



PRESS RELEASE FRIDAY 11 DECEMBER 2020

**WRITERS ANNOUNCED FOR EDITION 2 OF THE ROYAL COURT THEATRE'S *LIVING NEWSPAPER: A COUNTER NARRATIVE*, RUNNING FROM THURSDAY 17 DECEMBER 2020 - SATURDAY 19 DECEMBER 2020**

- Tickets on sale for Edition 2 Monday 14 December 2020 at noon
- To watch the online version of Edition 1 see [here](#)



***Photo credit: Isha Shah***

Over 60 writers are involved in the creation of the Royal Court Theatre's weekly Living Newspaper.

Writers for Edition 2 include Ryan Calais Cameron, Si'an Chen, Yuqun Fan, Tom Fowler, Nick Gill, Ruby Holder, Emteaz Hussain, Jammz, Yasmin Joseph, Anchuli Felicia King, Tife Kusoro, Mark Ravenhill, Ruby Thomas and Tom Wells. Si'an Chen's contribution will be translated by Jeremy Tiang.

Edition 2 runs from Thursday 17 December 2020 – Saturday 19 December 2020. With the online edition available from Sunday 20 December 5pm.

*Living Newspaper* is a weekly live newspaper running over six weeks.

It will be urgent, responsive and fast - with writers filing their pieces by Tuesday and actors performing from Thursday, script-in-hand, hot off the press.

The designers are Shankho Chaudhuri, Debbie Duru, Cara Evans, Sandra Falase, Zoë Hurwitz and Chloe Lamford who have been working as a Design Collective since early 2020. Together they have radically imagined the Royal Court's spaces



for *Living Newspaper*. Each edition will be overseen by members of the Design Collective, with Shankho Chaudhuri and Sandra Falase leading on Edition 2.

Edition 2 will also include Lighting by Simisola Majekodunmi, Sound by Elena Peña and Giles Thomas, Composition and live music performance by Jammz, Musical Direction by Cassandra Gurling and Movement Direction by Ivan Blackstock.

Facilitating Edition 2 will be Royal Court staff Jane Fallowfield (Literary Manager), Myah Jeffers (Literary Associate), Philip Morris (Trainee Director), Sam Pritchard (Associate Director - International) and theatre director Roy Alexander Weise MBE.

### **About the project:**

Each weekly edition of the newspaper will be created by both a collective of writers responsible for the front page and overall tone of the edition and contributing writers offering individual pieces. It will include performances relating to the moment we are in with local and global perspectives, longer form pieces, dating columns, a cartoon of the week, the world in pictures, a weather room, agony aunts, horoscopes and much more, and all inspired by world events as well as the Design Collective's spaces. It will be performed in promenade, taking audiences, in person and online, around the Royal Court building on a journey never before available to the public in this way.

More than 200 freelance artists will work on the project – as well as the writers - over 60 actors (including a commitment to cast a 2020 graduate each week as part of the company), animators, choreographers, composers, designers, illustrators, lighting designers, sound designers, stage managers and technicians.

There is an extensive participation project running alongside *Living Newspaper* including a series of digital resources, workshops, and a newly formed young writers' group who will be contributing to editions in the New Year.

### **How to watch:**

Performances for Edition 2 will run Thursday – Saturday with socially distanced audiences of 15 people. There is also the chance for audiences to purchase tickets to watch a digital capture of *Living Newspaper* online which will be released every Sunday at 5pm and will then be available to watch on-demand from Monday 10am – Sunday 4pm (GMT).

Watch in Person. Prices start at £12 for live performances at the theatre (max 2 per booking).

Watch Online. Prices start at £10 to watch the digital capture of the edition online.

Join the Royal Court Theatre mailing list to be kept updated.





**Non Reviewing Press Coverage:** In January we hope to have more shows available and will hopefully be able to get a limited amount of journalists in who wish to feature the project.

**Upcoming Editions:** Writers for editions three to six will be announced each Friday before their edition.

Edition 2 will run 17 – 19 December with tickets going on sale Monday 14 December at noon.

Editions 3 – 6 will be released in the New Year.

### **Background:**

*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.

### **Biographies for Edition 2:**

#### **WRITERS**

**Ryan Calais Cameron** is a writer and actor. He is currently under commission to the Royal Court and most recently worked as a writer on *My White Best Friend (and Other Letters Left Unsaid)*. Ryan is an alumnus of the Royal Court Writer's Group and Soho Young Company. As a writer, his recent work includes: *Queens of Sheba* [co-writer] (Camden People's/New Diorama/UK tour); *Typical* (Soho). He is currently in commissioned development on original projects for television. Ryan is the co-founder of *Nouveau Riche* theatre company.

**Si'an Chen (陈思安)** is a playwright, theatre director, poet, short story writer and literary translator. She was born in Inner Mongolia and now lives and works in Beijing. Her work for the Royal Court includes *海水火锅* (Ocean Hotpot), which was performed as part of a Royal Court Theatre residency at the 2019 Edinburgh International Festival, and *在荒野* (Underpass), which was performed as a rehearsed reading as part of the series *New and Now: Plays from China* at the Royal Court in 2018.

**Yuqun Fan** is a writer, director and dramaturg based in China. She has worked on fringe productions in the UK including, as writer/director, *LIES* (London Theatre); as director, *I Will Miss You When You're Gone* (Hen & Chickens Theatre); as dramaturg, *Route* (Hope Theatre); as assistant director, *The Island* (Oasis, Cardiff). In China, she is the Executive Producer for the Mandarin version of *Rent*, and a series of other musical concerts and productions.

**Tom Fowler** is a London-based playwright from Fife. In 2016, he was commissioned for the Royal Court's Open Court festival. As part of this, his play *Roman Candle* was performed in the Jerwood Theatre Upstairs. His subsequent work includes *Katzenmusik*, a commission for the Royal Court Youth Theatre; and *Suspicious Minds*, a Pleasance co-production for the Edinburgh Festival Fringe. *Suspicious Minds* was later produced as a radio play for BBC Radio 4. He is currently working on a commission for the Royal Court.



**Nick Gill** is a playwright, musician, printer and typefounder. He is currently under commission to the Royal Court Theatre. For the Royal Court, he wrote *BENEVERUNERSTOOST*, which was performed in a one-off, script-in-hand reading in the Jerwood Theatre Downstairs in 2014, and *SAND*, which was shown in the Jerwood Theatre Upstairs in 2013. His other theatre work includes an adaptation of Franz Kafka's *THE TRIAL* for the Young Vic, *MIRROR TEETH* at the Finborough, and *FIJI LAND* at the Soho.

**Ruby Holder** is a playwright based in South East London. She is currently a member of the Royal Court Writers' Group for which she is writing her new play. She graduated from the BRIT School in 2016 after studying Theatre and touring in Leo Butler's *Decades* for The Bridge Theatre Company (Ovalhouse/Brighton Fringe/Plymouth Fringe). Her recent writing credits include *Set in Stains* (Nuu Theatre/Drayton Arms/Park Theatre).

**Emteaz Hussain** is a playwright and performance poet. Emteaz is currently under commission to the Royal Court. Plays include: *Social Distancing* (Kali Theatre Solos/Online), *Crongton Knights* (Pilot/UK Tour) *Sweet Cider* (Tamasha/Arcola); *Blood* (Tamasha/UK tour); *Outsiders* (Pilot Theatre/UK tour); *Etching* (The Break/BBC3 Online). As a performance poet, she has toured with Transglobal Underground, Fundamental, Hustlers HC and as a backing poet with the Benjamin Zephaniah band. Emteaz works as a workshop practitioner in both statutory and community settings, specialising in pupil referral units.

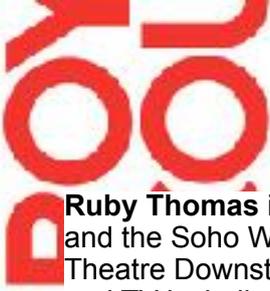
**Jammz** is a writer, grime MC and record producer from Hackney, East London. For the Royal Court, he was a featured writer on *Poet in da Corner*, which also toured the UK. Since 2014, Jammz has appeared regularly on London's radio circuit, including Rinse FM, Radar Radio, NTS, Mode FM and BBC 1xtra. He has 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 is the founder of the record label *I Am Grime*.

**Yasmin Joseph** is a London-based writer. She is currently on attachment at the Royal Court Theatre as a winner of the Channel 4 Playwrights scheme and is the current writer-in-residence at Sister Pictures. Her debut play *J'Ouvert* premiered at Theatre503 in 2019 and she was nominated for the Evening Standard's Most Promising Playwright Award and most recently won the 2020 James Tait Black Prize for Drama. Yasmin is also under co-commission with Soho Theatre and The Actors Touring Company as part of the Soho Six, The Place Theatre in Bedford with the Retired Caribbean Nurses Association and Clean Break.

**Anchuli Felicia King** is a playwright, screenwriter and multidisciplinary artist of Thai-Australian descent. She marked her international playwriting debut with *White Pearl*, which premiered at the Royal Court in 2019. Her plays have been produced by the Studio Theatre (Washington D.C.), American Shakespeare Center (Staunton), Melbourne Theatre Company (Melbourne), Sydney Theatre Company, National Theatre of Parramatta and Belvoir Theatre (Sydney).

**Tife Kusoro** is a Nigerian-British writer and performer. She was previously on the Bush Theatre Emerging Writers' Group, and is currently the Royal Court's Lynne Gagliano Writers' Award recipient. She recently wrote for *My White Best Friend (and Other Letters Left Unsaid)* for the Royal Court. Her first play, *We Have Sinned*, was part of the North Wall's Alchymy Festival in 2019 and her second, *Fly Home Butterfly*, was part of the 2019 Talawa Firsts Festival.

**Mark Ravenhill** is a playwright. For the Royal Court, his work includes: *The Cane*, *Shopping & Fucking (& Out of Joint)*, *Product (& Paines Plough)*, *Shoot/Get Treasure/Repeat (& Out of Joint/Paines Plough)*, *Over There (& Schaubühne, Berlin)*. Mark co-curated *Queer Upstairs* for the Royal Court, an event to mark the fiftieth anniversary of the Stonewall uprising. Other theatre includes: *Mother Clap's Mollyhouse*, *Citizenship (National)*; *Pool No Water (Frantic Assembly/Lyric, Hammersmith)*; *Life of Galileo*, *The Boy In The Dress (RSC)*.



**Ruby Thomas** is an actor and writer. She has completed the Royal Court Writers' Group and the Soho Writers' course. Her first full length play, *Either*, premiered at the Hampstead Theatre Downstairs in September 2019. She is currently working on commissions for theatre and TV including with Hampstead Theatre, Annapurna and Gold Circle Films and is on this year's Channel 4 Playwrights' Scheme.

**Tom Wells** is a playwright. His work includes: *Drip (Boundless)*; *Broken Biscuits (Live Theatre/Paines Plough/UK tour)*; *Folk (Birmingham Rep/UK tour)*; *Jumpers for Goalposts (Watford Palace)*; *The Kitchen Sink (Bush)*; *Me, As A Penguin (West Yorkshire Playhouse/Arcola/UK tour)*; *About a Goth (Paines Plough/Oran Mor)*.

## DESIGN COLLECTIVE

**Shankho Chaudhuri** is a designer whose recent work includes: *Art Heist (Edinburgh Festival Fringe/New Diorama)*; *Wood, White Noise (VAULT Festival)*. As assistant designer: *Death of England, Death of England: Delroy (National)*. As VR designer: *All Kinds of Limbo (Sundance Festival/Tate Modern)*. Shankho is the Associate Designer at New Diorama Theatre and Poltergeist Theatre.

**Debbie Duru** is a designer for performance spaces. Her recent work includes: Associate Set Designer - *Dick Whittington (National)*, Set & Costume Designer - *Hamlet (Bute, Cardiff)*, Set Designer - *Company (Sherman, Cardiff)*. Debbie has worked as Wardrobe Assistant and Costume Assistant to Costume Designer Ellen Claridge.

**Cara Evans** is a London-based designer. She is a former Royal Court Young Agitator and is an Associate Artist at OPIA Collective. Cara's recent work includes: *This Queer House (Vaults)*, *The Girl With Glitter in Her Eye (Bunker)*, *MUSE (Camden People's/Tristan Bates)* and *Superstar (Underbelly/Edinburgh Festival Fringe/Southwark Playhouse)*.

**Sandra Falase** is an interdisciplinary artist. As the 2018 recipient of the first design bursary awarded by MGCfutures, in conjunction with the Gate, they worked as the Assistant Designer on *A Small Place*. Other recent stage design work includes: *J'Ouvert (Theatre503)*, *This is Black (Bunker)*, *Romeo & Juliet (Orange Tree)*.

**Zoë Hurwitz** is a London-based designer. For the Royal Court, she worked on *Peckham: The Soap Opera*. Her other credits include: *Fen, Punk Rock (LAMDA)*; *We Anchor in Hope (Bunker)*; *Five Plays [Directors Programme] (Young Vic)*; *The Hope Hypothesis (Sheen Centre, New York)*; *Sing Goddess (Here Arts, New York)*; *Lovesong of the Electric Bear (Hope/Arts Theatre)*. Zoë was a recipient of the 2019 Linbury Prize for Stage Design for Nuffield, Southampton.

**Chloe Lamford** is a stage designer working in theatre, opera, music and installation. She is the Associate Designer at the Royal Court, where her most recent work includes: *Shoe Lady, Superhoe [as design consultant]*, *The Song Project [& co-creator]*. Her other recent theatre credits include: *The Antipodes [& co-director]*, *Amadeus (National)*; *Teenage Dick (Donmar)*. Chloe was the recipient of the Arts Foundation Fellowship Award for Design for Performance in Set & Costume and the Theatrical Management Association Award for Best Theatre Design.

**Biographies for all other creatives will be on the website for each edition.**



**We have been 'See It Safely' approved**

We have been granted the use of Society of London Theatre & UK Theatre's **See It Safely** mark. The mark certifies that we are complying with the latest Government and industry COVID-19 guidelines, to ensure the safety of our staff and audiences.