

PRESS RELEASE Wednesday 1 June 2022

ROYAL COURT THEATRE ANNOUNCE LIVING ARCHIVE VOL 1 – TWO WEEKS OF LIVE
WORK AND EVENTS INTERROGATING THE NOTION OF ARCHIVE

WEDNESDAY 29 JUNE – SATURDAY 9 JULY 2022



Living Archive Vol.1.

“Born as an idea through discussions with our artists and associates, Living Archive is a vital new strand of our work. Who gets to decide what is remembered and what is archived. What has been forgotten and what should have existed. Many brilliant people have fed into the idea of what this can be. It’s our ambition that we begin a whole new interactive portal which explores past work for the future and teaches us how to document and share what we do. This work will never be finished.”

Vicky Featherstone, Artistic Director Royal Court Theatre

Living Archive aims to reject the historical notion of what an archive is, it is a new portal that reimagines the history of the Royal Court Theatre in order to redefine its future. It encourages radical thought and imagination. It aims to resist the idea of 'canon' and instead bring attention to work which has been erased or not been brought to the attention of our audiences and writers.

It is a cumulative experiment and an ongoing commitment to digitising our work and making it fully accessible.

Living Archive Vol. 1 is the first enquiry in what will be an ongoing series. For two weeks across June and July, *Living Archive Vol 1* will present live work and events seeking to find an alternative archival lens. Both universal and specific to the Royal Court Theatre, it will be fun, interactive, exploratory and conversational.

All questions and learning will inform the development of a new digital Archive.

Each event will have a different 'Guest Archivist' who will use their personal perspective to inform the focus through which the work is captured.

Living Archive: Human Highlights
Wednesday 29 June 2022, 7.45pm
Jerwood Theatre Upstairs

Gorilla's, Floods and Pot Noodles. Life as a Stage Manager at the Royal Court.
Cast: **Philip Arditti, Lena Kaur, Martina Laird, Sarah Malin**

Living Archive: New
Thursday 7 July 2022 & Friday 8 July 2022, 7.45pm
Jerwood Theatre Upstairs

Two double-bills of specifically commissioned plays. All the writers began with questions around what archive means to them, and what it could be.

Joel Tan & Tash Brown: Thursday 30 Jun & Friday 1 Jul, 7.45pm

Lie. Stir. Repeat written and performed by **Tash Brown**
Directed by **Nastazja Domaradzka**

Collect, Cumin, Coriander, Chardonnay, and Cashews by **Joel Tan**
Directed by **Izzy Rabey**
Cast: **William Gao, Letty Thomas**

Zia Ahmed & Anchuli Felicia King: Thu 7 & Fri 8 July, 7.45pm

Ephemera by **Anchuli Felicia King**
Directed by **Alessandra Davison**
Cast: **Aoife Gaston, Terique Jarrett, Patrick McNamee, Shala Nyx**

Recovery Position by **Zia Ahmed**
Directed by **Izzy Rabey**
Cast: **Dinita Gohil**

Living Archive: Re-Balance
Saturday 2 July 2022, 7.45pm
Jerwood Theatre Upstairs

A reading in celebration of *Under the Sun* by **Sylvia Wynter**, acquired by the Royal Court Theatre in 1958.

Directed by **Jasmine Lee-Jones**

Cast: **Mara Allen, Mensah Bediako, Doreene Blackstock, Llewella Gideon, Susan Lawson Reynolds, Hayden McLean, Clare Perkins, Chanté Saucer, Raphael Sowole, Luke Wilson**

Living Archive: Imagine

Saturday 9 July, 7.45pm

Jerwood Theatre Upstairs

Highlights, snippets and surprising archival material from Royal Court plays that don't exist, but that writers wish did.

Writers: **Josh Elliott, Amy Bethan Evans, Deborah Pearson, Daniel York Loh**

Cast: **Doreene Blackstock, Déja Bowers, Stefan Chanyaem, Adam Fenton, Amy Forrest, Anna Leong Brophy**

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For more information or images please contact Anoushka Warden on

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