

PRESS RELEASE **embargoed until** 10am THURSDAY 20 JULY 2017

## THE ROYAL COURT THEATRE, OUT OF JOINT AND OCTAGON THEATRE BOLTON ANNOUNCE CASTING FOR ANDREA DUNBAR'S RITA, SUE AND BOB TOO DIRECTED BY MAX STAFFORD-CLARK



Samantha Robinson, Taj Atwal, Sally Bankes, David Walker, James Atherton & Gemma Dobson Credit: Helen Murray

James Atherton, Taj Atwal, Sally Bankes, Gemma Dobson, Samantha Robinson and David Walker have been cast in *Rita, Sue and Bob Too* directed by Max Stafford-Clark.

Following its opening at Octagon Theatre from 6 September – 23 September 2017, Andrea Dunbar's landmark play *Rita, Sue and Bob Too* will run in the Jerwood Theatre Downstairs, Tuesday 9 January 2018 – Saturday 27 January 2018 as part of a UK tour co-produced by Out of Joint, Royal Court Theatre and Octagon Theatre.

With design by Tim Shortall, lighting by Jason Taylor and sound by Emma Laxton.

*Best friends Rita and Sue get a lift home from married Bob after babysitting his kids. When he takes the scenic route and offers them a bit of fun, the three start a fling they each think they control.*

Andrea Dunbar wrote her semi-autobiographical play for the Royal Court Theatre in 1982 when she was just 19. It's a vivid portrait of girls caught between brutal childhood and an unpromising future, hungry for adult adventure.

Told with wicked humour, startling insight and a great ear for dialogue, *Rita Sue and Bob Too* became a hit film. Max Stafford-Clark, the play's original director, directs this major new production.

As part of a UK tour *Rita, Sue and Bob Too* opens at the Royal Court on Tuesday 9 January 2018.

Press night is Monday 11 September at Octagon Theatre Bolton and press are invited from Thursday 11 January 2018 at the Royal Court Theatre.

Commenting on the play, Director Max Stafford-Clark said;

*"When Andrea wrote her first two plays, she was a teenager from a rough council estate who'd never been to the theatre. Now, thirty-five years after its premiere, Rita Sue and Bob Too takes its place in the Octagon and Royal Court's seasons in the role of Classic Play. It's one of the privileges of my career that Andrea's astute, fresh and funny writing reached my desk, and it is exciting to bring her vivid, albeit alarming world to life again with these fine actors."*

Full listings and biography information below.

**-ENDS-**

**Contact:**

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For cast images click [here](#).

**Notes to editors:**

**Press Nights:**

<i>Rita, Sue and Bob Too</i> by Andrea Dunbar	Octagon Theatre, Bolton	National press night: Monday 11 September 2017, 7.30pm
	Jerwood Theatre Downstairs, Royal Court	Press invited from Thursday 11 January 2018, 7.30pm

**Biographies:**

**Andrea Dunbar** (Writer)

For the Royal Court: **Shirley, Rita, Sue & Bob Too, The Arbor.**

Film includes: **Rita Sue & Bob Too.**

Awards include: **The George Devine Award (Rita Sue & Bob Too).**

**Andrea Dunbar was born in 1961 and brought up on the Buttershaw Estate outside Bradford. She died aged 29 of a brain haemorrhage, and is survived by her three children.**

**Max Stafford-Clark** (Director)

For the Royal Court: **King Lear, Top Girls (& West End), My Heart's A Suitcase, Serious Money (& West End), Our Country's Good (& West End), Rita, Sue & Bob Too, Three Birds Alighting on a Field, Tom & Viv.**

For the Royal Court & Out of Joint: **Shopping & Fucking, Three Sisters (& Bristol Old Vic), Bang Bang Bang, Duck, Talking to Terrorists, The Queen and I, The Steward of Christendom, The Libertine.**

For Out of Joint: **The Permanent Way, She Stoops to Conquer, A Laughing Matter, Our Lady of Sligo (& National); Feelgood (& Hampstead/West End); Macbeth; This May Hurt A Bit (& Octagon, Bolton); The Big Fella (& Lyric, Hammersmith), All That Fall.** Other theatre includes **The Seagull (Culture Project, NYC); The Breath of Life (Sydney Theatre Company); A Jovial Crew, The Country Wife, The Wives' Excuse (RSC); Fanshen, The Speakers (with William Gaskill), Light Shining in Buckinghamshire, Cloud 9 (Joint Stock).**

Radio includes: **All That Fall, Talking To Terrorists**

**Max is Out of Joint's founding Artistic Director, former Artistic Director of both the Royal Court Theatre and the Traverse Theatre and co-founder of Joint Stock Theatre Group.**

**James Atherton** (Bob)

Theatre includes: **Crocodiles (Royal Exchange, Manchester); Wallenstein (Chichester Festival); Treasure Island (West End).**

Television includes: **Hollyoaks, Coronation Street, Casualty, Doctors, Inspector George Gently, Joe Maddison's War, Midsomer Murders, Babs, Porters.**

Film includes: **Macbeth.**

**Taj Atwel** (Rita)

Theatre includes: **Educating Rita (Hull Truck); East is East (West End); All Our Daughters (New Vic/UK tour); Small Fish Big Cheese (Unicorn); Don Juan in Love, The Wind in the Willows (The Scoop Air Theatre).**

Television includes: **No Offence, In the Club, Breaking the Code, Stella, Moving On, Kitten Chic, Miranda, In with the Flynns.**

Film includes: **A.K.A. Nadia, Puja Nights, Behind the Green Curtain.**

Radio includes: **Floor 13.**

**Sally Bankes** (Mother)

Theatre includes: **The Two Noble Kinsman, The Rover, Seven Acts of Mercy, The Winter's Tale (RSC); East is East (West End); That Day We Sang, Everybody Loves a Winner (Royal Exchange, Manchester); The Rise & Fall of Little Voice (Octagon, Bolton); Waiting for Gateaux (Theatre Royal, Lincoln/UK tour); Zombie Prom (Landor); Acorn Antiques (UK tour); Spending Frank (Slyboots); Shakers (Gambolling Arena); The Glass Menagerie, Don't Dress for Dinner, Lost in Yonkers (SDC Productions).**

Television includes: **Our Zoo, Pompidou, Mount Pleasant, Prisoner's Wives, The Signing Detective, It Takes a Village, Doctors, World Without End, In With the Flynns, Titanic, Hollyoaks, White Van Man, Semi-Detached, Hoof & Safety, Nuzzle & Scratch, Jinx, Scallywagga 2, Guantanamo Phil, Tess of the D'Urbervilles, Heartbeat, Two Pints of Lager and a Packet of Crisps, MI High, Tittybangbang!, Housewife 49, Where the Heart is, Little Britain, Absolute Power, Twisted Tales, 15 Storeys High, Margot Leadbetter - Life Beyond the Box, Coronation Street, Fat Friends.**

Film includes: **Habit, Stabat Mater, Line of Fire, Trained, Chicken Tikka Masala, Redemption Road, When It All Comes Down.**

#### **Gemma Dobson (Sue)**

Television includes: **In the Club 2, Brief Encounters.**

**Gemma trained at the Manchester School of Acting. Rita, Sue and Bob Too is Gemma's professional stage debut.**

#### **Samantha Robinson (Michelle)**

Theatre includes: **Screwed (503); Educating Rita (Mercury, Colchester); The Grand Gesture (Northern Broadsides); Can't Stand Up For Falling Down, Order (Lantern); The Phoenix of Madrid (Theatre Royal, Bath); Dead Heavy Fantastic (Liverpool Everyman); Hansel & Gretel (The Core); The House of Bernada Alba (Nuffield, Southampton); Proper Clever (Liverpool Playhouse); Three Sisters On Hope Street (Hampstead); The Tempest (Royal Exchange, Manchester); The Three Musketeers (Bristol Old Vic/New Vic); A Taste of Honey (Oldham Coliseum/UK tour); The Laramie Project (Sound, Leicester Square); The Lemon Princess (West Yorkshire Playhouse/Caird Company); Untouchable (Bush); Song of the Western Men (Chichester Festival).**

Television includes: **Little Boy Blue, Doctors, Cilla, Casualty, Five Days, Holby City, Shameless, The Girls Who Came to Stay, Island at War.**

Film includes: **The Fantasist, Sixty Six.**

Radio includes: **Queens of Noise, Shout to The Top, The Believers, Life with Lisa, Evaristo's Epitaph.**

#### **David Walker (Father)**

Theatre includes: **The Debt Collectors (& Reform), Me & Me Dad (Harrogate); Hangmen (West End); Grass (Hard Graft); Seconds Out, Bouncers, Stand, Up 'n' Under (Reform); Loaded (Crucible, Sheffield); Crap Dad (West Yorkshire Playhouse); The Day That Kevin Came, Satin & Steel (Nottingham Playhouse).**

Television includes: **Emmerdale, The Royal, Doctors, Coronation Street.**

#### **Listings information:**



**Royal Court Theatre, Out of Joint and Octagon Theatre Bolton**

***Rita, Sue and Bob Too***

**By Andrea Dunbar**

**Directed by Max Stafford-Clark**

**Jerwood Theatre Downstairs, Royal Court Theatre, Sloane Square, SW1W 8AS**

**Tuesday 9 January 2018 – Saturday 27 January 2018**

**Monday – Saturday 7.30pm**

**Thursday & Saturday matinees 2.30pm (from 13 January 2018)**

**Captioned Performance Friday 26 January 2018.**

**Audio described Matinee Saturday 27 January 2018, Touch Tour at 1pm**

**Press invited from Thursday 11 January 2018**

**Post Show Talk** The Big Idea: In Conversation with director Max Stafford-Clark and cast

Tuesday 23 January, 2018

**Standard Tickets** £12 - £45 (Mondays all seats £12 available from 9am online on the day of performance).

**Concessions\*** £5 off top two prices (available in advance for previews and all matinees)

**Under 26s** £15 (available across all performances for individual bookers, Bands B and C only)

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

\*ID required. All discounts subject to availability.

**Touring 2017-18:**

<b>Octagon Theatre Bolton</b>	6-23 September 2017 ( <i>press night 11 Sep, 7.30pm</i> )
<b>Harrogate Theatre</b>	26-30 September
<b>Bristol Old Vic</b>	3-7 October
<b>Liverpool Playhouse</b>	10-14 October
<b>Warwick Arts Centre</b>	17-21 October
<b>Oxford Playhouse</b>	24-28 October
<b>Royal and Derngate, Northampton</b>	31 October – 4 November
<b>Cast, Doncaster</b>	7-11 November
<b>York Theatre Royal</b>	14-18 November
<b>Derby Theatre</b>	21-25 November
<b>Royal Court, London</b>	9-27 January 2018 ( <i>press from 11 Jan</i> )
<b>Lawrence Batley Theatre, Huddersfield</b>	31 January – 3 February
<b>Theatr Clwyd, Mold</b>	6-10 February

A StageText captioned performance will be provided at every venue (check with box offices or Stagertext's website for dates).



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**Octagon Theatre Bolton** is a regional producing theatre with the belief that theatre can enrich communities and fundamentally change peoples' lives for the better. It aims to do this through creating a range of entertaining and thought-provoking theatre of the highest quality that inspires and ignites the curiosity of the people of Bolton and beyond. As well as providing opportunities for learning and participation to enable people to realise their potential, express themselves and to help them fly.



out of joint

Epic, authentic, inquisitive and authentic, **Out of Joint** is a national and international touring theatre company, developing entertaining theatre that broadens horizons and investigates our times. Under the direction of Max Stafford-Clark the company has premiered plays from many leading writers including Richard Bean, Alistair Beaton, Caryl Churchill, David Edgar, David Hare, Rebecca Lenkiewicz, Robin Soans and Timberlake Wertenbaker; launched the careers of others such as Stella Feehily and Mark Ravenhill; and staged bold revivals.

Out of Joint has performed all over the UK and on six continents, and co-produces with some of the most exciting theatres in the country: its most recent production, *Consent* by Nina Raine, played a sold-out co-production at the National Theatre. The Company also offers an extensive education programme.

Out of Joint recently appointed a second Artistic Director, Kate Wasserberg, the founder of Cardiff's award-winning The Other Room Theatre.

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