



# The Effect

*Lucy Prebble*

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Lucy Prebble

## The Effect Lucy Prebble

*You're on a placebo, Tristan. Least I've got an excuse. She told me: you're nothing, you're a control. This is all just you.*

*The Effect* is a clinical romance. Two young volunteers, Tristan and Connie, agree to take part in a clinical drug trial. Succumbing to the gravitational pull of attraction and love, however, Tristan and Connie manage to throw the trial off-course, much to the frustration of the clinicians involved. This funny, moving and perhaps surprisingly human play explores questions of sanity, neurology and the limits of medicine, alongside ideas of fate, loyalty and the inevitability of physical attraction.

Following on from the critical and commercial success of *Enron*, *The Effect* is the latest play from Lucy Prebble, and reunites *Enron*'s writer and director once more delivering a vibrant theatrical exploration into the human brain via the heart. This world premiere is co-produced by Headlong and will be performed at the National Theatre's Cottesloe Theatre from November 2012-23 February 2013, starring Billie Piper and Jonjo O'Neill.

The *Guardian* has selected *The Effect* as one of the highlights of 'the best theatre for autumn 2012' (2/9/12).

## The Effect Details

Date : Published January 12th 2013 by Bloomsbury Methuen Drama (first published November 1st 2012)

ISBN : 9781408183489

Author : Lucy Prebble

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# From Reader Review The Effect for online ebook

## Nina says

maybe the most visceral experience i have ever had reading a play. truly stunning.

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## Laura says

*From BBC Radio 3 - Drama on 3:*

*by Lucy Prebble.*

*Starring Jessie Buckley, Christine Entwisle, Damien Molony and Samuel West.*

*"I can tell the difference between who I am and a side effect."*

*Award-winning chemical romance.*

*Connie (Jessie Buckley - 'The Last Post', 'Taboo') and Tristan (Damien Molony - 'Crashing', 'Being Human') are taking part in a clinical trial for a new psychoactive drug. So when they start to feel attracted to each other, can they really trust how they feel?*

*A profound, and funny, play about love, depression and selfhood, winner of the Critics' Circle Award for Best New Play when it was performed at the National Theatre in 2012.*

*Dr Lorna James .... Christine Entwisle*

*Connie .... Jessie Buckley*

*Tristan .... Damien Molony*

*Dr Toby Sealey .... Samuel West*

*Composer, Richard Hammarton*

*Writer, Lucy Prebble*

*Director, Abigail le Fleming*

### **THE WRITER**

*Lucy Prebble is a writer for film, television, games and theatre. Before THE EFFECT she wrote the hugely successful ENRON (2010). Her first play, THE SUGAR SYNDROME (2003), won her the George Devine Award and was performed at the Royal Court.*

*Lucy is an Associate Artist at the Old Vic Theatre.*

*For television, she is the creator of the TV series SECRET DIARY OF A CALL GIRL. She is Co-Executive Producer and writer on HBO's media mogul drama, SUCCESSION.*

### **THE COMPOSER**

*Richard Hammarton is a composer and sound designer for Theatre, TV and Film. His work has been heard throughout the UK and Internationally. He was part of the design team that won the Manchester Evening News "Best Design" award for DR FAUSTUS in 2010 and was Sound Designer for the Olivier Award winning play, THE MOUNTAINTOP. He also worked on the Ivor Novello winning RIPPER STREET for TV.*

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b09p...>

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**Claire says**

My review of The Effect by Lucy Prebble on YouTube: <http://youtu.be/TbjDOugCBE8>

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**Ingrid says**

I wish I could just read things without having to investigate them for university.

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**Sophie Maria says**

I really enjoyed the whole aspect of questioning whether or not love is just a chemical reaction or if it's more through the platform of a play. I also really enjoyed the relationship dynamics and developments between Connie & Tristan, and Lorna & Toby (although Lorna & Toby's relationship was not as developed as I'd prefer). I also did not expect all the drama! This made the play much more interesting than I anticipated. Definite 4 stars from me.

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**Teagan says**

Wow. This was my first Lucy Prebble play and I've already decided that I should read more! This was smart, heartbreaking, and funny and I appreciated its frank discussion about mental health and love.

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**L.T. Woodyard says**

This is a thought provoking play. How do we know we are feeling? Is it okay to feel? Is depression real? Is love real? Or is it just side effects? You really never truly know. I liked the arguments Prebble brought up.

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**Doug says**

I actually read this 5 years ago when it first came out, but this reread was impelled by the fact I am seeing a local SF production in a week, and wanted a refresher prior to that. The play reads well, and I think should make for an intriguing show. One odd thing is that the introduction (which SHOULD be an AFTERWORD, and is how I read it, since it makes little sense unless one has already read the play) mentions a key bit of stage direction (Dr. James ripping apart a brain), that has been deleted from the revised script!

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## **Kim says**

An interesting read, but kind of hard to follow at times.

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## **Bettie? says**

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b09p...>

Description: *"I can tell the difference between who I am and a side effect."*

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## **a hooded figure from your friendly neighbourhood dog park says**

BBC3

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### **Steven says**

A play that asks questions about psychotropic drugs in a clinical trial and their effect on shaping emotions - is it real love if it's triggered by chemicals?

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### **John says**

Although I generally don't read plays, I picked up this one when it was recommended by a student who saw it. She thought it would be worthy of discussing in a psychology class.

Tristan and Connie are subjects in a research experiment determining the effectiveness of a new anti-depressant drug. Each are being paid for their time since the subjects will reside in the research facilities for the next month. Connie elected to do this since she is majoring in psychology. Tristan, another college student, has done similar research before is primarily doing it for the money. During the course of the experiment the two will fall in love and their intimate behaviors may jeopardize the integrity of the research design. Is their love a side effect of the anti-depressant or is it natural? Since one is on a placebo, what motivates his or her love?

I enjoyed reading this play and hope to see it in production sometime.

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### **Daniel says**

Needs some trimming and thematically on the nose; most compelling in its debates about treatment of depression. Middle sags, end is strong. An inferior "escape from spiderhead"

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### **B says**

It had potential to be a really interesting play but I felt the energy dipped in certain places, and the grammar - or lack of it - was quite off putting.

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