



PRESS RELEASE Monday 6 December 2021

ROYAL COURT THEATRE ANNOUNCE CAST FOR *THE GLOW* BY ALISTAIR MCDOWALL, DIRECTED BY ROYAL COURT ARTISTIC DIRECTOR VICKY FEATHERSTONE, RUNNING IN THE ROYAL COURT JERWOOD THEATRE DOWNSTAIRS FRIDAY 21 JANUARY 2022 - SATURDAY 5 MARCH 2022



Photo credit (left to right): top row - Fisayo Akinade, Rakie Ayola; second row - Tadhg Murphy, Ria Zmitrowicz.

Fisayo Akinade, Rakie Ayola, Tadhg Murphy and Ria Zmitrowicz have been cast in *The Glow* written by Alistair McDowall and directed by the Royal Court Theatre's Artistic Director Vicky Featherstone.

The Glow by Alistair McDowall will run in the Royal Court Jerwood Theatre Downstairs from Friday 21 January 2022 – Saturday 5 March 2022 with press night on Thursday 27 January 2022, 7pm.

With set design by Merle Hensel, lighting design by Jessica Hung Han Yun, composition and sound design by Nick Powell, video design by Tal Rosner and movement direction from Malik Nashad Sharpe. The associate costume designer is Helen Lovett Johnson and the assistant director is Rosie Thackeray.

"People find me. When it's dark."

1863.

An asylum.

A woman locked in a windowless cell, with no memory as to who she is, or how she arrived there.

When spiritualist medium Mrs Lyall requires a new assistant, this nameless woman seems the perfect candidate.

But as the woman's past begins to reveal itself, so do new powers neither are prepared for.

"Matter may decay, but the spirit persists. The energy we exude remains."





The Glow has been generously supported by a lead gift from Charles Holloway. Further support has been received by members of The Glow Production Circle. The Glow was the 2018 Pinter Commission, an award given annually by Lady Antonia Fraser to support a new commission at the Royal Court Theatre.

There will be a post-show talk with Alistair McDowall on Tuesday 8 February 2022.

ENDS-

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

Notes to Editors:

Press Performance:

7pm Thursday 27 January 2022	<i>The Glow</i> by Alistair McDowall	Jerwood Theatre Downstairs
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Publicity image: Ria Zmitrowicz by Johan Persson

For images [click here.](#)

Biographies:

Alistair McDowall (Writer)

For the Royal Court: **all of it, X, Talk Show (Open Court).**

Other theatre includes: **Zero for the Young Dudes! (NT Connections); Pomona (Orange Tree/National/Royal Exchange, Manchester); Brilliant Adventures (Royal Exchange,**





Manchester/Live, Newcastle); Captain Amazing (Live, Newcastle/Edinburgh Festival Fringe/UK tour).

Vicky Featherstone (Director)

For the Royal Court: **Living Newspaper, Shoe Lady, all of it, On Bear Ridge (& National Theatre Wales) [co-director], Cyprus Avenue (& Abbey, Dublin/MAC, Belfast/Public, NYC), The Cane, Gundog, My Mum's a Twat [co-director], Bad Roads, Victory Condition, X, How to Hold Your Breath, God Bless the Child, Maidan: Voices from the Uprising, The Mistress Contract, The Ritual Slaughter of Gorge Mastromas, Untitled Matriarch Play, The President Has Come to See You (Open Court Weekly Rep).**

Other theatre includes: **What if Women Ruled the World? (Manchester International Festival); Our Ladies of Perpetual Succour (& National/West End/International tour), Enquirer [co-director], An Appointment with the Wicker Man, 27, The Wheel, Somersaults, Wall of Death: A Way of Life [co-director], The Miracle Man, Empty, Long Gone Lonesome (National Theatre of Scotland); Cockroach (National Theatre of Scotland/Traverse); 365 (National Theatre of Scotland/Edinburgh International Festival); Mary Stuart (National Theatre of Scotland/Citizens/Royal Lyceum, Edinburgh); The Wolves in the Walls [co-director] (National Theatre of Scotland/Tramway/Lyric, Hammersmith/UK tour/New Victory, NYC); The Small Things, Pyrenees, On Blindness, The Drowned World, Tiny Dynamite, Crazy Gary's Mobile Disco, Splendour, Riddance, The Cosmonaut's Last Message to the Woman He Once Loved in the Former Soviet Union, Crave (Paines Plough).**

Television Includes: **Pritilata (from Snatches: Moments from 100 Years of Women's Lives), Where the Heart Is, Silent Witness.**

Vicky was Artistic Director of Paines Plough 1997-2005 and the inaugural Artistic Director of the National Theatre of Scotland 2005-2012. She is the Artistic Director of the Royal Court.

Fisayo Akinade (Cast)

For the Royal Court: **Pigs & Dogs, The Crossings Plays.**

Other theatre includes: **Antipodes, Antony & Cleopatra, Barber Shop Chronicles (National); Shipwreck (Almeida); The Way of the World, Saint Joan, The Vote (Donmar); The Tempest (Globe); Barbarians (Young Vic); As You Like It (New Wolsey/UK & European tour); Refugee Boy, Waiting for Godot (Leeds Playhouse); Shiverman (Theatre503); The Edge (New Diorama); Neighbours (HighTide).**

Television includes: **Dangerous Liaisons, Heartstopper, Atlanta, Silent Witness, A Very English Scandal, In the Dark, A Midsummer Night's Dream, Ordinary Lies, Cucumber, Banana, Fresh Meat.**

Film includes: **Romeo & Juliet, The Personal History of David Copperfield, The Girl with All the Gifts, The Isle.**

Rakie Ayola (Cast)

For the Royal Court: **On Bear Ridge (& National Theatre Wales); Breath, Boom, Daughters, Ashes & Sand.**

Other theatre includes: **Strange Fruit, The Rest of Your Life (Bush); The Half God of Rainfall, King Hedley II (Kiln); Leave to Remain (Lyric, Hammersmith); Harry Potter & the Cursed Child, The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time (West End); King Lear (Royal Exchange, Manchester); 4.48 Psychosis, Crave (Crucible, Sheffield); The Winter's Tale (RSC/UK tour); In The Next Room (Theatre Royal, Bath); Welcome to Thebes (National); Twelfth Night (Bristol Old Vic); Dido Queen Of Carthage (Globe);**





Hamlet, Twelfth Night (Birmingham Rep/UK tour); Up 'N Under, The Merchant of Venice (Sherman).

Television includes: **Alex Rider, The Pact, Grace, Anthony, Noughts & Crosses, Shetland, No Offence, Vera, Midsomer Murders, Silent Witness, Doctor Who: Midnight, Holby City.**

Film includes: **Been So Long, King Lear, Dredd, Now is Good.**

As executive producer, film includes: **Twelfth Night.**

Radio & audio includes: **Moominland Midwinter, Dat's Love, Dr Who: Time War II, Zombie Rebellion, Evil Genius, Three Strong Women, The Bloody Chamber.**

Awards include: **BAFTA for Best Supporting Actress (Anthony); Black British Theatre Award for Best Female Performance in a Play (On Bear Ridge).**

Rakie is a patron of Childhood Tumour Trust, an ambassador for Parents In Performing Arts and a trustee of Actor's Children Trust.

Tadhg Murphy (Cast)

For the Royal Court: **Bad Roads.**

Other theatre includes: **Ballyturk (St. Ann's Warehouse, NYC), Three Sisters (& USA tour), Aristocrats (Abbey, Dublin); Our Country's Good (National); Romeo & Juliet, Mrs. Warren's Profession, Hay Fever (& Spoleto Festival, Charleston USA), Da, The Speckled People, The Real Thing (Gate, Dublin); How These Desperate Men Talk, MedEia (Corcadorca); Waiting For Godot (Gaiety, Dublin/USA tour); The Cripple of Inishmaan, The Walworth Farce (UK & international tours), Penelope (Druid); The Taming of the Shrew (Rough Magic).**

Television includes: **Conversations With Friends, Brassic, The English, Red Election, Absentia, Bloodmoon, Miss Scarlett & The Duke, Counterpart, Guerrilla, Will, Black Sails, Vikings, Seachtar na Cásca, An Crisis, The Clinic, Love is the Drug, No Tears.**

Film includes: **The Northman, Wrath of Man, Dead Happy, How to Build a Girl, Underdogs, Lost in the Living, Pride & Joy, Boy Eats Girl, Alexander, The Secret Market, Jelly Baby.**

Radio includes: **Relic, Vigil, The Plough & the Stars, The Finnegans, The Colleen & the Cowboy.**

Ria Zmitrowicz (Cast)

For the Royal Court: **Gundog, Bad Roads, X.**

Other theatre includes: **The Welkin (National); The Doctor, Three Sisters, Dance Nation (Almeida); Plastic (Theatre Royal, Bath); Four Minutes Twelve Seconds (Trafalgar Studios/Hampstead); The Crucible (Royal Exchange, Manchester); Arcadia (ETT/Theatre Royal, Brighton); God's Property, NT Connections (Soho); Chapel Street (Bush/Old Red Lion); Cortae (Talawa); Skanky (Arcola).**

Television includes: **The Power, The Third Day Live: Autumn, Through the Gates, Three Girls, Mr Selfridge, Youngers, Nightshift, The Midnight Beast, Murder on the Home Front, Whitechapel.**

Film includes: **Misbehaviour, Teen Spirit, Puppy [short], Kill Your Friends, Jellyfish.**

Listings Information:

Captioned Performances Wednesday 9 February 2022, 7.30pm; Wednesday 16 February 2022, 7.30pm; Wednesday 23 February 2022, 7.30pm

Relaxed Environment Performance Saturday 26 February 2022, 2:30pm

BSL Interpreted Performance Wednesday 2 March 2022, 7:30pm





Audio Described Performance Saturday 5 March 2022, 2:30pm, Touch Tour at 1.30pm

Press Performance Thursday 27 January 2022, 7pm

Post-show talk with Alistair McDowall, Tuesday 8 February 2022

Standard Tickets £12 - £45

Concessions*

First Look Tickets**

Under 27s***

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 – B in the Jerwood Theatre Downstairs. Concessions are available for Over 65s, Students, recipients of Job-seekers 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, are an 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.

Under 27s Tickets*** – We have extended our Under 26s ticket offer to Under 27s due to a year of missed discounts during the Covid-19 pandemic. We offer a limited number of £12 tickets for all performances in the Jerwood Theatre Downstairs. Available on Band B tickets, subject to availability.

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.

