

**PRESS RELEASE Monday 14 September 2020**

**THE ROYAL COURT THEATRE TO REOPEN DOORS WITH NEW SOCIALLY DISTANCED LIVE PERFORMANCE, *LIVING NEWSPAPER: A COUNTER NARRATIVE*, IN SPACES AROUND THE BUILDING FROM THURSDAY 12 NOVEMBER 2020 - SATURDAY 19 DECEMBER 2020**



From Thursday 12 November 2020 the Royal Court Theatre will present six weekly editions of a living newspaper, each edition created and edited by a collective of writers.

*Living Newspaper*  
*A Counter Narrative*  
*A disruption. A manifesto. A celebration.*

*Living Newspaper* is a major writer-based project drawing on the radical history of the Federal Theatre Project of the US - an arts programme to mobilise and employ unemployed artists and theatre workers surfacing from the Great Depression. The Federal Theatre Project was a disruptive, responsive, social justice art form for a time of civic and economic trauma and contributed to the development of some of the most extraordinary US voices. The commissioned plays were under the umbrella of *Living Newspaper* and dealt with issues of the day.

In November 2020, the Royal Court Theatre will be reopening the doors to create six editions of living newspapers for our times, led by writers, and working with freelance artists – actors, designers, stage managers, technicians and choreographers.

Each weekly edition will be created and edited by a collective of writers to make a live newspaper with headlines, features and columns which will be performed in spaces around the Royal Court building.

Commenting on the reopening Royal Court Theatre Artistic Director Vicky Featherstone said;

*"I first learnt about The Federal Theatre Project when I was 18. It galvanised me then about theatre as a force for change and stuck with me over the years. One day during lockdown I*



remembered it and how vital it had been not only for saving the theatre industry after the Great Depression but for encouraging those previously underrepresented and for speaking truth to power with celebration and joy.

*As ever at the Royal Court we turn to our diverse community of writers whose ideas, perspectives, experiences can challenge us, surprise us and can make us imagine the impossible. The aims of Living Newspaper are quite simple, to give as many people as possible work, to bring our theatre back to life and to create something which is urgent, dynamic, political and disruptive - acknowledging the hugely changed and changing times. It is a massive experiment but it is only something radical which has a chance. Onwards! ”*

Editions will include satire of the week's events, alongside long-form think pieces, as well as weekly dating columns, cartoons, the world in pictures, a sports section and a surprise theatre supplement. Plus, every week a space will be given to a guest company to create whatever they want in response to the world we are in.

*Living Newspaper* will work with a newly created collective of emerging young designers, to create a radical imagining of the space with a manifesto of new ways of making theatre.

The theatre will continue its curtailed exploration of the climate crisis by ensuring all live performances are carbon net zero.

The theatre will also begin *Living Archive*, a radical exploration of plays from the Royal Court's history as part of the theatre's anti-racism and de-colonising work, asking what has been chosen to archive and who will hold the narrative going forward.

Performances will take place throughout the day from 11am – 11pm Thursday – Saturday from 12 November 2020 - 19 December 2020. Enhanced safety measures will be in place throughout the building to support a socially distant audience. Each edition will be made accessible to all.

Audiences will be able to watch performances of each living newspaper live at the Royal Court Theatre, or online at home.

More details will be announced in the coming weeks and tickets will go on sale in late October. Join the Royal Court Theatre mailing list to be kept updated.

Today the Royal Court Theatre is launching a fundraising campaign to raise £100,000 to reopen the doors, to support *Living Newspaper* and the theatre's future. Every £1 raised will be doubled thanks to a matched funding pot generously donated by the Royal Court Theatre Board and Development Council. For more information and ways to give to the campaign please visit our website here. <https://royalcourttheatre.com/support-us/support-the-court/living-newspaper-campaign-2020/>

**ENDS-**

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

**Notes to Editors:**

For all images [click here](#).

