

PRESS RELEASE

Wednesday 14 October 2020

**FINAL MOMENTS OF CARETAKER BY HESTER CHILLINGWORTH LIVE
STREAMED IN THE ROYAL COURT JERWOOD THEATRE DOWNSTAIRS
5PM ON THURSDAY 15 MAY 2020.**



Hester Chillingworth's (pronouns: they/them) durational installation *Caretaker*, which has been live-streamed continuously in the Jerwood Theatre Downstairs since May, will sign off tomorrow with the final moments starting at 5pm.

The public have been able to virtually visit *Caretaker* since Friday 8 May 2020, making it the Royal Court Theatre's longest running show! With over 12000 views audiences watched internationally from countries including Japan, Canada, Brazil and Australia.

Over the last six months, Hester has written the text for *Caretaker* almost daily, at times responding to world news, and at others responding to how people are feeling during one of the most challenging periods for global mental health.

Alongside a livestream of the Royal Court's uninhabited stage, *Caretaker* intermittently broadcasted witty, playful and supportive audio messages; more often, there was silence.

Commenting on the final moments Hester Chillingworth said;

"Having been through these last 6 months with Caretaker, and still being in a place of uncertainty, there are some things I would like the piece to reflect on and to offer out, going forward. So the last moment will be a micro piece of its own. Instead of an ending, this is the handing over of a baton, the end of a long shift, as life begins to stir in the Royal Court in preparation for Living Newspaper which is shortly to be occupying the building. I think in a time when isolation has been widespread, and we are almost always at a distance from each other, a moment when you can turn up, virtually, and know that others are doing the same (even if you can't see them) is important. It's a moment of community and of joint witness. And I think the thing that really pushes the vital questions of ethics, agency and accountability in live work, is realising that that's what audiences truly are - witnesses."

Join *Caretaker* at 5pm tomorrow, or log on via the [website](#) any time day or night until then.

ENDS-



For more information or images please contact Anoushka Warden AnoushkaWarden@royalcourttheatre.com

Notes to Editors:

Read more about the journey Caretaker has been on in an interview with Hester Chillingworth [here](#).

To view the livestream see here <https://royalcourttheatre.com/caretaker/>

Hester Chillingworth (pronouns: they/them) creates work which is playful and interventionist; work that elevates the everyday, while remaining accessible. Often playing with language, simplicity, interpretation and mischief, Hester's practice sits at a crossroads of live art and theatre. Hester is a Royal Court Jerwood New Playwright 2020 and previously co-curated our new writing event, Queer Upstairs. Recent projects include That Night Follows Day for Forced Entertainment at The Southbank Centre (as co-director with Tim Etchells) and the world premiere of Trainers: or The Brutal Unpleasant Atmosphere of this Most Disagreeable Season, by Sylvan Oswald, at The Gate Theatre (as director). Hester was founder and Artistic Director of renowned experimental performance company GETINTHEBACKOFTHEVAN, whose work toured nationally and internationally.

