for work.

EDNA: MUM! I have homework! Do you want me to lose my scholarship?! OH MY GOD?!

*EDNA's headphones blare. She ignores CAROLINE.*

CAROLINE: Ed? ... Okay. See you in the morning.

*CAROLINE goes. Behind her back, EDNA pulls a frustrated face at her mum. She refocuses on her laptop and begins to type feverishly.*

*A deep bass sound rumbles. The sound of whispering teenage girls spins around us, and rises into the sound of a church organ.*

SCENE 3—NOBODY

*A choir of girls sings angelically. LILY appears tightly lit. She looks about eleven.*

SONG: 'NOBODY'

INTRO

LILY: **I was ten when it happened  
Never been the same  
Now I know why they call it a crush**

[100 mph] 'Cause your insides feel smushed like a building fell on you or like your lower intestines are being pulled out like they're tooth floss, and your belly button is a tooth floss box and it hurts and it's like seriously can you just stop it though-a!

[*At anyone who laughed*] ... It's not funny!

*The CHOIR flourishes.*

**But it's a warm and fuzzy pain ohhh**

*For each solo, a new FAN is tightly lit.*

*VERSE 1*

ASH: **I couldn't eat**  
 GRETA: **I couldn't stop eating**  
 LILY: **I couldn't sleep**  
 SALTY: **I just couldn't even**  
 GRETA: **You give me hand sweat**  
 DOM: **You're a kick to the head**  
 LILY: **Your smile gives me life**  
 SALTY: **Your hair kills me dead**  
 ASH: **Your face strobes in my mind**  
**You're every second thought, I can't get you out**  
 LILY: **When I'm home alone I talk to you**  
 DOM: **I'm caught like a fish**  
 GRETA: **You're like a hook through my mouth!**

*CHORUS 1*

ASH: **You make me feel different**  
 LILY: **You make me feel real**  
 DOM: **This love has changed me**  
 SALTY: **You make me feel ALL THE FEELS**  
 EDNA: **Because in your eyes I'm someone**  
**I wanna beeeeeee**

[*Whispered*] Harry!

*As they sing this line, the FANS all reveal merch covered in Harry's face.*

ALL: **HA-A-ARRY**  
 EDNA: **Nobody loves you like m—**

ALL: **MEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEE**

*Percussion kicks in. The FANS interrupt each other, bursting with feels.*

*VERSE 2*

SALTY: **Two years ago,  
History turned a new page, when  
On a British talent show, a nervous boy  
Walked onstage and—**

ASH: **He's fifteen  
He's from Cheshire**

LILY: **That's his mum's cardigan!**

DOM: **He hates mayonnaise!**

GRETA: **ME TOO!**

SALTY: **But, we didn't know that then.**

LILY: **When suddenly the  
Searing screams  
Stopped**

*The FANS are frozen in wonder. We hear the sound of a beating heart. They sing angelically:*

*CHORUS 2*

DOM: **He opened his mouth**

DOM & LILY: **And opened our eyes**

SALTY & ASH: **A voice so perfect and true**

GRETA: **THE WHOLE WORLD BECAME LIES!**

EDNA: **I felt it when it hit me suddenly  
Hey, Harry?**

ALL: **HA-A-ARRY**

EDNA: **Nobody loves you like m—**

ALL: **MEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEE**

*Sound of an elimination buzzer.*

ALL: **WHAT. THE. FAAAAH—**

*VERSE 3*

LILY: **The judges said he was too young**

GRETA: **WHO EVEN ARE THEY?!**

DOM: **Tried to kick him off the show**  
 ASH: **WHY IS LIFE SO UNFAIYA?!**  
 SALTY: **But then they put him in a group**  
**With three more teenage boys**  
**Who aren't as good as Harry**  
 ALL BUT EDNA: **BUT THEY HAVE GREAT HAIR!**

*Images of the world's biggest boy band, True Connection, are projected across the space.*

SALTY: **Everybody said they couldn't last**  
**Thought as quick as they were manufactured**  
**They would go backta maths class**  
**They were boring, white bread—**  
**They typecast them**  
**But then their album was THE LITERAL BAST!**  
 ASH: **Biggest debut that had even been seen**  
**Sold out malls turned into arenas**  
**They sell perfumes, Listerine—**  
 GRETA: **And UGG boots with HARRY'S FACE ON THEM!**  
 LILY: **If every fan of the band held hands it'd reach to Venus**  
 DOM: **Google gets forty million daily searches just for Harry's**  
**... hair!**  
 GRETA: **'Cause their music is actual, philosophical**  
**POETRYYYYYYY**

*HARRY appears on stage, lit like a god. He performs part of True Connection's hit song 'NOBODY' as the FANS sing along (with zero singing talent). They love him entirely. Across the space, we see videos of fans singing along in their bedrooms from all around the world (VIDEO FAN CHORUS).*

*VERSE 4*

HARRY & FANS: **I like your fingertips**  
**I like your soul**  
**Thinking of your messy hair**  
**I'm like woah**  
**Forget the haters**  
**Why they so mean?**

**Cause you're the biggest babe they've ever seen**  
**Nothing's felt so real before**  
**You got me scared to feel so sure**  
**And I know every guy**  
**Secretly wants you but ohh**  
**Oh-oh Oh-oh-oh**  
**Oh Oh-oh-oh**  
**Nobody loves you, loves you like me**  
**Nobody loves you, loves you like me**  
**Nobody loves you, loves you like me**  
**Girl nobody loves you, not like I do**

*HARRY disappears. The pop track melts away and the FANS' singing becomes tender and vulnerable.*

*An ocean of short sentences is projected across the space. We are swimming in fans' messages to Harry:*

*'did u get my letters?', 'love you baby', 'falling asleep thinking of u', 'plz notice me', 'love your smile', 'love ur pecks', 'luv u my cupcake', 'how was ur day', etc.*

*MELTING CHORUS*

**ALL: Nobody loves you, loves you like me**  
**Nobody loves you, loves you like me**  
**Nobody loves you, loves you like me**  
**No, nobody loves you**  
**Not like I do**

*VERSE 5*

**EDNA: They just love you 'cause you're famous, but I don't care**  
**I see past the branding, I see past the ... hair**  
**I see a different person hiding in plain sight**  
**And it makes me sound crazy, but I know that I'm right**  
**'Cause I know how it feels to swallow a scream**  
**While everyone tells you who you should be**  
**But with you, I'm complete, and completely undone**  
**I feel you take my hand, I hear you whisper ... RUN!**

*BRIDGE*

ALL: **You're on the backs of my eyelids  
The folds of my brain  
You ruin my life  
And you make my day**

EDNA: **Because in your eyes I'm someone I wanna beeee  
Hey Harry!**

*BUILD-UP*

ASH: **Hey Darling!**  
SALTY: **Hey Husband!**  
GRETA: **Hey Cupcake!**  
DOM: **Hey Pumpkin!**  
LILY: **Hey Pork Chop!**  
ALL: **Nobody loves you like—**  
ASH: **Hey Honey!**  
GRETA: **Hey Dumpling!**  
DOM: **Hey Daddy!**  
EDNA: **Hey HARRY!**  
**Nobody looooooooooooooves y—**

*LILY interrupts with an intimidating riff.*

LILY: **You-u-u-u-u-u-u-u-u**  
EDNA: Like ...  
ALL: **MEEEEEEEEEEEE**

*Their gospel chord rises up into a squeal.*

*SCENE 4—P.E. CHANGE ROOMS—LUNCHTIME*

BRIANNA *is showing* JULES *a video on her phone. They wear P.E. uniforms. JULES is in a foul mood.*

JULES: What a DUMB ATTENTION-SEEKING SLUT! WHAT is she doing-a?! GET UP, YOU COW!

BRIANNA: I would never faint on the stage. Like backstage I would, but *not on* the stage.

JULES: How does she even get to go up there?

BRIANNA: I heard she has cancer