

PRESS RELEASE  
MONDAY 4 MARCH 2019

**ROYAL COURT THEATRE ANNOUNCES CAST FOR *PAH-LA*,  
WRITTEN BY ABHISHEK MAJUMDAR AND DIRECTED BY DEBBIE  
HANNAN RUNNING IN THE JERWOOD THEATRE UPSTAIRS  
WEDNESDAY 3 APRIL 2019 – SATURDAY 27 APRIL 2019.**



Cast in alphabetical order: Paul Chan, Tuyen Do, Zachary Hing, Daniel York Loh, Kwong Loke, Richard Rees, Gabby Wong, Millicent Wong.

Paul Chan, Tuyen Do, Zachary Hing, Daniel York Loh, Kwong Loke, Richard Rees, Gabby Wong and Millicent Wong have been cast in the world premiere of *Pah-La*, written by Abhishek Majumdar and directed by Debbie Hannan. With design by Lily Arnold, lighting design by Jessica Hung Han Yun and composition and sound design by Tom Gibbons. *Pah-La* will be performed in the Jerwood Theatre Upstairs Wednesday 3 April 2019 – Saturday 27 April 2019. With Press Night on Monday 8 April 2019, 7pm.

*“I just lit up. I did not burn”*

In a remote Tibetan village, Deshar, a young runaway has disowned her father Tsering and become a Buddhist nun.

In Lhasa, Chinese Commander Deng is working for the future of the country, unable to meet the needs of his wife and daughter.



When Deshar carries out an act of defiance it reverberates across the whole country and a new freedom struggle is born with life changing consequences for Deshar, Deng and their families.

*“Tell that girl, she has changed Tibet forever.”*

Pah-La, based on real stories during the 2008 Lhasa riots, is an examination of the future of non-violence.

There will be a post-show talk with Abhishek Majumdar on Tuesday 9 April 2019.

Full listings and biography information below.

*Pah-La* was developed through the Royal Court International Programme

#### Ends:-

For more information or images please contact Anoushka Warden on 0207 565 5063 / [AnoushkaWarden@royalcourttheatre.com](mailto:AnoushkaWarden@royalcourttheatre.com)

#### Notes to Editors:

#### Press performances

<i>Pah-La</i>	Jerwood Theatre Upstairs	7pm Monday 8 April 2019
---------------	--------------------------	-------------------------

#### Biographies:

#### CREATIVES

##### Abhishek Majumdar (Writer)

As writer, for the Royal Court: **The Djinns of Eidgah (& Writers' Bloc Festival, Mumbai/Hindu MetroPlus Theatre Festival, Bangalore/Hamilton Fringe Festival, Ontario); The Ocean (short audio play on Climate Change).**

As writer, other theatre includes: **Pratidwandi [adaptation] (& Dharwad Theatre Festival), Lucknow '76 (& Alliance Francaise, Bangalore), Harlesden High Street (& Tara Arts), An Arrangement of Shoes (& Cock Tavern/Theatre503/Edinburgh Festival Fringe/Exeter Fringe Festival/Acoustic Arts Festival), Niharika, Dweepa (Ranga Shankara, Bangalore); Land of Ups & Downs (Headstart Academy, Bangalore); Linea Historica/The Prophet (Festival Internationale de Dramaturgia, Buenos Aires); 399 (Climate Change Theatre Action).**

As director, other theatre includes: **Waterlines [adaptation] (National Gallery of Modern Art, Bangalore); Gasha (Prithvi, Mumbai/Ranga Shankara/Tour); Thook (Deutsch Schauspielhaus, Hamburg/Ranga Shankara/Goethe Institut, Bangalore/Carriage House, Hartford/Yale); Treadmill (Ranga Shankara/Jagriti, Bangalore/Prithvi/Tour); #supernova (Deutsch Schauspielhaus, Freiburg/Goethe Institut/Theater Freiburg); Tathagat (Jan Natya Manch, Delhi); Eidgah ke Jinnat (Jawahar Kala Kendra, Jaipur).**

As writer/director, other theatre includes: **Rizwaan (FTII Pune/Ranga Shankara); Kaumudi, Afterlife of Birds, Muktidham (Ranga Shankara/Prithvi/Tour).**

Awards include: **Hindu Metroplus Playwright's Award (Harlesden High Street); Mahindra Excellence in Theatre Awards for Best Play & Best Ensemble (Gasha); Mahindra Excellence in Theatre Award for Best Original Script (Muktidham); Toto**





Funds the Arts Writer's Award; International Centre for Women Playwrights 50/50 Applause Award.

Abhishek attended the 2011 Royal Court Theatre International Residency for Emerging Playwrights. He was given the Shankar Nag Rangakarmi Theatre Award (given to artists under 35) for a decade's contribution to Theatre in India.

**Debbie Hannan** (Director)

As director, for the Royal Court: **Latir (& Compania Nacional de Mexico)**, **Primetime**, **Who Cares**, **Spaghetti Ocean**, **Peckham: The Soap Opera**.

As assistant director, for the Royal Court: **The Mistress Contract**, **The Nether**, **Teh Internet is Serious Business**, **Birdland**, **How to Hold Your Breath**, **God Bless the Child**.

As director, other theatre includes: **Things of Dry Hours (Young Vic)**; **Cuckoo**, **The Session (Soho)**; **Girl Meets Boy (Yard/National Theatre of Scotland)**; **The Angry Brigade**, **The Wonderful World of Dissocia (RCS)**; **Pandora (Etch/Pleasance)**; **What We Know**, **Killer Joe**, **Conspiracy (RWCMD)**; **Lot & His God**, **Notes from the Underground (Citizens)**; **liberty, equality, fraternity (Tron/Traverse)**; **PANORAMA (Arches)**; **Woman of the Year (Òran Mór)**.

As associate director, other theatre includes: **Our Ladies of Perpetual Succour (West End/International tour)**; **Constellations (West End/UK tour)**; **Little on the Inside (Clean Break)**.

As assistant director, other theatre includes: **The Maids**, **Sleeping Beauty (Citizens)**; **A Pacifist's Guide to the War on Cancer (Complicite/National)**; **Enquirer**, **A Doll's House (National Theatre of Scotland)**; **Kurt Weill: Double Bill (Scottish Opera)**.

As writer, theatre includes: **SHAME: A DOUBLE BILL (Bang Bang Bang Group)**; **Vinyl Idol [co-writer] (Òran Mór)**.

## CAST

**Paul Chan** (Cast)

Theatre includes: **The Fu Manchu Complex (Ovalhouse/Moongate)**; **The Best Man (Yellow Earth)**; **Robin Hood, Oliver Twist! (Blah Blah Blah)**; **Typhoon I-V (East Asian Playreading Festival/Yellow Earth)**; **East West United (Soho)**; **Bus Stop (Royal Exchange, Manchester)**; **The Big Magic (Polka)**; **Romeo & Juliet (Basingstoke Haymarket)**; **Frying Circus, Takeaway (Mu Lan)**; **Hamlet (Singapore Rep)**.

Television includes: **Action Team**, **Benidorm**, **Trollied**, **Doctors**, **Hank Zipzer**, **The Tracey Ullman Show**, **Pompidou**, **Cockroaches**, **Stella**, **The Morgana Show**, **Johnny Shakespeare**, **Green Wing**, **Sweet & Sour Comedy**, **The Missing Chink**, **Chinese Philosophy For Beginners**, **Mersey Beat**, **Emmerdale**, **Crimewatch UK**.

Film includes: **Blue Iguana**, **Finding Your Feet**, **Lucy**, **Brash Young Turks**, **As You Like It**, **Same Same But Different**, **Offending Angels**, **Everybody Loves Sunshine**.

Radio includes: **Death at the Airport: The Plot Against Kim Jong-Nam**, **Inspector Chen - The Mao Case**, **The Good Listener**, **Victory**, **The View from Here: Demolition Man**, **Bare Branches**, **One Day In the Life of Ivan Denisovich**, **Monkey**, **Waiting for the Earth to Move**.

**Tuyen Do** (Cast)

Theatre includes: **The Great Wave (National)**; **Mothergun (West End)**; **Unbroken (Tamasha)**; **Mothers & Daughter (Tamasha Scratch)**; **Golden Child (New Diorama)**; **A Dream from a Bombshell**, **The Grammar of Love (Ovalhouse)**.

Television includes: **EastEnders**, **Different for Girls**, **24: Live Another Day**, **Scrutiny**, **My So Called Life Sentence**.

Film includes: **The Trip**, **Healthy**, **Cross Your Fingers**, **Happy Accident**, **Interval**, **My Dad the Communist [short]**; **The Ones Below**, **Luck**.





**Zachary Hing (Cast)**

Theatre includes: **Forgotten 遗忘 (Arcola/ Theatre Royal, Plymouth); Why is the Sky Blue? (Southwark); Jubilee (Royal Exchange, Manchester/ Lyric, Hammersmith).**

**Daniel York Loh (Cast)**

For the Royal Court: **Porcelain.**

Other theatre includes: **The Merchant of Venice, The Country Wife, Moby Dick, Snow in Midsummer, Dido Queen of Carthage (RSC); Welcome Home Captain Fox! (Donmar); The World of Extreme Happiness (National); The Shadow Factory (Nuffield, Southampton); Our American Cousin, We Know Where You Live, P'yongyang (Finborough); Une Tempete (Gate); The Magic Fundoshi (Lyric, Hammersmith); Hamlet (Riverside Studios); Sun is Shining (King's Head/BAC/59E59 NYC); The Changeling (Southwark); Branded (Old Vic); Turandot (Hampstead); The Tempest (National/Tour); Measure for Measure (Manchester Library); Nativity (Birmingham Rep); King Lear (Shanghai/UK tour); The Good Woman Of Setzuan (Haymarket, Leicester); In the Bag (Traverse); Tartuffe, Romeo & Juliet (Haymarket, Basingstoke); Five Tanks (Hackney Empire); Made in England (Contact, Manchester/Birmingham Rep); Blind (Courtyard); The Birds (Aquila, NYC/US tour), The Glass Menagerie, Kiss of the Spider Woman (Singapore Rep); The Importance of Being Earnest, Boeing Boeing (Wild Rice, Singapore); Freud's Last Session (Esplanade, Singapore); Dealer's Choice (Pangdemonium, Singapore); Starring Hitler as Jekyll & Hyde (Finger Players, Singapore).**

As writer, theatre includes: **The Fu Manchu Complex (Ovalhouse); Forgotten 遗**

**忘 (Arcola/Drum, Plymouth).**

Television includes: **Whitechapel, Moving On, Waking the Dead, Casualty, Peggy Su!, Chambers, The Bill, Supper at Emmaus, A Fish Named Tao, Hollyoaks, Strangers.**

Film includes: **Scarborough, The Receptionist, Rogue Trader, The Beach, Faraway, Act of Grace, Doom.**

Radio includes: **Doggie's Nirvana, Romeo & Juliet, The Monkey King, Dead Lines, Say It With Flowers, Inspector Chen, The Odyssey Project: Telemachus, Death at the Airport.**

**Daniel is featured in the best-selling essay collection *The Good Immigrant*.**

**Kwong Loke (Cast)**

For the Royal Court: **New & Now: Plays from China, You For Me For You, You Never Touched the Dirt (& Edinburgh International Festival).**

Other theatre includes: **The Great Wave (National); Labour of Love (West End); Dear Elizabeth, Tibetan Inroads (Gate); The Luly Plays (Almeida); Hiawatha (Bristol Old Vic); Global Baby Factory (Yellow Earth); Summer Rolls (Rich Mix); The Changeling (Finborough); Rashomon, Scenes from Paradise (Riverside Studios); The Magic Paintbrush, The Snow Lion (Polka); Blue Remembered Hills (UK tour); Two Gentlemen of Verona (Singapore Drama Centre); The Soldier's Tale (Southbank).**

Television includes: **The Feed, Gangs of London, As Time Goes By, Love Hurts, Blue Peter, Casualty, The Knock, The Monkey King.**

Radio includes: **At Sea on Inya Lake, Another Land, Our Father the Mountain, Joy Luck Club.**

**Richard Rees (Cast)**

Theatre includes: **The Jew of Malta, Love's Sacrifice, Volpone, Snow in Midsummer (RSC); The Love Girl & the Innocent (Southwark); #aiww, The Arrest of Ai Weiwei (Hampstead); 66 Books (Bush); Love the Sinner (National); Another Paradise (Kali); Cinderella, Tears of the Indians, Twelfth Night (Nuffield, Southampton); Three Sisters, Queen of Spades & I (Orange Tree); Little Red Riding Hood, Worlds Apart (Theatre**





Royal, Stratford East); *M Butterfly* (West End); *The Taming of the Shrew*, *Antony & Cleopatra* (Theatr Clwyd/Theatre Royal, Haymarket); *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *The Merry Wives of Windsor*, *Twelfth Night*, *Bashville* (Regent's Park Open Air); *Measure for Measure* (Royal Exchange, Manchester); *The White Devil*, *The Way of the World*, *The Seagull* (Citizens); *Under Milk Wood* (Worcester).

Television includes: *Law & Order*, *Silent Witness*, *Do Not Be Afraid*, *Pinochet's Progress*, *In the Beginning*, *EastEnders*, *Crossing The Line*, *Death On Everest*, *Bugs*, *The Healer*, *Red Eagle*.

Film includes: *Vacant Possession*, *The Omen*, *Aberdeen*, *Darklands*, *On Dangerous Ground*.

#### **Gabby Wong** (Cast)

Theatre includes: *Dear Elizabeth* (Gate); *ManCoin* (VAULT Festival); *Troilus & Cressida*, *Jew of Malta*, *Love's Sacrifice*, *Volpone* (RSC); *The Winter's Tale*, *Macbeth* (National); *Doctor Faustus* (West End); *Takeaway*, *Sinbad the Sailor* (Theatre Royal, Stratford East); *Posh* (Pleasance); *Brave New World* (Creation); *Last Days of Limehouse* (Yellow Earth); *Beat My Time Machine Skipped* (Soho); *Venus Flytrap*, *Numbers of Memory* (Tamasha); *Othello* (Globe).

Television includes: *Strangers*.

Film includes: *Rogue One: A Star Wars Story*, *Random 11*, *Aliceville*, *Simana*.

Radio includes: *Avenue of Eternal Peace*, *One of Two Stories or Both*, *The Man Who Tended Dahlias*.

#### **Millicent Wong** (Cast)

Theatre includes: *Forbidden City: Portrait of an Empress* (Singapore Rep); *Beauty World* (Dick Lee Entertainment); *Hanuman* (Imitating the Dog).

*Pah-La* is Millicent's UK theatre debut.

#### **Listings Information:**

##### ***Pah-La***

**Written by** Abhishek Majumdar

**Directed by** Debbie Hannan

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

**Wednesday 3 April 2019 – Saturday 27 April 2019**

**Monday – Saturday 7.45pm**

**Thursday & Saturday matinees 3pm as of w/c 8 April 2019**

**Captioned Performance** Wednesday 24 April 2019 7.45pm

**Press Performance** 7pm Monday 8 April 2019

**The Big Idea: In Conversation** with Abhishek Majumdar Tuesday 9 April 2019 post-show  
**Standard Tickets** £25 (Mondays all seats £12 available from 9am online on the day of performance)

**First Look Tickets\*\*** £20

**Concessions\*** £5 off previews and matinees

**Under 26s\*\*\***

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

\*ID required. All discounts subject to availability.

