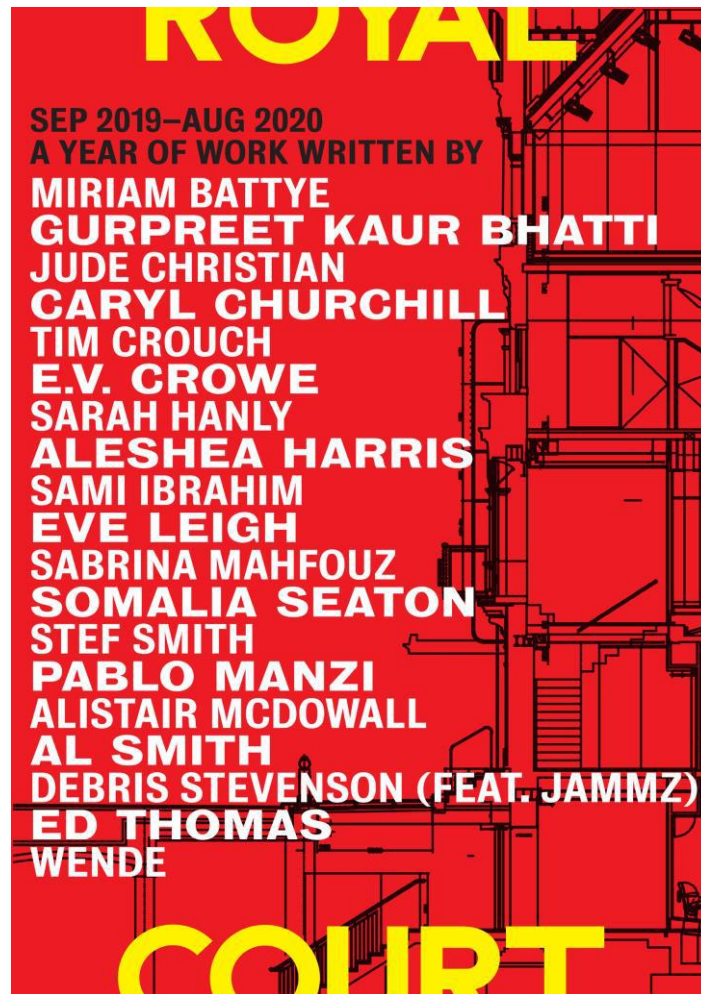


PRESS RELEASE
9AM Wednesday 1 May 2019

THE ROYAL COURT THEATRE ANNOUNCES A YEAR OF WORK SEPTEMBER 2019 – AUGUST 2020



Autumn/Winter 2019/20 (on sale from May 2019)

- **Total Immediate Collective Imminent Terrestrial Salvation** written by **Tim Crouch**, directed by **Karl James** and **Andy Smith**, produced by and co-commissioned with **National Theatre of Scotland**, in association with the **Royal Court**, will run in the Jerwood Theatre Upstairs Tuesday 3 September 2019 – Saturday 21 September 2019. [For full details see here.](#)
- **My Name is Why** in conversation with **Lemn Sissay** - a one-off reading in the Jerwood Theatre Downstairs Tuesday 3 September 2019. [For full details see here.](#)

- **Glass. Kill. Bluebeard. Imp.** Four plays by **Caryl Churchill**, directed by **James Macdonald**, to run in the Jerwood Theatre Downstairs Wednesday 18 September 2019 – Saturday 12 October 2019. [For full details see here.](#)
- **A History of Water in the Middle East** written and performed by **Sabrina Mahfouz**, directed by **Stef O’Driscoll**, to run in the Jerwood Theatre Upstairs Thursday 10 October 2019 – Saturday 16 November 2019. [For further details see here.](#)
- **On Bear Ridge**, a co-production with **National Theatre Wales**, written by **Ed Thomas**, co-directed by Royal Court Artistic Director **Vicky Featherstone** and **Ed Thomas**, opening at the **Sherman Theatre, Cardiff** Friday 20 September 2019 – Saturday 5 October 2019, followed by a run in the Jerwood Theatre Downstairs Thursday 24 October 2019 – Saturday 23 November 2019. [For further details see here.](#)
- **Midnight Movie** written by **Eve Leigh** and directed by **Rachel Bagshaw** will run in the Jerwood Theatre Upstairs Wednesday 27 November 2019 – Saturday 21 December 2019. [For full details see here.](#)
- **A Kind of People** written by **Gurpreet Kaur Bhatti** and directed by **Michael Buffong** will run in the Jerwood Theatre Downstairs Thursday 5 December 2019 – Saturday 18 January 2020. [For full details see here.](#)
- **Scenes with Girls** written by **Miriam Batty** and directed by Royal Court Associate Director **Lucy Morrison** will run in the Jerwood Theatre Upstairs Wednesday 15 January 2020 – Saturday 22 February 2020. [For full details see here.](#)
- **Poet in da Corner** written and performed by **Debris Stevenson**, feat. **Jammz** and directed by Royal Court Associate Director **Ola Ince**, will return to the Jerwood Theatre Downstairs Thursday 30 January 2020 – Saturday 22 February 2020, followed by a tour to The MAC, Belfast; Leicester Curve; Nottingham Playhouse; Manchester HOME; Birmingham Rep and Hackney Empire. [For full details see here.](#)

Spring/Summer 2020 (on sale October 2019)

- **Open Court: Climate Emergency.** A season of work all over the Royal Court building curated by the writers in response to the climate emergency, March 2020. [For full details see here.](#)

- **Shoe Lady** written by **E.V. Crowe** and directed by Royal Court Artistic Director **Vicky Featherstone**, to run in the Jerwood Theatre Downstairs Wednesday 4 March 2020 – Saturday 21 March 2020. [For full details see here.](#)
- **Rare Earth Mettle** written by **Al Smith** and directed by Royal Court Associate Director **Hamish Pirie**, to run in the Jerwood Theatre Downstairs Thursday 2 April 2020 – Saturday 25 April 2020. [For full details see here.](#)
- **two Palestinians go dogging** written by **Sami Ibrahim** and directed by **Omar Elerian** in a co-production with Theatre Uncut, to run in the Jerwood Theatre Upstairs Thursday 9 April 2020 – Saturday 9 May 2020. [For full details see here.](#)
- **IS IN OUR BLOOD - The Song Project** performed by **Wende**, concept by **Chloe Lamford** and **Wende**, created 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**, to run in the Jerwood Theatre Downstairs Thursday 7 May – Saturday 16 May 2020. [For full details see here.](#)
- **A Fight Against...** written by **Pablo Manzi** and translated by **William Gregory**, directed by Royal Court Associate Director (International) **Sam Pritchard**, to run in the Jerwood Theatre Upstairs Wednesday 20 May 2020 – Saturday 20 June 2020. **Teatro a Mil Foundation** is a project partner. [For full details see here.](#)
- **The Glow** written by **Alistair McDowall** and directed by Royal Court Artistic Director **Vicky Featherstone** to run in the Jerwood Theatre Downstairs Friday 29 May 2020 – Saturday 4 July 2020. [For full details see here.](#)
- **Purple Snowflakes and Titty Wanks** written and performed by **Sarah Hanly** and directed by **Alice Fitzgerald** to run in the Jerwood Theatre Upstairs Monday 29 June 2020 – Saturday 11 July 2020. [For full details see here.](#)
- **Is God Is** written by **Aleshea Harris** and directed by **Ola Ince** to run in the Jerwood Theatre Downstairs Thursday 16 July 2020 – Saturday 15 August 2020. [For full details see here.](#)
- **Nanjing** written and performed by **Jude Christian** and directed by **Elayce Ismail** to run in the Jerwood Theatre Upstairs Monday 20 July 2020 – Saturday 1 August 2020 before a global tour. [For full details see here.](#)

Writer opportunities;

- The **Royal Court Theatre** announces the **Lynne Gagliano Writers Award**, a year-long placement for a young person aged 18 – 25. [For full details see here.](#)
- **The Royal Court/Oberon Books Climate Commission** – a new environmental initiative in playwriting. [For full details see here.](#)

Tickets for the Autumn/Winter 2019/20 season go on sale to Friends on Wednesday 8 May 2019 at 10am and to the general public on Wednesday 15 May 2019 at 10am.

Tickets for the Spring/Summer 2020 season go on sale in October 2019.

020 7565 5000 / www.royalcourttheatre.com

Become a Friend for £35 to get advanced booking and early access to all £12 Monday performances in the Jerwood Theatre Downstairs
<https://royalcourttheatre.com/support-us/become-a-member/join-as-a-friend/>

Download artwork [here.](#)

Commenting on the new season Artistic Director **Vicky Featherstone** said;

“It is a privilege to be able to announce a whole year’s worth of work at the Royal Court and is testament to writers, both experienced and brand new to us that we have such an extraordinary range of voices, experiences, stories and provocations to put in front of our audiences. I am constantly overwhelmed by our hunger and capacity for story – the human need to make sense of the world in which we live and our openness to be surprised and enlightened by it. This year attempts to reflect that from the intensely private to the global stories of our times.”

A National Theatre of Scotland production in association with the Royal Court Theatre, Teatro do Bairro Alto, Lisbon and Attenborough Centre for the Creative Arts
Total Immediate Collective Imminent Terrestrial Salvation

Written by Tim Crouch

Directed by Karl James and Andy Smith

Jerwood Theatre Upstairs

Tuesday 3 September 2019 – Saturday 21 September 2019

Following a run at the Edinburgh International Festival Tim Crouch’s new play *Total Immediate Collective Imminent Terrestrial Salvation* comes to the Royal Court Theatre for four week run in the Jerwood Theatre Upstairs from Tuesday 3 September 2019 to Saturday 21 September 2019 with press night on Thursday 5 September 2019, 7pm.

Directed by Karl James and Andy Smith, with illustration by Rachana Jadhav.

“You should all have a book. Does everyone have a book? This book is part of the play. In a minute, we’ll all open this book and we’ll invite you to turn the pages.”

The writer manipulates a group of people to sit together and believe in something that isn’t true. The book he’s written predicts it all: the equations, the black hole and all the words we’ll speak until the end.

On this last day, at this last hour, a defector finds her voice and returns.

In this new play, presented through stage action and illustrated text, audience and actors turn the book’s pages together, they study the images and they sometimes share the words out loud.

Tim Crouch is an experimental theatre maker who invites audiences to be active in the worlds his plays create. He returns to the Royal Court following *The Author* (2009) and *Adler & Gibb* (2014). His other plays include *My Arm*, *ENGLAND*, *An Oak Tree* and *Beginners*.

Tim Crouch (Writer/Performer)

For the Royal Court: **The Author (& tour)**, **John, Antonio & Nancy (Rough Cuts)**, **Adler & Gibb (& tour)**.

Other theatre includes: **Peat (Ark, Dublin)**; **The Complete Deaths (Spymonkey/Tour)**; **Jeramee, Hartleby & Ooglemore (& tour)**, **Beginners (Unicorn)**; **what happens to the hope at the end of the evening (Almeida Festival/Tour)**; **HOST (Brighton Fringe)**; **King Lear, The Taming of the Shrew (RSC/First Encounter)**; **I, Cinna (The Poet) (RSC/World Shakespeare Festival)**; **Cadavre Exquis (Kassys, Netherlands/Nature Theater of Oklahoma, NYC/Nicole Beutler/Tour)**; **I, Malvolio (Brighton Festival/Tour)**; **May (Probe Projects)**; **ENGLAND (Traverse/Fruitmarket Gallery/Whitechapel Gallery/Tour)**; **An Oak Tree (& Soho)**, **My Arm (Traverse/Tour)**; **Fairymonsterghost (I, Banquo; I, Peaseblossom; I, Caliban) (Brighton Festival/ Unicorn/Tour)**; **Kaspar the Wild (Theatre Royal, Plymouth/Theatre Royal, York/Polka)**; **Shopping for Shoes (NT Education Department tour)**.

Radio includes: **My Arm, An Oak Tree, ENGLAND**.

Television includes: **Don’t Forget the Driver**.

Awards include: **Writers Guild of Great Britain, Best Play for Young Audiences (Beginners)**; **John Whiting Award, Total Theatre Award (The Author)**; **OBIE Award for Special Citations, Herald Angel (An Oak Tree)**; **Scotsman Fringe First, Total Theatre & Herald Archangel Awards (ENGLAND)**; **Brian Way Award (Shopping for Shoes)**; **Prix Italia Award for Best Adaptation in Radio Drama (My Arm)**.

Karl James (Co-director)

As co-director, for the Royal Court: **The Author, Adler & Gibb**.

As co-director, other theatre includes: **My Arm, An Oak Tree, ENGLAND (Traverse)**; **what happens to the hope at the end of the evening (Almeida)**.

Karl is director of The Dialogue Project, enabling people to have conversations when the stakes are high. His acclaimed podcast series **2+2=5** and his audio work has featured on BBC Radio 4’s **Short Cuts**, **A Different Kind of Justice** for BBC Radio 4, at

Latitude Festival and in Third Coast's Filmless Festival in Chicago. Karl's first book *Say It and Solve It* was published in 2013.

Andy Smith (Co-director)

As co-director, for the Royal Court: **The Author, Adler & Gibb.**

As co-director, other theatre includes: **An Oak Tree, ENGLAND (Traverse); Transporter (Theatr Iolo, Cardiff); What Good is Looking Well When You're Rotten on the Inside? (Galway Theatre Festival).**

As writer & co-director: **SUMMIT (Brighton Festival/Fuel).**

As writer & performer: **what happens to the hope at the end of the evening (Almeida); COMMONISM, all that is solid melts into air (BIT Teatergarasjen); The Preston Bill (Fuel); commonwealth (Gateshead International Festival of Theatre).**

Andy is a Lecturer in Theatre Practice at The University of Manchester.

A National Theatre of Scotland production in association with the Royal Court Theatre, Teatro do Bairro Alto, Lisbon and Attenborough Centre for the Creative Arts (ACCA).

Listings Information:

A National Theatre of Scotland production in association with the Royal Court Theatre, Teatro do Bairro Alto, Lisbon and Attenborough Centre for the Creative Arts
Total Immediate Collective Imminent Terrestrial Salvation

Written by Tim Crouch

Directed by Karl James and Andy Smith

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

Tuesday 3 September 2019 – Saturday 21 September 2019

Monday – Saturday 7.45pm

Thursday & Saturday matinees 3pm

Captioned Performances Friday 13 & 20 September 2019

Relaxed Environment Performance Saturday 21 September 2019, 3pm

Press Performance Thursday 5 September 2019, 7pm

The Big Idea: In Conversation with Tim Crouch Wednesday 11 September post-show

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

Concessions*

Under 26s**

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

The Studio at Festival Theatre, Edinburgh

Wednesday 7 August 2019 – Sunday 25 August 2019

<https://www.nationaltheatrescotland.com/production/total-immediate-collective-imminent-terrestrial-salvation-2/>

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My Name is Why
In Conversation with Lemn Sissay
40 minutes reading & 20 minutes Q&A
Jerwood Theatre Downstairs
Tuesday 3 September 2019, 7.30pm

After the successful and moving reading of *The Report*, Lemn Sissay returns to the Royal Court with a special one off event reading excerpts from his new memoir, *My Name is Why* (Canongate Books), in the Jerwood Theatre Downstairs on Tuesday 3 September 2019, 7.30pm.

At the age of 17, after a childhood in a fostered family, followed by six years in care homes, Norman Greenwood was given his birth certificate. He learned that his real name was not Norman. It was Lemn Sissay. He was British and Ethiopian. And he learned that his mother had been pleading for his safe return to her since his birth.

Lemn Sissay's memoir reflects on a childhood in care, self-expression and Britishness, and in doing so explores the institutional care system, race, family and the meaning of home.

Infused with all the lyricism and power you would expect from one of the nation's best-loved poets, this moving, frank and timely event is the result of a life spent asking questions, and a celebration of the redemptive power of creativity.

The evening is a celebration of the publication of *My Name is Why: A Memoir* by Lemn Sissay. Published by Canongate Books.

Lemn Sissay (Writer/Performer)

For the Royal Court: **Road, The Report**.

Other theatre includes: **Refugee Boy** (Leeds Playhouse/UK tour); **Something Dark** (UK & International tour).

Lemn Sissay MBE is the author of several books of poetry alongside articles, records, public art and plays. He was the official poet for the London 2012 Olympics & the FA Cup 2015. Lemn's Landmark Poems are installed throughout Manchester & London in venues such as The Royal Festival Hall & the Olympic Park. His landmark poem *Gilt of Cain* was unveiled by Bishop Desmond Tutu. His Desert Island Discs was pick of the year for BBC Radio 4 2015.

Lemn is Chancellor of the University of Manchester, Associate Artist at Southbank Centre and a Patron of both The Letterbox Club and The Reader Organisation. He is a regular contributor to radio and television.

Listings Information:

My Name is Why
In Conversation with Lemn Sissay
40 minutes reading & 20 minutes Q&A
Jerwood Theatre Downstairs, Royal Court Theatre, Sloane Square, SW1W 8AS
Tuesday 3 September 2019, 7.30pm
£14-£25

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**Glass
Kill
Bluebeard
Imp**

Four plays written by Caryl Churchill

Directed by James Macdonald

Jerwood Theatre Downstairs

Wednesday 18 September 2019 – Saturday 12 October 2019

Caryl Churchill returns to the Royal Court Theatre Jerwood Theatre Downstairs with four plays *Glass. Kill. Bluebeard. Imp*. Directed by James Macdonald it runs Wednesday 18 September 2019 – Saturday 12 October 2019 with press night on Wednesday 25 September 2019, 7pm.

Designed by Miriam Buether, costume design by Nicky Gillibrand, lighting design by Jack Knowles and sound design by Christopher Shutt.

“I can see her just. Most people can’t see her at all.”

A girl made of glass. Gods and murders. A serial killer’s friends. And a secret in a bottle. Four stories by Caryl Churchill.

Caryl Churchill’s most recent play *Escaped Alone*, opened at the Royal Court to critical acclaim and transferred to New York. Many of her plays which first premiered at the Royal Court are now considered modern classics including *Top Girls*, *A Number* and *Far Away*.

Director James Macdonald’s recent work for the Royal Court includes *One For Sorrow*, *The Children* (and New York), *Escaped Alone* (and New York), and *The Wolf From The Door*.

Caryl Churchill (Writer)

For the Royal Court: **Escaped Alone (& BAM, NYC), Pigs & Dogs, Love & Information, Seven Jewish Children, Drunk Enough To Say I Love You?, A Number, Far Away, This is a Chair, Blue Heart, Mad Forest, Ice Cream, Serious Money, Fen, Top Girls, Cloud 9, Traps, Light Shining In Buckinghamshire, Owners.**

Other theatre includes: **Here We Go, The Skriker (National).**

Music theatre includes: **Lives of the Great Poisoners, Hotel (both with Orlando Gough).**

Caryl has also written for radio & television.

James Macdonald (Director)

For the Royal Court: **One For Sorrow, The Children (& MTC/Broadway), Escaped Alone (& BAM, NYC), The Wolf from the Door, Circle Mirror Transformation, Love & Information (& NYTW), Cock (& Duke, NYC), Drunk Enough to Say I Love You? (& Public, NYC), Dying City (& Lincoln Center, NYC), Fewer Emergencies, Lucky Dog, Blood, Blasted, 4.48 Psychosis (& St Ann’s Warehouse, NYC/US & European tours), Hard Fruit, Real Classy Affair, Cleansed, Bailegangaire, Harry & Me, Simpatico,**

Peaches, Thyestes, Hammett's Apprentice, The Terrible Voice of Satan, Putting Two & Two Together.

Other theatre includes: **John, Dido Queen of Carthage, The Hour We Knew Nothing of Each Other, Exiles (National); The Night of the Iguana, Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?, The Father, Glengarry Glen Ross, The Changing Room (West End); The Tempest, Roberto Zucco (RSC); Wild, And No More Shall We Part, #aiww - The Arrest of Ai Weiwei (Hampstead); The Father (Theatre Royal, Bath/Kiln); Bakkhai, A Delicate Balance, Judgment Day, The Triumph of Love (Almeida); The Way of the World, Roots (Donmar); The Chinese Room (Williamstown Festival); True West (Roundabout/Broadway); Cloud Nine (Atlantic, NYC); A Number (NYTW); King Lear, The Book of Grace (Public, NYC); Top Girls (MTC/Broadway); John Gabriel Borkman (Abbey, Dublin/BAM, NYC); Troilus und Cressida, Die Kopien (Schaubuehne, Berlin); 4.48 Psychose (Burgtheater, Vienna); Love's Labour's Lost, Richard II (Royal Exchange, Manchester); The Rivals (Nottingham Playhouse); The Crackwalker (Gate); The Seagull (Crucible, Sheffield); Miss Julie (Oldham Coliseum); Juno & the Paycock, Ice Cream/Hot Fudge, Romeo & Juliet, Fool for Love, Savage/Love, Master Harold & the Boys (Contact, Manchester); Prem (BAC/Soho Poly).**

Opera includes: **A Ring A Lamp A Thing (Linbury); Eugene Onegin, Rigoletto (Welsh National Opera); Die Zauberflöte (Garsington); Wolf Club Village, Night Banquet (Almeida Opera); Oedipus Rex, Survivor from Warsaw (Royal Exchange, Manchester/Hallé); Lives of the Great Poisoners (Second Stride).**

Film includes: **A Number.**

James was an Associate and Deputy Director at the Royal Court for 14 years and was also a NESTA fellow from 2003 to 2006.

Listings Information:

Glass

Kill

Bluebeard

Imp

Four plays written by Caryl Churchill

Directed by James Macdonald

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

Wednesday 18 September 2019 – Saturday 12 October 2019

Monday – Saturday 7.30pm

Thursday & Saturday matinees 3.30pm

Captioned Performances Wednesday 2 & 9 October 2019

Audio Described Saturday 12 October 2019, 3.30pm

Relaxed Environment Performance Saturday 5 October 2019, 3.30pm with Touch Tour 2pm

Press Performance Wednesday 25 September 2019, 7pm.

Standard Tickets £12-£49 (Mondays all seats £12 available from 9am online on the day of performance)

First Look Tickets**

Concessions* £5 off Band A - C seats for previews and matinees

Under 26s***

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

*ID required. All discounts subject to availability.

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A History of Water in the Middle East

Written by Sabrina Mahfouz

Directed by Stef O'Driscoll

Jerwood Theatre Upstairs

Thursday 10 October 2019 – Saturday 16 November 2019

A History of Water in the Middle East by Sabrina Mahfouz, directed by Stef O'Driscoll will run in the Jerwood Theatre Upstairs from Thursday 10 October 2019 to Saturday 16 November 2019 with press night on Monday 14 October 2019, 7pm.

British-Egyptian Sabrina Mahfouz grew up with ambitions of being a spy. She has two passports, speaks two languages and has a cultural understanding of two very different countries. But when it came to applying for MI6, it turned out she wasn't quite British enough.

So now she's on her own intelligence mission - to explore who really holds the power in and over the Middle East. In a world long obsessed with access to oil, will water soon become the natural resource that dictates control, or has it been all along?

Journeying across twelve different countries, this production uses theatre, poetry and music to share stories of women across the continent. From the British Imperialist ownership of natural resources, to the environmental urgency of the present, water has shaped lives, policies and fortunes - and it will shape all of our futures.

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); Offside (Futures Theatre).**

Awards include: **King's Alumni Arts & Culture Award; Sky Arts Academy Award for Poetry; Herald Angel Award (Clean); Westminster Prize for New Playwrights; Best Drama Production, BBC Radio and Music Awards (With A Little Bit of Luck); 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.

Stef O'Driscoll (Director)

As director, theatre includes: **Island Town, Sticks & Stones, How to Spot an Alien, With a Little Bit of Luck, Hopelessly Devoted, Blister (Paines Plough); Last Night (nabokov/Roundhouse); Storytelling Army (nabokov/Brighton Festival); Slug (nabokov/Latitude); Box Clever (Bunker); Yard Gal (Ovalhouse); The Unmaster, A Tale from the Bedsit (& Bestival), Finding Home (Roundhouse); A Guide to Second Date Sex, When Women Wee (Underbelly/Soho); A Midsummer Night's Dream [co-director]**

(Lyric, Hammersmith).

As associate director, theatre includes: **Mogadishu (Lyric, Hammersmith/Royal Exchange, Manchester).**

As assistant director, theatre includes: **Wasted (Paines Plough); Henry IV (Donmar/St Anne's Warehouse, NYC); Blasted (Lyric, Hammersmith).**

Awards include: **BBC Radio & Music Award for Best Production (With a Little Bit of Luck); Fringe Report Award for Best Fringe Production (Yard Gal).**

Stef is Artistic Director of nabokov and previously Associate Director at Paines Plough and the Lyric, Hammersmith.

Listings Information:

A History of Water in the Middle East

Written by Sabrina Mahfouz

Directed by Stef O'Driscoll

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

Thursday 10 October 2019 – Saturday 16 November 2019

Monday – Saturday 7.45pm

Thursday & Saturday matinees 3pm

Captioned Performances Friday 25 October, Friday 1 & 15 November 2019

Relaxed Environment Performance Saturday 9 November, 3pm

Press Performance Monday 14 October 2019, 7pm

The Big Idea: In Conversation with Sabrina Mahfouz Tuesday 22 October Post-Show

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

First Look Tickets**

Concessions* £5 off seats for previews and matinees

Under 26s***

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

*ID required. All discounts subject to availability.

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National Theatre Wales and Royal Court Theatre

On Bear Ridge

Written by Ed Thomas

Co-directed by Vicky Featherstone and Ed Thomas

Jerwood Theatre Downstairs

Thursday 24 October 2019 – Saturday 23 November 2019

Following a run at the Sherman Theatre, Cardiff, Ed Thomas's *On Bear Ridge* will run at the Royal Court Theatre Jerwood Theatre Downstairs from Thursday 24 October 2019 to Saturday 23 November 2019 with press night on Monday 28 October 2019, 7pm.

Designed by Cai Dyfan with composition by John Hardy and sound design by Mike Beer.

“One minute we had customers, the next minute there was no-one.”

In a lost village, blurred by redrawn borders, hidden under a crumb on the map, Bear Ridge Stores still stands.

After a hundred years, the family butchers and grocers – a place for odds and ends, contraband goods, and the last petrol pump for 30 miles – is now silent. But owners John Daniel and Noni are not leaving.

They are defiantly drinking the remaining whiskey and remembering good times, when everyone was on the same side and the old language shone. Outside in the dark, a figure is making their way towards them.

A semi-autobiographical story about the places we leave behind, the indelible marks they make on us, and the unreliable memories we hold onto.

Ed Thomas is an award-winning writer for screen and theatre. He co-created the television drama *Hinterland* and his plays include *House of America* and *Gas Station Angel*, which premiered at the Royal Court.

Ed Thomas (Writer/Co-director)

For the Royal Court: **Song from a Forgotten City, Gas Station Angel.**

Other theatre includes: **House of America, Flowers of the Dead Red Sea, East from the Gantry (Tramway Glasgow / International tour); Stone City Blue (Theatre Clwyde); Mother Courage & Her Children (National Theatre Wales).**

Television includes: **Satellite City, A Mind To Kill, Caerdydd, Pen Talar, Cwmgiedd/Colombia, China, Hinterland/Y Gwyll.**

Film includes: **House of America, Silent Village, Dal Yma:Nawr.**

Ed is the Creative Director and Founder of independent television and film company Fiction Factory.

Vicky Featherstone (Co-director)

For the Royal Court: **The Cane, Gundog, My Mum’s a Twat, Cyprus Avenue (& Abbey, Dublin/Public, NYC), Bad Roads, Victory Condition, X, 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: **Pritilata (from Snatches: Moments from 100 Years of Women's Lives), 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. She is the Artistic Director of the Royal Court.

Listings Information:

National Theatre Wales and Royal Court Theatre

On Bear Ridge

Written by Ed Thomas

Directed by Vicky Featherstone and Ed Thomas

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

Thursday 24 October 2019 – Saturday 23 November 2019

Monday – Saturday 7.30pm

Thursday & Saturday matinees 2.30pm

Captioned Performances Wednesday 6, 13 & 20 November, Friday 22 November 2019

Audio Described Matinee Saturday 23 November 2019, 2:30pm. Touch tour at 1pm

Relaxed Environment Performance Saturday 16 November 2019, 2:30pm

Press Performance Monday 28 October 2019, 7pm

The Big Idea: In Conversation with Ed Thomas and Vicky Featherstone Tuesday 5 November post-show

Standard Tickets £12-£49 (Mondays all seats £12 available from 9am online on the day of performance)

First Look Tickets**

Concessions* £5 off Band A -C seats for previews and matinees

Under 26s***

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

*ID required. All discounts subject to availability.

Sherman Theatre, Cardiff

Friday 20 September 2019 – Saturday 5 October 2019

Press night Tuesday 24 September 2019, 7pm

<https://www.shermantheatre.co.uk/performance/theatre/>

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Midnight Movie

Written by Eve Leigh

Directed by Rachel Bagshaw

Jerwood Theatre Upstairs

Wednesday 27 November 2019 – Saturday 21 December 2019

Midnight Movie by Eve Leigh, directed by Rachel Bagshaw, will run at the Royal Court Theatre Jerwood Theatre Upstairs from Wednesday 27 November 2019 to Saturday 21 December 2019 with press night on Tuesday 3 December 2019, 7pm.

*"I need to keep looking
but I'm not 100% clear on what I'm looking for"*

A girl fights for her life in a lift. New Window. A protest in Trafalgar Square. New Window. A naked man in a bathtub. New Window. Janelle Monae, dancing.

The possibilities are endless. Even at 2am. That's the thing about being Extremely Online: there's no limit on where you can go.

"I love love love my digital body because having a body that can go everywhere is just the hottest thing."

Directed by Rachel Bagshaw, the production will creatively combine Spoken English, BSL, captioning and audio description, and all shows will be performed in a relaxed environment. *Midnight Movie* will also be meeting an online audience each night, through the night.

Eve Leigh's plays include *The Trick* (Bush Theatre), *Stone Face* and *Silent Planet* (Finborough Theatre). Rachel Bagshaw's recent work includes Fringe First award-winning *The Shape of the Pain*, a collaboration with Chris Thorpe.

Midnight Movie was developed whilst on a Royal Court residency and with the support of producer Matt Maltby, Unlimited, and Arts Council England. The production will be produced by the Royal Court in collaboration with Matt Maltby.

Midnight Movie is part of the Royal Court's Jerwood New Playwrights programme, supported by Jerwood Arts.

Eve Leigh (Writer)

For the Royal Court: **NEW:2017: Spooky Action at a Distance (& RWCMD)**. Other theatre includes: **The Trick (Bush/HighTide/UK Tour); Movimento/Variations (36 маймуни/Bulgarian National Theatre Festival); The Curtain (Taking Part, Young Vic); Your Future (HAU/Sophiensaele/Ballhaus Ost/Camden People's); Stone Face, Silent Planet (Finborough)**.

Rachel Bagshaw (Director)

Theatre includes: **Aesop's Fables (Unicorn); Augmented (Sophie Woolley/Pulse Festival); The Shape of Pain (Wilton's Music Hall/BAC/Summerhall); Icons (WOW Festival, Hull); Resonance at the Still Point of Change (Unlimited Festival, Southbank Centre); The Rhinestone Rollers, Just Me, Bell (Graeae)**. Rachel is Associate Director at the Unicorn Theatre.

Listings Information:

Midnight Movie

Written by Eve Leigh

Directed by Rachel Bagshaw

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

Wednesday 27 November 2019 – Saturday 21 December 2019

Monday – Saturday 7.45pm

Thursday & Saturday matinees 3pm

Press Performance Tuesday 3 December 2019, 7pm.

The Big Idea: In Conversation with Eve Leigh and Rachel Bagshaw Tuesday 10

December post-show including line speech to text captioning

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

First Look Tickets**

Concessions* £5 off for previews and matinees

Under 26s***

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

*ID required. All discounts subject to availability.

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A Kind of People

Written by Gurpreet Kaur Bhatti

Directed by Michael Buffong

Jerwood Theatre Downstairs

Thursday 5 December 2019 – Saturday 18 January 2020

A Kind of People by Gurpreet Kaur Bhatti, directed by Michael Buffong, will run at the Royal Court Theatre Jerwood Theatre Downstairs from Thursday 5 December 2019 to Saturday 18 January 2020 with press night on Wednesday 11 December 2019, 7pm.

“In this country, you go as far as they let you.”

Friday night on the fringes of the city and someone’s having a party. It seems like a laugh, but not everyone’s having fun.

Gary and Nicky have been together since school. Gary’s going for a promotion so he can get his family out of their council flat and give Nicky everything she deserves.

Anjum and Mo are used to aiming for the best. And doing whatever it takes to get it.

Gary’s sister Karen is more interested in having a life than fighting for any cause.

Mark is just...always there.

And Victoria, Victoria wants to dance with somebody...

Gurpreet Kaur Bhatti’s new play, set amidst a contemporary British community, asks how it’s possible to get on when the odds are stacked against you.

"It's a good place. Keep watching and one day it'll be ours."

Gurpreet Kaur Bhatti (Writer)

For the Royal Court: **Khandan**.

Other theatre includes: **Elephant, Behzti/Dishonour (Birmingham Rep); Dishoom! (Rifco/UK Tour); Fourteen (Watford Palace); Behud/Beyond Belief (Soho/Belgrade, Coventry); Behsharam/Shameless (Soho/Birmingham Rep); Londonee (Rich Mix)**.

Television includes: **Dead Meat**.

Film includes: **Everywhere & Nowhere**.

Radio includes: **Heart of Darkness, Enemy of the People, Mera Des**.

Awards include: **Susan Smith Blackburn Prize (Behzti)**.

Listings Information:

A Kind of People

Written by **Gurpreet Kaur Bhatti**

Directed by **Michael Buffong**

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

Thursday 5 December 2019 – Saturday 18 January 2020

Monday – Saturday 7.30pm

Thursday & Saturday matinees 2.30pm

Captioned Performances Wednesday 8 & 15 January 2020

Audio Described Matinee Saturday 18 January 2020, 2:30pm Touch Tour 1pm

Relaxed Environment Performance Saturday 11 January 2020 2:30pm

Press Performance Wednesday 11 December 2019, 7pm

The Big Idea: In Conversation with Gurpreet Kaur Bhatti Tuesday 7 January 2020 post-show

Standard Tickets £12-£49 (Mondays all seats £12 available from 9am online on the day of performance)

First Look Tickets**

Concessions* £5 off Band A –C seats for previews and matinees

Under 26s***

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

*ID required. All discounts subject to availability.

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Scenes with Girls

Written by **Miriam Battye**

Directed by **Lucy Morrison**

Jerwood Theatre Upstairs

Wednesday 15 January 2020 – Saturday 22 February 2020

Scenes with Girls by Miriam Battye, directed by Royal Court Theatre Associate Director Lucy Morrison, will run in the Royal Court Theatre Jerwood Theatre Upstairs from Wednesday 15

January 2020 to Saturday 22 February 2020 with press night on Tuesday 21 January 2020, 7pm.

"You're only the greatest person ever invented and he's some boy who's probs never had a conversation with a side of the sun before- but like Let's Be Modest About It"

Tosh and Lou. 22 scenes.

In a space they have created, using a language they have created, the two girls theorise.

Other friends have come, got boyfriends and gone.

So what. Tosh and Lou have each other. They're not interested in becoming clichés.

They'll never be like the other girls. And Tosh is going to keep it that way.

"You are becoming a parody, hun. You are becoming like the human equivalent of a fucking Little Mix song."

Miriam Battye developed *Scenes with Girls* whilst taking part in a Royal Court Writers' Group. The production will be directed by Royal Court Associate Director Lucy Morrison.

Miriam Battye (Writer)

Theatre includes: **Trip the Light Fantastic (Bristol Old Vic); All Your Gold (Theatre Royal, Plymouth); Electricity (NYT/Arcola); Balance (Royal Exchange, Manchester); Pancake Day (Bunker/PLAY).**

Miriam was the 2018 Sister Pictures Writer in Residence.

Lucy Morrison (Director)

For the Royal Court: **The Woods, Lights Out/It's All Made Up/The Space Between (The Site Programme), MANWATCHING, Plaques & Tangles, Who Cares, Pests, Product (& Clean Break/Traverse/European tour).**

Other theatre includes: **Elephant (Birmingham Rep); Billy the Girl, This Wide Night (Clean Break/Soho); Little on the Inside (Clean Break/Almeida/Latitude); it felt empty when the heart went at first but it is alright now (Clean Break/Arcola); Fatal Light, Doris Day (Soho).**

Lucy is an Associate Director at the Royal Court.

Listings Information:

Scenes with Girls

Written by Miriam Battye

Directed by Lucy Morrison

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

Wednesday 15 January 2020 – Saturday 22 February 2020

Monday – Saturday 7.45pm

Thursday & Saturday matinees 3pm

Captioned Performances Friday 31 January, Friday 7 February, Friday 14 February, Friday 21 February 2020

Relaxed Environment Performance Saturday 15 February 2020, 3pm

Press Performance Tuesday 21 January 2020, 7pm

The Big Idea: In Conversation with Miriam Batty Wednesday 29 January post-show

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

First Look Tickets**

Concessions* £5 off for previews and matinees

Under 26s***

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

*ID required. All discounts subject to availability.

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Poet in da Corner

Written by Debris Stevenson

Feat. Jammz

Directed by Ola Ince

Jerwood Theatre Downstairs

Thursday 30 January 2020 – Saturday 22 February 2020

Following its critically acclaimed premiere in 2018 *Poet in da Corner*, written and performed by Debris Stevenson feat. Jammz and directed by Royal Court Associate Director Ola Ince, will return to the Jerwood Theatre Downstairs from Thursday 30 January 2020 to Saturday 22 February 2020. It will then tour to The MAC, Belfast, Leicester Curve, Nottingham Playhouse, Manchester HOME, Birmingham Rep and Hackney Empire. Press in from Tuesday 4 February 2020, 7.30pm.

In a strict Mormon household somewhere in the seam between East London and Essex, a girl is given Dizzee Rascal's ground-breaking grime album *Boy in da Corner* by her best friend SS Vyper.

Precisely 57 minutes and 21 seconds later, her life begins to change – from feeling muted by dyslexia to spitting the power of her words; from being conflicted about her sexuality to finding the freedom to explore; from feeling alone to being given the greatest gift by her closest friend.

In this semi-autobiographical piece, featuring grime MC Jammz as SS Vyper, step into a technicolour world where music, dance and spoken word collide, and discover how grime allowed Debris Stevenson to redefine herself.

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.

Jammz (Feature Writer)

Jammz came up studying grime and in 2019 finds himself at the forefront of it. Born and bred in East London, Jammz started to make a name for himself on London's radio circuit in 2014 and 2015 appearing regularly on Rinse FM, Radar Radio, NTS, Mode FM and BBC 1xtra, teaming up with established DJs like Slimzee, Spooky, Bok Bok and Spyro as well as newcomers like Moleskin and Finn. His free EP *Hit Then Run* became a cult classic: the title track was playlisted on BBC 1Xtra and Noisey's #3 grime track of 2015, and the remix was Sian Anderson's #1 Remix of the Week six weeks on the spin.

Subsequent singles *Final Warning* and *London Living* further established Jammz as one of grime's best new hit-makers, while his live reputation is also quickly on the rise: he's been booked for Glastonbury, Eskimo Dance, Outlook, Night Slugs and Bestival, has headlined FWD>> and in March 2016 was the support act on Kano's UK tour. Jammz has been supported heavily by Fader, Noisey, FACT, GQ, Mixmag, SBTU, MTV and more, and featured on the front cover of the Observer Music's British MCs special.

Jammz's first release of 2016, *Mr. Wait* (a collaboration with Trends & Mr. Dubz) was recently featured on Channel 4 and picked as one of Sleaford Mods' favourite tracks. He followed that with the acclaimed *Underdog Season Vol. 1* mixtape (with Jack Dat), a self-released instrumental 12" (which sold out in four days) and a collaboration with Dread D on *Local Action*, *10 Missed Calls*. 2017 saw the release of the DJ Q produced smash, *Who's that girl?* featuring Aleisha Lee, which received constant airplay across all mainstream stations including BBC Radio 1Xtra, Rinse FM and more. Jammz recently dropped *Get What I Mean?* through Annie Mac's Free Music Mondays and has EPs on *I Am Grime* and *Local Action* scheduled after the summer.

Ola Ince (Director)

For the Royal Court: *Poet in da Corner*, *White Sky* (& RWCMD/Gate).

As director, other theatre includes: *The Convert*, *Start Swimming* (& Summerhall), *Dutchman*, *One Million Tiny Plays About Britain* (Young Vic); *Twilight: Los Angeles 1992* (Gate); *Rachel*, *The Soft of Her Palm* (Finborough).

As associate director, other theatre includes: *Tina: The Musical* (West End/Broadway/Hamburg/Utrecht); *Tipping the Velvet* (& Royal Lyceum, Edinburgh), *Bugsy Malone* (Lyric, Hammersmith); *Fog* (UK tour).

As assistant director, other theatre includes: *Shakespeare Trilogy* (Donmar/St. Ann's Warehouse, New York); *Ma Rainey's Black Bottom*, *Dara*, *A Taste of Honey* (National); *Porgy & Bess* (Regent's Park Open Air); *Josephine & I* (Bush); *Wild Swans*, *Disco Pigs*, *Electra* (Young Vic); *Fanta Orange*, *Blue Serge* (Finborough).

Awards include: **Genesis Future Director Award**.

Ola has been Resident Assistant Director and Senior Reader at the Finborough Theatre, and was recipient of the Rose Bruford Directing Bursary and the Boris Karloff Bursary. In 2015 Ola became a BBC Performing Arts Fellow & Resident

Associate Director at the Lyric, Hammersmith. In 2016 she became an Artistic Associate at the Lyric Hammersmith & Theatre Royal Stratford East. Ola is an Associate Director at the Royal Court.

Poet in da Corner was originally co-produced by 14-18 NOW and the Royal Court Theatre, supported by Jerwood Charitable Foundation, in association with Nottingham Playhouse and Leicester Curve.

Listings Information:

Poet in da Corner

Written by Debris Stevenson

Feat. Jammz

Directed by Ola Ince

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

Thursday 30 January 2020 – Saturday 22 February 2020

Monday – Saturday 7.30pm

Thursday & Saturday matinees 2.30pm

Captioned Performances Wednesday 12 & 19 February 2020

Relaxed Environment Performance Saturday 8 February 2:30pm

Press Performance Press in from Tuesday 4 February 2020, 7.30pm

The Big Idea: In Conversation with Debris Stevenson and Jammz Tuesday 11 February 2020 post-show

Standard Tickets £12-£35 (Mondays all seats £12 available from 9am online on the day of performance)

First Look Tickets**

Concessions* £5 off Band A-C seats for previews and matinees

Under 26s***

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

*ID required. All discounts subject to availability.

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Open Court: Climate Emergency

Royal Court Theatre

March 2020

A season of work all over the Royal Court building curated by the writers in response to the climate emergency.

More details to be announced.

Listings Information:

Open Court: Climate Emergency

Royal Court Theatre, Sloane Square, SW1W 8AS
March 2020

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Shoe Lady

Written by E.V. Crowe

Directed by Vicky Featherstone

Jerwood Theatre Downstairs

Wednesday 4 March 2020 – Saturday 21 March 2020

Shoe Lady by E.V. Crowe will run at the Royal Court Theatre Jerwood Theatre Downstairs from Wednesday 4 March 2020 to Saturday 21 March 2020 with press night on Monday 9 March 2020, 7pm.

*“We’ve got no money but we’re still in Waitrose twice a day.
Because going to Tesco just makes life not even worth living.”*

Viv has lost a shoe. They’re her work shoes, her weekend shoes, her only pair of shoes, and she doesn’t know what to do.

The curtains are falling, her foot is bleeding, and she’s starting to feel a little overwhelmed. But all will be well in the world once she finds that missing shoe.

*“It’s incredibly hard isn’t it. To stay afloat.
It’s incredibly hard not to sink to the bottom.”*

Royal Court Theatre Artistic Director Vicky Featherstone will direct *Shoe Lady*.

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).**

Vicky Featherstone (Director)

For the Royal Court: **The Cane, Gundog, My Mum’s a Twat, Cyprus Avenue (& Abbey, Dublin/Public, NYC), Bad Roads, Victory Condition, X, 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: **Pritilata (from Snatches: Moments from 100 Years of Women's Lives), 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. She is the Artistic Director of the Royal Court.

Listings Information:

Shoe Lady

Written by E.V. Crowe

Directed by Vicky Featherstone

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

Wednesday 4 March 2020 – Saturday 21 March 2020

Press Performance Monday 9 March 2020, 7pm

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Rare Earth Mettle

Written by Al Smith

Directed by Hamish Pirie

Jerwood Theatre Downstairs

Thursday 2 April 2020 – Saturday 25 April 2020

Rare Earth Mettle by Al Smith, directed by Royal Court Theatre Associate Director Hamish Pirie, will run in the Jerwood Theatre Downstairs from Thursday 2 April 2020 to Saturday 25 April 2020 with press night on Wednesday 8 April 2020, 7pm.

"You don't tell an American to switch off her light; you build her a better light bulb."

A leading British doctor with a radical plan to save the NHS and a Silicon Valley billionaire with a radical plan to halt climate change, meet outside an abandoned train on a salt flat in South America.

A landscape so bright in its whiteness that it isn't easy to look at, and so uninterrupted in its flatness there's no echo.

For Kimsa and his daughter who live there, the arrival of these strangers initially seems like an opportunity. Until they both stake their claim on the land, each following their ruthless pursuit of 'the greater good'.

"You only have an attachment to ideas. But I am attached to this place. I know the history. This land is a part of who I am".

Al Smith returns to the Royal Court following *Harrogate*, for which he was nominated Most Promising Playwright (Evening Standard Theatre Awards).

Al Smith (Writer)

For the Royal Court: **Harrogate (& HighTide).**

Other theatre includes: **Diary of a Madman (Traverse/ Gate).**

Al is a founding member of theatre company Kandinsky, and writes regularly for radio and television.

Hamish Pirie (Director)

For the Royal Court: **Instructions for Correct Assembly, Goats, Primetime 2017, Human Animals, Violence & Son, Who Cares, Teh Internet is Serious Business.**

Other theatre includes: **Shibboleth (Abbey, Dublin); I'm with the Band (&Wales Millennium Centre), Quiz Show, Demos, 50 Plays for Edinburgh (Traverse); Love With a Capital 'L', 3 Seconds, Most Favoured, The Last Bloom (Traverse/Óran Mór); Bravo Figaro (Royal Opera House/Traverse); Salt Root & Roe (Donmar/Trafalgar Studios); 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.

Listings Information:

Rare Earth Mettle

Written by Al Smith

Directed by Hamish Pirie

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

Thursday 2 April 2020 – Saturday 25 April 2020

Press Performance Wednesday 8 April 2020, 7pm.

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two Palestinians go dogging**Written by Sami Ibrahim****Directed by Omar Elerian****Jerwood Theatre Upstairs****Thursday 9 April 2020 – Saturday 9 May 2020**

two Palestinians go dogging by Sami Ibrahim, directed by Omar Elerian will run in the Jerwood Theatre Upstairs from Thursday 9 April 2020 to Saturday 9 May 2020 with press night on Thursday 16 April 2020, 7pm.

“Your hobbies are limited to Arab Idol and cooking lentils and having sex in fields late at night.”

The year is 2024, and Reem and her husband Sayeed are here to share a ‘Serious Play about Palestine’.

Things are tense. People are on the edge. The Third Intifada is right around the corner. But on a contested piece of land near their village of Beit al-Qadir, this couple is about to go dogging.

Don’t worry, you’re allowed to laugh.

“If a story about Palestine doesn’t feature a tormented examination of the Arab-Israeli conflict, is it even a story about Palestine?”

two Palestinians go dogging recently won the Theatre Uncut Political Playwriting Award 2019 and uses the lens of humour to explore how the everyday becomes political and the political becomes everyday in a conflict zone.

Sami Ibrahim (Writer)

Theatre includes: **Wind Bit Bitter, Bit Bit Bit Her (VAULT Festival); the Palestinian in the basement is on fire (Pint Sized/Bunker); Iron Dome Fog Dome (First Drafts, Yard); Force of Trump (& Theatre N16/The Space/Brockley Jack); Carnivore (Write Now 7 Festival, Brockley Jack).**

Awards include: **Theatre Uncut Political Playwriting Award 2019.**

Sami has been a Creative Board member at the Almeida and is currently a member of Tamasha Writers Group and the Oxford Playhouse Playmaker programme. He is a writer-in-residence at Theatr Clwyd.

Omar Elerian (Director)

As director, theatre includes: **Going Through, Misty, NASSIM, One Cold Dark Night, Islands (Bush).**

As co-director, theatre includes: **The Mill: City of Dreams (Site specific); You’re Not Like The Other Girls Chrissy (China Plate).**

As associate director, theatre includes: **Leave Taking, The Royale, Perseverance Drive, Chalet Lines (Bush).**

Omar was the resident Associate Director at the Bush Theatre 2012-2018.

Listings Information:

Royal Court Theatre & Theatre Uncut

two Palestinians go dogging

Written by Sami Ibrahim

Directed by Omar Elerian

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

Thursday 9 April 2020 – Saturday 9 May 2020

Press Performance Thursday 16 April 2020, 7pm

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IS IN OUR BLOOD - The Song Project

Concept by Chloe Lamford and Wende

Created 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 Downstairs

Thursday 7 May – Saturday 16 May 2020

IS IN OUR BLOOD - The Song Project performed by award-winning Dutch singer-songwriter Wende will return for a run in the Jerwood Theatre Downstairs from Thursday 7 May to Saturday 16 May 2020 following four nights in the Jerwood Theatre Upstairs in June 2019.

“It’s not light yet, but it’s getting there.”

Performances in June are currently on sale.

Tickets for the Jerwood Theatre Downstairs performances in May 2020 will go on sale in October 2019.

“Wende has something PJ Harvey-esque in her defiant vulnerability and the raw edge of her vocals.” Financial Times

“Her vulnerability blends perfectly with music and audio visual technicality of world class. There is no escaping Wende.” De Volkskrant

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.

Isobel Waller-Bridge Co-creator (Composer)

Theatre includes: *Woyceck* (Old Vic); *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: **Black Mirror, 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).**

Imogen Knight Co-creator (Choreographer)

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

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

Other theatre includes: **Jesus Hopped the A Train, The Emperor, Measure for Measure, Dirty Butterfly (Young Vic); The Skriker (Manchester International Festival); The Birthday Party (West End); The Last Testament of Lillian Bilocca [& co-director] (Hull City of Culture 2017); 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).**

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); Offside (Futures Theatre).**

Awards include: **King's Alumni Arts & Culture Award; Sky Arts Academy Award for Poetry; Herald Angel Award (Clean); Westminster Prize for New Playwrights; Best Drama Production, BBC Radio and Music Awards (With A Little Bit of Luck); 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: **Mini Me** [part of My White Best Friend Festival] (Bunker); **Crowning Glory** (Theatre Royal, Stratford East); **House** (Clean Break/Yard); **Womb** (Bush); **Fall of the Kingdom**, **Rise of the Footsoldier** (RSC).

Awards include: **Susan Smith Blackburn Finalist Prize** (**Fall of the Kingdom**, **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: **Acts of Resistance** (Headlong Futures/Bristol Old Vic); **Nora** (Citizen's); **Love Letter to Europe** (Underbelly); **How to Grow a Nation** (Young Vic); **Roadkill** (Tron/Traverse); **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); **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 (Year dot). 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.

Listings Information:

IS IN OUR BLOOD - The Song Project

Concept by Chloe Lamford and Wende

Created 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 Downstairs, Royal Court Theatre, Sloane Square, SW1W 8AS
Thursday 7 May – Saturday 16 May 2020

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A Fight Against...

Written by **Pablo Manzi**

Translated by **William Gregory**

Directed by **Sam Pritchard**

Jerwood Theatre Upstairs

Wednesday 20 May 2020 – Saturday 20 June 2020

A Fight Against..., written by Pablo Manzi and translated by William Gregory will be directed by Royal Court Associate Director (International) Sam Pritchard. It will run in the Jerwood Theatre Upstairs from Wednesday 20 May 2020 to Saturday 20 June 2020 with press night on Wednesday 27 May 2020, 7pm.

“Why the hell would anyone ring a doorbell, and when you ask who it is, just stand there breathing?”

A lecturer in Chile.

A study group in the USA.

A torture instructor in Argentina.

A hangman in Mexico.

A woman who won't stop dancing in Paraguay.

Pablo Manzi's darkly comic odyssey across the Americas explores whether violence brings us closer together and what it takes to walk past on the other side of the street.

Developed on a residency at the Royal Court in 2017, *A Fight Against...* marks the English language debut of one of Chile's most significant new voices.

Pablo Manzi (Writer)

Theatre includes: **Donde Viven los Bárbaros** (BONOBO/Festival Santiago a Mil, Chile/Festival Adelante, Germany/MIT BH, Brasil/Festival Cádiz, Spain/FIT, México/Temporada Alta, Perú); **Tú Amarás** (BONOBO/ Festival Santiago a Mil, Chile/Noorderzon, Netherlands/Residency Baryshnikov Art Center, USA/KFDA, Belgium/Triennale de Milano, Italy); **Amansadura** (BONOBO/Teatro del Puente, Chile/Festival Cielos del Infinito, Chile).

Awards include: **Chilean Art Critique Organisation Award for Best Playwriting, Municipality of Santiago Award for Best Playwriting, Chilean Council for Arts & Culture Award for Best Playwriting (Donde viven los bárbaros).**

William Gregory (Translator)

For the Royal Court: **B, Cuba Real, Arena Mexico, New Plays from Chile, The Big Idea: PIGS.**

Theatre includes: **Cuzco (Theatre503); Springtime (Finborough); Chamaco, Weathered (HOME, Manchester); Villa, Discurso (MAC, Belfast); I'd Rather Goya Robbed Me of my Sleep Than Some Other Arsehole (Gate); Numbers (Rutgers-NJIT, New Jersey)**

Radio includes: **The Concert, Cuba.**

Sam Pritchard (Director)

For the Royal Court: **Pity, Grimly Handsome [co-creator], B.**

Other theatre includes: **The Mysteries, Galka Motalka (Royal Exchange, Manchester); Pygmalion (Headlong/Leeds Playhouse/Nuffield/UK tour); There Has Possibly Been an Incident (Royal Exchange, Manchester/Soho/Edinburgh Festival Fringe/Theatertreffen, Berlin); Fireface (Young Vic).**

Sam was the winner of the JMK Award for Directors in 2012. He is the Associate Director (International) at the Royal Court.

Teatro a Mil Foundation is a project partner.

The development of *A Fight Against...* was supported by the British Council.

Listings Information:

A Fight Against...

Written by Pablo Manzi

Translated by William Gregory

Directed by Sam Pritchard

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

Wednesday 20 May 2020 – Saturday 20 June 2020

Press Performance Wednesday 27 May 2020, 7pm

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The Glow

Written by Alistair McDowall

Directed by Vicky Featherstone

Jerwood Theatre Downstairs

Friday 29 May 2020 – Saturday 4 July 2020

The Glow by Alistair McDowall, directed by Royal Court Theatre Artistic Director Vicky Featherstone, will run in the Jerwood Theatre Downstairs from Friday 29 May 2020 to Saturday 4 July 2020 with press night on Thursday 4 June 2020, 7pm.

"I see faces.

When I close my eyes.

...

*I don't know them.
But they know me.
They want things from me.
And I don't know-
How to give them what they want."*

1863.

An asylum.

A woman locked in a windowless cell, with no memory as to who she is, or how she arrived there.

When spiritualist medium Mrs Lyall requires a new assistant, this nameless woman seems the perfect candidate.

But as the woman's past begins to reveal itself, so do new powers neither are prepared for.

"We never leave this earth entirely. The energy we exude remains."

The Glow was the 2018 Pinter Commission, an award given annually by Lady Antonia Fraser to support a new commission at the Royal Court Theatre.

Alistair McDowall (Writer)

For the Royal Court: **X, Talk Show (Open Court).**

Other theatre includes: **Zero for the Young Dudes! (NT Connections); Pomona (Orange Tree/National/Royal Exchange, Manchester); Brilliant Adventures (Royal Exchange, Manchester/Live, Newcastle); Captain Amazing (Live, Newcastle/Edinburgh Festival Fringe/UK tour).**

Vicky Featherstone (Director)

For the Royal Court: **The Cane, Gundog, My Mum's a Twat, Cyprus Avenue (& Abbey, Dublin/Public, NYC), Bad Roads, Victory Condition, X, 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: **Pritilata (from Snatches: Moments from 100 Years of Women's Lives), 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. She is the Artistic Director of the Royal Court.

Listings Information:

The Glow

Written by Alistair McDowall

Directed by Vicky Featherstone

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

Friday 29 May 2020 – Saturday 4 July 2020

Press Performance Thursday 4 June 2020, 7pm

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Purple Snowflakes and Titty Wanks

Written by Sarah Hanly

Directed by Alice Fitzgerald

Jerwood Theatre Upstairs

Monday 29 June 2020 – Saturday 11 July 2020

Purple Snowflakes and Titty Wanks by Sarah Hanly, directed by Alice Fitzgerald, will run in the Royal Court Theatre Jerwood Theatre Upstairs from Monday 29 June 2020 to Saturday 11 July 2020 with press night on Wednesday 1 July 2020, 7pm.

*“I’m just very very horny.
I don’t know how else to put it”*

Sinéad Murphy has learnt to orgasm with an electric toothbrush; she’s getting together with boys in car parks at church discos; and she’s doing so well in exams, her teachers think she’s cheating.

She’s also struggling to manage a big secret, and there’s only one person she can talk to about it.

*“The habit creeps up on me out of nowhere.
Like a sheep on a country road in Limerick.”*

Purple Snowflakes and Titty Wanks is Sarah Hanly’s debut play. She was recently awarded this year’s Pinter Commission. On receiving the award.

Sarah Hanly (Writer)

As writer/performer, theatre includes: **Purple Snowflakes & Titty Wanks (Leicester Square/Southwark/Above the Arts/Theatre N16).**

As performer, theatre includes: **One Minute (Barn, Cirencester); The Penelopiad (Jacksons Lane); London Irish Showcase (Abbey, Dublin/Tristan Bates); Moscow State Circus (Bord Gáis Energy); McDonald's 40th Anniversary (Excel London).**

Film includes: **The Hole in the Ground, Rebirth (short), There They're Their (short), Dogs of War (Shakespeare Shorts).**

Sarah is this year's recipient of the Pinter Commission for her new play set in Ireland during the War of Independence.

Alice Fitzgerald (Director)

Theatre includes: **Purple Snowflakes & Titty Wanks (Southwark/Leicester Square/Theatre N16); In Vitro Veritas (Karamel Club); [scenes from] The Kitchen Sink (Edinburgh Festival Fringe); Maiden Speech Festival [as resident dramaturg] (Tristan Bates).**

As assistant director, theatre includes: **Brixton Rock (Big House); Merit (Finborough).**

Listings Information:

Purple Snowflakes and Titty Wanks

Written by Sarah Hanly

Directed by Alice Fitzgerald

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

Monday 29 June 2020 – Saturday 11 July 2020

Press Performance Wednesday 1 July 2020, 7pm

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Is God Is

Written by Aleshea Harris

Directed by Ola Ince

Jerwood Theatre Downstairs

Thursday 16 July 2020 – Saturday 15 August 2020

Is God Is by Aleshea Harris, directed by Ola Ince will run at the Royal Court Theatre Jerwood Theatre Downstairs from Thursday 16 July 2020 to Saturday 15 August 2020, with press night on Wednesday 22 July 2020, 7pm.

"I wanna step on somethin for once. See what it feel like. Must feel good."

When a letter arrives from the mother they thought was dead, twins Racine and Anaia travel from the Dirty South to the California desert and a yellow house with teal shutters.

They are on a mission to avenge her past and ready to take down anyone who stands in their way.

"We ain't killers"

"How you figure that? ... Iss in the blood."

Aleshea Harris' award-winning play collides the ancient, the modern, the tragic, the spaghetti Western, hip-hop and Afropunk.

Aleshea Harris (Writer)

Theatre includes: **Is God Is** (Soho Rep., NYC); **What to Send Up When It Goes Down** (Movement Theatre Company, NYC).

Awards include: **Relentless Award, Obie Award for Playwriting** (Is God Is).

Aleshea has completed residencies at MacDowell Colony, Hedgebrook, Djerassi & SPACE on Ryder Farm.

Ola Ince (Director)

For the Royal Court: **Poet in da Corner, White Sky** (& RWCMD/Gate).

As director, other theatre includes: **The Convert, Start Swimming** (& Summerhall), **Dutchman, One Million Tiny Plays About Britain** (Young Vic); **Twilight: Los Angeles 1992** (Gate); **Rachel, The Soft of Her Palm** (Finborough).

As associate director, other theatre includes: **Tina: The Musical** (West End/Broadway/Hamburg/Utrecht); **Tipping the Velvet** (& Royal Lyceum, Edinburgh), **Bugsy Malone** (Lyric, Hammersmith); **Fog** (UK tour).

As assistant director, other theatre includes: **Shakespeare Trilogy** (Donmar/St. Ann's Warehouse, New York); **Ma Rainey's Black Bottom, Dara, A Taste of Honey** (National); **Porgy & Bess** (Regent's Park Open Air); **Josephine & I** (Bush); **Wild Swans, Disco Pigs, Electra** (Young Vic); **Fanta Orange, Blue Serge** (Finborough).

Awards include: **Genesis Future Director Award.**

Ola has been Resident Assistant Director and Senior Reader at the Finborough Theatre, and was recipient of the Rose Bruford Directing Bursary and the Boris Karloff Bursary. In 2015 Ola became a BBC Performing Arts Fellow & Resident Associate Director at the Lyric, Hammersmith. In 2016 she became an Artistic Associate at the Lyric Hammersmith & Theatre Royal Stratford East. Ola is an Associate Director at the Royal Court.

Listings Information:

Is God Is

Written by Aleshea Harris

Directed by Ola Ince

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

Thursday 16 July 2020 – Saturday 15 August 2020

Press Performance Wednesday 22 July 2020, 7pm.

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Royal Court Theatre and Tamara Moore

Nanjing

Written and performed by Jude Christian

Directed by Elayce Ismail

Produced by Tamara Moore

Jerwood Theatre Upstairs

Monday 20 July 2020 – Saturday 1 August 2020

Nanjing, written and performed by Jude Christian, will run at the Royal Court Theatre Jerwood Theatre Upstairs from Monday 20 July 2020 – Saturday 1 August 2020, with press in from Tuesday 21 July 2019, 7.45pm.

'Can I ask you to do something for me? Shut your eyes, just for a moment, and count on your fingers all the things you would be willing to die for.'

This is a personal response to the 1937 Nanjing Massacre, otherwise known as the Rape of Nanking. British-Chinese writer/performer Jude Christian tells a story about belonging anywhere and nowhere at once, and looks at how our lives are shaped by history. In an explosive time for political discourse around the world, *Nanjing* asks: what does it mean to fight hatred and love one another?

'I am not only a pacifist. I am a militant pacifist. I will fight for peace.' - Albert Einstein, 1931

Nanjing is set in England, China, Malaysia, Japan, Germany, the USA and the Isle of Man. It comes to the Royal Court as part of a tour of the seven countries which make up its story.

Jude Christian (Writer/Performer)

As director, for the Royal Court: **My Mum's a Twat, Bodies, Lela & Co.**

As director, other theatre includes: **Dark Night of the Soul (Globe); othellomacbeth, Jack & the Beanstalk (Lyric, Hammersmith); Trust, Blue, I'd Rather Goya Robbed Me of My Sleep than Some Other Arsehole (Gate); Parliament Square (Royal Exchange, Manchester/Bush); Split/Mixed (Summerhall); How Do You Eat An Elephant/Bwyta Eliffant, Sut Mae Gwneud Hynny Dwedwch? (National Youth Theatre of Wales).**

As writer/director, theatre includes: **Dick Whittington (Lyric, Hammersmith).**

As director, opera includes: **@alculated to Death (Tête-à-Tête Festival), Hidden in Plain Sight (Académie du Festival d'Aix-en-Provence).**

As associate director, theatre includes: **Three Sisters, The Darkest Corners (RashDash); The Seagull, Shopping & Fucking, Aladdin (Lyric, Hammersmith); Carmen Disruption (Almeida).**

Jude is an Associate Artist at the Gate Theatre.

Elayce Ismail (Director)

For the Royal Court: **Spooky Action at a Distance (& RWCMD/Gate).**

Other theatre includes: **Under Milk Wood, The War of the Worlds (Northern Stage); Nanjing (Globe); Girls (HighTide/Talawa/Soho); Stay Another Song (Young Vic); Chorus, The Rise and Shine of Comrade Fiasco (Gate); Food for the Soul (NT/Deutsches Theater Berlin); When I Am Queen (Almeida).**

Listings Information:

Royal Court Theatre and Tamara Moore

Nanjing

Written and performed by Jude Christian

Directed by Elayce Ismail

Produced by Tamara Moore

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

Monday 20 June 2020 – Saturday 1 August 2020

Press Performance (Press in from) Tuesday 21 July 2020, 7.45pm

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Lynne Gagliano Writers Award

In summer 2016 Head of the Royal Court's Young Court Lynne Gagliano died suddenly. Having led the Royal Court's work for and with young people since 2008, her vision placed writing excellence at the heart and her values gave young people the agency necessary, to ensure their voices were heard and their opinions were counted throughout the organisation. Since losing Lynne, her friends, family and supporters have been making donations towards Lynne's Fund to help the theatre continue the conversations she started between young people and the Royal Court.

To celebrate her memory, in 2019 the Royal Court will be using this Fund to launch *Lynne Gagliano Writers Award*. This Award will support a young writer aged 18 – 25, to undertake a writing assignment and create a new piece of work with the Royal Court.

In June 2019 the theatre will make an open callout inviting young people to submit a piece of writing. The objective will be to find a young writer who has not previously engaged with the Royal Court and give them access to an opportunity they would not have otherwise been provided with.

Submissions will be read by the Royal Court Literary team and the theatre's Young Agitators. The inaugural recipient of the award will be offered a year-long writing attachment to the Royal Court starting in September 2019. During the year, they will be supported to write something inspired by their time with at the theatre- this could be writing for the theatre's ReAct programme, a Schools Residency or a piece for our Young Agitators to produce.

The ethos of this Award will always be based on of the founding principles of Young Court as envisioned by Lynne and a continuation of her invaluable legacy.

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Royal Court/Oberon Books Climate Commission

More details to be announced about this new environmental initiative in playwriting.

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-ENDS-

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

Notes to Editors:

Press Nights:

Thursday 5 September 2019, 7pm	<i>Total Immediate Collective Imminent Terrestrial Salvation</i> by Tim Crouch	Jerwood Theatre Upstairs
Wednesday 25 September 2019, 7pm.	<i>Bluebeard. Glass. Kill. Imp.</i> by Caryl Churchill	Jerwood Theatre Downstairs
Monday 14 October 2019, 7pm	<i>A History of Water in the Middle East</i> by Sabrina Mahfouz	Jerwood Theatre Upstairs
Monday 28 October 2019 7pm	<i>On Bear Ridge</i> by Ed Thomas	Jerwood Theatre Downstairs
Tuesday 3 December 2019, 7pm	<i>Midnight Movie</i> by Eve Leigh	Jerwood Theatre Upstairs
Wednesday 11 December 2019, 7pm	<i>A Kind of People</i> by Gurpreet Kaur Bhatti	Jerwood Theatre Downstairs
Tuesday 21 January 2020, 7pm	<i>Scenes with Girls</i> by Miriam Batty	Jerwood Theatre Upstairs
(Press in from) Tuesday 4 February 2020, 7.30pm	<i>Poet in da Corner</i> by Debris Stevenson feat. Jammz	Jerwood Theatre Downstairs
Monday 9 March 2020, 7pm	<i>Shoe Lady</i> by E.V. Crowe	Jerwood Theatre Downstairs

Wednesday 8 April 2020, 7pm	<i>Rare Earth Mettle</i> by Al Smith	Jerwood Theatre Downstairs
Thursday 16 April 2020, 7pm	<i>two Palestinians go dogging</i> by Sami Ibrahim	Jerwood Theatre Upstairs
Wednesday 27 May 2020, 7pm	<i>A Fight Against...</i> by Pablo Manzi	Jerwood Theatre Upstairs
Thursday 4 June 2020, 7pm	<i>The Glow</i> by Alistair McDowall	Jerwood Theatre Downstairs
Wednesday 1 July 2020, 7pm	<i>Purple Snowflakes and Titty Wanks</i> by Sarah Hanly	Jerwood Theatre Upstairs
Wednesday 22 July 2020, 7pm	<i>Is God Is</i> by Aleshea Harris	Jerwood Theatre Downstairs
(Press in from) Tuesday 21 July 2020, 7.45pm	<i>Nanjing</i> by Jude Christian	Jerwood Theatre Upstairs

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

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First Look Tickets

As most of the plays we stage at the Royal Court have never been seen before, the first few performances in front of an audience are the final part of a long creative process that starts with the playwright. Our First Look Performances, which are sold at a reduced price, and are integral part of the process. If you book tickets for a First Look Performance (usually the first three previews of a new play), you'll be asked for your feedback which is then shared with the artistic team during the preview period, potentially influencing the final piece.

Pay It Forward Fund

For our autumn/winter season, we're launching a Pay It Forward fund. This will give ticket buyers the opportunity to include a donation in their purchase which will go directly towards free or discounted tickets for young and hard to reach audiences. All the tickets will be allocated through our Participation team and through our audience development work as part of our ambition to make theatre more accessible.

Tickets: Ways to Save

Concessions* - available for previews and matinees. Limited to Band A – C in the Jerwood Theatre Downstairs. Concessions are available for Over 65s, Students, recipients of Jobseekers Allowance, and members of Equity, BECTU, Stage Directors UK or the Writers' Guild of Great Britain.

Young Court Friends Tickets.** Young Court Friends is a free membership scheme for Under 26s. We offer a limited number of £15 tickets for all performances to Young Court Friends, as well as advance access to £12 Mondays in the Jerwood Theatre Downstairs.

Mondays*** – all tickets £12. Available on the day of the performance from 9am online. A limited number are available in advance, subject to availability, to Friends and Supporters.

Standing Tickets – A limited number of 10p standing places go on sale one hour before each Jerwood Theatre Downstairs performance. The places are production dependent and may not always be available so please check in advance.

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Support the Court

For 2019-20, the Royal Court is launching a new initiative: **Support the Court**. Throughout the season we are hosting special Support the Court fundraising performances around every Jerwood Theatre Downstairs production. Tickets will cost £30-95 and will include some special additions such as a complimentary glass of Prosecco on arrival, playtexts and limited edition Royal Court gifts. Proceeds from each evening will help sustain our work as the writers' theatre. The Royal Court invests in the future of the theatre, our extensive development activity includes an ongoing programme of writers' attachments, readings, workshops and playwriting groups, offering writers the support, time and resources to create restless, alert, provocative theatre about now. As a registered charity and not-for-profit company, we need to fundraise at least £1.5million every year to keep doing what we do. Joining us for a Support the Court performance is one way in which audiences can help. For more information visit www.royalcourttheatre.com/support-us

JERWOOD ARTS

Jerwood New Playwrights is a longstanding partnership between Jerwood Arts 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 Arts supports the Jerwood New Playwrights programme is the leading independent funder dedicated to supporting UK artists, curators and producers to develop and thrive. It enables transformative opportunities for individuals across art forms, supporting imaginative awards, fellowships, programmes, commissions and collaborations. Jerwood Arts presents new work and brings people from across the arts together in the galleries at Jerwood Space, London, as well as across the UK. For more information visit <https://jerwoodarts.org>

[NATIONAL THEATRE OF SCOTLAND]

National Theatre of Scotland is dedicated to playing the great stages, arts centres, village halls, schools and site-specific locations of Scotland, the UK and internationally. As well as creating ground-breaking productions and working with the most talented theatre-makers, the National Theatre of Scotland produces significant community engagement projects, innovates digitally and works constantly to develop new talent. Central to this is finding pioneering ways to reach current and new audiences and to encourage people's full participation in the Company's work. With no performance building of its own, the Company works with existing and new venues and companies to create and tour theatre of the highest quality. Founded in 2006, the Company, in its short life, has become a globally significant theatrical player, with an extensive repertoire of award-winning work. The National Theatre of Scotland is supported by the Scottish Government. www.nationaltheatrescotland.com



National Theatre Wales has been making English-language productions in locations all over Wales, the UK, internationally and online since March 2010. It operates from a small base in Cardiff's city centre, but works all over the country and beyond, using Wales' rich and diverse landscape, its towns, cities and villages, its incredible stories and rich talent as its inspiration. National Theatre Wales is supported by the Welsh Government and the Arts Council of Wales.



Sherman Theatre Cardiff makes and curates exciting theatre for audiences and develops meaningful partnerships with the best of UK and international companies. With the focus on the development and presentation of new writing, and classic text, the Sherman Theatre supports and nurtures emerging artists and connects with its audiences through a relevant and inspiring Community Engagement programme. It provides opportunities for those who have previously faced barriers to attendance to go to the theatre for the first time, through the Paul Hamlyn Foundation funded project, Sherman 5.

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FUNDACIÓN TEATROAMIL

Teatro a Mil Foundation is a project partner

THEATRE UNCUT

Theatre Uncut have been provoking debate and galvanising action since 2011 by making high quality new writing accessible for anyone to perform anywhere. The company works with leading and emerging playwrights to raise questions and examine global current events. So far over 6,000 people have performed Theatre Uncut plays in 26 countries across 4 continents. Theatre Uncut has won two Fringe Firsts, a Herald Angel Award and been shortlisted for the Amnesty International Freedom of Expression Award. The company is led by Co-Artistic Directors Emma Callander and Hannah Price. For more info please visit: www.theatreuncut.com

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