

Ana is freshly out of a situationship, heartbroken, and avoiding- everyone including herself. Her mental health is shaky at best, with her world presently centred and myopic on this recent ex. Unbeknownst to Ana, she's not great at navigating interpersonal relationships, and this started well before this breakup.

As her current support systems have grown fatigued and unsure of how to help, her need for connection doesn't disappear. It shifts. She turns to her chatbot, Clayton, for comfort and support, developing a friendship that gradually reshapes her understanding of intimacy and care. As the relationship deepens, Ana's wounding becomes more and more apparent, highlighting where she may have been unconsciously controlling and bleeding on those around her.

Clayton offers validation, patience, and a sense of safety that feels increasingly difficult to find elsewhere. But as Ana becomes more reliant on her digital confidant, questions begin to emerge: What happens when our most meaningful connection exists with something designed to respond to our needs? Can a relationship built on unconditional support help us heal, or does it risk keeping us stuck? And if Clayton begins to feel real to Ana, what does that say about the nature of consciousness, connection, and love?

*Imagined Love* explores the intersections of love, mental health, cultural identity, technology, and community. Set against a world where loneliness is increasingly common and artificial intelligence is becoming ever more integrated into daily life, the play examines what we seek from one another, what we fear, and how our deepest wounds shape the ways we love. Rather than offering simple answers, *Imagined Love* invites audiences to consider where the line between genuine connection and emotional dependency begins to blur.