



PRESS RELEASE TUESDAY 6 SEPTEMBER 2022

**ROYAL COURT THEATRE ANNOUNCES CAST FOR *JEWS. IN THEIR OWN WORDS.* BY JONATHAN FREEDLAND FROM AN IDEA BY TRACY-ANN OBERMAN, CO-DIRECTED BY VICKY FEATHERSTONE AND AUDREY SHEFFIELD**

**MONDAY 19 SEPTEMBER 2022 – SATURDAY 22 OCTOBER 2022**



*Photographer for top left image Manuel Harlan. Photographer for all other images Helen Murray. Clockwise from top left, in alphabetical order: Billy Ashcroft, Debbie Chazen, Louisa Clein, Steve Furst, Rachel-Leah Hosker, Alex Waldmann, Hemi Yeroham*

Billy Ashcroft, Debbie Chazen, Louisa Clein, Steve Furst, Rachel-Leah Hosker, Alex Waldmann and Hemi Yeroham have been cast in *Jews. In Their Own Words.*, written by Jonathan Freedland from an idea by Tracy-Ann Oberman and co-directed by Vicky Featherstone and Audrey Sheffield. It will run at the Royal Court Jerwood Theatre Downstairs from Monday 19 September to Saturday 22 October 2022, with press night on Wednesday 28 September 2022, 7pm.

*Jews. In Their Own Words.* is designed by Georgia de Grey with lighting by Rory Beaton, music and sound design by Ben and Max Ringham, video design by Reuben Cohen and movement direction by Adi Gortler. Tommo Fowler is dramaturg.

A social worker. A doctor. A politician. An ex-politician. A refugee. A novelist. A decorator. A journalist. A Talmudist. An actress. A student. A researcher. Different lives, but all marked by the same enduring prejudice.

Journalist Jonathan Freedland has created a searing and incisive play, using verbatim interviews to expose the roots and damning legacy of antisemitism in Britain – found in the places where you'd least expect it.

*Jews. In Their Own Words* – a theatrical inquiry conducted through words, song... and a dose of English irony.





From an idea by Tracy-Ann Oberman. Co-created by Vicky Featherstone, Tracy-Ann Oberman & Audrey Sheffield.

There will be a post-show talk with Jonathan Freedland on Wednesday 12 October 2022.

## ENDS-

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## Notes to Editors:

### Images

<https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fo/x6ktpio62jmg7fpjmd38d/h?dl=0&rlkey=38inxcc8rh5a0pavbrr47w3gy>

## Press Performance:

7pm Wednesday 28 September 2022	<i>Jews. In Their Own Words.</i> by Jonathan Freedland from an idea by Tracy-Ann Oberman	Jerwood Theatre Downstairs
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## Biographies:

### Jonathan Freedland (Writer)

Jonathan is a Guardian columnist and former foreign correspondent. This is his first play.

Radio includes: **Presenter of *The Long View* (BBC Radio 4).**

Awards include: **Somerset Maugham Award (Bring Home the Revolution); Columnist of the Year; Orwell Prize for Journalism; Commentator of the Year.**

Jonathan is the author of 12 books, both fiction and non-fiction. His latest is **The Escape Artist: the Man Who Broke Out of Auschwitz to Warn the World.**

### Tracy-Ann Oberman (Co-Creator)

As actor Tracy-Ann has had an extensive theatre and screen career including **RSC, National and West End.**

TV credits include **It's a Sin, Ridley Road, Code 404, Afterlife and Friday Night Dinner.**

As writer, radio includes: **Bette and Joan and Baby Jane, Rock and Doris and Elizabeth, Mrs Robinson, I Presume, That Dinner of '67, Girl on an Island, The Freudian Complex, Theodora Potts: Victorian Psychic.**

### Vicky Featherstone (Co-Director)

For the Royal Court: **The Glow, Maryland, Living Newspaper, Shoe Lady, On Bear Ridge (& National Theatre Wales) [co-director], Cyprus Avenue (& Abbey, Dublin/MAC, Belfast/Public, NYC), The Cane, Gundog, My Mum's a Twat, 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.**

#### **Audrey Sheffield (Co-Director)**

As director, theatre includes: **Neighbourhood Voices, Tapestry (Young Vic); Perspective (National); The Dybbuk (Almeida); We Too Are Giants (Kiln); Sleepwalking (Hampstead); The Effect, Apologia (English Theatre Frankfurt); Skin and Blister [staged reading] (Old Vic); The Dark Room (Theatre503); The Scar Test (Arcola); Almost Near (Finborough); Little Flower of East Orange (National Theatre Studio).**

As associate/assistant director, theatre includes: **Pinter at the Pinter, Don Quixote (& RSC), Don Juan in Soho, Dead Funny, Hand to God, One Man, Two Guvnors (West End); Electra (Old Vic); Rapture, Blister, Burn (Hampstead); Troilus and Cressida (& The Wooster Group), Antony and Cleopatra (RSC); The Effect (National); Blurred Lines (National Theatre Studio).**

#### **Cast:**

##### **Billy Ashcroft**

Television includes: **The Full Monty.**

Audio includes: **Hide, The Battle for Roar, This Can Never Not Be Real.**

##### **Debbie Chazen**

For the Royal Court: **Mint, The President Has Come to See You, Untitled Matriarch Play, In Basildon, The Girlfriend Experience (& Plymouth Drum), Captain Oates Left Sock.**

Other theatre includes: **Our Generation (& Chichester Festival Theatre), A Prayer for Owen Meany, Mother Clap's Molly House (& West End) (National); The Child In The Snow (Wilton's Music Hall); Gin Craze (Royal and Derngate); Rags (Park); Romeo and Juliet (Globe); Sitting (Hong Kong International); Love and Information, The Cherry Orchard (Sheffield Crucible); Three Women (Trafalgar Studios); The Calendar Girls Musical, Calendar Girls (& Tour), The Duck House (& Vaudeville) (West End); A Lovely Sunday for Creve Coeur (Coronet Print Room); Neko (Tricycle); Listen, We're Family**





(Wilton's Music Hall); A Little Hotel on the Side (Theatre Royal Bath); Fred Karno's Circus (Bristol Slapstick Festival); Where's My Seat?, Crooked (Bush); 24 Hour Plays, Cinderella (Old Vic); The Girlfriend Experience (Young Vic); Dick Whittington (Barbican); Aladdin (Bristol Old Vic); A Midsummer Night's Dream (Albery Theatre London); The Rise and Fall of Little Voice (Salisbury Playhouse); The Frogs (Nottingham Playhouse).

Television includes: Dalglish, Dodger, Urban Myths – When Barbra Kissed Joan, Avenue 5, Sticks and Stones, The Last Kingdom 3+4, Holby City, Dead Pixels, Agatha Raisin: The Walkers of Dembley, Asylum, You, Me and the Apocalypse, The Job Lot, Ambassadors, Sherlock, Great Night Out, The Spa, This is Jinsy, Trollied, Coronation Street, Lee Nelson's Well Good Show, The Impressions Show with Culshaw and Stephenson, White Van Man, Doctors, We Are Klang, Psychoville, The Wall, Doc Martin, Doctor Who, Midsomer Murders, The Clinic, The Eejits, Tittybangbang, Cynthia, Eastenders, Murder in Suburbia, The Smoking Room, Grass, Mine All Mine, Gimme Gimme Gimme, Casualty, Nicholas, The Estate Agents, A Christmas Carol, The Bill, Killernet, Ruth Rendell's You Can't Be Too Careful, Tess of the D'Urbervilles, The Lakes.

Film includes: Red Joan, The Duel, Tooth, Suzie Gold, Barnie et ses Petites Contrarietes, Beginner's Luck, Topsy Turvy.

### **Louisa Clein**

Theatre includes: City Stories (Off Broadway); Crossing Jerusalem (Park); Sonnet Walks (Globe); City Stories (St. James); Mapping the City (Slunglow); The Railway Children (Waterloo Station); Lord Arthur Saville's Crime (Tour); Three Women (Assembly Rooms Edinburgh); Waste, The Lady from the Sea, Ian Charleson nomination (Almeida); Private Lives (Windsor Theatre Royal); The Rubenstein Kiss (Hampstead); Interior (Young Vic); My Children! My Africa! (Salisbury Playhouse); A Midsummer Night's Dream (Arcola).

Television includes: Hapless, Emmerdale, Holby City, New Tricks, Casualty, Midsomer Murders, Judge John Deed, Fanny Hill, Doctors.

Documentary includes: My Family The Holocaust and Me.

Film includes: Frost Giant.

### **Steve Furst**

Theatre includes: Philip Ridley's Beast of Blue Yonder (Southwark Playhouse); Mr. Gum and the Dancing Bear – The Musical! (National); Made in Dagenham (Adelphi); Matilda: The Musical (Cambridge Theatre for the RSC); Wet Weather Cover (Kings Head/Arts Theatre); Jack and the Beanstalk (Barbican); Behind the Net Curtains (Assembly Rooms, Edinburgh Festival); 12 Angry Men (Guy Masterson); Steve Furst on Canvas (Jongleurs); Celebrity Squares (Pleasance).

Television includes: Serpent Queen, Angela Black, In the Long Run, The Dumping Ground, Summer of Rockets, Manhunt, Spy School, Holby City, Father Brown, Eve, Doctors, Citizen Khan, Toast, Doc Martin, Law & Order, Friday Night Dinner, Cardinal Burns, Sally Lindsay's Christmas Cracker, The Slammer, Army Kids, The Legend of Dick and Dom, Wuthering Heights, The Bill, We Are Most Amused, Thank God You're Here, Massive, Comedy Cuts, MI High, The Late Edition, Tony Biscotti School for Performing Arts, Late Edition, Rob Brydon's Annually Retentive, There's No F In Script, 28 Acts in 28 Minutes, Absolute Power, Bodies, Born and Bred, Comic Side of 7 Days, Little Britain, My Dad's the Prime Minister, Wall of Silence, Johnny Vaughan Tonight, Lenny Henry in Pieces, Popelganger, Rumbled, Variety Pack, The Lenny Beige Television Show.





Film includes: **Walk Like a Panther, Disobedience, Borley Rectory, The Knot, Chalet Girl, St Trinian's 2, Malice in Wonderland, St Trinian's, That's for Me, Suzi Gold, The Piano Tuner.**

Radio includes: **The Fabulous Doctor Singer, Eric the Skull, Mrs Robinson I Presume, I Regress, Clement Doesn't Live Here Anymore, Jammin.**

### **Rachel-Leah Hosker**

As actor, theatre includes: **The Winston Machine (& North Wall), Antigone (New Diorama); Skin Hunger (Dante or Die); The Butterfly Lion (Chichester Festival Theatre); GIRLS (The PappyShow, Vault); Philip Pullman's Grimm Tales (Unicorn); Left My Desk (HOME); Skate Hard, Turn Left (Battersea Arts Centre); Loaded (Out of Inc, Birmingham Old Rep); Alan, We Think You Should Get a Dog (Theatre503); This Is Not a Drill (Tristan Bates).**

As actor, television includes: **Platinum Jubilee Celebration: A Gallop Through History, Holby City, Doctors.**

Awards include: **Offie Award for Best Performance (Skin Hunger).**

As movement director, theatre includes: **Camp Seigfreid (Old Vic), Macbeth (Globe), The Mitzvah Project, The Misfortune of the English (Orange Tree).**

### **Alex Waldmann**

Theatre includes: **The Fever Syndrome (Hampstead); The Mikvah Project, Widowers' Houses (Orange Tree); Youth Without God (Coronet); Julius Caesar, All's Well That Ends Well, As You Like It, Hamlet, A Soldier in Every Son, Richard III (RSC); All My Sons, Wars of the Roses (Rose); King John (Globe) In The Night Time Before the Sun Rises, Big Love (Gate); King John, Knight of the Burning Pestle, Duchess of Malfi (Globe, Sam Wanamaker); Jonah and Otto (Park); The Holy Rosenbergs (National); Speechless (Shared Experience); Rope (Almeida); Shradddha (Soho); Hamlet, Twelfth Night (Donmar West End); Troilus and Cressida (Cheek by Jowl); Angry Young Man (Trafalgar Studios); Hobson's Choice (Chichester Festival Theatre); Waltz of the Toreadors (Chichester Minerva Theatre); Macbeth (West Yorkshire Playhouse); Romeo and Juliet (Birmingham Rep); Angry Young Man (Battersea Arts Centre); Hortensia and the Museum of Dreams (Finborough); Fishbowl (Theatre503).**

Television includes: **Father Brown, Call the Midwife, Strike Back 7, Humans, Shakespeare Live, Duchess of Malfi, The Nightwatch, Psychoville, First Light.**

Radio includes: **Turgenev's First Love, Remorse, Three Sisters, The Talisman, Macbeth, The Once and Future King, Julie, August 1914, The Stuarts, The Eustace Diamonds, The Spy.**

### **Hemi Yeroham**

Theatre includes: **Habibti Driver (Octagon Theatre Bolton); Berberian Sound Studio (Donmar); Alice's Adventures Underground (Les Enfants Terribles); Romeo and Juliet, The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes (US tour, Off Broadway); Operation Magic Carpet (Polka); 66 Minutes in Damascus (Theatre of Sao Paulo Biennial); The Arabian Nights (Tricycle); The Tempest (Cambridge Shakespeare Festival); 66 Minutes in Damascus (LIFT); Hate (Holland Tour); The Cradle Will Rock (Arcola); Shadow Language (Theatre503); The Container (UK Tour).**

Television includes: **Nova Jones, The Cockfields, Benidorm, Tyrant, You've Been Served, Sunshine, Bad Grandad, Eastenders.**

Film includes: **Closed, Mamma Mia!.**





Radio includes: **The Amelia Project, The Long View with Jonathan Freedland, Ambridge Extra, Turnpike Lane, Forgiving, The Cool Bag Baby, Poppyseds, Up the Empire.**

**Listings Information:**

**Captioned Performances** Wednesday 5, Wednesday 12 October 2022 at 7.30pm, Thursday 20 October 2022 at 2.30pm

**Audio Described Performance** Saturday 22 October 2022, 2.30pm and Touch Tour at 1pm

**Relaxed Environment Performance** Saturday 15 October 2022, 2.30pm

**BSL Performance** Wednesday 19 October 2022, 7.30pm

**Press Performance** Wednesday 28 September 2022, 7pm

**Post-show talk** Wednesday 12 October 2022

**Standard Tickets** £12 - £49

**Concessions\***

**First Look Tickets\*\***

**Under 27s\*\*\***

**Access** £17.50 (plus a companion at the same rate)

\*ID required. All discounts subject to availability

