

PRESS RELEASE
Thursday 7 October 2021

ROYAL COURT THEATRE ANNOUNCE CAST FOR *RARE EARTH METTLE* BY AL SMITH, DIRECTED BY ROYAL COURT ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR HAMISH PIRIE, RUNNING IN THE ROYAL COURT JERWOOD THEATRE DOWNSTAIRS WEDNESDAY 10 NOVEMBER 2021 – SATURDAY 18 DECEMBER 2021



Clockwise: (Left to right) Top row: Carlo Albán, Marcello Cruz, Arthur Darvill; Middle row: Jaye Griffiths, Lesley Lemon, Rachael Ofori; Bottom row: Genevieve O'Reilly, Ian Porter

Carlo Albán, Marcello Cruz, Arthur Darvill, Jaye Griffiths, Lesley Lemon, Rachael Ofori, Ian Porter and Genevieve O'Reilly have been cast in the world premiere of *Rare Earth Mettle* written by Al Smith and directed by Royal Court Associate Director Hamish Pirie. With set design by Moi Tran, lighting design by Lee Curran, composition by Carlos Gutiérrez Quiroga, sound design by Ella Wahlström, movement direction by Yami Löfvenberg, dialect coaching by Carter Bellaimy and assistant direction from Camila Ymay González.

Rare Earth Mettle by Al Smith will run at the Royal Court Theatre Jerwood Theatre Downstairs from Wednesday 10 November 2021 – Saturday 18 December 2021 with press night on Tuesday 16 November 2021, 7pm.

“You don’t tell an American to switch off her light; you build her a better light bulb.”

A leading British doctor with a radical plan to save the NHS and a Silicon Valley billionaire with a radical plan to halt climate change, meet outside an abandoned train on a salt flat in Bolivia.



A landscape so bright in its whiteness that it isn't easy to look at, and so uninterrupted in its flatness there's no echo.

For Kimsa and his daughter who live there, the arrival of these strangers initially seems like an opportunity. Until they both stake their claim on the land, each following their ruthless pursuit of 'the greater good'.



Original images by Chris Staring and Leonardo Rossatti

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

"You only have an attachment to ideas. But I am attached to this place. I know the history. This land is a part of who I am".

Al Smith will be *In Conversation* post-show on Tuesday 23 November 2021.

Rare Earth Mettle has been generously supported with a lead gift from Charles Holloway. Further support has been received from Cockayne Grant for the Arts, a donor advised fund of The London Community Foundation. It is a recipient of an Edgerton Foundation New Play Award.

It was a co-commission by the Royal Court Theatre, London and Center Theatre Group, Los Angeles, California.

ENDS-

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

Notes to Editors:

Press Performance:

7pm Tuesday 16 November 2021	<i>Rare Earth Mettle</i> by Al Smith	Jerwood Theatre Downstairs
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For all images [click here](#).

Biographies:

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: **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: **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/Óran Mór); Bravo Figaro (Royal Opera House/Traverse); Salt Root & Roe (Donmar/West End); Stacy (& West End), 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**.

Carlo Albán (Cast)

Theatre includes: **Sweat (& Broadway/Oregon Shakespeare Festival), References to Salvador Dalí Make Me Hot (Public, NYC); Tamburlaine (TFANA, NYC); A Small Melodramatic Story, Intrínquilis (LAByrinth, NYC); A Summer Day (Rattlestick, NYC); Pinkolandia (INTAR, NYC); Living Dead in Denmark (Vampire Cowboys, NYC); The River Bride, Much Ado About Nothing, Timon of Athens (Oregon Shakespeare Festival); A Parallelogram, Lydia (CTG, Los Angeles); Night of the Iguana (Guthrie, Minneapolis); Dreamlandia (Dallas Theater Center).**

Television includes: **Black Bird, Sesame Street, Law & Order, Oz, Thicker Than Blood, Prison Break, Girls, The Night Of, Madam Secretary.**

Film includes: **Mile 22, Hurricane Streets, Hi Life, Strangers with Candy, Life Support, 21 Grams, Whip It, Margaret.**

Awards include: **Theatre World Award for Outstanding Broadway Debut (Sweat).**

Carlo is a member of **LAByrinth Theater Company** in **New York**.

Marcello Cruz (Cast)

Theatre includes: **Hamlet, Twelfth Night (Shakespeare's Rose); The Wider Earth (Trish Wadley); Romeo & Juliet (Orange Tree); Much Ado About Nothing (Globe); Julius Caesar (Guildford Shakespeare Company).**

Television includes: **The Man Who Fell To Earth, London Kills, The Rook, Outnumbered.**

Film includes: **355.**

Arthur Darvill (Cast)

Theatre includes: **The Antipodes, Treasure Island (National); Sweet Charity (Donmar); Elevenses/Beginning to End (Somerset House); Genesis Inc. (Hampstead); Hir (Bush); Once (& Broadway), Our Boys, Swimming with Sharks (West End); Marine Parade (Brighton Festival); Doctor Faustus (Globe); Is Everyone OK? (nabokov); Terre Haute (Edinburgh Festival Fringe/West End/UK tour); Stacey (Arcola).**

Television includes: **Grace, World On Fire, Legends of Tomorrow, Danny & the Human Zoo, Broadchurch, The White Queen, The Paradise, Doctor Who, Little Dorritt, He Kills Coppers, The Verdict.**

Film includes: **Fairytales Sect, Doctor Faustus, Robin Hood, Sex & Drugs & Rock & Roll, Pelican Blood, Bertie [short], In Wonderland [short], Captcha [short], Crazy for You [short].**





Arthur has written music and lyrics for productions such as *I Want My Hat Back* at the National Theatre, *Frontline* and *Lightning Child* at the Globe and for the Young Vic/ Traverse production and Netflix film *Been so Long*.

Jaye Griffiths (Cast)

Theatre includes: **Mother Don't Wake Me (Tour); The Christians (The Gate); Clytemnestra (Sherman Cymru); Salome (Headlong/Hampstead); Category B, Seize The Day (Tricycle); Othello (Cheek By Jowl); A Midsummer Night's Dream (Bristol Old Vic); Julius Caesar (Young Vic); Wit (West End); Don't Wake Me: The Ballad of Nihal Armstrong (St James).**

Television includes: **Queens of Mystery, Vera, Outpost, Cursed, Casualty, Dr Who, Eastenders, Timeless, Wizards vs Aliens, Starlings, Coronation Street, Sherlock, Skins, A Touch of Frost, Criminal Justice, Kingdom, Silent Witness, Hunger, Doctors, Rocket Man, Holby City, The Bill, The Deputy, Always and Everyone, Wyrd Sister, Care, Bugs, Viking Skool.**

Lesley Lemon (Cast)

Theatre includes: **Pinnocchio (Citizens, Glasgow).**

Film includes: **The Tortellini Maker [short].**

Soundtracks include: **Natasha, Pierre & the Great Comet of 1812 (Broadway).**

Racheal Ofori (Cast)

Theatre includes: **Bach & Sons (Bridge); Three Sisters (National); So Many Reasons (Soho); Snowflake (Old Fire Station); Romeo & Juliet (West End); Blood Wedding (Omnibus); The Merchant of Venice (Globe); Portrait (Fuel); Pygmalion (Headlong); This is Private Property (Camden People's); A Midsummer Night's Dream (Tooting Arts Club).**

Television includes: **Big Age, Sliced, Treadstone, In the Long Run 3, Enterprice, Come Home.** Film includes: **Guns Akimbo, Artemis Fowl, Ready Player One.**

Ian Porter (Cast)

Theatre includes: **Orpheus Descending (Theatr Clwyd/Menier Chocolate Factory); The Trial of Jane Fonda (Assembly Rooms, Edinburgh); On Golden Pond (Salisbury Playhouse); DRIVING MISS DAISY (UK tour); August: Osage County (National/Steppenwolf); Of Mice & Men (Watermill); Sideman, Burning Blue (West End); The Exonerated (New Players); Road to Nirvana (King's Head); The Archbishops Ceiling, You Can't Take It With You (Southwark); All My Sons (Bristol Old Vic); Danny Bouncing, The Glass Menagerie (Derby Playhouse); Voices From September 11th (Old Vic).**

Television includes: **Patriot, Living the Dream, The Crown, 24 - Live Another Day, Utopia, The Eichmann Show, Nixon's the One, Doctor Who, The Execution of Gary Glitter, Kidnapped Abroad - Uganda, Alive - Shipwreck, Inside the Mind of Adolf Hitler, Bonekickers, Hotel Babylon, Moonshot.**

Film includes: **The Unlikely Pilgrimage Of Harold Fry, Indiana Jones, The Phantom of the Open, Kingsman: The Great Game, Dumbo, Angel Has Fallen, The Negotiator, Saving Private Ryan, The Bourne Ultimatum, The Kids Are Alright, Mr Bean's Holiday, Alien Autopsy, The Jacket, Spygame, Gullivers Travels.**

Ian has done voice work for computer games and has narrated the audio books *A Gift For Dying*, *Code To Zero*, *Spree*, *Nocturnes*, *Hard Boiled Wonderland* & *the End of the World* and *Then We Came To the End*. He can also be heard in many BBC Radio 4 dramas.

Genevieve O'Reilly (Cast)

For the Royal Court: **The Ferryman (& West End/Broadway).**

Other theatre includes: **Splendour (Donmar); The Doctor's Dilemma, 13, Emperor & Galilean (National); Birdsong (West End); The Weir (Gate, Dublin); Richard II (Old Vic);**





The Violet Hour (Ensemble); Our Lady of Sligo (Company B); The Way of the World, A Man with Five Children (Sydney Theatre Company).

Television includes: **Andor, Three Families, Tin Star, The Secret, The Fall, Glitch, The Honourable Woman, Episodes, Banished, Endeavour, Crossing Lines, The Last Weekend, Midsomer Murders, Law & Order, New Tricks, Waking the Dead, Spooks, The Day of the Triffids, Diana: Last Days of a Princess, The Time of Your Life, The State Within, All Saints.**

Film includes: **The Dry, Tolkien, The Kid Who Would Be King, The Snowman, Rogue One: A Star Wars Story, The Legend of Tarzan, Forget Me Not, Survivor, The Young Victoria, The Matrix Revolutions, The Matrix Reloaded.**

Ashleigh Castro and **Giselle Martinez** will share the role of Kimsa's daughter, Alejandra Apaza.

Listings Information:

Rare Earth Mettle

Written by Al Smith

Directed by Hamish Pirie

Jerwood Theatre Downstairs, Royal Court Theatre, Sloane Square, SW1W 8AS

Wednesday 10 November 2021 – Saturday 18 December 2021

Monday – Saturday 7.30pm

Thursday & Saturday matinees 2.30pm from Thursday 18 November 2021

Captioned Performances Wednesday 1, 8 and 15 December 2021, 7.30pm

Audio Described Matinee Saturday 011 December 2021, Touch Tour at 1pm

Relaxed Environment Performance Saturday 4 December 2021, 2.30pm

Press Performance Tuesday 16 November 2021, 7pm

Post-show talk with Al Smith, Tuesday 231 April 2020 November 2021, post-show **Standard**

Tickets £12 - £49

Concessions*

First Look Tickets**

Under 26s***

Access £15 (plus a companion at the same rate)

*ID required. All discounts subject to availability.

Tickets: Ways to Save

Concessions* - available for previews and matinees. Limited to Band A – C in the Jerwood Theatre Downstairs. Concessions are available for Over 65s, Students, recipients of Jobseekers Allowance, and members of Equity, BECTU, Stage Directors UK or the Writers' Guild of Great Britain.

First Look Tickets** - as most of the plays we stage at the Royal Court have never been seen before, the first few performances in front of an audience are the final part of a long creative process that starts with the playwright. Our First Look Performances, which are sold at a reduced price, and are integral part of the process. If you book tickets for a First Look Performance (usually the first three previews of a new play), you'll be asked for your feedback which is then shared with the artistic team during the preview period, potentially influencing the final piece.

Young Court Friends Tickets*** – a free membership scheme for Under 26s. We offer a limited number of £15 tickets for all performances to Young Court Friends, as well as advance access to £12 Mondays in the Jerwood Theatre Downstairs.





Mondays – all tickets £12. Available on the day of the performance from 9am online. A limited number are available in advance, subject to availability, to Friends and Supporters.

Standing Tickets – A limited number of 10p standing places go on sale one hour before each Jerwood Theatre Downstairs performance. The places are production dependent and may not always be available so please check in advance.

COCKAYNE

