

Leo Butler

Writer

Leo won the George Devine Award for his Royal Court play REDUNDANT. His plays MADE OF STONE, LUCKY DOG, FACES IN THE CROWD were also produced at the Royal Court.

Other plays include, I'LL BE THE DEVIL (RSC/The Kiln), WOYZECK (Birmingham Rep), ALL YOU NEED IS LSD (*Told By an Idiot*), INNOCENT CREATURES (National Theatre), and the critically acclaimed BOY (Almeida Theatre).



Agents

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Credits

In Development

Production	Company	Notes
LUCKY DOG	Bosena Films	
LIVING 2026	Sheffield Theatres	Dir. Abigail Graham. Opens in March, 2026.

Theatre

Production	Company	Notes
INNOCENT CREATURES 2023	National Theatre Connections	Dir. Various
CINDERELLA 2022 - 2023	Theatre Royal Stratford East	Dir. Eva Sampson

Production	Company	Notes
MEET MO 2021	Theatre Royal, Stratford East	Dir. Eva Sampson Short musical composed by Leo Butler
ALL YOU NEED IS LSD 2018	Told By An Idiot UK Tour / Birmingham Rep Theatre	Dir. Paul Hunter & Stephen Harper Published by Methuen Drama
WOYZECK 2018	Birmingham Rep Theatre	Dir. Roxana Silbert Adaptation
DECADES 2016	The Bridge Theatre Company / UK Tour	Dir. Eva Sampson Published by Methuen Drama
BOY 2016	Almeida Theatre	Dir. Sacha Wares Published by Methuen Drama
DO IT! 2013	Royal Court - Open Court Season	Dir. Ned Bennett Published by Methuen Drama
SIXTY NINE 2012	Edinburgh Pleasance Theatre	Dir. Donnacadh O'Briain Published by Methuen Drama
JUICY FRUITS 2011	Paines Plough / UK Tour	Dir. George Perrin Published by Methuen Drama
ALISON! A ROCK OPERA 2011 - 2014	Royal Court Theatre / King's Head Theatre / & Various Venues	As Co-Director with Nick Bagnall As Co-composer with Dan Persad Soundtrack on Apple/Spotify etc.
FACES IN THE CROWD 2008	Royal Court Theatre	Dir. Claire Lizzimore Published by Methuen Drama
I'LL BE THE DEVIL 2008	RSC / Tricycle Theatre	Dir. Ramin Gray Published by Methuen Drama
HEROES 2007	National Theatre Education Tour	Dir. Samantha Potter
AIRBAG 2007	Royal Court Rough Cuts Season	As Writer As Co-Director with Anthony Odey Published by Methuen Drama
THE EARLY BIRD 2006	Ransom Prod. / Queen's Theatre, Belfast	Dir. Rachel O'Riordan Published by Methuen Drama
LUCKY DOG 2004	Royal Court Theatre	Dir. James Macdonald Published by Methuen Drama
DEVOTION 2002	Theatre Centre / UK Schools Tour.	Dir. Liam Steele Published by Aurora Metro Press

Production	Company	Notes
REDUNDANT 2001	Royal Court Theatre	Dir. Dominic Cooke Winner of the George Devine Award Published by Methuen Drama
MADE OF STONE 2000	Royal Court Theatre Young Writers' Festival 2000	Dir. Deborah Bruce Published by Methuen Drama

Film

Production	Company	Notes
SELF MADE 2011	UK Film Council / Northern Film & Media.	Dir. Gillian Wearing

Short Films

Production	Company	Notes
69 2026	Pickpocket Films/ Basena Films	Written/ Directed by Leo Butler.

Television

Production	Company	Notes
JERUSALEM THE GOLDEN 2002	BBC Four / BBC Fictionlab	Dir. Louis Caulfield Single Drama

Other

Production	Company	Notes
NOTES FROM A WORKING-CLASS PLAYWRIGHT 2025	Methuen Drama	Book written by Leo Butler. Published November 2025.

Additional information

SELECTED REVIEWS

BOY (Almeida, 2016)

'Quiet, undemonstrative and compassionate, this is a devastating portrait of life for those young people at the bottom of the pile in contemporary Britain. Butler's play appears simple but is in fact very skilful. He essentially dramatises an experience that is fundamentally antithetical to dramatic narrative. And he gives voice to a boy whose largest problem is his inarticulacy.' Financial Times

WOYZECK (Birmingham Rep, 2018)

'With genuine humanity, humour and insight, Butler's adaptation recasts Woyzeck in a multifarious world that freely incorporates references to Twitter, 1950s electric shock treatment, 1920s robot fantasies, war in the Middle East and supermarket meal deals. A desolate, spellbinding achievement'. The Guardian.

I'LL BE THE DEVIL (Royal Shakespeare Company, 2008)

"this lush, savage, nightmarish imagining of colonial Ireland circa 1762 suggests an imagination that has suddenly, gloriously and recklessly taken wing. I was thrilled at the provocation of it, transfixed by its darkness" The Daily Telegraph.

LUCKY DOG (Royal Court, 2004)

"a darkly funny and remarkably poignant portrait of a marriage. Butler's dialogue combines naturalistic chat, a musical sense of phrase and pause, and surreal episodes. The last act is an extraordinary coup de theatre, imbued with an almost heavenly sense of new-found tenderness and atonement." The Independent on Sunday.

REDUNDANT (Royal Court, 2001)

"Butler boldly creates a psychologically complex female lead, surrounding her with unjudged dead-beats, each distinctively vocalising caustic Sheffield vernacular. He also looks to be a master of stage craft, subtly manipulating his audience and characters with dramatic reversals, before arriving at an ending that is inevitable, surprising and loaded with pity and fear" The Evening Standard.

SELF MADE (UK Film Council/Gillian Wearing, 2011)

"a compelling exercise that deliberately blurs the lines between documentary and fiction. Artfully constructed and thought-provoking, the film probes how drama can serve as a vehicle for both therapy and exhibitionism. It packs real emotional wallop." Variety.