

PRESS RELEASE
WEDNESDAY 5 OCTOBER 2016

ROYAL COURT THEATRE CASTING ANNOUNCEMENT: THE SEWING GROUP

- **NANCY CRANE, FIONA GLASCOTT, JANE HAZLEGROVE, JOHN MACKAY, SARAH NILES** and **ALISON O'DONNELL** cast in *The Sewing Group* by E V Crowe



Nancy Crane, Fiona Glascott, Jane Hazlegrove, John Mackay, Sarah Niles and Alison O'Donnell have been cast in E V Crowe's new play *The Sewing Group* which runs in the Royal Court Jerwood Theatre Upstairs Thursday 10 November – Thursday 22 December 2016 with press night 16 November.

Directed and designed by Stewart Laing. With lighting design by Mike Brookes and sound design by Christopher Shutt.

"I have spoken very clearly with her and I have told her that she is new here and that she must live how we live."

A woman arrives in a rural village in pre-industrial England. Her desire is to sew and learn from their simple way of life. But the group soon begins to suspect she is not who they thought she was.

"There's no point in just making quilts. They have to serve the village. They have to DO something."

E V Crowe (Playwright)

For the Royal Court: **Hero** (part of the 2013 Olivier Award Winning Season at the Jerwood Theatre Upstairs), **Kin** (Shortlisted for Charles Wintour Most Promising Playwright Award) and **One Runs the Other Doesn't** (Elephant and Castle).

Other theatre includes: **Brenda** (Hightide/Yard), **I Can Hear You** (RSC), **Liar Liar** (Unicorn Theatre), **Doris Day** (Clean Break/Soho), **Young Pretender** (nabokov), **ROTOR** (Siobhan Davies Dance)

Television includes: **Glue**, **Big Girl**.

Radio includes: **How to Say Goodbye Properly**.

Awards include: **the Imison Award for How to Say Goodbye Properly**.

E V Crowe was a member of the Royal Court Young Writers

Programme, attachments include: Royal Court Theatre (Summer 2009), National Theatre Studio (2010 and 2011), Schauspiel Theatre, Frankfurt (Feb 2011), Helenico Theatre, Mexico City (Feb 2012).

Stewart Laing (Director and Designer)

As designer for the Royal Court: **Waiting Room Germany** and **Holy Mothers**.

As director theatre includes: **Home: Stornoway** (National Theatre of Scotland); **Ten Plagues** (Traverse); **The Maids** (Citizens); **Ophelia** (Oran Mor) and **Titus Andronicus** (Dundee Rep).

Opera includes: **La bohème** (Scottish Opera); **The Breasts of Tiresias** and **L'heure espagnole** (Grange Park Opera); **Tosca** (Norrlandsoperan); and **Dead Man Walking** (Malmö Opera).

Stewart is Artistic Director of Untitled Projects where his work includes **J.G. Ballard Project**, **blind_sight**, **Slope**, **An Argument About Sex**, **The Salon Project**, **Paul Bright's Confessions of a Justified Sinner** and **Slope Redux**.

Nancy Crane (E)

For the Royal Court: **Now or Later**, **The Sweetest Swing in Baseball**, **Our Late Night**, **The Strip**.

Other theatre includes: **Teddy Ferrara** (Donmar); **Next Fall** (Southwark Playhouse); **Chimerica** (Almeida/West End); **Vieux Carre** (King's Head); **The Children's Hour** (West End); **Design for Living** (Old Vic); **Love the Sinner**, **Angels in America** (National); **Re-Orientations** (Shanghai Dramatic Arts Centre); **Dis-Orientations** (Riverside); **Chains of Dew**, **Trifles** (Orange Tree); **The Girl in the Goldfish Bowl**, **Six Degrees of Separation** (Crucible, Sheffield); **The Price** (Tour); **Habitat** (Royal Exchange, Manchester); **A Wedding Story** (Sphinx); **Our Late Night** (New Ambassadors); **Absolution** (BAC); **A Walk on Lake Erie** (Finborough); **Last of the Red Hot Lovers** (Derby Playhouse); **Never The Sinner** (Belgrade, Coventry).

Television includes: **Doctors**, **Nixon's The One**, **Upstairs Downstairs**, **Law & Order UK**, **The Special Relationship**, **Cambridge Spies**, **Strike Force**.

Film includes: **Leavey**, **Florence Foster Jenkins**, **The Danish Girl**, **Woman in Gold**, **Batman: The Dark Knight**, **The Road to Guantanamo**, **Sky Captain & The World of Tomorrow**, **The Machinist**.

Fiona Glascott (C/Maggie)

For the Royal Court: **Hitchcock Blonde (& West End).**

Other theatre includes: **King Lear (Theatre Royal, Bath); Huis Clos (Trafalgar Studios); Kingdom of Earth (Print Room); Flea in her Ear (Old Vic); Here (Sky Arts); The Country Wife, Mahler's Conversation (West End); Whipping It Up (Bush); A Life (Abbey); The Shaughraun (Royal Lyceum, Edinburgh) and The Spirit of Annie Ross (Gate).**

Television includes: **Indian Summers, Episodes, The Musketeers, Spooks, Miss Irena's Children, Clone, Foyle's War, Poirot, The Long Firm.**

Film includes: **Jadotville, Brooklyn, The Legend of Longwood, Omagh, The Deal, Anton Chekhov's The Duel.**

Jane Hazlegrove (A)

For the Royal Court: **Harvest, Herons.**

Other theatre includes: **Mammals, Wishbones, Boom Bang a Bang, The Mortal Ash (Bush); Kes (Royal Exchange, Manchester); Holes in the Skin (Chichester Festival); The Accrington Pals (West Yorkshire Playhouse); Sing Yer Heart Out For The Lads (National); Snake In The Grass (Old Vic); The Wolves (Paines Plough); Blood Wedding, All in Good Time, An Inspector Calls, Billy Liar, Death of a Salesman, Fangs, My Mother Said I Never Should, Spring & Port Wine, The Importance of Being Earnest, Time and the Conways (Octagon, Bolton); Heartbreak House (Library, Manchester), To Kill A Mockingbird (Contact, Manchester); Whistle Down the Wind (Oldham Coliseum).**

Television includes: **Casualty, Will, Holby City, Doctors, Judge John Deed, Dalziel & Pascoe, Faith, The Bill, Heartbeat, The Inspector Lynley Mysteries, Buried, Silent Witness, People Like Us, Without Motive, Hero to Zero, Where The Heart Is, The Cops, Dinnerladies, London's Burning, The Grand, The Ruth Rendell Mysteries: You Can't Be Too Careful, Jonathan Creek, Lovejoy, A Touch Of Frost, Making Out, Waterfront Beat, Families, Screen Two: Lovebirds, Shooting Stars, First Sight, How We Used To Live, Albion Market, Coronation Street, Summer Season, Travelling Man, Threads.**

Film includes: **Cheeky.**

John Mackay (F/Mac)

Theatre includes: **Wild, Drawing the Line, 55 Days (Hampstead); Measure for Measure (Young Vic); Oresteia (Almeida); Richard III, (Shakespeare at the Tobacco Factory); Going Dark (Young Vic/ Sound & Fury); Little Eagles, Antony & Cleopatra, King Lear, The Winter's Tale, Julius Caesar, The Grainstore, The Histories, Twelfth Night, As You Like It, Pilate, Hamlet (RSC).**

Television includes: **Hollow Crown II, The Honourable Woman, Holby City, Law & Order; The Great Transatlantic Cable, Doc Martin, Casualty, Trial & Retribution III.**

Sarah Niles (B)

For the Royal Court: **Father Comes Home From The Wars (Parts 1, 2 & 3); Truth & Reconciliation.**

Theatre includes: **Boy (Almeida); The Crucible (Old Vic); Anthony & Cleopatra (RSC/Off Broadway); Table, Mrs Affleck (National); A Question of Freedom (Feelgood); The Long Road (Curve, Leicester); The Quiet Little Englishman (Zho Visual); Play Size (ATC/Young Vic); Bones (Bush); The Bogus Woman, The Lion the Witch & the Wardrobe, To Kill a Mockingbird (Haymarket, Leicester); Entarete Musik (Amazonia**

Theatre Company); **Lowdown High Notes (Red Ladder); Black Love (Black Arts Development Project); Caucasian Chalk Circle (Manchester Library).**

Television includes: **Marley's Ghosts, Lucky Man, My Baby, Catastrophe, Spotless, Death in Paradise, Waterloo Road, Being Human, Thorne: Sleepyhead, Beautiful People, Mister Eleven, Doctor Who, Peep Show, Touch of Frost.**

Film includes: **Still, Austenland, Cuban Fury, Now Is Good, London Boulevard, Games Men Play, Happy-Go-Lucky.**

Alison O'Donnell (D/Sally)

Theatre includes: **Much Ado About Nothing (The Faction); Brenda (HighTide/The Yard); Incognito (Bush/nabokov); Beached (Soho); White Rose (Firebrand); Boys (Soho/Headlong); Yerma (Gate/Hull Truck); The Hard Man (Scottish Theatres Consortium); My Romantic History (Bush/ Crucible, Sheffield); Eigengrau (Bush); Dolls (National Theatre of Scotland); Lady Windermere's Fan (Òran Mór); The Assassination of Paris Hilton (Racked); Mad Funny Just (Creased); 2, 1 In 5, (Hampstead Theatre Dairing Pairings); Phaedre (Offstage); Barren (Old Vic New Voices); Broken Road (Hush Productions); Love Sex & Cider (Jacuzzi).**

Television includes: **Shetland, Holby City.**

Listings Information:

The Sewing Group

By E V Crowe

Directed by Stewart Laing

Jerwood Theatre Upstairs

Thursday 10 November – Thursday 22 December 2016

Monday – Saturday 7.45pm

Thursday & Saturday matinees 3pm (from 19 November)

Captioned Performance 7 December, 7.45pm

Press Night Wednesday 16 November, 7pm

Age Guidance 14+ Contains strong language

Standard Tickets £25 (Mondays all seats £10 available from 9am online on the day of performance)

First Look Tickets £20**

Concessions* £5. 25s and under £15 (available in advance for previews and all matinees)

Access £15 (plus a companion at the same rate)

***ID required. All discounts subject to availability.**

****First Look Tickets**

At the Royal Court no piece of work we premiere has ever been seen before and the first few performances in front of an audience are the final part of a long creative process that starts with the playwright. We need the audiences' feedback to complete this and have decided to open up the first three previews in a new way to make this an integral part of the process. As a result we will be inviting online feedback from audience members who attend First Look

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performances so they can share what they think with the artistic team, therefore influencing the final piece.

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