

PRESS RELEASE

Tuesday 17 August 2021

ROYAL COURT THEATRE ANNOUNCE CAST FOR *WHAT IF IF ONLY* BY CARYL CHURCHILL, DIRECTED BY JAMES MACDONALD, RUNNING IN THE ROYAL COURT JERWOOD THEATRE DOWNSTAIRS WEDNESDAY 29 SEPTEMBER 2021 - SATURDAY 23 OCTOBER 2021



Photo credit (left to right): Linda Bassett, John Heffernan.

Linda Bassett and John Heffernan have been cast in Caryl Churchill's new play *What If If Only*, which will be directed by James Macdonald. With set design by Miriam Buether, lighting design by Prema Mehta, sound design by Christopher Shutt and assistant direction from Grace Duggan.

What If If Only will run in the Royal Court Jerwood Theatre Downstairs from Wednesday 29 September 2021 – Saturday 23 October 2021, with press night on Friday 1 October 2021 at 6pm. Performances run Monday – Saturday at 6pm, plus Friday 8, 15 & 22 October 2021 at 10pm. The running time is 14 minutes.

"Make me happen"

Your partner's died, could things have been different?

Caryl Churchill's recent work at the Royal Court includes *Glass. Kill. Bluebeard. Imp, Escaped Alone* and *Pigs and Dogs*.

What If If Only will run in the Royal Court Jerwood Theatre Downstairs before Aleshea Harris' play *Is God Is* (which runs from 7.30pm Friday 10 September 2021 - Saturday 23



October 2021), at 6pm from Wednesday 29 September 2021 – Saturday 23 October 2021 plus three performances after at 10pm on Friday 8, 15 & 22 October 2021.

ENDS-

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

Notes to Editors:

Press Performance:

6pm Friday 1 October 2021	<i>What If It Only</i> by Caryl Churchill	Jerwood Theatre Downstairs
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For images [click here.](#)

Biographies:

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).**

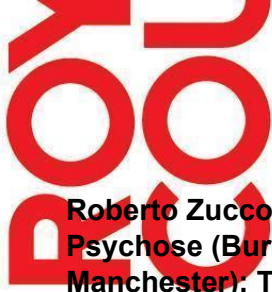
Caryl has also written for radio & television.

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.

CAST

Linda Bassett

For the Royal Court: **Escaped Alone, Love & Information, In Basildon, Wastwater, The Stone, Lucky Dog, Far Away, The Recruiting Officer, Our Country's Good (& Garrick), Serious Money (& Wyndhams/Public Theatre, NY), East is East (& Tamasha Theatre Company/Birmingham rep/Theatre Royal, Stratford/West End/Tour); Aunt Dan & Lemon (& Public Theatre, NY), Abel's Sister, Fen (& Almeida/Joint Stock/Public Theatre, NY/Tour).**

Other theatre includes: **People, Schism In England, A Place With The Pigs (National); A Winter's Tale, Pericles, Henry IV part I & II, The Theban Plays, Artists & Admirers (RSC); Roots, Phaedra (Donmar); Richard III, Taming of the Shrew (Globe); Visitors (& Bush/UK tour), Road To Mecca (Arcola); Love Me Tonight, Out in the Open (& Birmingham), The Awakening (Hampstead); The Seagull (Liverpool Playhouse); The Bald Prima Donna, Medea, (Leicester Haymarket/Liverpool Playhouse/Almeida); The Cherry Orchard (Leicester Haymarket); The Clearing (Bush); Hortensia & The Museum of Dreams (Finborough); Five Kinds of Silence (Lyric, Hammersmith); The Triumph of Love (Almeida/Tour) Interplay (Leeds/Belgrade TIE, Coventry).**

Television includes: **Call The Midwife, The Life & Adventures of Nick Nickleby, Spies of Warsaw, Grandma's House, Larkrise To Candleford, Sense & Sensibility, The Brief, This Little Life, Our Mutual Friend, Kavanagh QC, Casualty, Far from the Madding Crowd, Silent Film, Christmas, A Touch of Frost, A Small Dance, No Bananas, Newshounds, A Village Affair, Bramwell, Loved Up, Skallagrig.**

Film Includes: **Effie, West is West, Cass, The Reader, Kinky Boots, Separate Lies, Calendar Girls, The Hours, The Martins, Don Quixote, East is East, Beautiful People, Oscar & Lucinda, Paris By Night, Waiting for the Moon, Leave To Remain, Indian Summer.**

John Heffernan

For the Royal Court: **Love & Information.**

Other theatre includes: **A Slight Ache, Carrie's War (West End); Saint George & the Dragon, Edward II, She Stoops to Conquer, Emperor & Galilean, After the Dance, The Habit of Art, The Revenger's Tragedy, Major Barbara (National); Macbeth (Young Vic); Oppenheimer (& West End), King Lear, The Seagull, King John, Romeo & Juliet, Much Ado About Nothing (RSC); The Hothouse (Trafalgar Studios); The Physicists (Donmar); The Last of the Duchess (Hampstead); Richard II (Tobacco Factory); Love, Love, Love (Paines Plough); Lloyd George Knew My Father (Theatre Royal, Bath).**





Radio includes: **Doctor Faustus, Middlemarch, The National, An Ideal Husband, The Moors of England, Elsinore, A Streetcar Named Desire, The Forsyte Saga, Going Solo, Blood, Sex & Money, Home Front, Heart of Darkness, Beware of Pity, Just Dance, Shakespeare's Restless World, My Shakespeare, The Archers.**

Television includes: **Becoming Elizabeth, The Pursuit of Love, Dracula, Game of Thrones, Brexit: The Uncivil War, Collateral, The Crown, The Loch, Dickensian, Luther, Jonathan Strange & Mr Norrell, Ripper Street, The Suspicions of Mr Whicher, Outlander, Foyle's War, Love & Marriage, Murder on the Home Front, Henry IV Part I & II, The Shadow Line, King Lear.**

Film includes: **The Duke, Misbehaviour, Official Secrets, The Banishing, Radioactive, Crooked House, Eye in the Sky, Having You.**

Listings Information:

What If If Only

Written by Caryl Churchill

Directed by James Macdonald

Jerwood Theatre Downstairs

6pm from Wednesday 29 September 2021 – Saturday 23 October 2021 plus three performances after at 10pm on Friday 8, 15 & 22 October 2021.

Press Performance Friday 1 October 2021, 6pm

Captioned Performances Wednesday 13 October 2021, 6pm; Wednesday 20 October 2021, 6pm

Audio Described Performance Saturday 23 October 2021, 6pm, Touch Tour at 5.30pm

Relaxed Environment Performance Saturday 16 October 2021, 6pm

Standard Tickets £6-£10 (Monday tickets £6)

Ticket offer: Watch alongside *Is God Is* by Alesha Harris: See *What If If Only* at 6pm (or 10pm on Fri 8, 15 & 22 Oct) and *Is God Is* at 7.30pm on the same evening and save. By booking for both productions in one transaction you'll get tickets for *What If If Only* for £5.

