

The Bench video transcript

[Audio: Up-tempo music plays in the background throughout the video]

The video opens with an illustration of a man and a women sitting on a bench. A pushchair is to the left of the bench, with a football to the side of the other. A skyline can be seen of a city in the background. The Bench sits on top of a mound which is shaped like a football. The picture widens to reveal the following copy:

The Bench

A moving tale of love, loss and football.

Writer Jeff Brown

Director Olivia Millar-Ross

The Gala Durham and CaroleW Productions logos sit in the bottom-right of the image.

The video cuts to writer Jeff Brown sitting on a bench as he speaks to camera. A graphic in the bottom-left corner reads:

Jeff Brown

Writer, The Bench

The footage switches to a close-up of Jeff as he discusses the show.

“The Bench is a story about two young people from completely different worlds.

The video cuts to rehearsal footage of two of the actors – Jason Njoroge and Hannah Marie Davis - talking whilst sat on a bench. The words ‘Rehearsal footage’ can be seen in the bottom-left corner.

“He’s a Premier League footballer, she’s a single mum.”

The video cuts to cast member Abigail Lawson speaking about the play. A graphic appears in the bottom-right corner which reads:

Abigail Lawson

‘Becs’

The footage switches to a close-up of Abigail as she discusses the show.

“It’s a really important story. There’s lots of very serious elements.”

The video cuts to rehearsal footage of cast member Hannah Marie Davis lying across Abigail as Abigail strokes Hannah’s hair.

“But I also think it’s a really good night out.”

We then see two cast members – Jason Njoroge and David Nellist - sat on a bench acting and talking as part of rehearsal footage, before footage quick cuts to cast member Hannah Marie-Davies talking on their phone with a pushchair in front of them.

“I think they’ll laugh, they’ll cry, and I think they’ll go home...”

The footage cuts back to Abigail discussing the show.

“...thinking I’m really pleased I went to see that.”

Cast member Jason Njoroge is stood on a staircase at Gala Durham as he discusses the play:

“I play Adi Dukobu”

The video cuts to more rehearsal footage where two cast members – Jason Njoroge and David Nellist – talk whilst sat on a bench, ahead of a closer shot of Adi talking to someone off-camera.

“He’s the Congolese French footballer. Just been scouted from France...”

The footage cuts back to Jason discussing the show.

“...and now he’s just been promoted to the Premier League.”

Rehearsal footage shows cast member Hannah Marie Davis talking to Abigail Lawson as Hannah discusses the show.

“I play Vicky Sanderson in The Bench.”

The video cuts to Hannah speaking about the play. A graphic appears in the bottom-right corner which reads:

Hannah Marie Davis

‘Vicky’

“A strong, independent, single mother...”

Rehearsal footage shows Hannah speaking into a mobile phone.

“...who crosses paths with a footballer.”

The footage cuts back to Hannah discussing the show.

“So, we kind of see them and their relationship blossom.

The video transitions to rehearsal footage where director Olivia Millar-Ross speaks to cast members – Dan Howe, Jason Njoroge and Hannah Marie Davis. Jason is sat on a bench whilst Hannah holds a pushchair. Olivia speaks in the background.

“I would describe The Bench as ultimately...”

The video cuts to Olivia sat in a dressing room speaking about the play. A graphic appears in the bottom-left corner which reads:

Olivia Millar-Ross

Director, The Bench

“...a love story.”

Transition to a close-up of Olivia as she continues to discuss the show.

“It’s about connection...”

Rehearsal footage shows cast member Dan Howe in focus talking to Jason Njoroge who is out of focus to the left of the show, followed by cast members Jason Njoroge and Hannah Marie Davis as Jason mimes Incy Wincy Spider.

“...and it’s about how our relationships around us can get us through our toughest times.

Transition to a close-up of Olivia as she continues to discuss the show.

“And also that love can find you when you’re least expecting it.”

Rehearsal footage shows cast members Abigail Lawson – who is holding a phone and a cup of tea – and Hannah Marie Davis sat talking on a bench as Abigail discusses the play.

“I play Becs.”

Transition to a close-up of Abigail as she continues to discuss the show.

“Who is Vic’s best friend and she’s a hairdresser.”

Rehearsal footage shows cast member Abigail Lawson readying to cut Hannah Marie Davis’ hair. Hannah’s hair has rollers in it. They both chat. Abigail continues to discuss the show.

“She is a very positive part of the play.”

Transition to a close-up of Abigail as she continues to discuss the play.

“She’s a very character. I think she’s very likeable.”

Rehearsal footage shows cast member David Nellist on a mobile phone before cutting of a shot of David being interviewed as he discusses the play.

“I play Mike Malone, football agent, who’s brought my player to England from France.”

Rehearsal footage shows David looking at his phone as cast member Jason Njoroge looks away.

The video cuts to cast member Dan Howe being interviewed as a graphic in the bottom-right corner reads:

Dan Howe

Actor, The Bench

“I actually play multiple characters in the show.”

Rehearsal footage shows Dan talking to cast member Jason Njoroge as he continues to discuss the play.

“I feel like they’re all a little chaotic and a little bit boisterous.”

Transition to cast member Hannah Marie Davis as she to discuss the show.

“The play takes you on quite an emotional rollercoaster.”

Rehearsal footage shows cast member Dan Howe moving around, before a quick cut to Hannah talking to cast member Abigail Lawson who has a phone in hand.

“There’s lots of surprises in there.”

The video cuts to cast member Jason Njoroge as he discusses the play.

“He’s the type of person who wears his heart on his sleeve.”

Rehearsal footage shows cast members Jason Njoroge and Hannah Marie Davis talking whilst sat on a bench, before a close-up of Jason being interviewed once more.

“Says what he feels out loud, which a lot of people don’t get to do.

The video transitions into further rehearsal footage as cast member Hannah Marie Davis talks to Jason Njoroge, before a close-up of Jason as he talks passionately. Director Olivia Millar-Ross discusses the play.

“They just lift the characters right of the page and bring them to life.”

The video cuts to a close-up of director Olivia Millar-Ross as she continues to discuss the play.

“And it’s been really wonderful to work with everyone.”

Cast member David Nellist discusses the play, first as a wide shot ahead of transitioning into a close-up.

“It’s funny, passionate, and it’s really well written,”

Rehearsal footage shows writer Jeff Brown in discussion with someone off-camera ahead of cutting to Jeff say on a bench. He discusses the play in the background throughout.

“It’s a fantastic experience to see something you’ve written brought to life by a fantastic cast with a great director.

As Jeff discusses the play, rehearsal footage shows cast members Abigail Lawson and Hannah Marie Davis sat on a bench talking, ahead of cutting to Jason Njoroge smiling. Further clips show cast member Dan Howe looking on at Jason Njoroge before finishing with director Olivia Millar-Ross giving directions.

The video cuts to a close-up of write Jeff Brown he continues to discuss the play.

“I’m so excited to see it on tour.”

A transition brings back the illustration of the two people sat on a bench from the start of the video with a pushchair to the left and a football to the right. The shot widens to reveal the following text:

The Bench

A moving tale of love, loss and football.

Writer Jeff Brown

Director Olivia Millar-Ross

Touring the North East & Cumbria

Thursday 22 May to Saturday 21 June 2025

www.carolewproductions.com

The Gala Durham and CaroleW Productions logos sit in the bottom-right of the image.

The video cuts to 'A CaroleW Productions and Gala Durham Co-Production' written with the Gala Durham and CaroleW Productions logos visible underneath.

The video then ends with 'Learning Engagement activity supported by' written with the North East Combined Authority and Show Racism The Red Card logos listed below.

****ends****