

# Abbey Theatre announces the award-winning *Cyprus Avenue* is back.

Following sell-out runs in both Dublin and London, David Ireland's black comedy *Cyprus Avenue* returns to the Peacock Stage at the Abbey Theatre, before transferring to the MAC in Belfast and then to The Public Theater in New York for an extended summer run.

*Cyprus Avenue* – directed by Vicky Featherstone – is a co-production between the Abbey Theatre and the Royal Court Theatre, London. The play won Best New Play at the Irish Times Theatre Awards and James Tate Black Prize for Drama in 2017.

Starring Stephen Rea as Eric Miller, *Cyprus Avenue* takes one man's identity crisis to the limits to uncover the modern day complexity of Ulster Loyalism.

***“Gerry Adams has disguised himself as a new-born baby and successfully infiltrated my family home.”***

Eric is a Belfast Loyalist. He believes his five-week old granddaughter is Gerry Adams. His family keep telling him to stop living in the past and fighting old battles that nobody cares about anymore but his cultural heritage is under siege. He must act.

***“Without prejudice we're nothing! If we don't discriminate, we don't survive!”***

Stephen Rea won Best Actor for his portrayal of 'Eric' at The Irish Times Theatre Awards in 2017. He will be joined by some of the original including cast members Chris Corrigan and Amy Molloy.

*“The Abbey Theatre is thrilled to be bringing David Ireland's explosively funny and provocative Cyprus Avenue back to the Peacock Stage and on tour to The MAC in Belfast and The Public Theater its co-production with London's Royal Court Theatre of,”* said Abbey Theatre Directors Graham McLaren and Neil Murray. *“As Britain's relationship with Ireland and its borders falls under ever increasing, post-Brexit scrutiny, its return could not be timelier.”* //ENDS

FOR MORE INFORMATION, INTERVIEWS, OR MEDIA TICKETS PLEASE CONTACT: Róisín McGann, Press Manager at the Abbey Theatre at [roisin.mcgann@abbeytheatre.ie](mailto:roisin.mcgann@abbeytheatre.ie) or on [086 770 7343](tel:0867707343)

## **EXTRA INFORMATION**

The original production of *Cyprus Avenue* at the Royal Court in 2016 was supported by Cockayne Grants for the Arts, a donor-advised fund of the London Community Foundation.

The performances of *Cyprus Avenue* at The Public Theater have been supported by Culture Ireland.

#### GENERAL BOOKING

Peacock Stage, Abbey Theatre, Lower Abbey Street, Dublin 1

Dates: 30 April – 19 May 2018

Times: 8pm

Tickets : [abbeytheatre.ie](http://abbeytheatre.ie) or 01 87 87 222

#### OTHER VENUES

- The MAC, 23 – 26 May 2018
- The Public Theater, 2 June – 29 July 2018

#### CREDITS

**Slim:** Chris Corrigan

**Julie:** Amy Molloy

**Eric:** Stephen Rea

**Writer:** David Ireland

**Director:** Vicky Featherstone

**Set & Costume Designer:** Lizzie Clachan

**Lighting Designer:** Paul Keogan

**Composer & Sound Designer:** David McSeveny

#### DAVID IRELAND

David's plays include WHAT THE ANIMALS SAY (Oran Mor, Glasgow), EVERYTHING BETWEEN US (Tinderbox), THE END OF HOPE (Oran Mor), YES SO I SAID YES (Ransom), MOST FAVOURED (Traverse, Edinburgh/Oran Mor), CAN'T FORGET ABOUT YOU (Lyric, Belfast) and CYPRUS AVENUE (Royal Court/Abbey). He was Playwright-in-Residence at the Lyric, Belfast from 2011-12. Everything Between Us won the Meyer-Whitworth Award in 2011. Cyprus Avenue won the Irish Times Award for Best New Play and the James Tait Black Prize for Drama in 2017. He is currently working on new plays for the Royal Court, the Abbey and the Traverse and has various screen projects in development.

#### VICKY FEATHERSTONE

For the Royal Court: Gundog, 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, NYC); 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.

### **ABBNEY THEATRE - IRELAND' S NATIONAL THEATRE**

Inspired by the revolutionary ideals of its founders and its rich canon of Irish dramatic writing, the Abbey Theatre' s Mission is to imaginatively engage with all of Irish society through the production of ambitious, courageous and new theatre in all its forms. The Abbey Theatre commits to lead in the telling of the whole Irish story, in English and in Irish, and affirms that it is a theatre for the entire island of Ireland and all its people. In every endeavour, the Abbey Theatre promotes inclusiveness, diversity and equality.

### **THE ROYAL COURT THEATRE**

The Royal Court Theatre is the writers' theatre. It is the leading force in world theatre for energetically cultivating writers - undiscovered, emerging and established. Through the writers, the Royal Court is at the forefront of creating restless, alert, provocative theatre about now. We open our doors to the unheard voices and free thinkers that, through their writing, change our way of seeing. Over 120,000 people visit the Royal Court in Sloane Square, London, each year and many thousands more see our work elsewhere through transfers to the West End and New York, UK and international tours, digital platforms, our residencies across London, and our site-specific work. Through all our work we strive to inspire audiences and influence future writers with radical thinking and provocative discussion. The Royal Court' s extensive development activity encompasses a diverse range of writers and artists and includes an ongoing programme of writers' attachments, readings, workshops and playwriting groups. Twenty years of the International Department' s pioneering work around the world means the Royal Court has relationships with writers on every continent. Within the past sixty years, John Osborne, Samuel Beckett, Arnold Wesker, Ann Jellicoe, Howard Brenton, David Hare have started their careers at the Court. Many others including Caryl Churchill, Athol Fugard, Mark Ravenhill, Simon Stephens, Debbie Tucker Green, Sarah Kane; and, more recently, Lucy Kirkwood, Nick Payne, Penelope Skinner and Alistair McDowall, have followed. The Royal Court has produced many iconic plays from Laura Wade' s *Posh* to Jez Butterworth' s *Jerusalem* and Martin McDonagh' s *Hangmen*. Royal Court plays from every decade are now performed on stage and taught in classrooms and universities across the globe. It is because of this commitment to the writer that we believe there is no more important theatre in the world than the Royal Court.

### **THE PUBLIC THEATER**

The Public is theater of, by, and for the people. Artist-driven, radically inclusive, and fundamentally democratic, The Public continues the work of its visionary founder Joe Papp as a civic institution engaging, both on-stage and off, with some of the most important ideas and social issues of today. Conceived over 60 years ago as one of the nation's first nonprofit theaters, The Public has long operated on the principles that theater is an essential cultural force and that art and culture belong to everyone. Under the leadership of Artistic Director Oskar Eustis and Executive Director Patrick Willingham, The Public's wide breadth of programming includes an annual season of new work at its landmark home at Astor Place, *Free Shakespeare in the Park* at the Delacorte Theater in Central Park, The Mobile Unit touring throughout New York City's five boroughs, Public Forum, Under the Radar, Public Studio, Public Works, Public Shakespeare Initiative, and Joe's Pub. Since premiering *HAIR* in 1967, The Public

continues to create the canon of American Theater and is currently represented on Broadway by the Tony Award-winning musical *Hamilton* by Lin-Manuel Miranda. Their programs and productions can also be seen regionally across the country and around the world. The Public has received 59 Tony Awards, 169 Obie Awards, 53 Drama Desk Awards, 54 Lortel Awards, 32 Outer Critic Circle Awards, 13 New York Drama Desk Awards, and 6 Pulitzer Prizes. [publictheater.org](http://publictheater.org)

The Abbey Theatre gratefully acknowledges the support of  
The Arts Council/An Chomhairle Ealaíon