

PRESS RELEASE Tuesday 2 November 2021

ROYAL COURT THEATRE ANNOUNCE CAST FOR *A FIGHT AGAINST...* (*UNA LUCHA CONTRA...*) BY PABLO MANZI, TRANSLATED BY WILLIAM GREGORY, DIRECTED BY ROYAL COURT ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR (INTERNATIONAL) SAM PRITCHARD, RUNNING IN THE ROYAL COURT JERWOOD THEATRE UPSTAIRS THURSDAY 9 DECEMBER 2021 - SATURDAY 22 JANUARY 2022



Image credit. Top row (left to right): Eduardo Arcelus, Joseph Balderrama, Pepa Duarte; Bottom row: Pía Laborde-Noguez, Jimena Larraguivel, Sebastian Orozco.

Eduardo Arcelus, Joseph Balderrama, Pepa Duarte, Pía Laborde-Noguez, Jimena Larraguivel and Sebastian Orozco have been cast in the world premiere of *A Fight Against...* (*Una Lucha Contra...*) written by Pablo Manzi, translated by William Gregory and directed by Royal Court Associate Director (International) Sam Pritchard.

With set design by Rosie Elnile, lighting design by Elliot Griggs, Sound Design by Benjamin Grant, Movement Direction by Fernanda Muñoz-Newsome and the Assistant Director is Mariana Aristizábal Pardo.

A Fight Against... (*Una Lucha Contra...*) by Pablo Manzi will run in the Royal Court Jerwood Theatre Upstairs from Thursday 9 December 2021 – Saturday 22 January 2022 with press night on Tuesday 14 December 2021, 7pm.



“He said, ‘The day will come when they don’t cut our heads off in front of people.’ And I asked him, ‘Why?’ And he said, ‘Because we’ll cut them off ourselves.’”

- A lecturer in Chile.
- A study group in the USA.
- A guard in the desert.
- A hangman in Mexico.
- A woman who won’t stop dancing in Peru.

Pablo Manzi’s darkly comic odyssey across the Americas explores whether violence brings us closer together and what it takes to make a community.

Developed on a residency at the Royal Court, *A Fight Against...* marks the English language debut of one of Chile’s most significant new voices.

The development of *A Fight Against...* was supported by the British Council.

Teatro a Mil Foundation is a project partner.

There will be a post-show talk with Pablo Manzi on Wednesday 15 December 2021.

The play will be performed in English. On Friday 21 January 2022, 7.45pm the performance will have Spanish surtitles.

ENDS-

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

Notes to Editors:

Press Performance:

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| 7pm Tuesday 14 December 2021 | <i>A Fight Against... (Una Lucha Contra...)</i> by Pablo Manzi | Jerwood Theatre Upstairs |
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For images [click here](#).

Biographies:

Pablo Manzi (Writer)

Theatre includes: **Donde Viven los Bárbaros** (BONOBO/Festival Santiago a Mil, Chile/Festival Adelante, Germany/MIT BH, Brasil/Festival Cádiz, Spain/FIT, México/Temporada Alta, Perú); **Tú Amarás** (BONOBO/ Festival Santiago a Mil, Chile/Noorderzon, Netherlands/Residency Baryshnikov Art Center, USA/KFDA, Belgium/Triennale de Milano, Italy/Tokyo Festival World Competition, Japan/Alias Teatern, Sweden/ Mostra Internacional de Sao Paulo, Brazil); **Amansadura** (BONOBO/Teatro del Puente, Chile/Festival Cielos del Infinito, Chile).





Awards include: **Chilean Art Critique Organisation Award for Best Playwriting, Municipality of Santiago Award for Best Playwriting, Chilean Council for Arts & Culture Award for Best Playwriting (Donde viven los bárbaros), Literary Prize José Nuez Martín; Tokyo Festival Audience Award & Critics Award (Tú Amarás).**

Sam Pritchard (Director)

For the Royal Court: **Pity, Grimly Handsome [co-creator], B.**

Other theatre includes: **The Mysteries, Galka Motalka (Royal Exchange, Manchester); Pygmalion (Headlong/Leeds Playhouse/Nuffield/UK tour); There Has Possibly Been an Incident (Royal Exchange, Manchester/Soho/Edinburgh Festival Fringe/Theatertreffen, Berlin); Fireface (Young Vic).**

Sam was the winner of the JMK Award for Directors in 2012. He is the Associate Director (International) at the Royal Court.

William Gregory (Translator)

For the Royal Court: **B, Cuba Real, Arena Mexico, New Plays from Chile, The Big Idea: PIGS, New & Now (& Edinburgh International Festival).**

Other theatre includes: **Cuzco (Theatre503), Springtime (Finborough), Chamaco, Weathered (HOME, Manchester), Villa, Discurso (Prime Cut/MAC, Belfast), I'd Rather Goya Robbed Me of My Sleep Than Some Other Arsehole (Gate), An American Life (Cervantes), Out of the Wings (Omnibus).**

Radio includes: **The Concert, Cuba.**

CAST

Eduardo Arcelus (Actor)

Theatre includes: **He Wanted To Be a Bird (The Actors Centre); Pains of Youth (Aces & Eights); The Heresy of Love (New Diorama).**

Television includes: **Danny & Mick, Predator at Large.**

Film includes: **Grave Men, Padre [short], I Had a King [short], Reoccurring [short].**

Joseph Balderrama (Actor)

Theatre includes: **Dry Powder, Labyrinth (Hampstead); All the President's Men? (National/West End); Drones Baby, Drones (This Tuesday & The Kid) (Arcola); The Rubber Room (Old Vic New Voices); The White House Murder Case (Orange Tree); We Weather Cover (King's Head/Art's/West End); No Such Cold Thing (Kiln); The Miser (Royal Exchange, Manchester).**

Television includes: **Heartstopper, The Great Escapists, Avenue 5, Living the Dream, Turn Up Charlie, Press, Snatch, War on Drugs, Benidorm.**

Radio includes: **Sneakernomics, Rethink Project/Pope Francis: Rethinking Poverty, The Voyage of the St. Louis, Longline, The Macefield Plot, The Republicans, Assata Shakur: The FBI's Most Wanted Woman, The Clinton's.**

Film includes: **Under the Boardwalk, The Batman, Uncharted, Stan & Ollie, Tad Jones: The Hero Returns, The Current War, The Voyage of Doctor Dolittle, Spectre, Meet the Firm: Revenge in Rio, Jack & Jill.**

Pepa Duarte (Actor)

As performer, theatre includes: **Eating Myself (AppleCart Arts/BAC); Dear Elizabeth (Gate); Senorita Rita's Drag Show (CASA Festival/Pleasance); Shelter (Out of the Wings); The Wild Visitor (PunchDrunk); Desarmar (Popelei); Latinx Scratch (Untold**





Collective); **This Noisy Isle (Spun Glass)**; **Leaves: A Workshow (La Fura Dels Baus)**; **Viudas (Latin Stage)**; **El Anhel De Juan (Trot)**; **Deshuesadero, Tu Voz Persiste (Physical Theatre Company)**.

Film includes: **No One Gets Out Alive**, **Trouble Will Find Us**, **Bricherxs [short]**, **Flicker [short]**, **Para Elisa [short]**.

Pepa has been commissioned by BAC, Casa Festival, Counterpoint Arts and Popelei. Her work has been supported by Arts Council England, Theatre Deli, Golden Goose, Peruvian Embassy, FLAWA Festival and The Pleasance. As a drama facilitator, she has worked for Old Vic Theatre, Tender, Routes and Cherwell Theatre. Pepa is also the director of the Southwark Playhouse Young Company.

Pía Laborde-Noguez (Actor)

Theatre includes: **The House of the Spirits**, **The House of Bernarda Alba (Cervantes)**; **Una niña es una cosa a medio formar (Sala Beckett & Museo Tamayo)**; **Trust (Gate)**; **Glorious! (Frinton Festival)**; **The Tempest (Norwich & Norfolk Theatre Festival)**; **Boat (Pigdog)**; **Current Location (Fellswoop)**; **The Seagull (Célébration 43)**.

Television includes: **Todo va a estar bien, Mallorca Files**.

Film includes: **Volcanes**, **Control [short]**, **Tilda & Laila [short]**, **Los Paisajes**, **Edit [short]**.

Jimena Larraguivel (Actor)

Theatre includes: **Dear Elizabeth (& Teatro Technis)**, **Faces in the Crowd (Gate)**; **Love in the Time of Corona (Footprints Festival/Jermyn Street)**; **The Missing Piece (Latinx Scratch/Theatre Deli)**; **Sonnet Sunday (Globe)**; **Nosocomial (CPT)**; **Day of the Living (RSC)**; **The House of Bernarda Alba (Cervantes)**.

Television includes: **Apple Tree Yard**.

Film includes: **Spider-Man: Far from Home**.

Sebastian Orozco (Actor)

Theatre includes: **The Laramie Project**, **Earthquakes in London (Bristol Old Vic)**.

Television includes: **Masters of the Air**, **Alex Rider**, **You Don't Know Me**.

Listings Information:

A Fight Against... (Una Lucha Contra...)

Written by Pablo Manzi

Translated by William Gregory

Directed by Sam Pritchard

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

Thursday 9 December 2021 - Saturday 22 January 2022

Monday – Saturday 7.45pm

Thursday & Saturday matinees 3pm from Thursday 16 December 2021

Last performance 2021 Saturday 18 December 2021, 7.45pm

First performance 2022 Tuesday 4 January 2022, 7.45pm

Captioned Performance Friday 7, Friday 14 January 2022 (in English), Friday 21 January 2022 (in Spanish)

Relaxed Environment Performance Saturday 15 January 2022, 3pm

Press Performance Tuesday 14 December 2021, 7pm

Post-show talk Wednesday 15 December 2021

Standard Tickets £12 - £25



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