

**PRESS RELEASE
FRIDAY 5 JANUARY 2018**

**ROYAL COURT THEATRE ANNOUNCES CAST FOR *GUNDOG*,
WRITTEN BY SIMON LONGMAN AND DIRECTED BY ROYAL
COURT ARTISTIC DIRECTOR VICKY FEATHERSTONE.**



Cast in alphabetical order: Alex Austin, Rochenda Sandall, Alec Secareanu, Alan Williams and Ria Zmitrowicz.

Royal Court Artistic Director Vicky Featherstone commented:

“Gundog is a bleak and brutal reminder of the poverty and struggle for survival in rural England which we rarely see portrayed. It is a desperate portrait of forgotten people who were once the life blood of the country.”

Alex Austin, Rochenda Sandall, Alec Secareanu, Alan Williams and Ria Zmitrowicz have been cast in *Gundog*, written by Simon Longman and directed by Royal Court Artistic Director Vicky Featherstone. *Gundog* runs in the Jerwood Theatre Upstairs Wednesday 31 January 2018 – Saturday 10 March 2018 with press performances on Tuesday 6 February and Wednesday 7 February. The review embargo will be lifted Wednesday 7 February 11.59pm.

With design by Chloe Lamford, lighting by Lee Curran, music by Matthew Herbert and sound by Peter Rice.

“Land beneath our feet. Got all our blood inside it hasn’t it? All that time. Belongs to us.”

On a farm in the middle of nowhere, sisters Becky and Anna try to hold their family together after the death of their mother.

Time is always moving somewhere - but here it’s very quiet.

When they discover a stranger wandering aimlessly across the land, the three establish an unlikely partnership in their determination to survive.

“We’ll be alright. Like you said. Some lambs. Some life.”

Writer Simon Longman makes his debut at the Royal Court with the production directed by Royal Court Artistic Director Vicky Featherstone. Simon took part in the Royal Court Theatre’s Young Writer’s Programme in 2013 and has since won the Channel 4 Playwright’s Scheme. His produced work includes *White Sky* (Royal Court/RWCMD) and *Sparks* (Old Red Lion).

Gundog is part of the Royal Court’s Jerwood New Playwrights programme, supported by Jerwood Charitable Foundation.

Ends:-

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

Notes to Editors:

Press performance

<i>Gundog</i>	Jerwood Theatre Upstairs	7pm, Tuesday 6 February 2017 and 7pm, Wednesday 7 February 2017. Review embargo lifted Wednesday 7 February 11.59pm.
---------------	--------------------------	--

Biographies:

Simon Longman (Writer)

For the Royal Court: **White Sky (& RWCMD/Gate).**

Other theatre includes: **Sparks (Old Red Lion); Milked (Pentabus); Why I Don’t Like the Sea (Arcola/Lost).**

Television includes: **Oakwood.**

Simon was playwright in residence at the Pentabus Theatre Company in 2014 and a member of the Royal Court Young Writer's Group in 2013.

Vicky Featherstone (Director)

For the Royal Court: **My Mum's a Twat, Bad Roads, Victory Condition, X, Cyprus Avenue (& Abbey, Dublin), How To Hold Your Breath, God Bless the Child, Maidan: Voices from the Uprising, The Mistress Contract, The Ritual Slaughter of Gorge Mastromas; Untitled Matriarch Play, The President Has Come to See You (Open Court Weekly Rep).**

Other theatre includes: **What if Women Ruled the World? (Manchester International Festival); Our Ladies of Perpetual Succour (& National/West End/International tour), Enquirer (co-director), An Appointment with the Wicker Man, 27, The Wheel, Somersaults, Wall of Death: A Way of Life (co-director), The Miracle Man, Empty, Long Gone Lonesome (National Theatre of Scotland); Cockroach (National Theatre of Scotland/Traverse); 365 (National Theatre of Scotland/Edinburgh International Festival); Mary Stuart (National Theatre of Scotland/Citizens/Royal Lyceum, Edinburgh); The Wolves in the Walls (co-director) (National Theatre of Scotland/Tramway/Lyric, Hammersmith/UK tour/New Victory, New York); The Small Things, Pyrenees, On Blindness, The Drowned World, Tiny Dynamite, Crazy Gary's Mobile Disco, Splendour, Riddance, The Cosmonaut's Last Message to the Woman He Once Loved in the Former Soviet Union, Crave (Paines Plough).**

Television Includes: **Where the Heart Is, Silent Witness.**

Vicky was Artistic Director of Paines Plough 1997-2005 and the inaugural Artistic Director of the National Theatre of Scotland 2005-2012. Vicky is the Artistic Director of the Royal Court.

Alex Austin (Cast)

For the Royal Court: **Grimly Handsome, Primetime 2017, Yen, Pigeons.**

Other theatre includes: **Thebes Land (Arcola); Fury (Soho); Barbarians (Young Vic); The Skriker (Royal Exchange, Manchester); Henry V, The Nutcracker, How to Think the Unthinkable, The Man with the Incredibly Smelly Foot (Unicorn); Idomeneus (Gate); Telling Tales, Encourage the Others (Almeida).**

Television includes: **The Interceptor, Sherlock, New Tricks, Misfits, Holby City.**

Film includes: **A Moving Image, The Hooligan Factory, The World's End.**

Rochenda Sandall (Cast)

Theatre includes: **The Nap (Sheffield Crucible); Scenes from an Execution (National), Pomona (& Manchester Royal Exchange); Little Malcolm and his Struggle Against the Eunuchs (Southwark Playhouse); Coriolanus (Donmar); Thursday (English Touring Theatre & Adelaide Festival)**

Television includes: **Into the Badlands; Hatton Garden; Girlfriends; Love, Lies and Records; Broken; Coronation Street; Doctors.**

Radio includes: **Lady Macbeth of Mtsensk.**

Alec Secareanu (Cast)

Theatre includes: **This is a Set-Up (The National Museum of Contemporary Art); Fight Club (Apropo Theater); Recviem (National, Bucharest); An Immaterial Retrospective of the Venice Biennale (Romanian Pavilion); Crisis (Tabu Theater); Ferdinand VIII (Comedy Theater, Bucharest); Flowers, Movies, Girls & Boys (Godot Café, Bucharest); Get Out! (O2G); No One (Metropolis Theater); Of Mice and Men, Port (Casandra Studio); The Forest, Captain's Brides (Nottara, Bucharest).**

Television includes: **Fetele Lu' Dom' Profesor, Pariu Cu Viata, Un Pas Inainte, Daria, Iubirea Mea.**

Film includes: **God's Own Country, Love Bus, Tudo, Chosen, Adalbert's Dream.**

Television includes: **Fetele Lu' Dom' Profesor, Pariu Cu Viata, Un Pas Inainte, Daria, Iubirea Mea.**

Alan Williams (Cast)

For the Royal Court: **Under The Whaleback, Black Milk, Terrorism, Crave, Open Court Weekly Rep, Stoning Mary, Lucky Dog, Local.**

Other theatre includes: **Mary Stuart, The Jew of Malta (Almeida); The Crucible (West Yorkshire Playhouse); Krapp's Last Tape (Hull Truck); A Thousand Stars Explode in the Sky, The Birthday Party (Lyric, Hammersmith); As You Like It, Here We Go, Light Shining in Buckinghamshire, Every Good Boy Deserves Favour, War Horse (National); A Number (Abbey); Comfort Me with Apples (Hampstead); The Scarlet Letter (Chichester Festival).**

Television includes: **Father Brown, Doctors, Casualty, The Crown, The Coroner, SunTrap, The Guilty, Endeavour, Starlings, Utopia, Doc Martin, Midsomer Murders, Luther, Rome, Shameless.**

Film includes: **Grow Your Own, All or Nothing, Among Giants, Triple Word Score, Peterloo, Ich War Zuhause, The Dreamlike Pass, Trespass Against Us, War Horse, London Boulevard, Vera Drake, The Life & Death of Peter Sellers, Bright Young Things.**

Ria Zmitrowicz (Cast)

For the Royal Court: **Bad Roads, X.**

Other theatre includes: **Plastic (Theatre Royal, Bath); Four Minutes Twelve Seconds (Trafalgar Studios/Hampstead); The Crucible (Royal Exchange, Manchester); Arcadia (ETT/Theatre Royal, Brighton); God's Property, NT Connections (Soho); Chapel Street (Bush/Old Red Lion); Cortae (Talawa); Skanky (Arcola).**

Television includes: **Three Girls, Mr Selfridge, Youngers, Nightshift, The Midnight Beast, Murder on the Home Front, Whitechapel.**

Film includes: **Kill Your Friends, Jellyfish.**

Listings Information:

Gundog

By Simon Longman

Directed by Vicky Featherstone

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

Wednesday 31 January 2018 – Saturday 10 March 2018

Monday – Saturday 7.45pm

Thursday & Saturday matinees 3pm (from 10 February 2018)

Captioned Performance Tuesday 6 March 2018.

Post Show talk The Big Idea: In conversation with writer Simon Longman Wednesday 21 February 2018

Press Night Tuesday 6 February 2018 7pm & Wednesday 7 February 2018 7pm. Review embargo lifted 11.59pm Wednesday 7 February 2018.

Standard Tickets £25 (Mondays all seats £12, available from 9am online on the day of performance)

First Look Tickets** £20

Concessions* £5 off (available in advance for previews and all matinees)

Under 26s * £15 (available in advance for previews performances and all matinees)

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

*ID required. All discounts subject to availability.

Supported by



Jerwood New Playwrights is a longstanding partnership between Jerwood Charitable Foundation and the Royal Court. Each year, Jerwood New Playwrights supports the production of two new works by emerging writers, all of whom are in the first 10 years of their career. The Royal Court carefully identifies playwrights whose careers would benefit from the challenge and profile of being fully produced either in the Jerwood Downstairs or Jerwood Upstairs Theatres at the Royal Court.

Jerwood Charitable Foundation supports the Jerwood New Playwrights programme and is dedicated to imaginative and responsible revenue funding of the arts, supporting emerging artists to develop and grow at important stages in their careers. The aim of its funding is to allow artists and arts organisations to thrive; to continue to develop their skills, imagination and creativity with integrity. It works with artists across art forms, from dance and theatre to literature, music and the visual arts. For more information visit www.jerwoodcharitablefoundation.org