



Press Release **EMBARGOED UNTIL noon Monday 17 May 2021**

THE ROYAL COURT THEATRE ANNOUNCES REOPENING PROGRAMME WEDNESDAY 16 JUNE 2021 TO SATURDAY 18 DECEMBER 2021, WORK INCLUDES;

[seven methods of killing kylie jenner](#) by Jasmine Lee-Jones

[The Song Project](#) created by Chloe Lamford, Wende, Isobel Waller-Bridge and Imogen Knight

[Is God Is](#) by Aleshea Harris

[What If If Only](#) by Caryl Churchill

[Rare Earth Mettle](#) by Al Smith

Jerwood Theatre Upstairs to house [Living Archive](#) - a series of events and bespoke interactive experiences rejecting the historical notion of an archive bringing attention to work which has been erased or not brought to public consciousness.

Series 5 of the [Playwright's Podcast](#) released in partnership with the **Berliner Theatertreffen Stückemarkt**

£12 Mondays are back

To make up for a lost year under 26 ticket discounts are extended to **under 27s**
Tickets go **on sale** to the general public at 12noon on Friday 21 May 2021



Photo: Helen Murray

Royal Court Theatre Artistic Director Vicky Featherstone

"After the huge success and collaborative adventure of Living Newspaper - when we made 98 films working with over 300 freelancers, reaching 46 countries and with audiences in their thousands we are now proud to be re-opening our building with four pieces of work by eight writers which were all postponed by the sudden onset of the global pandemic. We are also thrilled to be announcing a new short play written at the height of this time, by Caryl Churchill. It is testament to the vision and questing of the playwrights and artists at the Royal Court, that the work programmed two years ago is still way ahead of its time. In fact, seeing through the new optics of our post-pandemic and ruptured world these pieces now seem more acute, more urgent

and more universal than ever. The Royal Court was created in 1956 to be ahead of public taste and consciousness and if anything, this work proves that that mission is as alive now as it ever was.

We are so humbled by the support of our audience, artists, donors, board and staff since having to close and cannot wait to welcome them all back with this work, which we have fiercely protected from the pandemic.”

Royal Court Theatre Executive Producer Lucy Davies

“When the pandemic closed our doors we were about to embark on our transition to achieve carbon net zero. Our commitment to this work remains urgent, and we have spent the past months deepening our understanding and adapting our practices for re-opening. The upheavals in our sector have insisted we look at all of the ways we can be a just, equitable, transparent and ethical cultural space - from our anti-oppression work, to our relationship with freelancers, to credible climate pledges. Our values, our mission and our purpose have been re-articulated and re-set for a hopeful future.”

The Glow by Alistair McDowall, *Purple Snowflakes* and *Titty Wanks* by Sarah Hanly, *A Fight Against...* by Pablo Manzi and *two Palestinians go dogging* by Sami Ibrahim will be back in the first half of 2022.



For shows image and artwork crediting information, [see here](#).

seven methods of killing kylie jenner

By Jasmine Lee-Jones

Directed by Milli Bhatia

Wednesday 16 June 2021 - Tuesday 27 July 2021

Jerwood Theatre Downstairs

Press night Tuesday 22 June 2021, 7.45pm

<https://royalcourttheatre.com/whats-on/sevenmethods/>



Following its sold out premiere in 2019, the award-winning play returns for a limited 6 week run in the Jerwood Theatre Downstairs performed by Tia Bannon and Leanne Henlon. Digital capture plans will follow in due course.

seven methods of killing kylie jenner explores cultural appropriation, queerness, friendship and the ownership of black bodies online and IRL.

“Look it’s two two tweets that helped me vent my frustrations. It’s really not that deep...”



Holed up in her bedroom, Cleo's aired twenty-two Whatsapps from Kara and has cut off contact with the rest of the world. It doesn't mean she's been silent though – she's got a lot to say. On the internet, actions don't always speak louder than words...

**"RETWEET
QUOTE TWEET
LIKE
I'm woooooooooooooooooooooak"**

Jasmine Lee-Jones won multiple awards for her debut play directed by Milli Bhatia including the Evening Standard and Critics' Circle Most Promising Playwright Awards, and the Alfred Fagon Award. She originally developed as a writer through the Royal Court Theatre's Young Court programme as part of their commitment to nurturing new voices. Milli Bhatia, who was previously Trainee Director at the Royal Court and is now a Literary Associate, directs.

Commenting on her play being the first to welcome audiences back to the Jerwood Theatre Downstairs, playwright Jasmine Lee-Jones states;

"It's been nearly two years since my first play opened at the Royal Court. In that time the world has been filled with all number of storms - and not just of the Twitter variety.

In that time, like many of us, I've often questioned the value of both theatre and storytelling as a whole. What is its purpose? Where does it fit in a world ravaged by death in the wake of COVID and all other manner of institutional violences?

To that question one answer seemed to ring loud and clear. As a writer, it's my job to dream. And, in my experience, even when one is in seemingly the most dire of circumstances the capacity to dream is the only thing that can help us imagine a reality that transcends our current circumstances and, in doing so, give us the faith to face another day.

The thing I missed the most about theatres as they shut down worldwide was the feeling of being in an audience with people, everyone agreeing to that magical contract of taking an imaginative leap to pretend whatever is placed in front of them onstage in that moment is real.

As such, after all that's happened over the past two years that makes my job very special. To have the opportunity to have an audience in communion with my innermost thoughts, conflicts and imaginings.

To have an audience share in my dream.

It's good to be back."

The creative team for *seven methods of killing kylie jenner* includes Rajha Shakiry (Designer), Jessica Hung Han Yun and Amy Mae Smith (Co-Lighting Designers), Elena Peña (Sound Designer), Delphine Gaborit (Movement Director), Jemima Robinson (Associate Designer) and Shereen Hamilton (Assistant Director).

Half of all tickets for *seven methods of killing kylie jenner* will be available for £18 or less.

seven methods of killing kylie jenner was originally part of the Royal Court's Jerwood New Playwrights programme, supported by Jerwood Arts.



Tia Bannon and Leanne Henlon.

For biographies, see notes to editors.

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The Song Project

Some things can only be sung

Concept by Chloe Lamford and Wende

Created by Chloe Lamford, Wende, Isobel Waller-Bridge and Imogen Knight

With words by E.V. Crowe, Sabrina Mahfouz, Somalia Nonyé Seaton, Stef Smith and Debris Stevenson

Tuesday 17 August 2021 - Saturday 28 August 2021

Jerwood Theatre Downstairs

Press night Friday 20 August 2021, 8pm

<https://royalcourttheatre.com/whats-on/thesongproject/>



The Song Project began as a bold experiment bringing together a group of artists and playwrights to co-create in a new way, starting with the idea that some things can only be sung.

Now as we begin to gather again, *The Song Project* embraces our inherent need for shared rituals to deal with life-changing events and gives space to the knotty, emotional complexities of life.

Through music performed live by Wende and a company of musicians, the work explores the hopes and anxieties we all face, diving into the messiness of birth, death, rage, grace, friendship, motherhood, mothers,

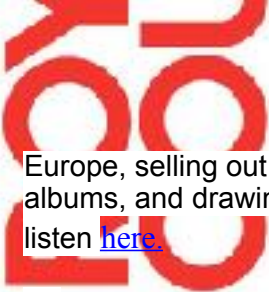
loss and ageing.

Conceived by Royal Court associate designer Chloe Lamford and award-winning Dutch singer and composer Wende, in collaboration with composer Isobel Waller-Bridge, choreographer Imogen Knight and playwrights E.V. Crowe, Sabrina Mahfouz, Somalia Nonyé Seaton, Stef Smith and Debris Stevenson, *The Song Project* focuses on those moments in life where rationality feels irrelevant.

Commenting on the continuing project Wende states;

"We were so ready last year May to perform The Song Project, and now I have kept the show under my pillow a whole year and can't be more ready to finally be able to share the beautiful collaboration, the words, the songs, the music, that we have created for you, and to have my debut in London!"

The Song Project is an exclusive opportunity to see Wende, one of the Netherlands' most successful artists, live in London for 10 performances. Wende has become renowned across



Europe, selling out every one of her tours, winning multiple awards for both live performances and albums, and drawing comparisons with the likes of PJ Harvey. Find out more about her music and listen [here](#).

Is God Is

By Aleshea Harris

Directed by Ola Ince

Friday 10 September 2021 - Saturday 23 October 2021

Jerwood Theatre Downstairs

Press night Thursday 16 September 2021, 7.30pm

<https://royalcourttheatre.com/whats-on/isgodis/>



Aleshea Harris' award-winning play collides the ancient, the modern, the tragic, the spaghetti Western, hip-hop and Afropunk.

"I wanna step on somethin for once. See what it feel like. Must feel good."

When a letter arrives from the mother they thought was dead, 21 year old twins Racine and Anaia travel from the Dirty South to the California desert and a yellow house with teal shutters.

They are on a mission to avenge her past and ready to take down anyone who stands in their way.

"We ain't killers"

"How you figure that? ... Iss in the blood."

Aleshea Harris' revenge tale about two women seeking justice and taking control of their own narratives, has received the Relentless Award and Obie Award for Playwriting. The UK Premiere will be directed by Royal Court Associate Director Ola Ince.

Playwright Aleshea Harris commenting on *Is God Is*;

"The Royal Court's commitment to producing my play is one I receive with deep gratitude. To know that it would see the light of day on their stage has been uplifting during this past year of loss and uncertainty."

Casting to be announced.

What If If Only

A new short play by Caryl Churchill

Directed by James Macdonald

Wednesday 29 September 2021 - Saturday 23 October 2021

Jerwood Theatre Downstairs

Press night Friday 1 October 2021, 6pm

<https://royalcourttheatre.com/whats-on/whatifonly/>



"Make me happen"

Your partner has died - could things have been different?

Caryl Churchill's recent work includes *Glass. Kill. Bluebeard. Imp* and *Escaped Alone*. Many of her plays which first premiered at the Royal Court are now considered modern classics including *Top Girls*, *A Number* and *Far Away*. James Macdonald directs.

Running time: 14 minutes.

Casting to be announced.

Rare Earth Mettle

By Al Smith

Directed by Hamish Pirie

Wednesday 10 November 2021 - Saturday 18 December 2021

Jerwood Theatre Downstairs

Press night Tuesday 16 November 2021, 7.30pm

<https://royalcourttheatre.com/whats-on/rareearthmettle/>



Al Smith's epic new play is a brutally comic exploration of risk, delusion and power.

"You don't tell an American to turn off their light; you build them a better light bulb."

Three worlds collide on a Bolivian salt flat.

A leading doctor, who has travelled from the UK, believes she can save the NHS, solve the British mental health crisis, and advance her career.

A Silicon Valley billionaire, who has been watching the site from his satellites, believes he can save the world building affordable electric cars, and make millions of dollars in the process.

And the indigenous community, who have preserved the land for generations, believe both visitors have propositions that could transform their futures.

Each pursue their own ambitions, but which is the greatest good?

Al Smith returns to the Royal Court following *Harrogate*, for which he was nominated Most Promising Playwright (Evening Standard Theatre Awards). He first worked with the theatre as a participant of a Royal Court Writers' Group where emerging writers are given space and support to develop. Royal Court Associate Director Hamish Pirie directs.

Commenting on his play getting postponed due to lockdown playwright Al Smith states;

"We were halfway through rehearsals when the first lockdown began. I feel very fortunate to be able to return to that work we were making, and enormously grateful to the Court for their unwavering commitment to my play when everything creative felt shattered. I can't wait to share it."

Casting news to follow.

Rare Earth Mettle has been generously supported with a lead gift from Charles Holloway.


Further support has been received from the Cockayne Grant for the Arts, a donor advised fund of The London Community Foundation. This play is a recipient of an Edgerton Foundation New Play Award.

Living Archive

Jerwood Theatre Upstairs

Dates to be announced

Living Archive is an imaginative playground, a portal that reimagines the history of the Royal Court in order to redefine its future. It aims to enlist radical thought and imagination.



It aims to resist the idea of 'canon' and instead bring attention to work which has been erased or not been brought to the attention of our audiences.

Living Archive is a portal to an alternative and decolonising lens on what the building has been and does.

Through a series of events and bespoke interactive experiences *Living Archive* will highlight the gaps of our history.

Events to be announced.

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Berliner Theatertreffen Stückemarkt In Partnership with The Royal Court Theatre Releases Series Five Of The Playwright's Podcast Featuring This Year's Stückemarkt Artists Available from 10am (BST) Tuesday 18 May 2021



On Tuesday 18 May 2021 at 10am (BST) 11am (CEST) the Berliner Theatertreffen Stückemarkt and Royal Court Theatre will release five new podcasts as part of a special takeover of the Playwright's Podcast.

Playwright Simon Stephens talks to the six Stückemarkt writers about their lives and their work, their approaches and their careers, and their plays which are being streamed as part of this year's Stückemarkt festival.

Series five's playwrights and Stückemarkt artists are Jude Christian, Laurence Dauphinais, Eve Leigh, Sam Max and Ta-Nia (aka Talia Paulette Oliveras & Nia Farrell).

All five podcasts can be listened to from Tuesday at www.royalcourttheatre.com/podcasts or via the Berliner Festspiele [website](#) as well as being available to subscribe and download from [iTunes](#) and [Spotify](#).

Transcriptions of the recorded conversations from all five episodes are also available on the Royal Court website once the podcasts are live.*

Commenting on the podcast series playwright and host Simon Stephens said;

"It has been a real pleasure over the last couple of weeks to talk to the six artists, representing five pieces that have been chosen by the jurors of this year's Stückemarkt Theatertreffen, about their work. It has been a really beautiful way to celebrate the possibility of ending this pandemic to talk to Laurence Dauphinais from Montreal, Sam Max from New York, Ta-Nia also from New York, Eve Leigh from New York currently in London and Jude Christian in Manchester about their plans for this decade. I can't think of anything more invigorating than to really engage with artists that are making such compelling work."

The Playwright's Podcast is presented by Simon Stephens, produced by Anoushka Warden with editing and sound design by Emily Legg for the Royal Court Theatre.



Listen to Series 1 – 4 [here](#).

For images see [here](#).

***Note: Transcripts are generated using a combination of speech recognition software and human transcribers, and may contain errors. Please check the corresponding audio before quoting in print.**

Links to the writers livestream performances of their Stückemarkt plays

All readings/recordings will be available for 24 hours from the 18 May.

Eve Leigh Midnight Movie <https://digital.berlinerfestspiele.de/stueckemarkt/midnight-movie>

Laurence Dauphinais Aalaapi <https://digital.berlinerfestspiele.de/stueckemarkt/aalaapi>

Sam Max COOP <https://digital.berlinerfestspiele.de/stueckemarkt/coop-deutsch-zaun>

Ta-Nia (aka Talia Paulette Oliveras & Nia Farrell) Dreams in Blk Major <https://digital.berlinerfestspiele.de/stueckemarkt/dreams-in-blk-major>

Jude Christian Nanjing <https://digital.berlinerfestspiele.de/stueckemarkt/nanjing>

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Previously announced:

Theatr Clwyd Announces Reopening Plans Including *Is/la* by Tim Price - a Co-Production with the Royal Court Theatre

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

Is/la by Tim Price, directed by Tamara Harvey, has been announced in this season in a co-production with the Royal Court Theatre. It will run at Theatr Clwyd from Saturday 16 October 2021 – Saturday 6 November 2021.

For more information, [see here](#).

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ENDS-

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

Notes to Editors:

***Headline image and artwork crediting:** (Left to right) Top row: *seven methods of killing kylie jenner* artwork, *The Song Project* (photo credit: Ali Wright), *Is God Is* artwork; Bottom row: *What If* artwork, *Rare Earth Mettle* (artwork credit: Original images by Chris Staring and Leonardo Rossatti). No credit is needed if it is not stated.

For images [click here](#).

Press Nights:

Tuesday 22 June 2021, 7.45pm	<i>seven methods of killing kylie jenner</i> by Jasmine Lee-Jones	Jerwood Theatre Downstairs
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Friday 20 August 2021, 8pm	<i>The Song Project</i> created by Chloe Lamford, Wende, Isobel Waller-Bridge and Imogen Knight	Jerwood Theatre Downstairs
Thursday 16 September 2021, 7.30pm	<i>Is God Is</i> by Aleshea Harris	Jerwood Theatre Downstairs
Friday 1 October 2021, 6pm	<i>What If If Only</i> by Caryl Churchill	Jerwood Theatre Downstairs
Tuesday 16 November 2021, 7.30pm	<i>Rare Earth Mettle</i> by Al Smith	Jerwood Theatre Downstairs

Information

Productions will be performed in line with all official government guidelines in place at the time. We will adhere to our Covid safety policies to ensure audience experience is as enjoyable as possible.

Visit our website and FAQs for information about booking tickets, getting to the theatre and access.

For information about the outdoor bar Court in the Square, and to book a table, [see here](#).

Our pricing is accessible

- Half of all tickets will be available for £18 or less for *seven methods of killing kylie jenner*.
- Multibuy ticket - Book 3 or more productions and save 15%. Valid on Band AA – B tickets, excluding Mondays. Tickets must be booked at the same time. Offer valid until 25 June.
- To make up for a lost year of discount schemes for young people in 2020, we are extending this discount for under 26s to under 27s. Tickets will be available at £12 for all productions across the season.
- Our £12 Monday scheme is continuing.

General ticket prices

seven methods of killing kylie jenner £12 - £35

The Song Project £12 - £35

Is God Is £12 - £45

What If If Only £6 - £10

Rare Earth Mettle £12 - £45

For Other ways to save see here: <https://royalcourttheatre.com/your-visit/tickets/ways-to-save/>

Support

As a registered charity, all donations received via bookings will go to Support the Court, a fund which enables the Royal Court to continue to create ground-breaking new work for audiences. The support allows the theatre to keep running all of its behind-the-scenes projects, delivering writers programmes here in the UK and across the world, and schemes for, and with, young people. Find out more [here](#).

Biographies:

seven methods of killing kylie jenner

Jasmine Lee-Jones (Writer)

For the Royal Court: **Living Newspaper, seven methods of killing kylie jenner, dark matter (Beyond the Court), say her name, drinking concrete [co-writer] (Open Court).**

As writer, other theatre includes: **My White Best Friend (and Other Letters Left Unsaid) (Bunker).**

As performer, theatre includes: **The Last Days of Judas Iscariot (Guildhall); The Reluctant Fundamentalist (Yard/Finborough); Dido Queen of Carthage, The Malcontent (Globe Young Players).**

As writer/performer, theatre includes: **I Used to Love H.E.R. (Atlantic Theater Company).**

As performer, film includes: **Pink [short].**

Awards include: **Evening Standard Award for Most Promising Playwright, Alfred Fagon Award, Stage Debut Award for Best Writer, Critics' Circle Theatre Award for Most Promising Playwright, European New Talent Drama Award (seven methods of killing kylie jenner).**

Jasmine was a writer-on-attachment for the 2016 Open Court Festival.

Milli Bhatia (Director)

As director, for the Royal Court: **Living Newspaper, seven methods of killing kylie jenner, My White Best Friend (and Other Letters Left Unsaid), This Liquid Earth: A Eulogy in Verse [Edinburgh International Festival], Half Full (&RWCMD), Dismantle This Room.**

As assistant director, for the Royal Court: **Inside Bitch (& Clean Break), Poet in da Corner, One For Sorrow, Instructions for Correct Assembly, Girls & Boys.**

As director, other theatre includes: **Dismantle This Room, The Hijabi Monologues (Bush), My White Best Friend (and Other Letters Left Unsaid) (Bunker), Empower House (Theatre Royal, Stratford East).**

As director, film includes: **HOME(BODY) or The Tall Story (Young Vic), Yash Gill's Power Half Hour, Tiny Dancers (NYT).**

As director, audio includes: **Ghosts In The Blood (Audible).**

Milli is a Literary Associate at the Royal Court.

Tia Bannon (Kara)

For the Royal Court: **seven methods of killing kylie jenner.**

Other theatre includes: **Dead Don't Floss [part of New Views] (National); The Winter's Tale, Pericles (Globe); Camelot: Shining City (Sheffield Theatres).**

Television includes: **Midsomer Murders, This is a Relationship, Shakespeare & Hathaway.**

Film includes: **The Midnight Sky, Drifters, Balls [short], Nightless [short], Oxygen & Terror [short].**

Radio includes: **Camberwell Green, Pygmalion, Martians, Relativity 2.**

Leanne Henlon (Cleo)


seven methods of killing kylie jenner is Leanne's professional debut.

For more biographies, visit the show page on the [website](#).

The Song Project

Chloe Lamford (Co-Creator - Designer)

For the Royal Court: **Living Newspaper, Shoe Lady, Superhoe [as design consultant], The Song Project [& co-creator], The Cane, Pity, Gundog, My Mum's a Twat, Grimly Handsome [& co-creator], The Site Programme, Victory Condition, B, Road, Nuclear War, Unreachable, Ophelia's Zimmer (& Schaubühne, Berlin), How to Hold Your Breath, God Bless the Child, 2071, Teh Internet Is Serious Business, Open Court 2013, Circle Mirror Transformation.**



Other theatre includes: **The Antipodes** [& co-director], **John, Amadeus, Rules for Living, The World of Extreme Happiness** (National); **Europe, Teenage Dick, The Tempest, Salt Root & Roe** (Donmar); **The American Clock** (Old Vic); **Hilary & Clinton** (Broadway); **The Crucible** (Theater Basel); **TBCTV** (Somerset House); **Hamilton Complex** (Schauspielhaus, Bochum); **1984** (& **Headlong/West End/Broadway**), **The Duchess of Malfi** (Almeida); **The Maids** (Toneelgroep, Amsterdam); **Shakespeare's Last Play, Atmen** (Schaubühne, Berlin); **Our Ladies of Perpetual Succour** (& **Live/National/West End/International tour**), **My Shrinking Life, An Appointment with the Wicker Man, Knives in Hens** (National Theatre of Scotland); **Britney & Goofy, Het Hamiltoncomplex** (Hetpaleis, Antwerp); **The Events** (& **ATC**), **Disco Pigs, Sus, Blackta** [costume] (Young Vic); **Praxis Makes Perfect, The Radicalisation of Bradley Manning** (National Theatre Wales); **Boys** (Headlong/Soho); **Jubilee, Cannibals** (Royal Exchange, Manchester); **The History Boys** (Crucible, Sheffield); **it felt empty when the heart went at first but it is alright now** (Clean Break/Arcola); **This Wide Night** (Soho).
Opera & dance includes: **Verklärte Nacht** (Rambert/Kim Brandstrup); **Miranda** (Opera Comique, Paris); **Ariadne Auf Naxos, Alcina, Pelleas & Melisande** (Aix-en-Provence Festival); **The Little Sweep, Let's Make an Opera** (Malmo Opera House, Sweden); **The Magic Flute** (English Touring Opera); **War & Peace** (Scottish Opera/RCS).
Awards include: **Arts Foundation Fellowship Award for Design for Performance in Set & Costume, Theatrical Management Association Award for Best Theatre Design** (Small Miracle).

Chloe is Associate Designer at the Royal Court.

Wende (Co-Creator - Performer & Composer)

For the Royal Court: **The Song Project.**

Singer-songwriter, theatre-maker, chansonnière, actress, performer, music producer, artist-in-residence at the Royal Carré Theatre in Amsterdam: Wende can do it all. With her distinctive voice and a healthy disregard for boxes and trends, she tells stories on the cutting edge of who and why.

In 2004 Wende released her debut album of interpretations of a repertoire of French chansons. With her first English-language release No.9 in 2009, Wende repositioned her image as a contemporary singer-songwriter by capturing a new music-loving audience, impressing them with her fresh sound and unique performance style. In 2018 she performed Kurt Weill and Bertolt Brecht's The Seven Deadly Sins with the Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra and has performed tracks from her album Last Resistance with the National Opera and Ballet in Amsterdam.

Wende mainly uses her platform for challenging, boundary-breaking projects where language, technology and genre all play dynamic and surprising roles. Her project MENS (HUMAN), a collaboration with Royal Court Associate Designer Chloe Lamford and director Marcus Azzini from Toneelgroep Oostpool, was a raw and controversial image of the times, making use of intoxicating electro beats and open-hearted, vulnerable songs.

In her new project De Wildernis (The Wilderness), which will premiere in Amsterdam in January 2022 and is again in collaboration with Chloe Lamford, Wende looks for answers to questions that we would rather not ask, but that touch our heart, head and gut. Curious, courageous and restless, she goes off the beaten track and shines light on areas where the shadow normally prevails.

Isobel Waller-Bridge (Co-Creator - Composer)

For the Royal Court: **The Song Project.**

Other theatre includes: **Woyceck** (Old Vic); **The Girl on the Train, The Damned United** (Leeds Playhouse); **King Lear** (& **BAM, NYC**), **The Watsons, If Only** (Chichester Festival); **Curtains** (Rose, Kingston); **To the Lighthouse** (NT Studio); **The Philanderer** (Orange Tree); **End of Longing, Neville's Island** (West End); **Dutchman** (Young Vic); **Hecuba** (RSC); **Dinner with Friends** (Park); **Kite** (London International Mime Festival/The Wrong Crowd); **Fleabag** (& **UK tour**), **Blink** (& **Traverse**), **The Girl with the Iron Claws** (& **The Wrong Crowd/UK tour**),

Lampedusa (Soho); Yellow Face (National); Billy Liar, Orlando (Royal Exchange, Manchester); Incognito (Bush); Mydidae (Trafalgar Studios); Forever House (Theatre Royal, Plymouth); Sleuth (Watermill); Gruesome Playground Injuries (Gate).

Television includes: Black Mirror, Fleabag, ABC Murders, The Split, Vanity Fair, War & Peace, Frozen Planet: The Making Of, Life.

Film includes: Vita & Virginia, A Battle in Waterloo, Secret Horse: The Quest for True Appaloosa, Dark Horse, The Imposter, The Bounty Hunter, The Day of the Flowers, James, Tracks, Physics, Beautiful Enough, Ellie, Disaffected, Meeting Mr Tiller.

Awards include: Off West End Award for Best Sound Design (Incognito); Ivor Novello Award (Life).

Imogen Knight (Co-Creator - Choreographer)

For the Royal Court: The Song Project, Bodies, Fake News, Linda, God Bless the Child, The Low Road, A Time to Reap.

As director, for the Royal Court: Nuclear War.

Other theatre includes: Jesus Hopped the A Train, The Emperor, Measure for Measure, Dirty Butterfly (Young Vic); The Nico Project, The Skriker (Manchester International Festival); Uncle Vanya, Rosmersholm, The Birthday Party (West End); The Last Testament of Lillian Bilocca [& co-director] (Hull City of Culture 2017); Europe, Belleville, Knives in Hens, The Lady from the Sea (Donmar); Our Ladies of Perpetual Succour (& National Theatre of Scotland/UK tour/West End), Macbeth, Amadeus, Dead Don't Floss, The Threepenny Opera, Les Blancs, I Want My Hat Back, Edward II, Dido, Queen of Carthage (National).

Television includes: Chernobyl, Intergalactic, Patrick Melrose, The Rook, The Hollow Crown, Call the Midwife.

Film includes: The Bubble.

E.V. Crowe (Writer)

For the Royal Court: Living Newspaper, Shoe Lady, The Song Project, The Sewing Group, Hero, Kin, The Unknown (The Site Programme); Sex, Collaboration (Open Court); One Runs The Other Doesn't (Theatre Local).

Other theatre includes: Brenda (HighTide/Yard); I Can Hear You (RSC); Virgin (nabokov/Watford Palace); Liar Liar (Unicorn); Young Pretender (nabokov/Edinburgh Festival Fringe); Doris Day, A Just Act (Clean Break/Soho).

Dance includes: Live Feed/I'm Going to Show You (Siobhan Davies Dance).

Television includes: Pig Life (from Snatches: Moments from 100 Years of Women's Lives), Glue, Coming Up: Big Girl.

Radio includes: How to Say Goodbye Properly, Cry Babies, I Confess.

Awards include: Imison Award for Best Radio Drama Script (How to Say Goodbye Properly).

Sabrina Mahfouz (Writer)

For the Royal Court: Living Newspaper, A History of Water in the Middle East, The Song Project.

Other theatre includes: Noughts & Crosses (Pilot); With a Little Bit of Luck (Paines Plough); Zeraffa Giraffa (Little Angel/Omnibus); Dry Ice (POP/Bush); Chef (POP/Just For Laughs); Clean (Traverse); Offside (Futures Theatre).

Awards include: King's Alumni Arts & Culture Award; Sky Arts Academy Award for Poetry; Herald Angel Award (Clean); Westminster Prize for New Playwrights; Best Drama Production, BBC Radio and Music Awards (With A Little Bit of Luck); Fringe First Award (Chef).

Sabrina is the editor of *The Things I Would Tell You: British Muslim Women Write*, a 2017 Guardian Book of the Year and the anthology *Smashing It: Working Class Artists on Life, Art and Making It Happen*. She writes poetry, libretti, screenplays, articles and fiction. Sabrina is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Literature and writer-in-residence at



Shakespeare's Globe.

Somalia Nonyé Seaton (Writer)

For the Royal Court: **Living Newspaper, The Song Project.**

Other theatre includes: **Aesop's Fables (Unicorn); Mini Me [part of My White Best Friend Festival] (Bunker); Crowning Glory (Theatre Royal, Stratford East); House (Clean Break/ Yard); Womb (Bush); Fall of the Kingdom, Rise of the Footsoldier (RSC).**

Awards include: **Susan Smith Blackburn Finalist Prize (Fall of the Kingdom, Rise of the Footsoldier).**

Somalia is a British Jamaican and Nigerian writer and theatre maker. She is Founder and Artistic Director of No Ball Games Allowed, a company creating work with young people at its core. Somalia was recently selected to receive a Jerwood New Playwrights commission.

Stef Smith (Writer)

For the Royal Court: **Living Newspaper, The Song Project, Human Animals.**

Other theatre includes: **Nora: A Doll's House (Glasgow Citizen's Theatre & Young Vic); Acts of Resistance (Headlong Futures/Bristol Old Vic); Nora (Citizen's); Love Letter to Europe (Underbelly); How to Grow a Nation (Young Vic); Roadkill (Tron/Traverse); Smoke & Mirrors (& DOT Istanbul/Theatre Uncut), Girl in the Machine, Swallow (Traverse); Remote (NT Connections); Back to Back to Back (Cardboard Citizens); Cured (Glasgay! Festival); Grey Matter (Lemon Tree); Falling/Flying (Tron).**

Radio includes: **Tea & Symmetry.**

Awards include: **Olivier Award for Outstanding Achievement in an Affiliate Theatre (Roadkill).**

Stef is an Associate Artist at the Traverse Theatre and Leeds Playhouse, and recently took part in the BBC Drama Writersroom.

Debris Stevenson (Writer)

As writer/performer, for the Royal Court: **Poet in da Corner (& 14-18 NOW).**

As writer, for the Royal Court: **The Song Project.**

Dyslexic writer, Grime poet, working-class academic, pansexual ex-Mormon and Bashment dancing social activist from the seam between East London and Essex: it's not simple.

Debris has no choice but to explore the intersectional, unexpected and unjust – it's not just who she is, it's her responsibility in a world that all too often summarises us into a caption. Educated through the evolution of Grime in East London and nurtured by the Roundhouse in Camden, at just 18 Debris organised and hosted Turning Point Festival whilst followed by Channel 4 (Year dot). Since then she has founded Mouthy Poets, an organisation teaching thousands of young people poetry as a life skill, with which she has raised over £300,000 to develop young artists and worked in over 25 countries. She has designed and delivered foundation poetry and performance modules at Nottingham University and had her debut poetry pamphlet, Pigeon Party, published by Flipped Eye.

When Debris isn't writing, speaking, teaching or performing, she can also often be found dancing to Grime, Soca, Afrobeats and Dancehall for organisations such as The Heatwave and Red Bull Music Academy.

Is God Is

Aleshea Harris (Writer)

Theatre includes: **Is God Is (Soho Rep., NYC); What to Send Up When It Goes Down (Movement Theatre Company, NYC).**

Awards include: **Relentless Award, Helen Merrill Playwriting Award, Obie Award for Playwriting (Is God Is); Windham-Campbell Literary Prize, Hermitage Greenfield Prize, Steinberg Playwriting Award, Samuel French Award.**

Aleshea has completed residencies at Hermitage Artists Retreat, MacDowell Colony, Hedgebrook, Djerassi & SPACE on Ryder Farm.



Ola Ince (Director)

For the Royal Court: **Living Newspaper, Poet in da Corner (& UK tour), White Sky (& RWCMD/Gate).**

Other theatre includes: **Appropriate (Donmar); Twilight: Los Angeles 1992 (Gate); Start Swimming (& Summerhall), The Convert, Dutchman, One Million Tiny Plays About Britain (Young Vic); Broad Shadow, Access Denied, Cutting It (National); Rachel, The Soft of Her Palm (Finborough); Pets Corner (Arcola); Games (Pleasance).**

As associate director, theatre includes: **Tina: The Musical (West End/Broadway/Hamburg/Utrecht); Tipping the Velvet (& Royal Lyceum, Edinburgh), Bugsy Malone (Lyric, Hammersmith); Fog (UK tour).**

As assistant director, theatre includes: **Shakespeare Trilogy (Donmar/St. Ann's, NYC); Ma Rainey's Black Bottom, Dara, A Taste of Honey (National); Porgy & Bess (Regent's Park Open Air); Josephine & I (Bush); Wild Swans, Disco Pigs, Electra (Young Vic); Fanta Orange, Blue Serge (Finborough); Secret Thoughts, The Demolition Man (Octagon, Bolton).**

Awards include: **Genesis Future Director Award.**

Ola has been Resident Assistant Director and Senior Reader at the Finborough Theatre, and was recipient of the Rose Bruford Directing Bursary and the Boris Karloff Bursary. In 2015 Ola became a BBC Performing Arts Fellow and Resident Associate Director at the Lyric, Hammersmith. She is currently an Associate Director at the Royal Court and Artistic Associate at the Lyric and Theatre Royal, Stratford East.

What If If Only

Caryl Churchill (Writer)

For the Royal Court: **Glass. Kill. Bluebeard. Imp., Escaped Alone (& BAM, NYC), Pigs & Dogs, Love & Information, Seven Jewish Children, Drunk Enough To Say I Love You?, A Number, Far Away, This is a Chair, Blue Heart, Mad Forest, Ice Cream, Serious Money, Fen, Top Girls, Cloud 9, Traps, Light Shining in Buckinghamshire, Owners.**

Other theatre includes: **Here We Go, The Skriker (National).**

Music theatre includes: **Lives of the Great Poisoners, Hotel (both with Orlando Gough).**

Caryl has also written for radio & television.

James Macdonald (Director)

For the Royal Court: **Glass. Kill. Bluebeard. Imp., One For Sorrow, The Children (& MTC/Broadway), Escaped Alone (& BAM, NYC), The Wolf From The Door, Circle Mirror Transformation, Love & Information (& NYTW), Cock (& Duke, NYC), Drunk Enough to Say I Love You? (& Public, NYC), Dying City (& Lincoln Center, NYC), Fewer Emergencies, Lucky Dog, Blood, Blasted, 4.48 Psychosis (& St Ann's Warehouse, NYC/US & European tours), Hard Fruit, Real Classy Affair, Cleansed, Bailegangaire, Harry & Me, Simpatico, Peaches, Thyestes, Hammett's Apprentice, The Terrible Voice of Satan, Putting Two & Two Together.**

Other theatre includes: **The Welkin, John, Dido Queen of Carthage, The Hour We Knew Nothing of Each Other, Exiles (National); The Night of the Iguana, Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?, The Father, Glengarry Glen Ross, The Changing Room (West End); True West (Roundabout/Broadway); The Way of the World, Roots (Donmar); Wild, And No More Shall We Part, #aiww – The Arrest of Ai Weiwei (Hampstead); The Father (Theatre Royal, Bath/Kiln); Bakkhai, A Delicate Balance, Judgment Day, The Triumph of Love (Almeida); The Chinese Room (Williamstown Festival); Cloud Nine (Atlantic, NYC); A Number (NYTW); King Lear, The Book of Grace (Public, NYC); Top Girls (MTC/Broadway); John Gabriel Borkman (Abbey, Dublin/BAM, NYC); The Tempest, Roberto Zucco (RSC); Troilus und Cressida, Die Kopien (Schaubuehne, Berlin); 4.48 Psychose (Burgtheater, Vienna); Love's Labour's Lost, Richard II (Royal Exchange, Manchester); The Rivals (Nottingham Playhouse); The Crackwalker (Gate); The Seagull (Crucible, Sheffield); Miss Julie (Oldham Coliseum); Juno & the Paycock, Ice Cream/Hot Fudge, Romeo & Juliet, Fool for Love, Savage/Love, Master Harold & the Boys (Contact, Manchester); Prem (BAC/Soho Poly).**

Opera includes: **A Ring A Lamp A Thing (ROH); Eugene Onegin, Rigoletto (Welsh National Opera); Die Zauberflöte (Garsington); Wolf Club Village, Night Banquet (Almeida Opera);**



Oedipus Rex, Survivor from Warsaw (Royal Exchange, Manchester/Hallé); Lives of the Great Poisoners (Second Stride).

Film includes: **A Number**.

James was an Associate and Deputy Director at the Royal Court for 14 years and was also a NESTA fellow from 2003 to 2006.

Rare Earth Mettle

Al Smith (Writer)

For the Royal Court: **Harrogate (& HighTide)**.

Other theatre includes: **Diary of a Madman (Traverse/Gate); Radio (Arcola/Audible)**.

Television includes: **Africa, Father Brown, The Coroner, EastEnders**.

Radio includes: **Sneakernomics, The Margins, Life Lines, First Do No Harm, Culture, Life in the Freezer, Everyday Time Machines**.

Awards include: **Audio and Radio Industry Gold Award for Best Fictional Storytelling, BBC Audio Drama Award for Best Series (Life Lines); BFI Wellcome Trust Screenwriting Prize**.

Al has been a Pearson Playwright in Residence at the Finborough Theatre and participated in the Paines Plough/Channel 4 Future Perfect Scheme. He is a graduate of the BBC Writers Academy and has been a broadcast Hot Shot.

Hamish Pirie (Director)

For the Royal Court: **Living Newspaper, Instructions for Correct Assembly, Goats, Primetime 2017, Human Animals, Violence & Son, Who Cares, Teh Internet is Serious Business**.

Other theatre includes: **Shibboleth (Abbey, Dublin); I'm with the Band (& Wales Millennium Centre), Quiz Show, Demos, 50 Plays for Edinburgh (Traverse); Love With a Capital 'L', 3 Seconds, Most Favoured, The Last Bloom (Traverse/Òran Mór); Bravo Figaro (Royal Opera House/Traverse); Salt Root & Roe (Donmar/Trafalgar Studios); Stacy (& Trafalgar Studios), Purgatory (Arcola); Pennies (nabokov); Paper House (Flight 5065)**.

Hamish trained as Resident Assistant Director at Paines Plough & at the Donmar Warehouse. He was previously Associate Director at the Traverse Theatre. Hamish is an Associate Director at the Royal Court.

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Berliner Theatertreffen Stückemarkt

Where do political awareness, new narratives and poetry come together? The Stückemarkt of Theatertreffen presents new writers and theatre makers from all over the world, who express themselves in a wide variety of theatre formats. In an international open call, authors and theatre collectives can submit their theatre texts and projects. A jury of five artists selects five works from among all submissions. The selected works will be presented during the festival Theatertreffen -



which brings remarkable productions from the German-language region as well as works by emerging artists from across the world to Berlin – in a format that corresponds to their artistic form. To promote sustainable support for artists, the Stückemarkt has been commissioning a new work each year since 2007. Since its founding, more than 200 playwrights have participated in the Stückemarkt. Many of these play a defining role nowadays in the new drama of theatre repertoires. <https://www.berlinerfestspiele.de/en/theatertreffen/programm/2021/stueckemarkt/termine.html>

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