

PRESS RELEASE
MONDAY 23 OCTOBER 2017

**ROYAL COURT THEATRE ANNOUNCES CAST FOR *GOATS*,
WRITTEN BY LIWAA YAZJI, TRANSLATED BY KATHARINE HALLS
AND DIRECTED BY HAMISH PIRIE.**



Cast in alphabetical order: Ali Barouti, Ishia Bennison, Carlos Chahine, Amir El-Masry, Souad Faress, Amer Hlehel, Ethan Kai, Khalid Laith, Adnan Mustafa, Isabella Nefar, Farshid Rokey and Sirine Saba

Ali Barouti, Ishia Bennison, Carlos Chahine, Amir El-Masry, Souad Faress, Amer Hlehel, Ethan Kai, Khalid Laith, Adnan Mustafa, Isabella Nefar, Farshid Rokey and Sirine Saba have been cast in the world premiere of *Goats*, written by Liwaa Yazji and translated by Katharine Halls. It is directed by Royal Court Associate Director Hamish Pirie. *Goats* runs in the Royal Court Jerwood Theatre Downstairs 24 Friday November 2017 – 30 Saturday December 2017 with press performances on 30 Thursday November at 7pm and 1 Friday December at 7pm. Reviews are embargoed until 11.59pm on 1 Friday December. We will also be engaging a small herd of live Goats for the duration of the run.



"They're leading us on, they're conning us. Open the coffins!"

In a small town in Syria, soldiers are celebrated as heroes and grieving families are nourished on propaganda.

As the coffins pile up, the local party leader decides on a radical compensation scheme: a goat for each son martyred.



"Has anyone ever told the truth? Has anyone ever demanded it? Does anyone want it? Does anyone even need it?"

Goats is a major new work by Syrian playwright and documentary filmmaker Liwaa Yazji developed as part of the Royal Court's long term project with writers from Syria and Lebanon supported by the British Council. Royal Court Associate Director Hamish Pirie (*Violence & Son*, *Who Cares*, *Teh Internet is Serious Business*) directs.

With design by Rosie Elnile, video design by Ian William Galloway, lighting by Muaz Al Jubeh, Music Consultants Mark Gergia and Rizan Said, sound design by Tom Gibbons, movement direction by Quang Kien Van and Associate Translator Yasmine Seale.

Goats was staged as a reading in the Jerwood Theatre Downstairs as part of *Told from the Inside: new plays from Syria and Lebanon* in March 2016.

Full listings and biography information below.

Goats is part of International Playwrights: A Genesis Foundation Project with additional support from the British Council.

Ends:-

For more information or images please contact Anoushka Warden on 0207 565 5063 / AnoushkaWarden@royalcourttheatre.com

Notes to Editors:

As with all of our animal practices we have researched, collaborated with and taken advice from professional welfare bodies (RSPCA, vets, Defra), and instilled best practice to ensure the welfare of the goats is paramount throughout the process. Fuller policy statement available on request.

Press performances

<i>Goats</i>	Jerwood Theatre Downstairs	7pm, 30 Thursday November 2017 and 7pm, 1 Friday December 2017. Review embargo lifted 11.59pm on 1 Friday December 2017.
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Biographies:

Liwaa Yazji (Writer)

For the Royal Court: ***Goats* (Told From the Inside Reading).**

Other theatre includes: ***Here in the Park*, *Q&Q* (Birth Festival/Royal Exchange, Manchester).**

Television includes: ***The Brothers*, *Heim*.**

Films include: ***Haunted* (feature documentary).**

Awards include: **Special Mention in the First Film Competition at FID Marseille (*Haunted*); GIGAF Festival Tunis Al-Waha Bronze Award (*Haunted*).**





Liwaa Yazji is a Syrian Playwright, Filmmaker, Screenwriter and Poet. She was born in Moscow and grew up in Damascus. She has published a volume of poetry *In Peace, we leave Home* and was resident poet at Poets House New York in 2015 where her book *Three Poems* was published in English. Liwaa took part in the Royal Court workshops in Beirut with writers from Lebanon and Syria from 2013-15 where she began the work on *Goats*, supported by the British Council.

Katharine Halls (Translator)

For the Royal Court: **Ghalia's Miles (Told From the Inside Reading)**.

Other theatre includes: **Zig Zig**, **Bashar Murkus & Khashabi Ensemble** (Kaaitheater, Brussels); **Whims of Freedom** (Maxim Gorki, Berlin/SHISH/LIFT/Kaaitheater, Brussels); **Lessons in Revolting** (Rawabet, Cairo).

Film includes: **The Coming Attraction**, **The Vote**, **The Crossing**, **Out on the Street**, **Common State**.

Hamish Pirie (Director)

For the Royal Court: **Human Animals**, **Violence & Son**, **Who Cares**, **Teh Internet is Serious Business**.

Other theatre includes: **Shibboleth** (Abbey, Dublin); **I'm With The Band** (Traverse/Wales Millennium Centre); **Quiz Show**, **Demos**, **50 Plays for Edinburgh** (Traverse); **Love With A Capital 'L'**, **3 Seconds**, **Most Favoured**, **The Last Bloom** (Traverse/Òran Mór); **Bravo Figaro** (Royal Opera House/Traverse); **Salt Root & Roe** (Donmar/ Trafalgar); **Stacy** (Trafalgar Studios), **Purgatory** (Arcola); **Pennies** (nabokov); **Paper House** (Flight 5065). Hamish trained as Resident Assistant Director at Paines Plough & at the Donmar Warehouse. He was previously Associate Director at the Traverse Theatre. Hamish is an Associate Director at the Royal Court.

Ali Barouti (Cast)

Television includes: **Tyrant**.

Film includes: **Patrick**, **Daytimer**.

Goats is Ali's professional stage debut.

Ishia Bennison (Cast)

For the Royal Court: **Our Private Life**.

Other theatre includes: **Mad World My Masters and Candide** (RSC and national tour); **Julius Caesar** (Donmar); **The Importance of Being Earnest** (Rose, Kingston/Hong Kong Festival); **The Canterbury Tales** (Rose, Kingston/tour); **A Couple of Poor**, **Polish Speaking Romanians** (Soho); **A New Way to Please You**, **Sejanus: His Fall**, **Speaking Like Magpies**, **Cymbeline**, **Measure for Measure** (RSC); **Bites** (Bush); **Strange Orchestra**, **Mother Courage** (Orange Tree); **Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?** (Manchester Library); **Arabian Nights** (Young Vic); **Antony & Cleopatra** (BAM, NYC); **Richard III** (Riverside Studios/Tower of London); **Poetry Or Bust**, **Samson Agonistes**, **Romeo & Juliet** (Northern Broadsides); **Medea** (Lilian Baylis); **Les Misérables** (Nottingham Playhouse); **Turcaret** (Gate); **One for the Road** (tour); **Educating Rita** (Oxford Playhouse); **Red Devils** (Liverpool Playhouse).

Television includes: **Happy Valley**, **Last Tango in Halifax**, **True Dare Kiss**, **At Home With The Braithwaites**, **Holby City**, **Emmerdale**, **Coronation Street**, **Burnside**, **Love Hurts**, **Give & Take**, **The Storyteller**, **Bread**, **EastEnders**, **Much Ado About Nothing**, **Mitch: A Family Affair**, **Kessler**, **Bid For Power**, **King David**, **Anno Domini**, **The Awakening**, **Jesus Of Nazareth**.





Carlos Chahine (Cast)

Theatre includes: **La Tempête** (Maison des arts de Créteil); **Scratching on Things I Could Disavow: A History of Art in the Arab World** (Festival d' Automne); **Le Suicidé-Comédie**, **Le Golem** (Théâtre de l'Athénée); **Ils habitent la Goutte d'Or** (Théâtre Du Lavoir

Moderne); **A la renverse** Théâtre des Athévains; **Iphigénie Hôtel** (Théâtre Nanterre Amandiers); **Au temps pour moi** (Théâtre de la Tempête); **(Quartiers Nord)** , **Phèdre** (Théâtre de la Tempête); **Mariages** (Région du Pas de Calais); **L'inspecteur général** (T.N.B. Rennes, Amandiers); **Les yeux rouges** (C.D.N. Besançon); **Le misanthrope** (Théâtre de Nîmes); **Les trois soeurs** (C.D.N. Limoges); **Bled** (Lavoir moderne parisien); **La dame de chez Maxime** (Théâtre de nanterre Amandiers); **La Remise** (Theâtre Nanterre Amandiers); **La misère du monde** (Théâtre de la Tempête)- **Le procès de Charlotte Corday** (Theâtre de Caen); **Chronique des jours souverains** (Comédie de Caen); **Cent Millions qui tombent** (Theâtre de Gennevilliers); **Minna von Barnhelm** (Théâtre du Maillon Strasbourg); **Joe Bousquet, rue de Verdun** (Festival d'Avignon La Chartreuse); **Don Quichotte** (Festival de La Batie, Genève); **The Changelling** (Th de Gennevilliers); **A la conquête du pôle sud**, **Collectif de Parme** **Oedipe à Colone** (National Theatre of Strasbourg); **Le Fidelle** (JTN. Théâtre national de Strasbourg).

Television includes: **Carlos**, **Blague à Part**, **Avocats et associés**, **Le tableau noir**, **Escapade**, **Les baisers de secours**.

Film includes: **L'insulte**, **La Vallée**, **Carlos**, **Le Dernier Homme**, **Terra Incognita**, **Le vertige de la page blanche**, **Une Famille Libanaise**.

Amir El-Masry (Cast)

Television includes: **The State**, **The Night Manager**, **Tyrant**, **McMafia**, **Rude Boys**.

Film includes: **Lost in London**, **Rosewater**, **Ramadan Mabrouk** **Abu El Alamein Hamouda**.

Awards include: **Egyptian Oscar Award for Best Young Actor** (Ramadan Mabrouk Abu El Alamein Hamouda).

Goats is Amir's professional stage debut.

Souad Faress (Cast)

For the Royal Court: **Indian Plays – Mahua, A Curse**.

Theatre includes: **Wintell Hill** (Octagon, Bolton); **Tiger Country**, **Sugar & Snow** (Hampstead); **Homebody/Kabul** (Cheek by Jowl/Young Vic); **Celestina** (Birmingham Rep); **The House of Bernada** (Almeida); **Small Miracle** (Mercury); **The Permanent Way** (Out of Joint).

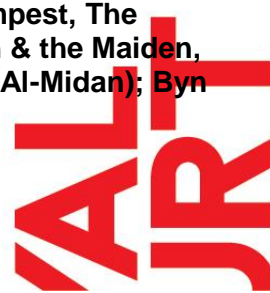
Television includes: **Game of Thrones**, **Apple Tree House**, **Brief Encounters**, **Berlin Station**, **Sense8**, **Cabbage & Patch**, **Vera**, **Doctors**, **Making of a Lady**, **Utopia**, **Hunted**, **Hollyoaks**, **The Sarah Jane Adventures**, **Silent Witness**, **Holby City**, **Law & Order**, **The Bill**, **Trial & Retribution**, **Casualty**, **Family Affairs**, **Being April**, **Coronation Street**.

Film includes: **Bridget Jones's Baby**, **Sixth Happiness**, **My Beautiful Laundrette**, **Bhaji on the Beach**.

Radio includes: **The Archers**.

Amer Hlehel (Cast)

Theatre includes: **Taha**, **Almushakhsati** (Qadita); **Lanterns of the King of Galilee** (Palestinian National Theatre); **Azza**, **In the Penal Colony**, **Bemazeed men alHuzn**, **I Am Yusuf & This is My Brother** (& Young Vic), **Atssi** (Shiber Horr); **The Tempest**, **The Comedy of Errors**, **Twelfth Night** (RSC); **Servant of Two Masters**, **Death & the Maiden**, **Hareq Al Ma'bad**, **What the Story is All About**, **The Barber of Baghdad** (Al-Midan); **Byn**





Harb Byn, (Aysh); Diab (Masrahid Festival, Acre); A Day in Our Lives, The Mission (Acre Festival); The Baggage Packers (Haifa University Theatre); Darwish Ya Sayed (Masraheed Festival); Gilgamesh Didn't Die (Alhakawati Ensemble, Paris); The Order (Al-Niqab).

Film includes: **Personal Affairs, The Idol, Man Without a Cell Phone, The Time That Remains, Amreeka, Paradise Now.**

Amer is the Artistic Director of the Al-Midan Theatre in Haifa.

Ethan Kai (Cast)

Television includes: **Emmerdale, Mount Pleasant, Doctors.**

Film includes: **Instruments of War.**

Goats is Ethan's professional stage debut.

Khalid Laith (Cast)

Theatre includes: **Lawrence After Arabia (Hampstead); Tactical Questioning (Tricycle); Damascus (Traverse/59E59E, NYC); Shadow Language (503); Nameless (Cockpit); Leaving Home (King's Head/Blue Elephant).**

Television includes: **Deep State, Missing, Spooks, The Mark of Cain, Saddam's Tribe, The Bill, Occupation.**

Film includes: **American Assassin, A Hologram for the King, Killing Jesus, World War Z, Red 2, Djinn, Devil's Double.**

Adnan Mustafa (Cast)

Television includes: **My Mad Fat Diary, Hetty Feather.**

Film includes: **Yardie, A Clean Start.**

Goats is Adnan's professional stage debut.

Isabella Nefar (Cast)

Theatre includes: **Salomé (National); Stroy of Qu, Borderline (Teatro Stehler); Sarabanda (Teatro Franco Parenti).**

Television includes: **Aspirin.**

Film includes: **Small City, Serenanta, This is your Life.**

Farshid Rokey (Cast)

Theatre includes: **10,000 Smarties (Three Streets/Oxford Old Fire Station); Another World (National); Martyr (Actors Touring Company); Love Your Soldiers (Crucible, Sheffield); Star Crossed (Bush); The Kite Runner (Nottingham Playhouse/Liverpool Playhouse); Mogadishu (Lyric, Hammersmith/ Royal Exchange, Manchester/UK tour); The Photographer (503); In the Unlikely Event of an Emergency (Soho).**

Television includes: **The Trial, Cuffs, Tyrant, Holby City, Our Girl, Family Tree, The Spa, Doctors, The Endz.**

Film includes: **Rise of the Foot Soldier II, Leave to Remain.**

Sirine Saba (Cast)

For the Royal Court: **The Crossing Plays (& LIFT), Fireworks, The Spiral (Rough Cuts).**

Other theatre includes: **King Lear, Holy Warriors, Anthony & Cleopatra (Globe); Why It's Kicking Off Everywhere (Young Vic); The Intelligent Homosexual's Guide to Socialism & Capitalism (Hampstead); Another World, Nation, Sparkleshark (National); The Invisible (Bush); Next Fall (Southwark Playhouse); The Winter's Tale, A Midsummer Night's Dream, The Taming of the Shrew, Twelfth Night, HMS Pinafore (Regent's Park Open Air); The Fear Of Breathing (Finborough); Scorched (Old Vic Tunnels); Testing**





The Echo (Out Of Joint/Tricycle); Baghdad Wedding (Soho); Ampersand in Beauty and the Beast, Midnight's Children (& Apollo, New York), Pericles, The Tempest, The Winter's Tale, A Midsummer Night's Dream (& BAM, New York), Tales From Ovid (& Young Vic) A Warwickshire Testimony (RSC); Cinderella (Bristol Old Vic), House & Garden (Royal Theatre and Derngate Theatre).

Television includes: **Clean Break**, **Why It's Kicking Off Everywhere**, **EastEnders**, **Unforgotten**, **Doctors**, **I Am Slave**, **Silent Witness**, **Footballer's Wives**, **The Bill**, **Prometheus**.

Film includes: **The Black Forest**, **Exhibition**, **Maestro**, **Death of the Revolution**.

Radio includes: **Borderland**, **World on the Move: First Born**, **Wide Sargasso Sea**, **The Listening Project**, **Welcome to Zaatari**, **Tumanbay**, **Trespasser's Guide to the Classics: 1001 Nights**, **Something Understood**, **Anthony & Cleopatra**, **From Fact to Fiction**, **The Brick**, **The Outsider**, **The Insider**, **The Reluctant Spy**, **The Deportation Room**, **In the Van**, **Marley Was Dead**, **My Daughter the Racist**, **The Smell of Fish**, **The Casper Loague Affair (Arabian Afternoons)**, **A Dish of Pomegranates**, **The Porter & the Three Ladies**, **English in Afghanistan**, **The Locust & the Bird**, **Beirut Days**, **The Waves**, **The Invasion: Arab Chronicles of the First Crusade**, **The Night of the Mirage**, **Baghdad Wedding**, **Love & Loss**.

Listings Information:

International Playwrights: A Genesis Foundation Project

Goats

By Liwaa Yazji

Translated by Katharine Halls

Directed by Hamish Pirie

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

Friday 24 November 2017 – Saturday 30 December 2017

Monday – Saturday 7.30pm

Thursday & Saturday matinees 2.30pm (from 2 December 2017)

Captioned Performance Tuesday 19 December 2017

Audio described Matinee Saturday 23rd December at 2.30pm Touch Tour at 1pm.

Press Nights Thursday 30 November 2017, 7pm & Friday 1 December 2017, 7pm. Review embargo lifted 11.59pm on Friday 1 December 2017.

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

First Look Tickets** £12-£35

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.



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Established by John Studzinski in 2001, the Genesis Foundation works in partnership with the leaders of prestigious UK arts organisations such as the Royal Court, The Sixteen, the Young Vic and LAMDA. Its largest funding commitment is to programmes that support directors, playwrights, actors and musicians in the early stages of their professional lives.

The Genesis Foundation has supported the Royal Court's International Playwrights Programme for almost 20 years, funding workshops and rehearsed readings in diverse countries as well as residencies and productions at the Royal Court. The Foundation's support enables the Royal Court to find and develop the next generation of professional playwrights, providing a springboard for young writers to greater public and critical attention. For more information, please visit www.genesisfoundation.org.uk