



THEATR CLWYD REOPENS ITS DOOR TO FOUR WORLD PREMIÈRE PRODUCTIONS IN 2021

Artistic Director **Tamara Harvey** and Executive Director **Liam Evans-Ford** today announce the reopening of Theatr Clwyd, and the programming of four world première productions as part of **Theatr Clwyd's** 2021 season.

The season opens with **Alan Harris' *For The Grace of You Go I*** with **James Grieve** directing **Remy Beasley, Darren Jeffries, Rhodri Meilir**; then continues with ***Curtain Up***, a three-week season of fifteen new plays from Welsh playwrights - **Meredydd Barker, Matthew Bulgo, Katherine Chandler, Amy Bethan Evans, Ciaran Fitzgerald, Rebecca Jade Hammond, Tracy Harris, Ming Ho, Mari Izzard, Jennifer Lunn, Samantha O'Rourke, Lisa Parry, Kristian Phillips, Mali Ann Rees and Alun Saunders**; Tamara Harvey then directs ***Isla*** by **Tim Price** - in a co-production with the **Royal Court Theatre**; and completing the season is ***Missing Julie*** by **Kaite O'Reilly** freely adapted from Strindberg's *Miss Julie*. Named by The Stage as the 2020 Regional Theatre of the Year, Theatr Clwyd is continuing its work of supporting local and emerging artists with an open call for creatives for *Missing Julie* in partnership with #OpenHire.

Also as part of the new season the **Outdoor Stage** will return this summer from 10 June to 11 September with a festival of music, comedy, theatre, dance and family shows, with the full programme to be announced shortly.

Tamara Harvey said today, *"If the last year has taught us anything, it's taught us that we don't know what the future holds. What we do know now, is that whatever happens, we will make theatre at Theatr Clwyd this year. Working with some of the most exciting writers, creatives and actors from across Wales and the wider UK, we are bringing these amazing stories, new and old, to life on our stages. Theatres in Wales are finally, for the first time in 14 months, able to open. So right now, we know we can share this brilliant season with our audiences here in our building. If there's a moment when that becomes impossible, we'll find new and different ways of sharing these stories across the miles. But whatever happens, we will make theatre. Because now more than ever, our audiences and our artists need us to bring everyone together to laugh and cry, and celebrate our shared humanity. It's time."*

All productions will be staged in line with current Welsh government guidelines, with contingencies in place for livestreamed performances and outdoor performance spaces.

For The Grace of You Go I and *Curtain Up* are on sale from 4 May 2021, with *Isla* and *Missing Julie* on sale mid-June.

THEATR EMLYN WILLIAMS
WORLD PREMIÈRE

FOR THE GRACE OF YOU GO I

by **Alan Harris**

Cast: **Remy Beasley, Darren Jeffries, Rhodri Meilir**

Directed by **James Grieve**; Designed by **Jacob Hughes**; Lighting Design by **Katharine Williams**
Sound Design by **Dominic Kennedy**; Video Design by **Daniel Denton**

12 - 25 June

Press night: 15 June

Jimmy's writing messages. In pepperoni. On top of pizzas.

Adding meats to "handmade" artisan pizzas, Jim's life is going nowhere. But after watching the film *I Hired A Contract Killer*, he's found a solution – he'll just put out a hit on himself.

What could possibly go wrong?

A darkly funny, quick-witted, fast-moving new comedy by acclaimed writer Alan Harris (*Love, Lies & Taxidermy*).

A filmed version of the show will be available later this year.

Alan Harris' plays include *Sugar Baby* (Edinburgh Fringe 2017, Soho Theatre 2018), *How My Light is Spent* (winner of the Judges' Award at the 2015 Bruntwood Prize, produced by the Royal Exchange, Manchester, Sherman Theatre and Theatre By The Lake), *Love, Lies and Taxidermy* (Paines Plough, Theatr Clwyd and Sherman Theatre), *The Opportunity of Efficiency* (New National Theatre Tokyo / National Theatre Wales), *A Good Night Out in The Valleys* (the inaugural production of the newly formed National Theatre Wales), *The Future For Beginners* (liveartshow / Wales Millennium Centre), *The Magic Toyshop* (Invisible Ink / Theatr Iolo), *Cardboard Dad* (Sherman Cymru), *Miss Brown To You* (Hijinx Theatre), and *Orange* (Sgript Cymru).

Remy Beasley plays Irina. Her previous theatre credits include *Do Our Best* (Edinburgh Festival Fringe), *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Regent's Park Open Air Theatre), *Growth, Love Lies and Taxidermy, I got Superpowers for my Birthday* (Paines Plough), *The Insatiable, Silly Kings, Little Dogs, Love Steals Us From Loneliness* (National Theatre Wales), *Symphony* (Lyric Hammersmith, UK tour), and *Taming of the Shrew* (Shakespeare's Globe). For television, her credits include *The Salisbury Poisonings, Shakespeare and Hathaway, The Tourist Trap, Sick of It, and Stella*.

Darren Jeffries plays Mark. His previous theatre credits include *The Sensational Emmet Bradshaw and Trevor* (Slung Low) *This Is Where We Are* (HOME Manchester), *Dear Nomad* (Octagon Theatre), *Eight* (Oldham Coliseum), *My Version of Events* (Hope Mill Theatre), *Shirley* (Square Chapel Arts Centre), and *When Both Sides Surrender* (53two). For television, his credits include series regular Sam O'Brien in *Hollyoaks*.

Rhodri Meilir plays Jim. His previous theatre credits include *Dwyn I Gof* (Theatr Bara Caws), *How My Light is Spent* (UK tour), *The Funfair* (HOME Manchester), *Bright Phoenix* (Everyman Theatre), *Mametz, Dau.Un.Un.Dim/Yn Y Tren, Gwlad Yr Addewid/House Of America* (National Theatre Wales),

and Actorion Yn Dweud Storiâu/Actors Telling Stories (Sherman Cymru). For television, his credits include *Byw Celwydd*, *Craith/Hidden*, *In My Skin*, *Merched Parchus*, *Y Gwyll/Hinterland*, and *Frontier*.

James Grieve returns to Theatr Clwyd to direct – he previously directed *The Assassination of Katie Hopkins*. He was joint Artistic Director of Paines Plough - the UK's national theatre of new plays – where his credits for the company included *Out Of Love*, *Black Mountain* and *How To Be A Kid* (Roundabout, Theatr Clwyd and Orange Tree), *Angry Brigade* and *Jumpers For Goalposts* (Bush Theatre), *Hopelessly Devoted* (Tricycle Theatre, UK Tour), *Wasted* (Latitude Festival), *Tiny Volcanoes* (Liverpool Everyman) *You Cannot Go Forward From Where You Are Right Now* (Traverse Theatre). Other credits include the forthcoming *God's Dice* (Soho Theatre), the award-winning *Translations* (Sheffield Theatres), *The Whisky Taster*, *Psychogeography* (Bush Theatre) and *The List* (Arcola Theatre).

THEATR EMLYN WILLIAMS

CURTAIN UP

By **Meredydd Barker, Matthew Bulgo, Katherine Chandler, Amy Bethan Evans, Ciaran Fitzgerald, Rebecca Jade Hammond, Tracy Harris, Ming Ho, Mari Izzard, Jennifer Lunn, Samantha O'Rourke, Lisa Parry, Kristian Phillips, Mali Ann Rees** and **Alun Saunders**

Directed by **Tamara Harvey** with associates **Francesca Goodridge** and **Emyr John**

16 August – 4 September

Press night: 19 August

30 Actors. 15 writers. 3 weeks. 1 Season

Short plays by Wales' most exciting writers. Theatre at its most live. Each week five new short plays, performed as a collection together by 10 actors. The audience decide who plays who and their props and costumes.

THEATR EMLYN WILLIAMS

WORLD PREMIÈRE

MISSING JULIE

by **Kaite O'Reilly**

Freely adapted from **Strindberg's *Miss Julie***

16 September – 9 October

Press night: 21 September

Miss Julie, the heiress of a Welsh stately home, finds herself in a world radically changed by The Great War. Robbed of marriage after the carnage in the trenches, she is one of the 'surplus women', facing the possibility of a solitary life. In one night of desperate liberation, it seems that the old hierarchies may be over... Will she dare to break all taboos with her servant, John?

Freely adapted from Strindberg's play about class and social Darwinism, *Missing Julie* gives the controversial classic a twentieth century twist.

The production's director is to be recruited as part of the #OpenHire campaign.

Kaite O'Reilly is a playwright, radio dramatist, writer, and dramaturg who works in disability arts and culture and mainstream culture. Her work includes *And Suddenly I Disappear: The Singapore/UK 'd' Monologues* (Elliot Hayes Outstanding Achievement in Dramaturgy honouree), *Lie With Me*, *Woman of Flowers*, *The 9 Fridas*, *The Echo Chamber*, *Told by the Wind*, *peeling*, *The Almond and the Seahorse* (Susan Smith Blackburn Prize finalist), *Persians* (winner of Ted Hughes Award for New Works in Poetry), *I Fall to Pieces*, *In Praise of Fallen Women*, *Speaking Stones*, *Silent Rhythm*, *Henhouse*, *Perfect* (winner of Manchester Theatre Awards' Play of the Year), and *Yard* (winner of Peggy Ramsay Award). O'Reilly received two Cultural Olympiad Commissions for *In Water I'm Weightless* and *Leaner Faster Stronger*, during the 2012 London Paralympics/Olympics.

THEATR EMLYN WILLIAMS

WORLD PREMIÈRE

Theatr Clwyd and Royal Court Theatre present

ISLA

By Tim Price

Directed by **Tamara Harvey**

16 October – 6 November

Press night: 21 October

Do algorithms and machine learning set us free, or trap us forever?

Roger hates technology, but when his daughter gives him an Isla device for *Lockdown 2020*, he finds himself opening up to the virtual assistant device. What happens when the only fulfilling relationship you have is with a digital slave?

Isla asks what are the costs and benefits of machine learning...and do we want the AIs to learn from us?

Tim Price is a Welsh playwright and screenwriter. His plays include *For Once*, *Salt Root and Roe* (winner of Best English Language playwright at the Theatre Critics of Wales Award), *Demos*, *The Radicalisation of Bradley Manning* (winner of the James Tait Black prize for drama), *I'm With the Band*, *Protest Song* and *The Internet Is Serious Business*. He is associate playwright at the Traverse theatre and co-founder of Welsh new writing company Dirty Protest.

Tamara Harvey has been Artistic Director of Theatr Clwyd since August 2015. Most recently she directed the award-winning *What A Carve Up!* and *The Picture of Dorian Gray* (both online), *Orpheus Descending* (co-production with Menier Chocolate Factory), and the world premières of *Pavilion*, and *Home I'm Darling* by Laura Wade – which was nominated for UK Theatre and Evening Standard Awards, as well as five Olivier Awards, winning the Olivier for Best New Comedy. Also for the company she has directed *The Panto That Nearly Never Was!*, *Much Ado About Nothing*, the première of Elinor Cook's award-winning play, *Pilgrims*, *Skylight* by David Hare and the première of Peter Gill's version of *Uncle Vanya* (Best Production, Best Supporting Actress and Best Director in the English Language at the Wales Theatre Awards). She has directed in the West End, throughout the UK

and abroad, working on classic plays, new writing, musical theatre and in film. Her previous credits include the world premières of *From Here to Eternity* (Shaftesbury Theatre), *Breeders* (St James Theatre), *The Kitchen Sink*, *The Contingency Plan*, *Sixty-Six Books* and *tHe dYsFuNCKshOnalZ!* (Bush Theatre), *In the Vale of Health* (a cycle of four plays by Simon Gray), *Elephants* and *Hello/Goodbye* (Hampstead Theatre), *Plague Over England* (Finborough Theatre & West End). Other theatre includes *Kreutzer vs Kreutzer* (Sam Wanamaker Playhouse/Royal Festival Hall), *Bash* (Trafalgar Studios), *Whipping It Up* (New Ambassadors), *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest* (Gielgud & Garrick Theatres), the UK première of *Something Cloudy, Something Clear* (Finborough Theatre) and *Pride and Prejudice* (Sheffield Theatres).

NOTES TO EDITORS:

THEATR CLWYD

The award-winning Theatr Clwyd is Wales' biggest producing theatre. Since 1976 Theatr Clwyd has created exceptional theatre from its home in Flintshire, North Wales. Driven by the vision and dynamism of award-winning Artistic Director Tamara Harvey and Executive Director Liam Evans-Ford, Theatr Clwyd pushes theatrical boundaries creating world-class productions.

Theatr Clwyd's recent partnership with the National Theatre led to the creation of *Home, I'm Darling* which won Best New Comedy at the Olivier Awards and was nominated in five categories including Best Set Design and Best Costume Design. Other projects of note include the UK Theatre Award-winning musical *The Assassination of Katie Hopkins*, the site specific, immersive *Great Gatsby* and the Menier Chocolate Factory co-production of *Orpheus Descending*.

Theatr Clwyd is one of only four theatres in the UK to build sets and props, make costumes and paint scenery in-house. Their impressive team of workshop, wardrobe and scenic artists, props makers and technicians ensure the skills vital to a vibrant theatre industry are nurtured right in the heart of Wales, developing the theatre makers of the future. In addition to this, Theatr Clwyd hosts an artist development programme, trainee technicians' scheme and an eighteen month traineeship for directors, to develop the Artistic Directors of the future.

Theatr Clwyd works in the community across all art forms and is recognised as a cultural leader for its cross generational theatre groups, work in youth justice and diverse programme of arts, health and wellbeing. Award-winning Community Engagement projects include *Arts from the Armchair*, in partnership with Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board, which uses theatrical making skills to help people with early onset memory loss and their carers, and *Justice In A Day*, working in schools and the law courts to help at risk children to realise the consequences of crime.

Theatr Clwyd has completed the public consultation period for a major Capital Redevelopment Project which will reimagine the theatre's public spaces and create a greener, more efficient and sustainable building where world-class art can thrive and social action is rooted for generations to come.

During the Covid-19 pandemic the theatre has been active in helping its community, from hosting



blood donation sessions and distributing food to vulnerable families to creating digital dance

workshops for those with Parkinsons and sharing creative packages and activities with those most isolated.

ROYAL COURT THEATRE:

The Royal Court Theatre is the writers' theatre. It is a leading force in world theatre for cultivating and supporting writers - undiscovered, emerging and established.

Through the writers, the Royal Court is at the forefront of creating restless, alert, provocative theatre about now. We open our doors to the unheard voices and free thinkers that, through their writing, change our way of seeing.

Over 120,000 people visit the Royal Court in Sloane Square, London, each year and many thousands more see our work elsewhere through transfers to the West End and New York, UK and international tours, digital platforms, our residencies across London, and our site-specific work. Through all our work we strive to inspire audiences and influence future writers with radical thinking and provocative discussion.

The Royal Court's extensive development activity encompasses a diverse range of writers and artists and includes an ongoing programme of writers' attachments, readings, workshops and playwriting groups. Twenty years of the International Department's pioneering work around the world means the Royal Court has relationships with writers on every continent.

Since 1956 we have commissioned and produced hundreds of writers, from John Osborne to Jasmine Lee-Jones. Royal Court plays from every decade are now performed on stage and taught in classrooms and universities across the globe.

We're now working to the future and are committed to becoming a carbon net zero arts venue throughout 2020 to ensure we can continue to work for generations of writers and audiences to come.

It is because of this commitment to the writer and our future that we believe there is no more important theatre in the world than the Royal Court.



Listings

Theatr Clwyd

Raikes Lane, Mold CH7 1YA

Box Office: 01352 344101

www.theatrclwyd.com/en/

SEASON AT A GLANCE:

OUTDOOR STAGE FESTIVAL

10 June – 11 September

FOR THE GRACE OF YOU GO I

Emlyn Williams Theatre

12 – 25 June

Press Night: 15 June

CURTAIN UP

Emlyn Williams Theatre

16 August – 4 September

Press night: 19 August

MISSING JULIE

Emlyn Williams Theatre

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ISLA

Emlyn Williams Theatre

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