

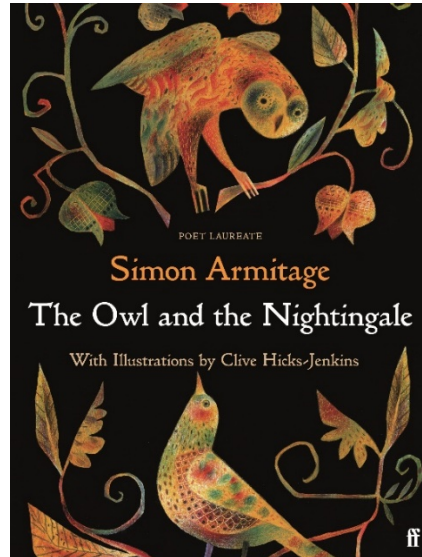


PRESS RELEASE  
Friday 3 December 2021

**THE OWL AND THE NIGHTINGALE BY SIMON ARMITAGE TO BE PERFORMED IN A  
READING AT THE ROYAL COURT THEATRE MONDAY 13 DECEMBER 2021**

**Tickets on sale now**

<https://royalcourttheatre.com/whats-on/the-owl-and-the-nightingale/>



Front Cover Illustrated by Clive Hicks-Jenkins

*The Owl and the Nightingale* will be performed as a reading at the Royal Court Theatre Jerwood Theatre Downstairs on Monday 13 December 2021 at 4pm.

In a new translation by the Poet Laureate **Simon Armitage** this witty and enchanting edition of the medieval debate poem will be directed by **John Tiffany**.

Following his acclaimed translations of *Sir Gawain and the Green Knight* and *Pearl*, **Simon Armitage** shines a light on another jewel of Middle English verse. The disputed issues within the piece still resonate - concerning identity, cultural attitudes, class distinctions and the right to be heard.

Following the performance there will be a book signing in the Balcony Bar.

Tickets are £5 <https://royalcourttheatre.com/whats-on/the-owl-and-the-nightingale/>

*The Owl and the Nightingale* reading is supported by The Institute of Digital Archaeology.

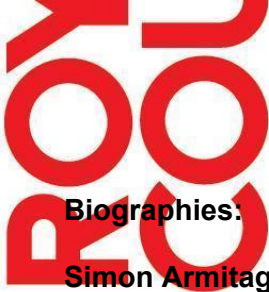
**ENDS-**

**Royal Court** Press Contact Anoushka Warden [AnoushkaWarden@royalcourttheatre.com](mailto:AnoushkaWarden@royalcourttheatre.com)  
**Faber & Faber** Press Contact Kate Burton [kate.burton@faber.co.uk](mailto:kate.burton@faber.co.uk)

**Notes to Editors:**

For images see [here](#)





**Biographies:**

**Simon Armitage** was born in West Yorkshire and is Professor of Poetry at the University of Leeds. A recipient of numerous prizes and awards, his poetry collections include *Seeing Stars* (2010), *The Unaccompanied* (2017), *Sandettie Light Vessel Automatic* (2019), *Magnetic Field* (2020) and his acclaimed translation of *Sir Gawain and the Green Knight* (2007). He writes extensively for television and radio, and is the author of two novels and the non-fiction bestsellers *All Points North* (1998), *Walking Home* (2012) and *Walking Away* (2015). His theatre works include *The Last Days of Troy*, performed at Shakespeare’s Globe in 2014. *A Vertical Art* (2021) brought together his vibrant and engaging lectures from his tenure as Professor of Poetry at the University of Oxford, and, in 2018, he was awarded the Queen’s Gold Medal for Poetry. Simon Armitage is Poet Laureate.

**John Tiffany**

For the Royal Court: **the end of history... Road, The Twits, Hope, The Pass, Let the Right One In (& National Theatre of Scotland/West End/St Ann’s, NYC).**

Other theatre includes: **Harry Potter and the Cursed Child, The Glass Menagerie, Once (Broadway/West End); The Ambassador (BAM, NYC); Pinocchio (National); Enquirer, Macbeth, Peter Pan, The House of Bernarda Alba, Transform Caithness: Hunter, Be Near Me, Nobody Will Ever Forgive Us, The Bacchae, Black Watch, Elizabeth Gordon Quinn, Home: Glasgow (National Theatre of Scotland).**

Awards Include: **Tony & Olivier Awards for Best Director of a Play (Harry Potter and the Cursed Child); Sky Arts South Bank Show Award (Let the Right One In); Tony Award for Best Direction of a Musical (Once); Olivier Award for Best Director, Critics Circle Award for Best Director, Sky Arts South Bank Show Award (Black Watch).**

John is a former Associate Director at the Royal Court and from 2010 to 2011 he was a Radcliffe Fellow at Harvard University.



[www.faber.co.uk](http://www.faber.co.uk)



The Institute for Digital Archaeology is a UK-based academic consortium dedicated to promoting public engagement around history and culture.

[The Institute for Digital Archaeology](http://The Institute for Digital Archaeology)

