

PRESS RELEASE Thursday 15 April 2021

THE ROYAL COURT THEATRE ANNOUNCE *LIVING NEWSPAPER EDITION 7: THE LAST WORD* WRITTEN BY WRITERS AGED 14 – 21.

- **Edition 7** announced, written by writers aged 14-21, released Monday 26 April 2021
 - **Book** for Editions 6 and 7 [here](#)
 - **Catch up** on Edition 5 [here](#)
 - **Watch the trailer** [here](#)
- **See photos** of filming, rehearsal and performances of previous editions [here](#)
 - Artistic Director **Vicky Featherstone** explains the project [here](#)



Illustration by Olivia Twist

Living Newspaper, the weekly project led by more than 60 writers and over 200 freelancers, was paused at the end of 2020 following the first two Editions due to the national lockdown. The project continued on Monday 29 March 2021. Each Edition launches with a live streamed performance of *The Front Page*, and then is available to watch for two weeks. You can watch Edition 5 on catch up until Sunday 25 April [here](#).

Edition 7: The Last Word is written by a group of writers aged 14-21 who have been working together online since June 2020. This final edition of *Living Newspaper* explores the fear and anticipation of 21 June, a world where the stars talk in Morse code, the difference between people online and IRL, the effects of class on love, and what it means to say goodbye to those friends you only have for the summer.

What does it mean to count your life in years and lose one? What happens when you reemerge into the 'real' world and find there are still fights to be won?

This is the time to listen to writers who haven't been heard before.

The writers for Edition 7 are Blessing Adetunji, Fatima Kazmi, Tyreke Leslie, Naomi Lundie-Smith, Sam Pickering, Taichi Shinokubo and Ruby Stokes.

Edition 7 starts Monday 26 April 2021, book tickets [here](#).



The *Living Newspaper* experience is exclusively for an online audience at home. Each weekly online edition is sent to ticket holders over five days - with new content shared daily including local perspectives, longer form pieces, a dating column, and more.

A different creative team, led by writers, take over the Royal Court Theatre to stage the new work each week which will be captured by Tea Films and shared with audiences at home.

New performances can be watched Monday - Friday of that Edition's week, and all pieces will be available to watch over that weekend and the following week, allowing ticket holders to access the work much like they might an online paper - catching up on the news and supplements when it best suits them.

Living Newspaper

The stories that matter to our writers now.

Staged at the Royal Court Theatre.

Delivered daily to your inbox.

Living Newspaper is designed by Shankho Chaudhuri, Debbie Duru, Cara Evans, Sandra Falase, Zoë Hurwitz and Chloe Lamford who have been working as a Design Collective since mid 2020. Together they have radically imagined the Royal Court's spaces for the project. Each edition is overseen by one of the Design Collective, with Shankho Chaudhuri and Zoë Hurwitz leading on Edition 7.

The lighting designer for Edition 7 is Jessica Hung Han Yun, the composer is Renell Shaw, the sound designers are Helen Atkinson and Tony Gayle, and the movement director is Yami Löfvenberg.

Facilitators for Edition 7 include Vicky Featherstone, Jasmyn Fisher-Ryner, Romana Ffello, Ellie Fulcher, Ellie Horne, Ola Ince, Myah Jeffers, Philip Morris, Hamish Pirie and Vishni Velada-Billson.

Edition 7 will be released from Monday 26 April 2021 with a live streamed performance* of *The Front Page* at 5.30pm, and will then be available to watch for two weeks until Sunday 9 May 2021.

ENDS-

**For more information contact Anoushka Warden
on AnoushkaWarden@royalcourttheatre.com**

Notes to Editors:

Images: To download images, including photos from previous editions, [click here.](#)

*Audience numbers for the *Front Page* live stream will be limited due to the nature of the collective experience where viewers can see each other on screen, so advanced booking for each edition is recommended.

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.

How to watch

Watch online. Buy a single edition. Over the week tickets will give access to more than 15 performances of new work by writers ranging from 2 - 15 minutes in length.

All content, including The Front Page, will be added to the *Living Newspaper* digital platform with at least three new pieces every weekday - so whenever the ticket is purchased customers will be able to catch up on what's been released.

Living Newspaper will be accessible via captions, audio description notes and story and sensory synopses.

Pricing

Edition 7 Single Edition: Tickets are available at £3, £5, £10 (£5 standard price ticket plus a £5 donation). Tickets are free for Young Court Friends. Young Court Friends is a free membership scheme for under 26s.

[Tickets available to buy now.](#)

As a registered charity, all donations received via *Living Newspaper* tickets and subscriptions will go to **Support the Court**, a fund which enables the running of all of the Royal Court's behind-the-scenes projects, delivering writers programmes here in the UK and across the world, and schemes for, and with, young people. The support allows the theatre to continue to create ground-breaking new work for online audiences and, once the doors reopen, for the stages. Find out more [here](#).

Join the Royal Court Theatre [mailing list](#) to be kept updated.

Biographies:

WRITERS

Blessing Adetunji

Peng Black Girl from The East End of LDN is Blessing. Hidden in the depths of London, a melanated mogul concealed by modesty and energy of the great Toni Morrison is brewing. You could say Blessing has always been a regal writer. Birthed by seeds sown in THE Empire of Hackney. Branches built bridges to form connective opportunities. Now they make an abode of THE Royal Court with their fellow noteworthy nobles, heiresses and heirs to a new era.



Fatima Kazmi

Fatima is 14 and a student at Pimlico Academy. It was in school that Fatima began their playwriting with a joyous play about pigeons. Fatima has been part of the young writers' group at the Royal Court for the last 6 months and has brought energy and ideas to the group. Fatima is brimming with creativity and is about to show the world in their writing.

Tyreke Leslie

Tyreke is currently an actor training at the Guildhall School of Music & Drama with hopes set on emerging as an all-rounded and professional actor and artist. They love to write, create, and perform work that intends to change or inspire, also often blending all of their passions and art forms into one. They flourish themselves in all things creative, such as: spoken word/poetry, free movement, and dance - and has done from young. Tyreke is a storyteller who likes to have fun!

Naomi Lundie-Smith

Naomi is 16 and spends their time humming songs outside their head in hopes that the people around will remember the names of them. Naomi's been a member of RAW Academy for about 10 years, and always liked drama but had never really written anything. It wasn't until Naomi rocked up to RAW Academy one week, as always running late, and saw two new people in the hall. Those two new people were Romana Fello and Emma Dennis-Edwards and they were about to show a new perspective of performing: the ability to not be on the stage but to be the one sitting writing the stories. Naomi wrote a really sad monologue about a sandcastle and was told it wasn't half bad and somehow ended up at a writers' group every Wednesday for almost a year of their life. Now I know it sounds like the beginning of a bad joke but they thought: Naomi the dyslexic playwright, I quite like the sound of that.

Sam Pickering

Sam is 16 and spends too much money on plastic plants. They have the same energy as a snail... effervescent and they love frogs... but that doesn't concern you. Yet.

Taichi Shinokubo

Taichi is 15 & is (well tries to be) relaxed all the time. Taichi first met the Royal Court through the Class Court schools project. After working with John Tiffany through Year 9 at Chelsea Academy, Taichi joined the young writers' group. Taichi is an avid film watcher and thinks about visual storytelling in their writing.

Ruby Stokes

Ruby has always been keen on performance since a young age, only within the last year have they begun to explore writing as a creative outlet. Their initial participation in the Hackney Empire's writers' group is what helped them discover this, subsequently The Royal Court has nurtured their development since. Ruby often draws on personal experience when writing, demonstrating a raw and visceral style.

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 Edition 7 creatives are available to view on the website.
www.royalcourttheatre.com

TEA

FILMS