



PRESS RELEASE Tuesday 12 October 2021

**ROYAL COURT THEATRE ANNOUNCES EXTENSION OF MARYLAND BY LUCY KIRKWOOD
UNTIL SATURDAY 23 OCTOBER 2021**

- ***Maryland* script available to read online for those unable to attend and the performance script is also available to perform for free for any UK theatre company or drama training organisation to stage their own script-in-hand reading**

The Royal Court Theatre's script-in-hand performances of Lucy Kirkwood's new play *Maryland* was due to end this Saturday but will now run until Saturday 23 October 2021 in the Jerwood Theatre Upstairs.

Alongside this extension, the *Maryland* performance script will be offered for free for any theatre company or drama training organisation in the UK who is interested to stage their own script-in-hand reading over the next six weeks.

The script is also now available online for any audiences unable to book to see *Maryland*.

Speaking previously on the play playwright Lucy Kirkwood said;

"This play was for many years a private conversation with myself. The horrific murders of Bibaa Henry and Nicole Smallman in 2020 and Sarah Everard and Sabina Nessa this year have galvanised me into making it public. I hesitate to even call it a play when it is simply a howl, a way of expressing what I feel about a culture of violence against women, but I am sharing it because I wonder if it might express a little of what other people feel about it too. It was written very quickly, and I am grateful to the Royal Court for snatching up a gauntlet thrown down last Friday night with such energy, care and seriousness."

Maryland is co-directed by Royal Court Theatre Artistic Director Vicky Featherstone and Royal Court Associate Directors Milli Bhatia and Lucy Morrison.

Approx running time 30 minutes, performances start at 7.45pm. Ticket prices are £5 for these readings and audiences are encouraged to make a donation to Rape Crisis England & Wales alongside buying tickets. <https://www.justgiving.com/rapecrisisengland-wales>

ENDS-

Press enquires can be directed to anoushkawarden@royalcourttheatre.com

To obtain a copy of the performance script and for further information on holding a reading please email maryland@royalcourttheatre.com

To access the play text see the Royal Court Theatre's [website](#).

Notes to Editors:

The Royal Court would usually charge £12 for each ticket, but in this case are charging £5 and asking audiences to donate the £7 difference to Rape Crisis England & Wales charity [here](#) if they are able to.

Rape Crisis is the umbrella organisation for a network of independent Rape Crisis Centres who provide a range of specialist services for women and girls who have been raped or experienced any form of sexual violence - whether as adults or as children. Find out more [here](#)

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