

## James Hillier

### Director

James trained at RADA and is Artistic Director of [Defibrillator](#) which he established in 2011.

He received an OFFIE nomination for the World Premiere production of *Not Talking* by Mike Bartlett.



## Agents

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## Credits

### In Development

Production	Company	Notes
<b>INFLUENCE</b> 2023	Stockroom / Collective Theatre	New play by Stockroom writers
<b>JEFFREY BERNARD IS UNWELL</b> 2023	Mitchell Green Productions / Coach & Horses	

### Theatre

Production	Company	Notes
<b>FOXES</b> 2023	59E59	By Dexter Flanders NYC transfer as part of Brits Off Broadway
<b>FOXES</b> 2022	Defibrillator Theatre / Seven Dials Playhouse	By Dexter Flanders

Production	Company	Notes
<b>FOXES</b> 2021	Defibrillator Theatre / Theatre503 / Theatre Peckham	By Dexter Flanders
<b>SUNNYMEAD COURT</b> 2021	Arcola, Theatr Clwyd, The Dukes Lancaster, Theatre Royal Bath	By Gemma Lawrence
<b>SUNNYMEAD COURT</b> 2020	Tristan Bates	By Gemma Lawrence * Nominated for 4 OFFIE Awards including Best Production
<b>JEFFREY BERNARD IS UNWELL</b> 2019	Defibrillator / Coach & Horses	Immersive site specific production of the Keith Waterhouse play starring Robert Bathurst
<b>THE LIFE</b> 2019	Central School of Speech and Drama	By Cy Coleman
<b>NOT TALKING</b> 2018	Arcola Theatre	By Mike Bartlett *Nominated for Best Director OFFIE Awards 2018
<b>A LIE OF THE MIND</b> 2017	Southwark Playhouse	By Sam Shepard
<b>SPEECH&amp;DEBATE</b> 2017	Trafalgar Studios	By Stephen Karam As Producer and Artistic Director
<b>INSIGNIFICANCE</b> 2016	Langham, New York	By Terry Johnson
<b>THE ARMOUR</b> 2015	Langham, London	By Ben Ellis *Winner Best Guest Experience Le Miami Rebel Awards
<b>THE HOTEL PLAYS</b> 2014	Langham, London	By Tennessee Williams
<b>HARD FEELINGS</b> 2013	Finborough Theatre	By Doug Lucie
<b>THE HOTEL PLAYS</b> 2012	Grange, London	By Tennessee Williams

## Short Films

Production	Company	Notes
<b>HOW TO MAKE A GOOD FIRST IMPRESSION - PART 1</b>		*Winner Mofilm Shorts Award Tribeca

## Other

Production	Company	Notes
NT CONNECTIONS	Director/Facilitator and adjudicator	

## Additional information

### FOXES

★ ★ ★ ★

**Gary Naylor, [Broadway World](#)**

*"Foxes provides a voice to a community too often marginalised by theatre and demonstrates that the stories that emerge as a result have a universal resonance. More please."*

★ ★ ★ ★

**Simon Button, [Attitude](#)**

*"Perfectly paced by director James Hillier across its three acts and Flanders' script is superb"*

★ ★ ★ ★

**Kate Wyver, [The Guardian](#)**

*"Shattering tale of faith and family - Dexter Flanders' tender debut about a fractured family shows the tensions and compromises faced by Black gay men"*

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

**Richard Beck, [Broadway Baby](#)**

*"Everything works together in this stunning production to create a groundbreaking theatrical triumph."*

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

**Lily Middleton, [Everything Theatre](#)**

*"Foxes is a powerful and emotional play with a voice that deserves to be heard."*

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Jane Darcy, [Reviews Hub](#)

*"Mesmerising coming-out drama"*

## **SUNNYMEAD COURT**

★★★★ [WhatsOnStage](#)

"James Hillier's production is full of fun tidbits of theatrical innovation."

★★★★ [The Stage](#)

***"Intricately crafted ... sensational. James Hillier's deft direction adds to the immediacy of the text. "***

★★★★ [The Arts Desk](#)

***"Another glimmer of light in this godawful year."***

★★★★ [A Younger Theatre](#)

***"A queer romance that is beautifully and sensitively portrayed... is truly a breath of fresh air."***

## **[Exeunt](#)**

*"Deeply compelling in its pacing and momentum."*

## **JEFFREY BERNARD IS UNWELL**

★★★★ "It's hard to beat – beautiful without being too misty-eyed." [Radio Times](#)

## **NOT TALKING**

★★★★ "James Hillier offers a production that is notably still and centered. This is a thoughtful and accomplished look at the things we do and don't say, whether we should or not." [Evening Standard](#)

★★★★ "Remarkable... Compelling and compassionate from first to last. James Hillier's staging moves swiftly but sensitively." [The Stage](#)

★★★★ "Crisply directed by James Hillier. Characters you feel you know, telling stories you want to hear." [WhatsOnStage](#)

★★★★ "Deftly directed by James Hillier." Mail on Sunday

★★★★ "A startlingly powerful play." [Time Out](#)

★★★★ "A storming success. Smartly directed. A really exciting piece of political theatre" [London Theatre 1](#)

★★★★★ "An intergenerational tale that's both intimate and far-reaching." [MyTheatreMates](#)

"It's been brought to the stage for the first time by Defibrillator's James Hillier, and it's a credit to Hillier's direction that it's hard to imagine just listening and not watching as characters physically transform in the journey towards conscious change." [Exeunt](#)

## **A LIE OF THE MIND**

★★★★★ "James Hillier's great new production. Extraordinary performances." [The Times](#)

★★★★ "James Hillier's revival is haunting and unsettling; a search for love and purpose played out against a haze of love and regret." [Time Out](#)

★★★★ "Directed by James Hillier the production is an assaulting yet intriguing window into family life, mental health and domestic abuse. Harrowing and disturbing in some moments, yet humorous and absurd in others, it's certainly a shock to the system." [London Theatre1](#)

## **INSIGNIFICANCE**

"The combination of politics, sex, brute strength and knowledge makes for a combustible mixture. Director James Hillier and his London-based company Defibrillator not only enhances the play's intimacy, but adds a nice dose of quiet tension." [Broadway World](#)

"Under James Hillier's impeccable direction, each actor captures the soul of their character with depth, authenticity, and honesty Do not miss out on this rare opportunity to see important theatre performed in the most intimate of spaces." [On Stage](#)

"Director James Hillier and his cast work with such unwavering confidence and control that you quickly forget where you are and find yourself completely absorbed by the material. Transports you through time and space and leaves you- like the best of theatre- looking at the world entirely anew." [NJ.com](#)

"James Hillier's careful direction and a flawless cast. Astonishing. This heady piece is perfect for a night on the town." [Manhattan Digest](#)

## **THE ARMOUR**

★★★★★ "Outstanding acting is helped on by Ben Ellis' sharp text." [PlaysToSee](#)

★★★★★ "The Langham hotel is a glorious venue, adding glamour and excitement to one of the most effective site-specific productions I have ever seen." [West End Frame](#)

### **THE HOTEL PLAYS Langham, London**

★★★★★ "Intelligent and winningly unpretentious. Green eyes directed by James Hillier is the most powerful piece." [WhatsOnStage](#)

★★★★★ "Tennessee Williams's plays are claustrophobic as it is. But squeeze them, and the audience, into a hotel room and they're deadly. Defibrillator's site-specific 'The Hotel Plays' are back." [Time Out](#) Critics Choice

★★★★★ "The Hotel Plays is an example of site-specific theatre at its very best." [West End Frame](#)

"James Hillier's bruisingly fine production. Luxury suites can echo with desolation and despair as well as the exuberance of sex." [The Guardian](#)

★★★★★ "A great evening at a rather special piece of theatre." [The Public Reviews](#)

### **HARD FEELINGS**

★★★★★ "Swaggeringly beautiful. Hillier's production not only gets the details right, from the Rod Stewart record nestling among the LPs to the cut of the clothes; it also coaxes vividly particularized performances." [The Guardian](#)

★★★★★ "It's to the credit of all concerned, director James Hillier included, that the characters always emerge as individuals first and points on the social, political, and class spectrum second." [The Arts Desk](#)

★★★★★ "Defibrillator's production is enjoyably snappy, with an excellent ensemble cast." [Time Out](#)

★★★★★ "The riots are going on outside, but the audience are having too much fun with Rusty grooving along to Depeche Mode in James Hillier's production." [Daily Telegraph](#)

★★★★★ "The sextet of talented young actors in James Hillier's punchy production inhabit their unlovable characters with humour and dash." [The Stage](#)

"Hard Feelings, staged by James Hillier at the Finborough Theatre feels like the natural outcome of putting a group of uneasy young people in a shared space and waiting for their inner rats to emerge." [New York Times- Ben Brantley](#)

### **THE HOTEL PLAYS Grange, London**

★★★★★ "It's taut, exceptionally executed. James Hillier has his eye on everything. A fierce and fearless start to the night." [WhatsOnStage](#)

★★★★ “The most tremendous fun, cramming into a hotel room, sitting within inches of the actors, knowing that you could break at any moment the tremulous illusion that they are creating. Beautifully directed by James Hillier.” [The Telegraph](#)

★★★★ “Defibrillator, a deeply impressive new theatre company, have brought three of Williams's late short plays to life in three stuffy rooms of the Grange Hotel, and the result is a disquieting triumph. Directed with considerable skill.” [Time Out](#) Critics Choice

“This is an evening of subtle and elegant performances, there is no weak link. It is a master stroke to play these pieces in a hotel setting.” [A Younger Theatre](#)