

PRESS RELEASE Friday 14 October 2022

ROYAL COURT THEATRE ANNOUNCES CAST FOR BAGHDADDY BY JASMINE NAZIHA JONES DIRECTED BY MILLI BHATIA

FRIDAY 18 NOVEMBER 2022 – SATURDAY 17 DECEMBER 2022



Clockwise from top left, in alphabetical order: Philip Arditti (photographer: Clare Park), Souad Fares, Jasmine Naziha Jones (photographer: Wolf Marloh), Hayat Kamille (photographer: Michael Shelford), Noof Ousellam (photographer: Phil Sharp).

Philip Arditti, Souad Fares, Jasmine Naziha Jones, Hayat Kamille and Noof Ousellam will perform in *Baghdaddy*, written by Jasmine Naziha Jones and directed by Milli Bhatia. It will run at the Royal Court Jerwood Theatre Downstairs from Friday 18 November to Saturday 17 December 2022, with press night on Thursday 24 November 2022, 7pm.

Baghdaddy is designed by Moi Tran, with lighting design by Jessica Hung Han Yun, sound design by Elena Peña, movement direction by Valentina Ceschi, and assistant direction by Melina Namdar. The fight direction is by RC-Annie and the dialect coach is Edda Sharpe.

‘Congratulations! Your pain is commercially viable.’

It's 1991 and the Gulf War rages three thousand, three hundred and twenty miles away. Darlee is 8 years old, crying behind the wheelie bookcase in Miss Stratford's classroom. She's just realised she's Iraqi. Or half. Maybe both.

She saw it on the news last night after Neighbours and fish fingers. Heard the fear slipping through the receiver, saw it oozing from Dad's eyeballs and into the living room as he tried to phone home.

What she can't process now, she'll be haunted by later; the spirits hounding her will make sure of that...

'Operation Desert Storm; you won't lose a wink of sleep over it. Except your Daddy. Your Daddy's shitting his pants. Enjoy your Viennetta.'

Baghdaddy is a playfully devastating coming-of-age story. Told through clowning and memory, it explores the complexities of cultural identity, generational trauma and a father-daughter relationship amidst global conflict.

Jasmine Naziha Jones's debut play was developed as part of an Introduction to Playwriting group at the Royal Court. Royal Court Associate Milli Bhatia (*seven methods of killing kylie jenner*) directs.

Baghdaddy has been generously supported by a lead gift from Charles Holloway. It is a co-production with SISTER.

There will be a post-show talk with Jasmine Naziha Jones on Tuesday 29 November 2022.

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For images see here: <https://www.dropbox.com/sh/yinoz453hrw27qf/AADx1Qmfl8-zxbIFUKIRLbsca?dl=0>

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Press Performance:

7pm Thursday 24 November 2022	<i>Baghdaddy</i> by Jasmine Naziha Jones	Jerwood Theatre Downstairs
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Biographies:

Jasmine Naziha Jones (Writer)

Jasmine Naziha Jones was part of a Royal Court Introduction to Playwriting Group. This is Jasmine’s first play.

As actor, theatre includes: **Buggy Baby (Yard); The Art of Success (Rose, Kingston); Memory of Water (Nottingham Playhouse); Gaslight (Watford Palace); Sense (Southwark); The Phantom Seahorse (Soho); Philippa and Will Are Now In a Relationship (New Diorama).**

As actor, television includes: **Casualty, To Be Continued, Call the Midwife, Doctors, Turn Up Charlie, Flatmates.**

As actor, film includes: **Raging Grace (AMC).**

As actor, radio includes: **over 30 radio dramas for BBC Radio, including Baghdad Burning, The Talking Mongoose, Moominland Midwinter, Girls of Riyadh and The White Hotel.**

Jasmine co-wrote comedy musical ‘The Sisters’ which premiered at Latitude festival and played Leicester Sq Theatre and Hen & Chickens.

Milli Bhatia (Director)

As director, for the Royal Court: **Maryland, seven methods of killing kylie jenner, Living Newspaper, My White Best Friend (and Other Letters Left Unsaid), This Liquid Earth: A Eulogy in Verse [Edinburgh International Festival], Half Full (& RWCMD), Dismantle This Room.**

As assistant director, for the Royal Court: **Inside Bitch (& Clean Break), Poet in da Corner, One For Sorrow, Instructions for Correct Assembly, Girls & Boys.**

As director, other theatre includes: **Chasing Hares (Young Vic); seven methods of killing kylie jenner (Riksteatern); Dismantle This Room, The Hijabi Monologues (Bush); My White Best Friend (and Other Letters Left Unsaid) (Bunker); I’m Tired Of Waiting, Someone Pass Me The Duct Tape, (Stratford East).**

As director, film includes: **seven methods of killing kylie jenner, Living Newspaper (Royal Court); HOME(BODY) or The Tall Story (Young Vic); Tiny Dancers (NYT); Yash Gill’s Power Half Hour.**

As director, radio includes: **Ghosts In The Blood (Audible).**

Cast:**Philip Arditti**

For the Royal Court: **Who Cares.**

Other theatre includes: **Copenhagen (Theatre Royal Bath); Henry IV, Henry V, Henry VI and Richard III - Ensemble '19 (Globe); Oslo, Salome, As You Like It, The Holy Rosenbergs, Blood and Gifts, England People Very Nice (National); The Hunting Lodge, Fourth Wise Man (Unicorn); Henry V (Regent's Park); Catch 22 (Northern Stage); Facts (Finborough); 66 Books (Bush); Light Shining in Buckinghamshire, Silver Birch House (Arcola); Rope (Almeida).**

Television includes: **No Return, Domina, Sanctuary, L'Ispettore Coliandro, Chimerica, Black Earth Rising, Patrick Melrose, Kiss Me First, The State, The White Princess, Spotless, Ripper Street, The Honourable Woman, The Vatican, Game of Thrones, Strike Back 4, Davinci's Demons, Borgia, Son, New Tricks, Twenty Twelve, Accused, Five Days, Father & Son, 10 Days to War, House of Saddam.**

Film includes: **The Last Planet, Anchor and Hope, The Danish Girl, Inferno, Hyena, Exodus, Monsters: Dark Continent, Red II, Singing Women, Born of War, Interview with a Hitman, Women and Children, Happy-Go-Lucky.**

Radio includes: **The Voyage of the St Louis, Miriam and Youssef, Fall of the Shah, Censoring an Iranian Love Story, Castle of the Hawk, Arabian Nights, The Bethlehem Murders, Love is Not New in this Country, The Bastard of Istanbul, The Great Charter, Gorsky/Book at Bedtime, Farran at Bay, Reluctant Spy, Book of the Week.**

Souad Faress

For the Royal Court: **Goats, Indian Plays – Mahua, Great Celestial Cow (& Joint Stock), A Curse.**

Other theatre includes: **Lotus Beauty, Tiger Country, Sugar and Snow (Hampstead); Welcome to Iran (& National), The Village (Theatre Royal Stratford East); The Wisdom Club (Theatre Royal); Winter Hill (Octagon, Bolton); Chilcot (LUNG); Hurried Steps (New Shoes); White Privilege (Yard); The House of Bernada (Almeida); Small Miracle (Mercury); Trojan Trilogy (Theatre of Dionysus); The Permanent Way (Out of Joint); Celestina (Birmingham Rep); Homebody/Kabul (Cheek by Jowl/Young Vic).**

Television includes: **Better, The Other Half, His Dark Materials, Signora Volpe, Landscapes, Anatomy of a Scandal, Sandman, We Are Lady Parts, Back to Life, Doctors, Porters, The Spy, Apple Tree House, Brief Encounters, Game of Thrones, Berlin Station, Holby City, Hollyoaks, Cabbage & Patch, Vera, Making of a Lady, Utopia, Morton/Nemesis, Casualty, Sarah Jane Adventures, Law & Order, Silent Witness, My Spy Family, The Bill, Tripping Over, Bodies II, Family Affairs, My Hero, No Angels, Bremner Bird and Fortune, Noah, Being April, Strange.**

Film includes: **A House in Jerusalem, Dune, Cruella, Made in Italy, Christopher Robin, Bridget Jones' Baby, Sixth Happiness, Bhaji on the Beach, My Beautiful Laundrette, Such a Long Journey, Who's Who.**

Radio includes: **The System, Welcome to Iran, The Archers, The Complete Earthsea, Welcome to Zaatari, Phonophone, The Brick, The Insider, Ambridge Extra, Deportation Room.**

Jasmine Naziha Jones

Biography as above, under 'Writer'.

Hayat Kamille

Theatre includes: **Othello (English Touring Theatre/Dubai Opera); Waiting for Summer (Swivel Theatre).**

Television includes: **Vikings: Valhalla, Ransom, Tyrant.**

Film includes: **Death on the Nile, Mosul, Murder on the Orient Express, Letters from Baghdad.**

Noof Ousellam

Theatre includes: **Leopoldstadt (Sonia Friedman); Buggy Baby (Yard); Wildefire (Hampstead); Richard III (Cockpit/Custom Practice); A Midsummer Night's Dream (Almeida); Respect (Birmingham Rep); Rendition Monologues (Sheffield Crucible).**

Television includes: **Andor, Guilt, The Cure, Trust Me, Hanna, Love, Lies and Records, Vera, Meet the Jury, Holby City, River City, Taggart.**

Film includes: **Entebbe, Teen Spirit, The Mummy, Leave to Remain, The Conversations, Extraordinary Rendition.**

Radio includes: **The Tempest, Dan Dare, 1001 Arabian Nights, The Road to Bani Walid, The Boy From Aleppo Who Painted the War.**

Listings Information:

Captioned Performances Wednesday 7 December 2022 at 7.30pm, Thursday 15

December 2022 at 2.30pm

Relaxed Environment Performance Saturday 10 December 2022, 2.30pm

Audio Described Matinee Saturday 17 December 2022, 2.30pm and Touch Tour at 1pm

Press Performance Thursday 24 November 2022, 7pm

Post-show talk Tuesday 29 November 2022

Standard Tickets £10 - £49

Concessions*

First Look Tickets**

Under 27s***

Access £17.50 (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 Jobseekers 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, no sooner than 9 September.

Partner:

SIS
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SISTER was co-founded by Elisabeth Murdoch, Stacey Snider and Jane Featherstone to develop, produce and invest in visionary creators. SISTER builds upon Featherstone's Emmy and BAFTA Award-winning scripted indie, Sister Pictures, an independent, modern studio with offices in London and LA. It unites the expertise of the founders alongside a team of renowned creatives to make breakout stories across all forms of media. As well as producing hit shows including *Chernobyl* (Sky/HBO), *Gangs of London* (SKY/ AMC) *Landscapers* (SKY/ HBO) and *This is Going to Hurt* (BBC/ AMC), SISTER has made a series of bold investments in new creator-led businesses including Zando, an ambitious new publishing venture from Molly Stern, Campside Media, a podcast studio, AWA Studios, a comic book and digital media publisher, and a partnership with iconic London venue KOKO which has been transformed into a new global music platform. To learn more about SISTER and its work, visit www.sister.net