



PRESS RELEASE Friday 1 October 2021

ROYAL COURT THEATRE ANNOUNCES SCRIPT-IN-HAND PERFORMANCES OF NEW PLAY MARYLAND BY LUCY KIRKWOOD NEXT THURSDAY 7 OCTOBER 2021 – SATURDAY 16 OCTOBER 2021 IN THE JERWOOD THEATRE UPSTAIRS

The Royal Court Theatre will be putting on script-in-hand performances of Lucy Kirkwood's new play *Maryland* from Thursday 7 October 2021 – Saturday 16 October 2021. Royal Court Theatre Artistic Director Vicky Featherstone and Royal Court Associate Directors Milli Bhatia and Lucy Morrison will co-direct. All performances will be at 7.45pm in the Jerwood Theatre Upstairs. There is no press night. For press enquiries contact Alison Duguid Scrivens on alison@aduguidpr.co.uk.

Commenting on the play playwright Lucy Kirkwood says;

"This play was for many years a private conversation with myself. The horrific murders of Sarah Everard and Sabina Nessa this year have galvanised me into making it public. I hesitate to even call it a play when it is simply a howl, a way of expressing what I feel about a culture of violence against women, but I am sharing it because I wonder if it might express a little of what other people feel about it too. It was written very quickly, and I am grateful to the Royal Court for snatching up a gauntlet thrown down last Friday night with such energy, care and seriousness."

Artistic Director of the Royal Court Theatre Vicky Featherstone states;

*"Sometimes you don't know what you need until it arrives like a bolt from the blue and things are turned upside down. This is what happened to us at the Royal Court when Lucy Kirkwood's play *Maryland* arrived in our inboxes on Friday night. Since then we have all stepped up to her extraordinary rallying cry and are able to give her voice our space in search of some kind of understanding, howl, communal event in light of the horrific actions still being committed against all women and victims of gendered violence.*

We all live in the same world, hear the same news, share the same existential fears and longings. Some people specialise in tending to our health, and some people tend to our roads and buildings, and some people tend to the food we eat and some people teach us to read and write and some people move important things from a to b. And then there are some other people who sit in the same world as us but with their pattern of words and ideas show that world back to us in a way which momentarily stops us feeling so alone, so fearful, so lost. There is order. There is hope. This is what this tiny enormous play does. This is what the Royal Court is for. This is what art is for. We are so proud to be stepping up. We are devastated we still have to."

Approx running time 30 minutes. Ticket prices are £5 for these readings and audiences are encouraged to make a donation to Rape Crisis England & Wales alongside buying tickets. <https://royal-courttheatre.com/whats-on/maryland/>

ENDS-

Please note for any press enquiries for *Maryland* between Friday 1 October 2021 and Monday 11 October 2021 please contact alison@aduguidpr.co.uk

From Tuesday 12 October press enquires can be directed to anoushkawarden@royalcourttheatre.com

Notes to Editors:

The Royal Court would usually charge £12 for each ticket, but are charging £5 as they are asking audiences to donate the £7 difference to Rape Crisis England & Wales charity [here](#) if they are able to.

Rape Crisis is the umbrella organisation for a network of independent Rape Crisis Centres who provide a range of specialist services for women and girls that have been raped or experienced any form of sexual violence - whether as adults or as children. Find out more [here](#)