



PRESS RELEASE WEDNESDAY 16 DECEMBER 2020

CAST ANNOUNCED FOR EDITION 2 OF THE ROYAL COURT THEATRE'S *LIVING NEWSPAPER: A COUNTER NARRATIVE*, AVAILABLE TO WATCH ONLINE FROM 5PM SUNDAY 20 DECEMBER 2020 - 4PM SUNDAY 27 DECEMBER 2020

- Tickets available to book for Edition 2 Online Premiere [here](#)



Photo: Row 1 Moronkẹ Akinola, Hammed Animashaun. Row 2 Ayesha Antoine, Alex Austin, Lisa Hammond, Mariam Haque. Row 3 Zachary Hing, Siu-see Hung, Wendy Kweh, Tasha Lim. Row 4 Ntonga Mwanza, Rochelle Rose, Liza Sadovy

Moronkẹ Akinola, Hammed Animashaun, Ayesha Antoine, Alex Austin, Lisa Hammond, Mariam Haque, Zachary Hing, Siu-see Hung, Wendy Kweh, Tasha Lim, Ntonga Mwanza, Rochelle Rose and Liza Sadovy have been cast in Edition 2 of the Royal Court Theatre's *Living Newspaper: A Counter Narrative*.

Living Newspaper is a weekly live newspaper running over six weeks. It is urgent, responsive and fast – with writers filing their pieces by Tuesday and actors performing from Thursday, script-in-hand, hot off the press.

Due to Monday's government announcement that London will be moved to Tier 3 restrictions from Wednesday 16 December 2020, Edition 2 of the *Living Newspaper* will now be avail-



able as an online event only and is available to stream from 5pm Sunday 20 December 2020 - 4pm Sunday 27 December 2020.

Edition 2 has been written by 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, with Si'an Chen's contribution translated by Jeremy Tiang.

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 one of the Design Collective, with Shankho Chaudhuri and Sandra Falase leading on Edition 2.

Lighting Designers on Edition 2 are Simisola Lucia Majekodunmi and Nao Nagai, with Sound Design by Tony Gayle, Elena Peña and Giles Thomas, Composition and live music performance by Jammz, Musical Direction by Cassandra Gurling and Movement Direction by Ivan Blackstock.

The facilitators for Edition 2 include 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 (where allowed) 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.

Tickets to watch the digital capture of *Living Newspaper* Edition 2 online at 5pm on Sunday 20 December 2020 are on sale now. Prices start at £10 with the Edition also available to watch on-demand from 10am Monday 21 December – 4pm Sunday 27 December (GMT).

Book tickets [here](#).

Edition 1, which ran from Thursday 10 December 2020 - Saturday 12 December 2020 to audiences online and in person, saw the theatre reopen for the first time since its closure in March. The online version of Edition 1 is available to watch until 4pm Saturday 20 December [here](#).

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



ENDS-

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

Notes to Editors:

To download images [click here](#).

Safety: Enhanced safety measures will be in place throughout the building to support a socially distant audience. Each edition will be accessible.

Reviewing: Due to limited capacity and the nature of the project reviewing in person will not be possible. However, any journalists who wish to write about the project will be given access to the digital capture of *Living Newspaper* online which will be released every Sunday.

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

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

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:

CAST

Moronke Akinola is an actor who trained at Bristol Old Vic theatre school. She most recently appeared in *The Niceties* at the Finborough Theatre. Theatre whilst training includes: *The Life and Adventures of Nicholas Nickleby*, *Wonder Boy*, *The Dissociation of Shirley Mason*, *The Railway Children*, *A View from the Bridge* and *Ma Rainey's Black Bottom*.

Hammed Animashaun is an actor. His theatre credits include: *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Bridge), *Barber Shop Chronicles*, *Master Harold...and the Boys*, *Amadeus*, *The Three Penny Opera* (National), *The Producers* (Royal Exchange, Manchester). Film includes: *The Festival* (Film 4/Fudge Park). Television includes: *Wheel of Time* (Amazon/Sony), *Pls Like* (BBC), *Flowers* (Channel 4). Hammed won the *WhatsOnStage* Best Supporting Actor in a Play award and the *Critics' Circle Trewin Award* for Best Shakespearean Performance for *A Midsummer Night's Dream*.

Ayesha Antoine is an actor. She has performed in theatres and with production companies such as the Donmar Warehouse, Kiln, *Told By An Idiot*, *Kenneth Branagh Theatre Company*, *Young Vic*, *Arts Theatre*, *National*, *Royal Exchange*, *Manchester*, *Bush*, *Birmingham Rep*, *Theatre Royal*, *Stratford East*, *Stephen Joseph Theatre*, *Almeida* and on *Broadway*.



Alex Austin is an actor. His work for the Royal Court includes Gundog, Grimly Handsome, Primetime, Yen and Pigeons. Other theatre includes Wuthering Heights at the Royal Exchange, Manchester and Ivan and the Dogs at the Young Vic. Television includes I Hate Suzie and Doctor Who.

Lisa Hammond is an actor and theatre maker, and one half of the company 'Bunny'. She has co-created shows such as Souled Out for the Globe, No Idea for the Young Vic and Still No Idea for the Royal Court. Her television credits include: EastEnders, Psychoville, Vera, Casualty, One Night, Common Ground and Bleak House.

Mariam Haque is an actor. For the Royal Court, she performed in Primetime. She also has performed in When The Crows Visit (Kiln), Macbeth (RSC), Romeo And Juliet (RSC). Mariam can also be seen in Finding Alice (ITV), Trying (Apple TV+) and Homeland (Fox 21).

Zachary Hing is an actor. For the Royal Court, they performed in Pah La. Other selected credits include: Halo (Showtime/Amblin); Them! (National Theatre Scotland); The Male Queen (Royal Lyceum); Forgotten 遗忘 (Arcola/ Theatre Royal, Plymouth); Jubilee (Royal Exchange, Manchester/Lyric, Hammersmith).

Siu-see Hung is a performer. For the Royal Court, she performed in New and Now: Plays from China. Her other work includes: Sometimes Thinking (Frantic Assembly), Ghost Girl 鬼妹 (Camden People's Theatre), Mountains: The Dreams of Lily Kwok (Royal Exchange, Manchester), Chinglish (Park), Northern Girls (Signal Fires Festival) and Cursed (Netflix).

Wendy Kweh is an actor. For the Royal Court, she has performed in New & Now: Plays from China and You For Me For You. Her other theatre credits include: Crave (Chichester Festival Theatre), The Welkin, Top Girls, The Oresteia (National), A Kettle of Fish (Yard), Describe the Night (Hampstead), Julius Caesar (Bridge), Snow Blossom in Midsummer (RSC), Boy (Almeida), Image of an Unknown Young Woman (Gate), Chimerica (West End).

Tasha Lim is an actor who has just graduated from the Royal Central School of Speech and Drama. While at drama school, she performed in After Mrs. Rochester, Machinal, Richard III, The Oresteia, Anatomy of a Suicide, The London Cuckolds, Look Back in Anger, Blues for Mr. Charlie and A Streetcar Named Desire. Tasha has recently appeared in Casualty.

Ntonga Mwanza is a Zambian born actor, writer and dancer. For the Royal Court, he has performed in The Meet Up. His debut one-man play, Resonate, was featured in this season's VAULT Festival. Ntonga has also performed in Hotel (National). His television credits include Leave 2 Remain and Doctors. His film credits include Honeytrap (Netflix).

Rochelle Rose is an actress. Most recently, she performed in salt. at the Royal Court and the Public Theater, New York. Rochelle was also cast in Rockets and Blue Lights (Royal Exchange, Manchester). Her film credits include: debbie tucker green's ear for eye (BBC), and feature film Boxing Day written by Aml Ameen.

Liza Sadovy is an actor with extensive credits across the stage, television and film. For the Royal Court, she performed in A Separate Reality: A Rock Opera. Liza recently performed in Present Laughter (Old Vic), I'm Not Running (National) & Absolute Hell (National).

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 the 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 Un-said)* for the Royal Court. 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.

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)*.

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.