

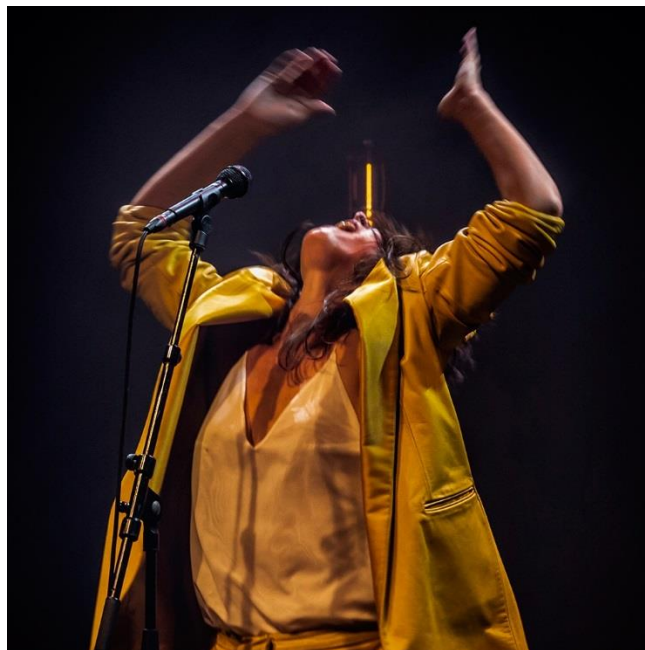
PRESS RELEASE  
WEDNESDAY 5 JUNE 2019

**DUTCH SINGER-SONGWRITER WENDE AND ISOBEL WALLER-BRIDGE WILL BE JOINED BY MUSICIANS ADAM CLIFFORD AND MADDIE CUTTER FOR *THE SONG PROJECT*, AN INTIMATE CONCERT OF NEW MUSIC CREATED BY CHLOE LAMFORD, WENDE, ISOBEL WALLER-BRIDGE AND IMOGEN KNIGHT**

- **Royal Court Jerwood Theatre Upstairs Wednesday 12 June 2019 – Saturday 15 June 2019**

- **Rehearsal Room Trailer With Song Samples**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nXs5lSkFs3I>



Wende (credit: Bulletray)

Adam Clifford and Maddie Cutter have been announced to perform alongside Dutch singer-songwriter Wende and Isobel Waller-Bridge in *The Song Project*, a collaboration between leading artists to create an intimate concert in the Royal Court Theatre Jerwood Theatre Upstairs Wednesday 12 June 2019 to Saturday 15 June 2019, 7.45pm.

*The Song Project* is a concept of singer-songwriter Wende and designer Chloe Lamford. It is created by Wende, Chloe Lamford, composer Isobel Waller-Bridge and choreographer Imogen Knight, with words by Royal Court writers E.V. Crowe, Sabrina Mahfouz, Somalia Seaton, Stef Smith and Debris Stevenson.



In January 2019, the award-winning Dutch singer-songwriter Wende and Royal Court Artistic Associate Chloe Lamford invited five Royal Court writers to spend a day together talking.

Rage, dancing, sex, DNA, theatre, love, our mothers, hatred, ritual – themes that came up were shaped into stories, into lyrics.

Wende and Isobel Waller-Bridge locked themselves away with a piano and a laptop turning the lyrics into songs.

Chloe Lamford and Imogen Knight began to visualise what the performance might be.

Now, they're sharing what they've been developing over the last few months at an intimate gig for just four nights performed by Wende, Isobel Waller-Bridge, Adam Clifford (on percussion) and Maddie Cutter (on cello) Wednesday 12 June 2019 to Saturday 15 June 2019, 7.45pm.

For full biographies see below.

#### **ENDS-**

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

#### **Notes to Editors:**

**Images:** For artwork [click here](#).

#### **Biographies:**

##### **Chloe Lamford Co-creator (Designer)**

For the Royal Court: **The Cane, Pity, Gundog, My Mum's a Twat, Grimly Handsome [co-creator], The Site Programme, Victory Condition, B, Road, Nuclear War, Unreachable, Ophelia's Zimmer (& Schaubühne, Berlin), How to Hold Your Breath, God Bless the Child, 2071, Teh Internet Is Serious Business, Open Court 2013, Circle Mirror Transformation.**

Other theatre includes: **The Crucible (Theater Basel); TBCTV (Somerset House); Hamilton Complex (Schauspielhaus, Bochum); John, Amadeus, Rules for Living, The World of Extreme Happiness (National); 1984 (Headlong/Almeida/West End/Broadway); The Maids (Toneelgroep, Amsterdam); The Tempest, Salt Root & Roe (Donmar); Shakespeare's Last Play, Atmen (Schaubühne, Berlin); Our Ladies of Perpetual Succour (& Live/National/West End/International tour), My Shrinking Life, An Appointment with the Wicker Man, Knives in Hens (National Theatre of Scotland); Britney & Goofy, Het Hamiltoncomplex (Hetpaleis, Antwerp); The Events (ATC/Young Vic); Disco Pigs, Sus, Blackta [costume] (Young Vic); Praxis Makes Perfect, The Radicalisation of Bradley Manning (National Theatre Wales); Boys (Headlong/Soho); Jubilee, Cannibals, The Gate Keeper (Royal Exchange, Manchester); My Romantic History (& Bush), The History Boys (Crucible, Sheffield); Joseph K, The Kreutzer Sonata (Gate); it felt empty when the heart went at first but it is alright now (Clean Break/Arcola); Everything Must Go!, This Wide Night (Soho); The Mother Ship, How to Tell the Monsters from the Misfits (Birmingham Rep); Small Miracle (Kiln/Mercury, Colchester).**





Opera & dance includes: **Verklärte Nacht** (Rambert, Chor: Kim Brandstrup); **Miranda** (Opera Comique, Paris); **Ariadne Auf Naxos, Alcina, Pelleas & Melisande** (Aix-en-Provence Festival); **The Little Sweep, Let's Make an Opera** (Malmo Opera House, Sweden); **The Magic Flute** (English Touring Opera); **War & Peace** (Scottish Opera/RCS).

Awards include: **Arts Foundation Fellowship Award for Design for Performance in Set & Costume**, **Theatrical Management Association Award for Best Theatre Design** (Small Miracle).

**Wende** Co-creator (Performer & Composer)

**Singer-songwriter, theatre-maker, chansonnière, actress, performer, music producer, artist-in-residence at the Royal Carré Theatre in Amsterdam: Wende can do it all. With her distinctive voice and a healthy disregard for boxes and trends, she tells stories on the cutting edge of who and why.**

**In 2004 Wende released her debut album of interpretations of a repertoire of French chansons. With her first English-language release No.9 in 2009, Wende repositioned her image as a contemporary singer-songwriter by capturing a new music-loving audience, impressing them with her fresh sound and unique performance style. In 2018 she performed Kurt Weill and Bertolt Brecht's *The Seven Deadly Sins* with the Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra and has performed tracks from her album *Last Resistance* with the National Opera and Ballet in Amsterdam.**

**Wende mainly uses her platform for challenging, boundary-breaking projects where language, technology and genre all play dynamic and surprising roles. Her project *MENS (HUMAN)*, a collaboration with Royal Court Associate Designer Chloe Lamford and director Marcus Azzini from Toneelgroep Oostpool, is a raw and controversial image of the times, making use of intoxicating electro beats and open-hearted, vulnerable songs with words by writers including Dimitri Verhulst and Simon Stephens.**

**Imogen Knight** Co-creator (Choreographer)

For the Royal Court: **Bodies, Fake News (The Site Programme), Linda, God Bless the Child, The Low Road, A Time to Reap.**

As director, for the Royal Court: **Nuclear War.**

As choreographer/movement director, other theatre includes: **The Birthday Party (West End); The Last Testament of Lillian Bilocca [& co-director] (Hull City of Culture 2017); The Emperor, Measure for Measure, Dirty Butterfly (Young Vic); Belleville, Knives in Hens, The Lady from the Sea (Donmar); Our Ladies of Perpetual Succour (& National Theatre of Scotland/UK tour/West End), Macbeth, Amadeus, Dead Don't Floss, The Threepenny Opera, Les Blancs, I Want My Hat Back, Edward II, Dido, Queen of Carthage (National).**

**Isobel Waller-Bridge** Co-creator (Composer)

Theatre includes: **The Girl on the Train, The Damned United (Leeds Playhouse); King Lear (& BAM, NYC), The Watsons, If Only (Chichester Festival); Curtains (Rose, Kingston); To the Lighthouse (NT Studio); The Philanderer (Orange Tree); End of Longing, Neville's Island (West End); Dutchman (Young Vic); Hecuba (RSC); Dinner with Friends (Park); Kite (London International Mime Festival/The Wrong Crowd); Fleabag (& UK tour), Blink (& Traverse), The Girl with the Iron Claws (& The Wrong Crowd/UK tour), Lampedusa (Soho); Yellow Face (National); Billy Liar, Orlando (Royal Exchange, Manchester); Incognito (Bush); Mydidiae (Trafalgar Studios); Forever House (Theatre Royal, Plymouth); Sleuth (Watermill); Gruesome Playground Injuries (Gate).**





Television includes: **Fleabag, ABC Murders, The Split, Vanity Fair, War & Peace, Frozen Planet: The Making Of, Life.**

Film includes: **Vita & Virginia, A Battle in Waterloo, Secret Horse: The Quest for True Appaloosa, Dark Horse, The Imposter, The Bounty Hunter, The Day of the Flowers, James, Tracks, Physics, Beautiful Enough, Ellie, Disaffected, Meeting Mr Tiller.**

Awards include: **Off West End Award for Best Sound Design (Incognito); Ivor Novello Award (Life).**

#### **E.V. Crowe (Writer)**

For the Royal Court: **The Sewing Group, Hero, Kin, The Unknown (The Site Programme), Collaboration, Sex (Open Court).**

Other theatre includes: **Brenda (HighTide/Yard); I Can Hear You (RSC); Virgin (nabokov/Watford Palace); Liar Liar (Unicorn); Young Pretender (nabokov/Edinburgh Festival Fringe); Doris Day, A Just Act (Clean Break/Soho).**

Dance includes: **Live Feed/I'm Going to Show You (Siobhan Davies Dance).**

Television includes: **Pig Life (from Snatches: Moments from 100 Years of Women's Lives), Glue, Coming Up: Big Girl.**

Radio includes: **How to Say Goodbye Properly, I Confess.**

Awards include: **Imison Award for Best Radio Drama Script (How to Say Goodbye Properly).**

#### **Sabrina Mahfouz (Writer)**

Theatre includes: **Noughts & Crosses (Pilot); With a Little Bit of Luck (Paines Plough); Zeraffa Giraffa (Little Angel/Omnibus); Dry Ice (POP/Bush); Chef (POP/Just For Laughs); Clean (Traverse).**

Awards include: **King's Alumni Arts & Culture Award; Sky Arts Academy Award for Poetry; Herald Angel Award (Clean); Westminster Prize for New Playwrights; Fringe First Award (Chef).**

**Sabrina is the editor of *The Things I Would Tell You: British Muslim Women Write*, a 2017 Guardian Book of the Year and the forthcoming anthology *Smashing It: Working Class Artists on Life, Art and Making It Happen*. She writes poetry, libretti, screenplays, articles and fiction and has recently been elected a Fellow of the Royal Society of Literature.**

#### **Somalia Seaton (Writer)**

Theatre includes: **Crowning Glory (Theatre Royal, Stratford East); House (Clean Break/The Yard), Womb (Bush), Fall of the Kindgom, Rise of the Footsoldier (RSC).**

Awards include: **Susan Smith Blackburn Finalist Prize (Fall of the Kindgom, Rise of the Footsoldier).**

**Somalia is a British Jamaican and Nigerian writer and theatre maker. She is Founder and Artistic Director of No Ball Games Allowed, a company creating work with young people at its core.**

#### **Stef Smith (Writer)**

For the Royal Court: **Human Animals.**

Other theatre includes: **Nora (Citizen's); Love Letter to Europe (Underbelly); How to Grow a Nation (Young Vic); Smoke & Mirrors (& DOT Istanbul/Theatre Uncut), Girl in the Machine, Swallow (Traverse); Remote (NT Connections); Back to Back to Back (Cardboard Citizens); Cured (Glasgay! Festival); Grey Matter (Lemon Tree); Woman of the Year (Oran Mór); Falling/Flying (Tron).**

Radio includes: **Tea & Symmetry.**





Awards include: **Olivier Award for Outstanding Achievement in an Affiliate Theatre (Roadkill).**

**Stef is an Associate Artist at the Traverse Theatre and Leeds Playhouse, and recently took part in the BBC Drama Writers Room.**

#### **Debris Stevenson (Writer)**

As writer/performer, for the Royal Court: **Poet in da Corner (& 14-18 NOW).**

**Dyslexic writer, Grime poet, working-class academic, pansexual ex-Mormon and Bashment dancing social activist from the seam between East London and Essex: it's not simple. Debris has no choice but to explore the intersectional, unexpected and unjust – it's not just who she is, it's her responsibility in a world that all too often summarises us into a caption.**

**Educated through the evolution of Grime in East London and nurtured by the Roundhouse in Camden, at just 18 Debris organised and hosted Turning Point Festival whilst followed by Channel 4 (Yeardot). Since then she has founded Mouthy Poets, an organisation teaching thousands of young people poetry as a life skill, with which she has raised over £300,000 to develop young artists and worked in over 25 countries. She has designed and delivered foundation poetry and performance modules at Nottingham University and had her debut poetry pamphlet, Pigeon Party, published by Flipped Eye.**

**When Debris isn't writing, speaking, teaching or performing, she can also often be found dancing to Grime, Soca, Afrobeats and Dancehall for organisations such as The Heatwave and Red Bull Music Academy.**

#### **Adam Clifford (Percussion)**

**Adam is an actor, percussionist, composer and theatre-maker who studied at the Royal Academy of Music and the Jacques Lecoq School of Theatre in Paris. He is a member of the Colin Currie Group, playing the music of Steve Reich internationally, and has recorded, performed and toured around the world with many of the country's leading orchestras and ensembles. As an actor, theatre-maker and composer, Adam is a former member of the world-renowned Song of the Goat Theatre in Poland, and is currently developing *Forests* in response to the human-ecological crisis (Oran Theatre Company). He is founder and Artistic Director of theatre company *son* and currently, each Christmas, plays Charles Dickens in *The Great Christmas Feast* (The Lost Estate). He also played Seb in teen comedy-drama *Yo! Diary* (CBBC). Adam teaches at Guildhall School of Music and Drama and is one of their 2018-19 Creative Entrepreneurs.**

#### **Maddie Cutter (Cello)**

**Since graduating from the Guildhall School of Music and Drama in 2016, Maddie has quickly gained a reputation as a collaborative and versatile cellist.**

**As co-founder and principal cellist of Parallax Orchestra, Maddie has become well-known in the freelance theatre, pop, rock and alternative music scenes. She has performed and recorded with Bring Me The Horizon, Architects and Alter Bridge, as well as featured in live shows with artists such as Paolo Nutini, Lewis Capaldi, and Deaf Havana. Maddie is a permanent member of the band for Anna Meredith, and toured extensively from 2016 to 2018 across Europe and the United States to promote the album *Varmints* (Scottish Album of the Year). The band are currently working on Anna's second album.**

**Maddie's open-minded approach to music and composition has led her to perform in a number of theatres across London, including for multiple productions at Shakespeare's Globe including *The Tempest* and *Cymbeline* in 2016, *The White Devil*,**





**King Lear** and the RSC's production of **Queen Anne** at Theatre Royal Haymarket in 2017. She recently finished a run of shows at The Bridge Theatre playing Grant Olding's score for solo cello and loop pedal, in Nicholas Hytner's production of **Alys, Always**.

**Listings Information:**

***The Song Project***

**By** Chloe Lamford, Wende, Isobel Waller-Bridge and Imogen Knight

**With words by** E.V. Crowe, Sabrina Mahfouz, Somalia Seaton, Stef Smith and Debris Stevenson

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

**Wednesday 12 June 2019 – Saturday 15 June 2019, 7.45pm**

**Tickets: £25**

**Under 26s £15 by becoming a Young Court Friend**

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