

# Theatr Clwyd

## CAST ANNOUNCED FOR WORLD PREMIÈRE PRODUCTION OF TIM PRICE'S *ISLA* OPENING AT THEATR CLWYD ON OCTOBER 21

As the world première production of Kaite O'Reilly's *Missing Julie* opens at Theatr Clwyd, Artistic Director **Tamara Harvey** and Executive Director **Liam Evans-Ford** today announce the cast for the world première production of Tim Price's *Isla*. In a co-production with the Royal Court Theatre, the production opens at Theatr Clwyd on October 21 with previews from the 16 October, and runs until 6 November. **Tamara Harvey** directs **Mark Lambert** as Roger, **Lisa Zahra** as Erin, and **Catrin Aaron** as PC Jones and the titular role of Isla.

**THEATR EMLYN WILLIAMS**

**WORLD PREMIÈRE**

Theatr Clwyd and Royal Court Theatre present

### **ISLA**

By **Tim Price**

Directed by **Tamara Harvey**; Assistant Directors: **Francesca Goodridge** and **Liv Stenström**; Designed by: **Camilla Clarke**; Lighting Designer: **Ryan Stafford**; Sound Designer: **Beth Duke**

16 October – 6 November

**Press night: 21 October**

*Soon there will be more voice-activated, digital assistants than people. All are female gendered.*

*Roger needs company and he doesn't want a dog. When his daughter Erin buys him the latest Isla digital assistant an unexpected relationship between man and technology emerges. But who's really in control?*

*A new dark comedy from acclaimed writer **Tim Price**.*

**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 *Teh Internet Is Serious Business*. He is associate playwright at the Traverse theatre and co-founder of Welsh new writing company Dirty Protest.

**Catrin Aaron** plays Isla. She is an Associate for Theatr Clwyd, where she is currently appearing in *Missing Julie*. Her other work for the company includes *Orpheus Descending* (also Menier Chocolate Factory), *The Rise and Fall of Little Voice*, *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*, *All My Sons*, *The Light of Heart*, *Aristocrats*; *Salt, Root and Roe*; *Humbug*, *God of Carnage*, *A Doll's House*, *Roots*, *Taking Steps*, *Gaslight*, *Dancing at Lughnasa*, *A Small Family Business*, *Festen*, *Mary Stuart*, *Twilight Tales*,

*Macbeth, A Toy Epic, Tales from Europe, The Timeless Myths of the Mabinogi, Of Mice and Men, The Grapes of Wrath, The Voyage, The Way It Was, Flights of Fancy, Hobson's Choice, One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest* and *Silas Marner*. Her other theatre work includes *The Wizard of Oz* (Sheffield Theatres), *As You Like, Hamlet* (Shakespeare's Globe), *Henry V* (Regent's Park Open Air Theatre), *The Forsythe Sisters* (Gaggle Babble), *Sex and the Three Day Week* (Liverpool Playhouse) and *What People Do and London: Let's Get Visceral* (Old Vic Tunnels). For television, her work includes *The Indian Doctor, The Bastard Executioner* and *First Ladies*; and for film, *Apostle*.

**Mark Lambert** plays Roger. For theatre his credits include *The Ferryman* (Bernard B. Jacobs Theatre, Gielgud Theatre, Royal Court Theatre), *The Phlebotomist* (Hampstead Theatre), *The Importance of Being Earnest, Romeo and Juliet* (Gate Theatre), *Heartbreak House, The Dead* (Abbey Theatre), *Dubliners* (Dublin Theatre Festival), *Plaza Suite* (Rough Magic), *Those Sick and Indignant* (Gaiety Theatre), *16 Possible Glimpses* (Abbey Theatre), *Brighton* (Theatre Royal, Waterford), *Big Ole Piece of Cake* (Fishamble), *The Gigli Concert* (Druid Theatre), *The Last Days of Judas Iscariot* (Project Theatre), *The Weir, Festen, The Spirit of Annie Ross* (Gate Theatre), *Enlightenment, Hamlet* (Abbey Theatre), *All's Well That Ends Well* (RSC), *Ariel, Barbaric Comedies* (Irish Times Award Nomination), *The Memory of Water* (Vaudeville Theatre), *Long Day's Journey Into Night* (Young Vic), *Molly Sweeney* (Almeida Theatre/Gate Theatre), *Juno & the Paycock* (Albery Theatre, Olivier Award Nomination). He was last seen on stage as Judge Turpin in Theater Orchester Biel Solothurn's touring production of *Sweeney Todd*. For television his credits include *13 Steps Down, Hidden, The Bailout, Inspector George Gently* and *Agatha and the Curse of Ishta*. For film his credits include *Borstal Boy, Veronica Guerin, Breakfast on Pluto, and The Tiger's Tail*.

**Lisa Zahra** returns to Theatr Clwyd to play Erin. Her theatre credits for the company *The Voyage* which also toured to Warsaw International Theatre Festival. Further credits include *Before I Leave* (National Theatre Wales), *The Kite Runner* (Nottingham Playhouse), *Resurrection, Behind the Screens* (Theatre Royal Bath), *Love at First Light, Stairway to Heaven* (Chapter Arts Theatre), *A Child's Christmas in Wales* (Arcola Theatre), *The Caucasian Chalk Circle, A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Swansea Grand Theatre), *Gut Girls* (Sherman Theatre), and *Warrior Square* (Mercury Theatre Colchester). For television her credits include *Skellig* and *Brecon Five Vodka*.

**Tamara Harvey** has been Artistic Director of Theatr Clwyd since August 2015. Most recently she has directed *Curtain Up!* with 30 actors performing 15 new plays by Welsh and Wales-based writers, 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* by Emily White, 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). Before Theatr Clwyd, she was a freelance director for 15 years, working on classic plays, new writing, musical theatre and in film, in the West End, throughout the UK and internationally.

## 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 Parkinson's and sharing creative packages and activities with those most isolated. Theatr Clwyd is The Stage's Regional Theatre of the Year 2020.



### **ROYAL COURT THEATRE:**

The Royal Court Theatre in London 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. The theatre opens its 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 the 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 the work the Royal Court 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 the theatre has 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.

The Royal Court is now working to the future and are committed to becoming a carbon net zero arts venue to ensure the work can continue for generations of writers and audiences to come.



#### **Listings**

**Theatr Clwyd**

Raikes Lane, Mold CH7 1YA

**Box Office: 01352 344101**

[www.theatrlwyd.com/en/](http://www.theatrlwyd.com/en/)

#### **LISTINGS**

##### **MISSING JULIE**

**Emlyn Williams Theatre**

Until 9 October

##### **ISLA**

**Emlyn Williams Theatre**

16 October – 6 November

**Press night: 21 October**

For more information, please contact:

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