



Press release Thursday 21 October 2021

LONDON THEATRE CONSORTIUM RELEASES 14 FILMS AND LIST OF 150 PLAYS TO SUPPORT SECONDARY SCHOOL DRAMA TEACHERS AND STUDENTS.

RinD, a LTC initiative, has created a set of filmed resources to support the study of four plays by writers from the global majority, which were recently added to Pearson Edexcel's GCSE Drama specification, and has also put together a document containing a list of 150 plays, written by writers from the global majority for teachers, students, young people and theatres.

The films, which are being released to address a lack of confidence and resources that prohibit teachers studying a broader range of plays, include interviews with the playwrights of the newly-added set texts - Bola Agbaje, In-Sook Chappell, Tanika Gupta and Roy Williams - and directors, designers, actors and academics. The content of each interview links to specific criteria in the GCSE exam specification, providing insight into the directing, design and acting processes for each play.

The list of 150 plays is compiled from writers from the global majority, to enable teachers and students to find plays and ensure that students feel represented in the Drama classroom and in the theatre industry. Being able to study and perform characters that look like and reflect the lived experience of students raises self-esteem and aspiration in students. Many students from the global majority leave school without having studied a play or novel that includes a character that is relevant to and representative of who they are. The list will broaden and enrich students, and teachers, experience of Theatre and playwriting.

mezza eade (LTC & CLA Specialist Advisor) and Romana Fello (Chair of the LTC Creative Learning Group), who led the RinD initiative comment;

"We hope that these films will broaden knowledge, increase confidence and enhance the experience of students and teachers studying the plays. Our intention is for teachers and students to be inspired by the artists to embed inclusive and innovative theatre making practices in their own work. Dignity and belonging are at the core of RinD's work and, through deeper understanding and meaningful representation, we will enable young people to experience this in their classrooms and creative spaces. We really appreciate the time, hard work and resources of all the artists, individuals and organisations that made it possible to create these films.

The list of 150 plays was created with designer Kunmi Ogunsola, to support students, teachers, exam boards, directors, facilitators and lecturers with finding texts that reflect their own culture and/or heritage, and to introduce them to cultures and heritages different to their own. It is essential that all students feel represented and have a better understanding of the global community in which we exist.

We are so proud and pleased to be able to share these resources and look forward to continuing to support teachers, exam boards, young people and practitioners further to work towards a truly inclusive curriculum."

RinD partnered with LTC theatres Lyric Hammersmith Theatre, Royal Court Theatre and Theatre Royal Stratford East; and National Theatre and TEAfilms to produce the filmed resources. These films support the study and teaching of four plays added to Pearson Edexcel exam board's GCSE Drama specification; *A Doll's House* by Tanika Gupta, *Antigone* by Roy Williams, *Gone Too Far!* by Bola Agbaje and *The Free9* by In-Sook Chappell.

Ends-



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Notes to Editors:

Links to the films

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCi-XnxQtdtdbFx2Jvt1EmGA/videos>

Link to the list of 150 play text - designed by Kunmi Ogunsola.

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/hc308eayl48pquh/AAC8l2Q2WpIATj1MTsHNsFZua?dl=0>

Links to the four set texts added to Pearson Edexcel exam board's GCSE Drama specification:

A Doll's House by Tanika Gupta

<https://www.bloomsbury.com/uk/dolls-house-9781350261075/>



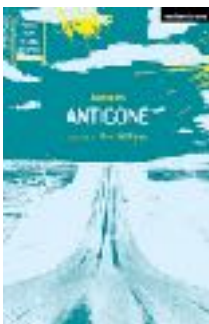
A Doll's House: : Plays for Young People Tanika Gupta Methuen Drama - Bloomsbury

Niru is a young Bengali woman married to an English colonial bureaucrat – Tom. Tom loves Niru, exoticising her as a frivolous plaything to be admired and kept; but Niru has a long-kept secret, and just as she thinks she is almost free of it, it threatens to bring her life crashing down around her.

www.bloomsbury.com

Antigone by Roy Williams

<https://www.bloomsbury.com/uk/antigone-9781350260849/>



Antigone: : Plays for Young People Roy Williams Methuen Drama

Williams' transposition works well. For young audiences, all too aware of gang-related killings, it demonstrates vividly that the great classical plays are anything but remote, that the profound questions at their core about human behaviour are still with us - in this case, that revenge, summary justice and unbending codes of honour may seem to offer answers but in fact simply perpetuate grief.

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Gone Too Far! by Bola Agbaje

<https://www.bloomsbury.com/uk/gone-too-far-9781350261037/>



Gone Too Far!: : Plays for Young People Bola Agbaje Methuen Drama - Bloomsbury

In her remarkable debut as a playwright Bola Agbaje walks two teenage black brothers around a dilapidated London council estate. She exploits their close encounters to give us a jolting lesson about the range of identities, beliefs and anxieties concealed beneath black or blackish skins.

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The Free9 by In-Sook Chappell

<https://www.bloomsbury.com/uk/free9-9781350258433/>



The Free9: : Plays for Young People In-Sook Chappell Methuen Drama

Nine teenagers flee North Korea, dreaming of a new life in the South. But the danger is far from over. With threats around every corner, perhaps the mysterious...

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Notes on the organisations involved

Kunmi Ogunsola is a dyslexic, Manchester based designer who believes that design simply must be culturally conscious and accessible to all. As creative director of KO Media Studios, a collective of creative freelancers, he upholds these values in every fresh and innovative design solution they provide.

London Theatre Consortium partners 14 of London's not-for-profit producing theatres: **Almeida Theatre, Battersea Arts Centre, Bush Theatre, Donmar Warehouse, Gate Theatre, Hampstead Theatre, Kiln Theatre, Lyric Hammersmith Theatre, Royal Court Theatre, Soho Theatre, Theatre Royal Stratford East, The Yard, Unicorn Theatre** and **Young Vic**. LTC runs projects and initiatives in priority areas: • Environmental sustainability • Representation, Inclusion and Access, • Workforce development.

A decade ago, LTC partnered with Julie's Bicycle and established collaborative leadership, peer working and learning on environmental sustainability. We have integrated sustainability into business plans, strategic documents or capital projects. We monitor venues' energy/water/waste and have an in-depth understanding of our core environmental impacts.

In 2016, LTC founded an Executive Fellowship programme, in collaboration with the MOBO, to create diversity in the leadership pool, by supporting mid-career leaders and offering them mentoring and skill sessions, to help provide pathways into Executive leadership. Alumni include: Rachel Brogan Raidene Carter (Exec producer of Birmingham 2022), Nisha Modhwadia (Ex-ED of The Print Room), Daniel Kok (International Producer at Royal Court), Jessica Draper (Producer,



London Borough of Culture) and Nicholai La Barrie (Associate Director at Lyric Hammersmith Theatre). One of our early key projects in Workforce Development was championing of Apprenticeships: this award-winning programme created over 60 apprenticeships for young people.

RinD, led by the **London Theatre Consortium**, aims to address systemic imbalances in KS3, GCSE and A level Drama, and drive intersectional anti-racism work happening in UK schools, theatres and theatre companies. RinD promotes the study, directing and programming of plays by writers from the global majority*. RinD supports teachers, facilitators and practitioners to embed anti-racist and inclusive practices and build the skills and confidence to teach and direct texts, which represent the lived experience of their students and young people, and prepare young people to engage compassionately with Britain's rich society of ethnicities and heritages.

Aims

- For young people to feel represented and belonging in theatre and education.
- For young people who are racialised as white to experience narratives, heritages and cultures that exist in the global community in which they live.
- For an equity of access to the creative industries.
- To share knowledge and embed intersectional and anti-racist pedagogy in arts education.

Objectives

- To increase representation of global majority writers and artists in the exam board specifications for GCSE and A Level Drama and creative course content in universities.
- To provide in-depth resources and CPD for arts education practitioners.
- To empower young people through inclusion and representation.
- To address systemic imbalances within theatre and education.

* Global majority includes, but is not limited to, artists of African, North African, South Asian, South East Asian, East Asian, Caribbean, Latinx, Middle Eastern, Native American, Native Australian, Pacific Islanders, Roma and Traveller heritage or diaspora, and refers to people who have experienced racism due to the colour of their skin or ethnicity. We do not want to lump individuals into one category and try to be specific when talking about individuals and communities.

Lyric Hammersmith Theatre produces bold and relevant world-class theatre from the heart of Hammersmith, London, the theatre's home for more than 125 years. Under the leadership of Artistic Director and CEO Rachel O'Riordan, it is committed to being vital to, and representative of, the local community and to being a major force in London and UK theatre, resulting in the creation of adventurous and acclaimed theatrical work. The Lyric Hammersmith Theatre has a national reputation for ground-breaking work to develop and nurture the next generation of talent, providing opportunities for young people from all backgrounds to discover the power of creativity. The theatre is West London's largest creative hub, working to deliver life-changing creative opportunities for thousands of young people. Right in the heart of Hammersmith, the Lyric Hammersmith Theatre is here for everyone. <https://lyric.co.uk/education-packs/a-dolls-house/>

The **National Theatre's** mission is to make world-class theatre, for everyone.

The NT creates and shares unforgettable stories with audiences across the UK and around the world. On its own stages, on tour, in schools, on cinema screens and streaming at home, it strives to be accessible, inclusive and sustainable.

The National Theatre empowers artists and craftspeople to make world-leading work, investing in talent and developing new productions with a wide range of theatre companies at its New Work Department.



Our nation thrives on fresh talent and new ideas, so the National Theatre works with young people and teachers right across the UK through performance, writing and technical programmes to ignite the creativity of the next generation.

Together with communities, the NT creates ambitious works of participatory theatre in deep partnerships that unite theatres and local organisations – showing that nothing brings us together like theatre.

The National Theatre needs your support to shape a bright, creative future. For more information, please visit nationaltheatre.org.uk

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About Pearson

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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 is committed to becoming a carbon net zero arts venue, to ensure the work can continue for generations of writers and audiences to come.

Based on a love of diverse and inclusive storytelling, **TEA films** have a permanent team of creatives who strive to share the voices and narratives that aren't always explored. They produce a wide variety of films including Shorts and Docs (featured on BBC, MTV, and Picturehouse Cinemas), Music Videos (BBC Introducing, The Close Encounter Club) and Promos (Fender, Sweaty Betty, NSPCC and Hugo Boss). However, they have always had a deep passion for theatre that can be traced back to their inception in 2008.

TEA films was one of the first digital companies to produce video content which sat alongside theatrical productions and marketing campaigns. Now they create tailor-made digital packages, for entire seasons of work, for the biggest theatre and live performance companies in the UK.

In 2016 they worked alongside Phyllida Lloyd in contributing towards the filming of the Donmar Warehouse's all female Shakespeare Trilogy. From that point on they have worked with Matthew Bourne's New Adventures, Frantic Assembly, The Royal Court, Shakespeare's Globe Theatre, The



Young Vic and a host of other theatre companies and organisations in creating filmed versions and adaptations of shows.

For more information please visit teafilms.com

Since 1884, **Theatre Royal Stratford East**, the historic producing house in the heart of London's East End has spearheaded diverse work and championed often marginalised stories on its stage. Many leading actors, writers and directors have been part of the Theatre Royal Stratford East family including Meera Syal, Barbara Windsor, Don Warrington, Indhu Rubasingham, Tanika Gupta, Roy Williams and Cynthia Erivo to name but a few. Now with Artistic Director Nadia Fall at the helm, Theatre Royal Stratford East presents a bold programme of reimagined classics, timely revivals and ground-breaking new work



ALMEIDA
THEATRE

BATTERSEA
ARTS CENTRE

Lyric

Bush
Theatre

DONMAR

STRATFORD
EAST

GATE
theatre

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TEA
FILMS