

PLAYBILL



STREETS OF LONDON

Development Playbill | Foundation Edition

Created by Amy Matthew

Story, characters and preliminary song map

DEVELOPMENT MATERIAL

Concepts and song titles may evolve during writing.

The Story and Sound

After a horrific accident kills his entire family, Jake, 22, is left alone in a city that keeps moving as though nothing happened. On the rain-lit streets of contemporary London, he falls in with a fiercely loyal group of runaway and orphan twenty-somethings who teach him how to survive. As danger closes in, the group must decide whether survival means disappearing - or allowing themselves to be seen.

THE MUSICAL LANGUAGE

Contemporary R&B; meets UK garage pulse, soulful ballads, atmospheric pop and explosive street-dance numbers. Rain, footsteps, Underground sounds and the rhythm of the city become percussion. Movement is not decoration: choreography reveals community, conflict and survival.

CORE THEMES

- Grief and reinvention
- Youth homelessness
- Choosing to be seen
- Found family
- Trust and exploitation
- Hope without sentimentality

Principal Characters

JAKE | 22

A grieving newcomer left emotionally numb after losing his entire family. His musical voice begins restrained and isolated, then opens into increasingly soulful R&B; as he accepts connection.

ZARA | 23

The guarded leader of the street family and a magnetic street dancer. Resourceful, observant and fiercely protective, she distrusts promises. Her bond with Jake becomes the central romance.

KAI | 24

A charming hustler and freestyle dancer who makes survival look effortless. Humor is his armor; his brightest numbers conceal some of the show's deepest pain.

NIA | 21

A gifted singer who escaped an unstable home. She recognizes Jake's grief before anyone else and becomes his closest confidante, but refuses to be treated as an emotional substitute.

Principal Characters

MASON | 25

The group's protective older-brother figure. His instinct to keep everyone safe sometimes becomes controlling, forcing him to learn that family cannot be held together through fear.

LEX | 20

The youngest and most impulsive member. Social media, nightlife and risk-taking help Lex escape the terror of being forgotten. Their recklessness raises the stakes for everyone.

DARIUS | 27

A former member of the group who now exploits vulnerable young people. He offers protection at a dangerous price and represents the kind of survivor the others refuse to become.

DETECTIVE AMARA REED | 30s

Initially perceived as a threat, Reed is genuinely trying to connect the group with safety, housing and protection. She challenges their belief that every authority figure will abandon them.

Act One

1. CITY NEVER NOTICES

Company - London moves around the people it refuses to see.

2. ONE MINUTE BEFORE

Jake - A memory of life immediately before the accident.

3. KEEP MOVING

Zara and Company - The first rule of surviving the streets.

4. NO FIXED ADDRESS

Street Family - A rhythmic introduction to the group.

5. DON'T LOOK LOST

Kai and Company - A slick, funny R&B dance lesson.

6. UNDER THE SAME RAIN

Jake and Nia - Two strangers recognize hidden grief.

7. CONCRETE RHYTHM

Company - A major street-dance sequence built from city sounds.

8. WHAT YOU CARRY

Mason - Everyone arrived with invisible baggage.

9. ALMOST INVISIBLE

Lex - How easily someone can disappear inside a crowd.

10. CLOSER THAN HOME

Jake and Zara - Their first romantic R&B duet.

11. THE PRICE OF SAFE

Darius - Protection offered with dangerous conditions.

12. RUN THESE STREETS

Company - An explosive refusal to surrender; Act One finale.

Act Two

1. AFTER MIDNIGHT

Company - Consequences close in after the Act One rupture.

2. BEAUTIFUL DAMAGE

Zara - The truth behind the group's fearless leader.

3. LAUGH SO I DON'T BREAK

Kai - An upbeat mask slowly gives way.

4. SOMEBODY'S LOOKING

Detective Reed - Proof that they have not been forgotten.

5. THE EMPTY CHAIR

Jake - He finally confronts the loss of his family.

6. CHOOSE ME HONESTLY

Nia - A demand to be loved as herself, never as a substitute.

7. OUTRUN THE DARK

Company - A dangerous chase driven by street choreography.

8. NOT YOUR FAMILY

Darius and Company - He attempts to fracture the group.

9. FAMILY IS A VERB

Mason and Company - Family defined through action, not blood.

10. STAY UNTIL MORNING

Jake and Zara - An intimate reconciliation duet.

11. WHERE WE STAND

Street Family - They choose safety without abandoning one another.

12. THE CITY FINALLY SEES US

Full Company - Triumphant finale and opening-theme reprise.

The World Onstage

MUSIC

Contemporary R&B; at the center, colored by UK garage, neo-soul, atmospheric pop and cinematic ensemble writing. Character emotion determines the sound; no number exists only to fill space.

MOVEMENT

Street dance, freestyle vocabulary and ensemble formations express status, danger, belonging and trust. Jake's movement begins disconnected and gradually joins the group's shared rhythm.

SCENERY

Rain-slick brick, moving streetlamps, staircases, platforms and translucent city scrims create a London that can transform in full view. The city should feel alive without appearing futuristic.

LIGHT

Cold blue rain and hard white isolation shift toward amber and gold as the group becomes a family. Light behaves like another character: overlooking, exposing and finally recognizing them.

DEVELOPMENT NOTE

This Playbill captures the first foundation of the musical. Character histories, relationships, scene order and song titles remain flexible until the book and score are drafted.