

## PRESS RELEASE

Monday 13 July 2020

**CASTING ANNOUNCED FOR ONLINE FESTIVAL MY WHITE BEST FRIEND (AND OTHER LETTERS LEFT UNSAID) CO-CURATED BY RACHEL DE-LAHAY AND MILLI BHATIA, PRODUCED BY TOBI KYEREMATENG RUNNING MONDAY 13 JULY TO FRIDAY 17 JULY 2020 6.30PM**

- Performers include Adelayo Adedayo, Inès De Clercq, Anne-Marie Duff, Paapa Essiedu, Martina Laird, Alex Lawther, Neil Maskell, Sinead Matthews, Lucian Msamati, Rosamund Pike and Danielle Vitalis
- Letters by Amma Asante, Elliot Barnes-Worrell, Ryan Calais Cameron, Clint Dyer, Afua Hirsch, Yasmin Joseph, Tife Kusoro, Lettie Precious, Campbell X and Rachael Young
- Tickets available [here](#)
- Images [click here](#).



Image Clockwise: Adelayo Adedayo, Inès De Clercq, Anne-Marie Duff, Paapa Essiedu, Martina Laird, Alex Lawther, Danielle Vitalis, Rosamund Pike, Lucian Msamati, Sinead Matthews, Neil Maskell

Adelayo Adedayo, Inès De Clercq, Anne-Marie Duff, Paapa Essiedu, Martina Laird, Alex Lawther, Neil Maskell, Sinead Matthews, Lucian Msamati, Rosamund Pike and Danielle

Vitalis have been cast in the online festival *My White Best Friend (and Other Letters Left Unsaid)*.

The performers reading letters that say the unsaid will be announced at noon on the day of each performance and will see the letters for the first time in front of a live online audience that evening. With two letters read live each night, audiences will only discover which of the actors is reading which letters during the live event. The recipients of the letters will remain anonymous.

Writer Rachel De-Lahay and director Milli Bhatia commissioned Amma Asante, Elliot Barnes-Worrell, Ryan Calais Cameron, Clint Dyer, Afua Hirsch, Yasmin Joseph, Tife Kusoro, Lettie Precious, Campbell X and Rachael Young to write for this new version of the *My White Best Friend (and Other Letters Left Unsaid)* series.

Produced by Tobi Kyeremateng with support from the Royal Court Theatre the online festival runs for one week with a pre-recorded letter written by Rachel De-Lahay, performed by an actor, which begins each night before the other two letters are read live.

Alongside the readings, there will be pre-recorded music from DJ DLK every night.

De-Lahay's provocative act of letter writing, which sparked the festival, engages with racial tensions, microaggressions and emotional labour, asking the privileged to step back to allow the rest of the room to take up space.

Originally featured as part of *Black Lives Black Words* at the Bush Theatre, and after two runs at The Bunker Theatre, *My White Best Friend (and Other Letters Left Unsaid)* is moving online for the first time in collaboration with the Royal Court Theatre.

Like every incarnation of the festival *My White Best Friend (and Other Letters Left Unsaid)*, everyone will be part of the live experience and bear witness to the highs, the lows and the uncomfortable truths.

Tickets are limited <https://royalcourttheatre.com/whats-on/mywhitebestfriend/>

Half of the tickets for every performance are available for free through the Black Ticket Project

[https://twitter.com/BTPProject?ref\\_src=twsrc%5Egoogle%7Ctwcamp%5Eserp%7Ctwgr%5Eauthor](https://twitter.com/BTPProject?ref_src=twsrc%5Egoogle%7Ctwcamp%5Eserp%7Ctwgr%5Eauthor)

**Age guidance 16+**

This work includes racist language, including the N-work; other strong language; and references to violence, including sexual violence and police brutality.

**ENDS-**

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

## MY WHITE BEST FRIEND (AND OTHER LETTERS LEFT UNSAID)

Individual letters are unable to be reviewed but press are welcome to watch all of the letters via a press link available on Monday 20 July 2020.

### Notes to Editors:

For all images [click here](#).

### Biographies:

#### Actors:

**Adelayo Adedayo** (Actor)

#### Television

Conquest, Netflix / Home VFX, The Capture, BBC One, Origin, YouTube Premium / Left Bank Pictures, Enterprise 2, BBC Three / Fudge Park, In the Long run, Sky 1 / Green Door Pictures, Timewaster, ITV2 / Big Talk, Houdini & Doyle, ITV / Big Talk, Stan Lee's Lucky Man, Sky 1 / Carnival Productions, Some Girls, BBC3 / Hat Trick, Skins, E4 / Company. Pictures

#### Film

Unlocked, Di Bonaventura Pictures, Jet Trash, Sums Film & Media, London Fields, Muse Productions, Gone Too Far, Poisson Rouge / BFI, Sket, Revolver Entertainment

#### Theatre

The Seagull, Lyric Hammersmith, Cuttin' It, Young Vic / Royal Court, Klippies, Southwark Playhouse, Rachel, The Finborough Theatre, The Dead Wait, Park Theatre

**Inès De Clercq (Actor)**

**Television** TRAITORS Channel 4, STICKY BBC Three, BROADCHURCH ITV, CIDER WITH ROSIE BBC/Origin Pictures, THE NERDIST BBC America

**Film** MY WHITE BEST FRIEND (Short) Rachel De-Lahay, WHITE GIRL (Short Film) Bullion Productions Ltd, THE UNICORN BFI/Daybreak Pictures

**Stage** MY WHITE BEST FRIEND The Bunker Theatre, BEGINNING TO END Somerset House, ELEVENSES Somerset House, SPUNK The Pleasance, HOPELESSLY DEVOTED Theatre 503, MARINE PARADE Animal Nights, UNPRECEDENTED Headlong / Century Films

**Anne-Marie Duff (Actor)**

**THEATRE** Sweet Charity (Charity Hope Valentine) Josie Rourke Donmar Warehouse Macbeth (Lady Macbeth) Rufus Norris Royal National Theatre Heisenberg (Georgie Burns) Marianne Elliot Wyndhams Theatre Common (Mary) Jeremy Herrin Royal National Theatre Oil (May) Carrie Cracknell Almeida Theatre Husbands and Sons (Mrs Holroyd) Marianne Elliot Royal National Theatre Macbeth (Lady Macbeth) Jack O'Brien Lincoln Centre Theatre, NYC Strange Interlude (Nina Leeds) Simon Godwin Royal National Theatre Berenice (Berenice) Josie Rourke Donmar Warehouse Cause Celebre (Alma) Thea Sharrock Old Vic ^Saint Joan (Saint Joan) Marianne Elliot National Theatre The Soldier's Fortune (Lady Dunce) David Lan Young Vic Days of Wine and Roses (Mona) Peter Gill Donmar Theatre Playboy of the Western World (Pegeen Mike) Garry Hines Druid Theatre and tour The Daughter in Law (Minnie) David Lann The Young Vic A Doll's House (Nora) Polly Teale Shared Experience \*Collected Stories (Lisa Morrison) Howard Davies National Theatre Vassa (Lyudmilla) Howard Davies Albery Theatre \*\*\*King Lear (Cordelia) Richard Eyre National Theatre War and Peace (Natasha) Polly Teale/Nancy Meckler National Theatre Peter Pan (Wendy) Matthew Waarchus West Yorkshire La Grande Magia (Amelia) Richard Eyre National Theatre Mill on the Floss II (Young Maggie) Nancy Meckler Shared Experience Emma (Emma) Mike Alfreds Cambridge Theatre Co. Uncle Silas (Maud Ruthyn) Mike Alfreds Cambridge Theatre Co. Les Enfants du Paradis (Little Baptiste) Mike Alfreds/David Glass Cambridge Theatre Co.

**TELEVISION** The Salisbury Poisonings (Tracy Daszkiwicz) Saul Dibb Dancing Ledge Sex Education 2 (Erin) Ben Taylor, Netflix Alice Seabright, Sophie Goodheart His Dark Materials (Ma Costa) Tom Hooper Bad Wolf From Darkness (Claire Church) Dominic Leclerc BBC Murder (DCI GOSS) Paul Wright Touchpaper Television ••The Accused - Mo's Story (Mo) David Blair BBC •Parade's End (Edith Duchemin) Susanna White Mammoth Screen/HBO/BBC ^^Margot (Margot) Otto Bathurst Mammoth Screen +++++The History of Mr Polly (Miriam) Gilles McKinnon Granada ++Elizabeth - The Virgin Queen (Elizabeth) Coky Giedroyc BBC +++Shameless (Fiona) Mark Mylod Company Pictures Charles II (Minette) Joe Wright BBC Wild West (Holly) Jonathan Girshfield BBC 12-13 Poland Street London W1F 8QB T 020 7734 4818 F 020 7734 4832 mail@gordonandfrench.co.uk vat : GB 239 5910 39 Anne-Marie Duff 1 Dr Zhivago (Olya Demina) Giacomo Camtiotti Granada \*\*Sinners (Theresa) Aisling Walsh BBC The Way We Live Now (Georgiana) David Yates BBC The Cold War (Judith Pfeiffer) Andrew Chater BBC Reach for the Moon (Kath) Richard Laxton LWT Aristocrats (Louisa Lennox) David Caffrey Madikell Ltd Amongst Women (Sheila) Tom Cairns Curlew Films Trial and Retribution (Cathy Gilligham) Aisling Walsh Le Plante Prod. **FILM** On Chesil Beach (Marjorie Mayhew) Dominic Cooke Lionsgate Suffragette (Violet Cambridge) Sarah Gavron Ruby Film & Television Before I go To Sleep (Claire) Rowan Joffe BIGTS Productions Ltd Molly Moon (Lucy Logan) Christopher Rowley Amber



Entertainment Closed Circuit (Melissa) John Crowley Working Title ^^^Sanctuary (Marie) Norah McGettigan Venom +Nowhere Boy (Julia) Sam Taylor Wood Ecosse Films The Last Station (Sasha) Mike Hoffman Zephyr Films Is Anybody There? (Cath/Mum) John Crowley Heyday Films French Film (Sophie) Jackie Oudenay Slingshoot Films Born Equal (Michelle) Dominic Savage BBC Films The Waiting Room (Anna) Roger Goldby Scopio Films ^^^Garage (Carmel) Lenny Abrahamson Element Films \*\*\*\*Magdalene Sisters (Margaret) Peter Mullan PFP Films Enigma (Kay) Michael Apted Code Breaker Prod. Mild and Bitter (lead) Bill Britten Cronk Dromgoole

### **Paapa Essiedu (Actor)**

**Theatre credits include:** *Pass Over* (Kiln Theatre), *The Convert* (Young Vic), *Pinter Plays* (West End), *Hamlet*, *King Lear* (RSC, Kennedy Centre and Brooklyn Academy of Music, New York; Ian Charleson and UK Theatre Award winner for Best Actor); *Racing Demon* (Theatre Royal Bath); *The Merry Wives of Windsor*, *The Mouse and his Child* (RSC); *You For Me For You* (Royal Court); *Romeo and Juliet* (Tobacco Factory); *King Lear* (National Theatre); *Black Jesus* (Finborough); *Outside on the Street* (Pleasance); *Dutchman* (Orange Tree).

**Television credits include:** *Gangs of London* (Sky), *I May Destroy You*, *Black Earth Rising*, *Press*, *The Miniaturist* (BBC), *Kiri*, *Not Safe for Work*, *Utopia* (Channel 4); *Revoltin', A Midsummer Nights Dream* (BBC).

**Film credits include:** *Murder on the Orient Express* and *Women at the Well*.

**Radio Credits include:** *I Know Why Caged Birds Sing*, *Pericles*, *Wide Open Spaces*, *As Innocent as You Can Get* and *Something Understood* (BBC Radio 4).

### **Martina Laird (Actor)**

**Theatre includes:** *Who Cares?*, *Breath, Boom* (Royal Court Theatre). *King Hedley II* (Theatre Royal, Stratford), *Shebeen* (Nottingham Playhouse and Theatre Royal, Stratford), *All's Well That Ends Well* (Globe), *Coriolanus* (RSC), *Romeo and Juliet* (Globe), *Shakespeare Trilogy: Julius Caesar, Henry IV, The Tempest* (Donmar), *The House That Will Not Stand* (Tricycle); *Moon on a Rainbow Shawl* (National/UK tour); *Hopelessly Devoted* (Birmingham Rep); *Inheritance* (Live!); *All the Little Things We Crushed* (Almeida); *Bad Blood Blues* (Theatre Royal, Stratford East); *Mules* (Young Vic); *Othello* (Donmar); *The Five Wives of Maurice Pinder* (National); *Arabian Knights* (West End/International tour); *Hyacinth Blue* (Clean Break); *The White Devil*, *Three Hours After Marriage*, *Troilus & Cressida* (RSC); *Venetian Heat* (Finborough); *Hungry Ghosts* (Tabard); *Vibes From Scribes* (Double Edge); *The Wax King* (Man in the Moon).

**Television includes:** *Shakespeare and Hathaway*, *The Bay*, *Eastenders*, *Jericho*, *The Dumping Ground*, *London's Burning*, *Coronation Street*, *Doctors*, *My Family*, *Missing*, *Shameless*, *Free Agents*, *Monday Monday*, *Casualty*, *Little Big Mouth*, *A Touch of Frost*, *Always & Everyone*, *The Bill*, *A Wing & a Prayer*, *Peak Practice*, *Jonathan Creek*,

Dangerfield, Thief Takers, The Knock, The Governor, One for the Road, Little Napoleons, Harry, West Indian Women at War, EastEnders, Epiphany.

**Film includes:** Summerland, Blitz, Forget Me Not, The Hurting, Dead Meat

### **Alex Lawther** (Actor)

**FILM** THE LAST DUEL King Charles VI Scott Free Productions Ridley Scott THE TRANSLATORS Alex Goodman Les Productions du Trésor Régis Roinsard THE FRENCH DISPATCH Fox Searchlight Pictures Wes Anderson GHOST STORIES Simon Rifkind Warp Films Jeremy Dyson GOODBYE CHRISTOPHER ROBIN Older Christopher Robin Fox Simon Curtis OLD BOYS Amberson Film 4 Toby Macdonald FREAK SHOW Billy Flower Films & Maven Pictures Trudie Styler DEPARTURE\*\* Elliot Motion Group Pictures Andrew Steggall THE IMITATION GAME\* Young Alan Turing Warner Brothers Morten Tyldum X+Y Isaac Origin Pictures Morgan Matthews BENJAMIN BRITTEN: PEACE & CONFLICT Benjamin Britten Capriol Films Tony Britten

**TELEVISION** THE END OF THE FUCKING WORLD (2 SEASONS) James Netflix/E4 Jonathan Entwistle HOWARD'S END Tibby BBC Hettie Macdonald CARNAGE Joey BBC Simon Amstell BLACK MIRROR Kenny Netflix James Watkins WILLIAM Alex Tiger Aspect Simon Amstell VIRTUOSO Battista Gallo HBO Alan Ball BENJAMIN BRITTEN: PEACE AND CONFLICT Benjamin Britten Capriol Films Tony Britten

**THEATRE** THE JUNGLE Sam Young Vic/Playhouse Theatre West End/St Ann's Stephen Daldry Page 2 of 2 Warehouse NYC CRUSHED SHELLS AND MUD Derek Southwark Playhouse Russell Bolam I AM THE WALRUS (WORKSHOP) Josh The Young Vic Rikki Henry THE GLASS SUPPER Jamie Hampstead Theatre Abbey Wright OPPENHEIMER (WORKSHOP) Wilson RSC Angus Jackson FAULT LINES Ryan Hampstead Theatre Lisa Spirling SOUTH DOWNS John Blakemore Harold Pinter/Chichester Jeremy Herrin SHORT FILM NARRATED BY Sam Sipowitz Fruit Tree Media Gur Benshemesh

### **Neil Maskell** (Actor)

Neil Maskell is an English actor, writer and director. His major **film credits** include KILL LIST directed by Ben Wheatley, Guy Ritchie's KING ARTHUR: LEGEND OF THE SWORD and THE MUMMY starring Tom Cruise and Russell Crowe. He also played 'Colin Burstead' in Ben Wheatley's HAPPY NEW YEAR, COLIN BURSTEAD alongside Charles Dance and Sam Riley. Additionally, Neil has starred in Anthony Byrne's IN DARKNESS, HIGH RISE featuring Tom Hiddleston, Nacho Vigalondo's OPEN WINDOWS and WASTELAND directed by Rowan Athale. Maskell's other credits include Gary Oldman's NIL BY MOUTH, Gerard Johnson's HYENA, ATONEMENT starring Keira Knightley and BASIC INSTINCT 2 directed by Michael Caton-Jones. He has also featured in Anthony Byrne DOGHOUSE and THE FOOTBALL FACTORY alongside Danny Dyer, RISE OF THE FOOTSOLDIER, Adam Randall's LEVEL UP and WILD BILL directed by Dexter Fletcher

Neil's major **television credits** include Channel 4's UTOPIA directed by Marc Munden and the second series of the hit Netflix show SEX EDUCATION. He also plays 'Winston Churchill' in the BBC series PEAKY BLINDERS. Maskell's other television credits include BBC One's STRIKE starring Tom Burke and Holliday Grainger, James de Frond's KING GARY and ERIC, ERNIE & ME directed by Dan Zeff. He also starred in Channel Four's BAGHDAD CENTRAL, THE GREAT TRAIN ROBBERY directed by Julian Jarrold and the hit television series HUMANS featuring Colin Morgan and Gemma Chan. His other credits include Kieron Hawkes' BBC series THE MIMIC, Channel Four's NO OFFENCE and



CLEANING UP featuring Sheridan Smith. This year he will appear in Kieron Hawkes' new Sky One series INTERGALACTIC.

### **Sinead Matthews** (Actor)

Sinead was awarded the Michael Powell Award in 2018 at the Edinburgh International Film Festival for her role in JELLYFISH. She trained at RADA and has worked across radio, film and television.

One of her earliest television appearances was playing Mary in HE KNEW HE WAS RIGHT. Sinead also starred in Terry Pratchett's HOGFATHER as Violet the Tooth Fairy and a number of other films including Joe Wright's PRIDE AND PREJUDICE, NANNY MCPHEE and THE BIG BANG as well as playing Queen Victoria in MR TURNER.

Most recently, Sinead can be seen playing the private secretary to Harold Wilson, Marcia Falkender, in Series 3 of Netflix's THE CROWN. Up next, Sinead will be seen in the TV adaptation of Naomi Alderman's book THE POWER for Amazon.

### **Lucian Msamati** (Actor)

Theatre: 'Master Harold'...and the boys, Amadeus, Ma Rainey's Black Bottom, 50 Years on Stage, The Amen Corner, The Comedy of Errors, Death and the King's Horseman, The Overwhelming, The President of an Empty Room, Mourning Becomes Electra (National); Othello, Pericles (RSC); Clybourne Park (West End); A Wolf in Snakeskin Shoes, Walk Hard, Talk Loud, Fabulation and Gem of the Ocean at the Tricycle; Little Revolution, Ruined and I.D. at the Almeida; If You Don't Let us Dream we Won't Let You Sleep, Belong and Clybourne Park (also in the West End) at the Royal Court; The Resistible Rise of Arturo Ui at the Lyric Hammersmith; 1807 – The First Act at Shakespeare's Globe; Who Killed Mr Drum? at Riverside; Twelfth Night at Sheffield Crucible; Romeo and Juliet at The Dancehouse; The Taming of the Shrew at Bath Shakespeare Festival; Born African at the Arthur Seaton, New York; Twelfth Night at the Neuss Globe, Germany; Fade to Black at the Harare International Festival of Arts; Eternal Peace Asylum at the American Repertory Theater; Loot and Urfaust at Reps Theatre; The Rocky Horror Picture Show at Seven Arts; and A Midsummer Night's Dream at National Theatre Organisation, Zimbabwe.

As director: Boi-Boi is Dead, The Epic Adventure of Nhamo the Manyika Warrior and his Sexy Wife Chipso

As writer: Zuva Crumbling, Memory Play, The Boy from Bulawayo

TV: Gangs of London, His Dark Materials, Black Earth Rising, Kiri, Philip K Dick's Electric Dreams, Taboo, George Gently, Luther, Game of Thrones, Death in Paradise, Richard III, No.1 Ladies Detective Agency, Dr Who, Ashes to Ashes, Spooks, Just Like Ronaldo, Ultimate Force, Too Close for Comfort, The Knock and Heads and Tales.

Film: The Good Liar, The Seekers, The International, Coffin, Legend of the Sky, Kingdom, Dr Juju and Lumumba.

Radio: An Elegy for Easterly, Mugabe: God's President, The Jero Plays, The Homecoming, Seventh Street, Alchemy and Colours. Lucian Msamati is a founder member of Zimbabwe's Over the Edge company and former Artistic Director of Tiata Fahodzi.

Lucian Msamati is a founder member of Zimbabwe's acclaimed Over the Edge theatre company and former Artistic Director of Tiata Fahodz.

### **Rosamund Pike** (Actor)

Emmy Award-winner, BAFTA and Academy Award-nominee Rosamund Pike has earned international acclaim for both her stage and film roles. Rosamund's latest project, RADIOACTIVE, focuses on the life of the two-time Nobel Prize winning scientist Marie Curie (played by Rosamund) as she makes her groundbreaking discoveries in the 20th Century. The film is directed by Marjane Satrapi (PERSEPOLIS) and has been adapted from Lauren Redniss' graphic novel of Marie and Pierre Curie by Jack Thorne (THE AERONAUTS, HARRY POTTER AND THE CURSED CHILD). RADIOACTIVE was the Closing Night Gala at Toronto International Film Festival 2019 and will be released digitally in the UK on 15th June and on Amazon Prime on 24th July. Last year, Rosamund won an Emmy Award in the 'Outstanding Actress in a Short Form Comedy' category for STATE OF THE UNION. The comedy series also won 'Short Form Comedy or Drama Series'. Written by Nick Hornby (AN EDUCATION, ABOUT A BOY, FEVER PITCH) and directed by Stephen Frears (THE QUEEN, PHILOMENA, VICTORIA & ABDUL), STATE OF THE UNION launched on SundanceTV in May 2019 and is now on BBC Two and BBC iPlayer. Rosamund is currently filming THE WHEEL OF TIME, an Amazon production based on Robert Jordan's novels of the same name. Set in a fantasy world where magic exists, but only certain women are allowed to access it, Rosamund plays the lead, Moiraine. Last year, Rosamund completed filming J Blakeson's thriller I CARE A LOT, where she plays the lead role, Marla Grayson, alongside Peter Dinklage, Eiza González and Dianne Wiest. In 2017, Rosamund starred in Scott Cooper's (Crazy Heart, Black Mass) HOSTILES alongside Christian Bale. The film tells the tale of an American Army Captain tasked with escorting a Cheyenne Chief through a dangerous territory. In 2018, Rosamund was nominated for a Golden Globe for her portrayal of the legendary Sunday Times war reporter, Marie Colvin, in A PRIVATE WAR. Colvin died in 2012 in a targeted rocket attack whilst covering the Syrian civil war. The film is based on Marie Brenner's Vanity Fair article, "Marie Colvin's Private War" and is directed by Matthew Heineman (Cartel Land, City of Ghosts). The film premiered at London Film Festival 2018 and was released in the US last November and in the UK in February. Also, in 2018, Rosamund starred in José Padilha's (Narcos) 7 DAYS IN ENTEBBE, Brad Anderson's (The Machinist) BEIRUT (THE NEGOTIATOR) and Patrick Kennedy's (War Horse, Mr Holmes) short film: THE HUMAN VOICE. Rosamund has also lent her voice to the animated adaptation of Tove Jansson's body of work, MOOMINVALLEY. Rosamund plays Moominmamma alongside Taron Egerton, Kate Winslet and Warwick Davis. The television series is directed by Steve Box (The Curse of the Were-Rabbit). In 2014, Rosamund starred in David Fincher's GONE GIRL, in which she played Amy Dunne, opposite Ben Affleck. GONE GIRL was adapted for the screen by best-selling author, Gillian Flynn. Rosamund's performance earned widespread critical acclaim. Vanity Fair called her portrayal "a star-makingly good performance, spellbinding in its operatic mix of tones and temperatures." Rosamund was nominated for an Academy Award, a SAG Award and a Golden Globe Award. Also in 2014, Rosamund starred opposite Simon Pegg and Stellan Skarsgård in HECTOR AND THE SEARCH FOR HAPPINESS. She also appeared in Andy Hamilton and Guy Jenkin's part-improvised BBC comedy WHAT WE DID ON OUR HOLIDAY, alongside Billy Connolly and David Tennant. Pike's previous film credits include BARNEY'S VERSION, AN EDUCATION, A LONG WAY DOWN, Edgar Wright's THE WORLD'S END, opposite



Simon Pegg, JACK REACHER opposite Tom Cruise, and WRATH OF THE TITANS, directed by Jonathan Liebesman. In 2010, Pike played Lisa Hopkins in the dramatic film MADE IN DAGENHAM with Sally Hawkins, Miranda Richardson and Bob Hoskins. She was later nominated for a 2011 London Critics' Circle Award for "British Actress in a Supporting Role" for her role in the film. Others projects have included JOHNNY ENGLISH REBORN, THE BIG YEAR, WOMEN IN LOVE, THE LIBERTINE, PRIDE AND PREJUDICE, FRACTURE, FUGITIVE PIECES, SURROGATES, BURNING PALMS and DIE ANOTHER DAY. Aside from film, Rosamund has continued to return to theatre having starred in GASLIGHT, Patrick Hamilton's Victorian thriller, at the Old Vic Theatre, The Donmar Warehouse Production of MADAME DE SADE in The West End, opposite Judi Dench, and The Royal Court Theatre production of HITCHCOCK BLONDE directed by Terry Johnson. Rosamund began 2010 by playing the title role in HEDDA GABLER.

#### **Danielle Vitalis** (Actor)

Danielle most recently starred in *Seven Methods Of Killing Kylie Jenner* at the Royal Court Theatre. Other theatre credits include: *Don Juan in Soho* (Wyndham's Theatre), *A Raisin In The Sun* (Synergy Theatre), *The Man Who Almost Killed Himself* (Hibrow Theatre). Tv credits include: *I May Destroy You* (BBC), *Stath Lets Flats* (Channel 4), *Soon Gone: The Windrush Monologues* (BBC), *Sliced* (Lovely Electricity), *Enterprise* (BBC), and *Timewasters* (ITV2). Film credits include: *Afro Punk Girl*, *Honeytrap* and *Attack The Block*.

#### **Previously Announced**

#### **Rachel De-Lahay** (Writer / Co-curator)

Rachel writes for theatre, film and TV. Her play *Circles*, for which she won the Pearson Award to write, and won the Catherine Johnson Award from Channel 4, transferred to the Tricycle Theatre in London after a sell out run at Birmingham Rep. Her play *Routes* opened Vicky Featherstone's first season at the Royal Court in September 2013. For this Rachel won the Charles Wintour Award for Most Promising Playwright at the Evening Standard Theatre Awards 2013. It followed her debut, *The Westbridge*, which was also produced at the Royal Court Theatre and went on to win the 2012 Writers Guild Award for best play as well as coming joint first for the 2011 Alfred Fagon Award. In television, Rachel recently wrote an episode of the BBC's new series *Noughts + Crosses*, an adaptation of Malorie Blackman's best-selling novels. She has also written episodes of *The Feed* for Amazon, *Kiri* for Channel 4 / The Forge and is currently adapting *Mr Loverman* for Fable Pictures and reteaming with Jack Thorne on *The Eddy* for Netflix.

**Milli Bhatia** (Director / Co-curator)

As director, for the Royal Court: seven methods of killing kylie jenner, Dismantle This Room, Half Full (& RWCMD), This Liquid Earth: A Eulogy in Verse (& Hightide)

As assistant director, for the Royal Court: Inside Bitch (& Clean Break), Poet in da Corner, One For Sorrow, Instructions for Correct Assembly, Girls & Boys.

As director, other theatre includes: Dismantle This Room, The Hijabi Monologues, My White Best Friend/This Bitter Earth [part of Black Lives Black Words] (Bush); My White Best Friend [and other letters left unsaid], My White Best Friend [and more letters left unsaid], (Bunker), I Have AIDS (Young Vic); EmpowerHouse (Theatre Royal, Stratford East); No Cowboys Only Indians (Courtyard).

As associate director, work includes: What if Women Ruled the World? (Manchester International Festival), Pritilata (BBC).

As assistant director, other theatre includes: Lions & Tigers (Sam Wanamaker Playhouse); Cell Mates, Filthy Business, Luna Gale (Hampstead); The Quiet House (& Park), The Government Inspector (& tour), What Shadows (Birmingham Rep).

Milli was previously Trainee Director at the Royal Court and is now a Literary Associate.

**Tobi Kyeremateng** (Producer)

Tobi is an award-winning cultural producer and social entrepreneur with a focus on creating rich cultural experiences and sustainable social change through film, live public events, and community-led programmes.

With 9 years' experience in cultural production, strategy, consultancy and project management, Tobi has worked with organisations such as **AFROPUNK**, **Goldsmiths University**, **Nike**, **Oxford University** and **Samsung**, and has won awards including: **'Inspiration of the Year'** (Stylist Magazine's Remarkable Women Awards 2019), **'Best Producer'** (Black British Theatre Awards 2019), the **'Arts & Culture'** Award (Women Of The Future Awards 2019) and **'Special Award: Producer'** (OffWestEnd Theatre Awards 2020). She is currently Creative Civic Producer at **Brixton House** (formerly known as Ovalhouse) project managing **Let's Build** - an offsite community project working with twenty Brixton-based primary school children and architects MATT+FIONA to co-design and self-build a temporary community space in Brixton.

Tobi is the founder of the award-winning initiative **Black Ticket Project**.

**Amma Asante** (Writer)

Amma Asante MBE is a BAFTA award winning writer and director whose films include Belle and A United Kingdom. She has also recently directed on the Handmaids Tale and acclaimed Cate Blanchette limited series, Mrs America.

**Elliot Barnes-Worrell** (Writer)

Elliot Barnes-Worrell is an award winning Actor, Writer and Director from South East London.

He loves his grime music, anime and plantain. He hates writing bios.

**Ryan Calais Cameron** (Writer)



Ryan Calais Cameron is a writer and actor. *QUEENS OF SHEBA* (co-written with Jessica Hagan) and *TYPICAL* (starring Richard Blackwood) were produced by Nouveau Riche Theatre Company and were sell-out hits at Edinburgh Fringe Festival in 2018 and 2019 respectively. Ryan is an alumnus of the Royal Court writer's programme 2017 and the Soho Young Company 2016/17. Currently Ryan is under commission to the Royal Court Theatre and has a number of projects in development with television companies.

**Clint Dyer** (Writer)

Clint Dyer is an actor, writer and director, most recently he co-wrote and directed the critically acclaimed *DEATH OF ENGLAND*, which finished its sold out run at the National Theatre earlier this year, starring Rafe Spall. Clint is the first black British artist to have performed, written and directed a full-scale production at the National Theatre and has just been made an Associate Director.

**Afua Hirsch** (Writer)

Afua Hirsch is a former barrister, journalist, writer and film-maker. She regularly writes, reports and speaks on international current affairs, and has published two bestselling books, *BRIT(ISH): ON RACE, IDENTITY AND BELONGING*, winner of the Royal Society of Literature Jerwood Prize, and *EQUAL TO EVERYTHING*, about the UK Supreme Court. Afua was a judge on last year's Booker Prize and is currently the Wallis Annenberg Chair of Journalism at the University of Southern California in Los Angeles. [www.afuahirsch.com](http://www.afuahirsch.com)

**Yasmin Joseph** (Writer)

Yasmin Joseph's debut play *J'OUVERT* premiered at Theatre503 in 2019 and she was nominated for the Evening Standard's Most Promising Playwright Award. Yasmin is the current writer-in-residence at Sister Pictures and is on attachment at the Royal Court Theatre as a winner of the Channel 4 Playwrights scheme.

**Tife Kusoro** (Writer)

Tife Kusoro is a Nigerian-British writer. She was previously on the Bush Theatre Emerging Writers' Group, and is currently the Royal Court's Lynne Gagliano Writers' Award recipient. Her first play, *We Have Sinned*, was part of the North Wall's Alchemy Festival in 2019 and her second, *Fly Home Butterfly*, was part of the 2019 Talawa Firsts Festival.

### **Lettie Precious** (Writer)

Lettie Precious is a British playwright, poet, author and artist from Sheffield currently living in London. They were a Royal Court / Kudos Fellow in 2019 and have just completed the BBC Writers' Room 2019/20. Their short play THE GREY AREA was presented as part of Queer Upstairs at the Royal Court Theatre in 2019 and their first full length play, THIS IS US is currently in development with Graeae.

### **Campbell X** (Writer)

Campbell X is a transgender writer/director who directed the award-winning queer urban romantic comedy feature film STUD LIFE named in the Guardian as one of the 10 most important Black UK films in the last 40 years. Campbell directed and produced the short film DESIRE, the documentary VISIBLE which headlined the Scottish Queer Film Festival in December 2018.

### **Rachael Young** (Writer)

Rachael Young's interdisciplinary performance practice exists on the boundaries between live art, dance, contemporary theatre and socially engaged projects; creating spaces for intersectional realities to be explored and celebrated and for alternative narratives and forms to evolve and be heard.

Rachael's recent shows, OUT, won 2017 South East Dance 'A Space to Dance' Brighton Fringe Award and was nominated for the 'Total Theatre & The Place Award for Dance' 2017 and NIGHTCLUBBING was nominated for a 2019 'Total Theatre Award for Innovation, Experimentation & Playing with Form'. Rachael is the recipient of the inaugural Eclipse Award and was named an Artist to Watch 2019 by the British Council.

Rachael's work is shown in the UK and internationally including at: Skopje Pride (Skopje), Live Collision Festival (Dublin), RIGHTABOUTNOW (Amsterdam), Theatre de L'Usine (Geneva), TRANSFORM! #3 (Marseille), ImPulsTanz (Vienna International Dance Festival), The Place, The Yard, Tate Modern, mac, BAC and The Marlborough Theatre.

### **Listings Information:**



***My White Best Friend (and Other Letters Left Unsaid)***

**Co-curator: (Writer) Rachel De-Lahay**

**Co-curator: (Director) Milli Bhatia**

**Producer: Tobi Kyeremateng**

**DJ: D L K**

**Stage Manager: Sylvia Darkwa-Ohemeng**

**Casting Director: Amy Ball**

**Technical Manager: Robert Smael**

**<https://royalcourttheatre.com/whats-on/mywhitebestfriend/>**

**Monday 13 July 2020 – Friday 17 July 2020**

**Monday – Friday 6.30pm**

**Tickets £5 (for those on low income), £12 (standard)**

**There will be 30 free tickets available through Black Ticket Project for every performance.**

**Age guidance 16+**

This work includes racist language, including the N-work; other strong language; and references to violence, including sexual violence and police brutality.

**For the Royal Court**

**Artistic Director Vicky Featherstone**

**Executive Producer Lucy Davies**

**Head of Marketing and Sales Holly Conneely**

**Head of Press and Public Relations Anoushka Warden**

**Producer Chris James**