

PRESS RELEASE - Tuesday 2 May 2023

THE ROYAL COURT THEATRE ANNOUNCES CAST FOR *HOPE HAS A HAPPY MEAL* BY TOM FOWLER DIRECTED BY LUCY MORRISON

SATURDAY 3 JUNE – SATURDAY 8 JULY 2023



Clockwise from top left: Laura Checkley (credit: Phil Sharp), Mary Malone (credit: YellowBelly), Amaka Okafor (credit: YellowBelly), Felix Scott (credit: Pip), Nima Taleghani (credit: Sam Irons).

Laura Checkley, Mary Malone, Amaka Okafor, Felix Scott and Nima Taleghani have been cast in *Hope has a Happy Meal*, written by Tom Fowler and directed by Royal Court Associate Lucy Morrison. It will run at the Royal Court Jerwood Theatre Upstairs from Saturday 3 June to Saturday 8 July 2023, with press night on Friday 9 June 2023 at 7pm.

Hope has a Happy Meal is designed by Naomi Dawson, with lighting design by Anna Watson, sound design by Annie May Fletcher and movement direction by Jonnie Riordan.

“Hope? Hope, is that you?”

Years and years ago, Hope disappeared. Now, she’s back. To find something she left behind.

But in the People’s Republic of Koka Kola – a world of dwindling resources, corruption and corporate giants – what happens to Hope?



Follow Hope on a surreal and frenetic quest through a hyper-capitalist country.

Hope has a Happy Meal is a co-production with SISTER.

There will be a post-show talk with Tom Fowler on Tuesday 13 June 2023.

ENDS

For images see [here](#).

Press contacts:

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Biographies:

Tom Fowler (Writer)

For the Royal Court: **Roman Candle (& Theatre503), Katzenmusik.**

Other theatre includes: **Suspicious Minds (Pleasance, Edinburgh Fringe).**

Lucy Morrison (Director)

For the Royal Court: **Rapture, Scenes with girls, The Woods, MANWATCHING, Plaques & Tangles, Who Cares, Pests, Product (& Clean Break/Traverse/European tour).**

Other theatre includes: **AKEDAH, The Animal Kingdom (Hampstead); Elephant (Birmingham Rep); Billy the Girl, This Wide Night (Clean Break/Soho); Little on the inside (Clean Break/Almeida/Latitude); it felt empty when the heart went at first but it is alright now (Clean Break/Arcola); Fatal Light, Doris Day (Soho).**

Lucy is an Associate Director at the Royal Court.

Cast:

Laura Checkley

Theatre includes: **Dick Whittington (National); Mother Courage (Southwark); Hormonal Housewives (UK tour); Comedy Riot (Leicester Square Theatre); The Wind in the Willows, The Snow Queen (Derby Theatre); Gone with the Wind (New London); By Jeeves (UK tour); Two Cities (Salisbury Playhouse); My Fair Lady (Asia tour); Teechers (Haymarket Theatre Basingstoke & Singapore); House & Garden (Harrogate)**



Theatre); **Grease** (West End International); **Cabaret** (English Theatre, Frankfurt); **Brenda Bly Teen Detective** (The Bridewell); **The Boyfriend** (UK tour).

Television includes: **Horseface & Brassic**, **Screw**, **Detectorists**, **In My Skin**, **King Gary**, **Porters**, **Enterprice**, **Wanderlust**, **Action Team**, **Hailmakers**, **Red Dwarf**, **This Country**, **Raised by Wolves**, **Cradle to the Grave**, **Coronation Street**, **Edge of Heaven**, **W1A**, **We Are Family**, **Wasteman**, **The Agency**, **The Garden**, **Criminal Justice**, **Rosemary & Thyme**.

Film includes: **Whip**, **Military Wives**, **Bridget Jones' Baby**.

Mary Malone

Theatre includes: **As You Like It** (Soho Place); **The Prince** (Southwark); **Gulliver's Travels** (Unicorn).

Television includes: **Doctor Who**, **Vera**, **Chivalry**, **The Girlfriend Experience**, **Play in a Day**.

Radio includes: **Hell Cats 2**, **Radio Elusia**, **The Venice Conundrum**.

Awards include: **Winning Graduate** (Play in a Day); **BroadwayWorld UK Award for Best Supporting Performer in a New Production of a Play** (The Prince).

Amaka Okafor

For the Royal Court: **Grimly Handsome**, **It's All Made Up**, **The Space Between** (The Site), **I See You**.

Other theatre includes: **After the End**, **Glasgow Girls** (& National Theatre of Scotland/Citizens) (Stratford East); **Nora: A Doll's House** (Young Vic); **The Son** (Kiln/West End); **I'm Not Running**, **Macbeth**, **Saint George & the Dragon**, **Peter Pan** (National); **Hamlet** (Barbican/Sonia Friedman & Almeida); **Mermaid** (Shared Experience); **Bird** (Root); **The Snow Queen** (& India tour), **Flathampton** (Royal & Derngate, Northampton); **Beauty & the Beast**, **The Garbage King**, **The Tempest**, **The London Eye Mystery**, **Cinderella** (Unicorn); **Dr Korczak's Example** (Royal Exchange, Manchester/Arcola); **Sabbat** (Dukes); **Branded**, **24 Hour Plays**, **Hitting Heights** (Old Vic); **Robin Hood & the Babes in the Wood**, **Red Oleander**, **When Brecht Met Stanislavski** (Salisbury Playhouse); **Meantime** (Soho); **Tracy Beaker Gets Real** (Nottingham Playhouse); **Stamping**, **Shouting & Singing Home** (Polka); **The Alexander Projekt** (Split Moon).

Television includes: **Bodies**, **The Responder**, **Grace**, **Des**, **The Split**, **Vera 10**.

Film includes: **Greatest Days**, **Sweet Sue**.

Radio includes: **The Unseen Government**, **No.1 Ladies Detective Agency**, **Home Front**, **Dark Fire**, **Hollywood Ending**, **If Only**, **Barnaby Rudge**, **Time and the Conways**, **Pilgrim**, **Dark Side**, **BBC Radio Drama Company**, **The Interrogation**, **Vital Statistics**, **Mrs Dalloway**, **The Great Gatsby**, **The Eggy Doylers**, **From Fact to Fiction**, **Marathon Tales**.

Felix Scott

Theatre includes: **2:22 A Ghost Story** (Criterion); **Dirty Great Love Story** (Arts Theatre); **The Angry Brigade** (Paines Plough); **Gruesome Playground Injuries** (Gate); **The Country Wife** (Manchester Royal Exchange); **The Under Room** (Lyric Hammersmith); **Dr. Faustus** (Globe); **The Maddening Rain** (E.59 Theatre NY/Old Red Lion); **Women**



Power & Politics (Tricycle); Sudden Loss Of Dignity.com (Bush); The Man Who Had All The Luck (Donmar); In The Heart Of America (Gielgud); Sentenced (Union); Breakdown (Pleasance); Lost Yet Found (Hampstead); Nicholas Nickleby, Kes (Lyric).

Television includes: **Miss Scarlet and The Duke, Our House, The Crown S3, Grantchester, Lee And Dean S2, Ransom, Endeavour S5, No Offence, The Bastard Executioner, The Interceptor, Wolf Hall, Undeniable, Doc Martin, Sirens, Missing, Holby City, The Bill, Plus One, Lewis 11, Wire In The Blood, Victoria Cross Heroes, Synchronicity, and Bombshell.**

Film includes: **Brothers By Blood, Baghdad In My Shadow, Blitz, Inception, Artifacts.**

Nima Taleghani

Theatre includes: **Cyrano de Bergerac (BAM, New York/Playhouse, West End); Macbeth (Royal Exchange); Armadillo (Yard); Romeo and Juliet, The Merry Wives of Windsor (Royal Shakespeare Company); The Plough and the Stars (Abbey Theatre) The White Whale (Slung Low).**

Television includes: **Heartstopper, Danny Boy, Hatton Garden, Casualty.**

Film includes: **Femme, 90 Minutes, Dublin Oldschool.**

Listings information:

All upcoming press performances:

Thursday 8 June 2023, 7pm	<i>all of it</i> by Alistair McDowall	Jerwood Theatre Downstairs
Friday 9 June 2023, 7pm	<i>Hope has a Happy Meal</i> by Tom Fowler	Jerwood Theatre Upstairs
Wednesday 12 July 2023, 7pm	<i>Cuckoo</i> by Michael Wynne	Jerwood Theatre Downstairs
Wednesday 26 July 2023, 7pm	<i>Word-Play</i> by Rabiah Hussain	Jerwood Theatre Upstairs
Monday 22 January 2024, 7pm	<i>Dana H.</i> by Lucas Hnath	Jerwood Theatre Downstairs

Listings Information:



Full run dates Saturday 3 June - Saturday 8 July 2023

Captioned Performance Wednesday 28 June 2023, 7.45pm, Friday 7 July 2023, 7.45pm

Relaxed Environment Performance Saturday 8 July 2023, 3pm

Press Performance Friday 9 June 2023, 7pm

Post-show talk Tuesday 13 June 2023

Standard Tickets £12 - £25

Concessions*

First Look Tickets**

Under 27s***

Access £17.50 (plus a companion at the same rate) across all Bands (excluding Band E) and all performances

*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 £15 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.



Partner:

SISTER

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 *The Power* (Prime Video), *This is Going to Hurt* (BBC/ AMC), *Landscapers* (SKY/ HBO), *The Baby* (HBO/ SKY) *Gangs of London* (SKY/ AMC) and *Chernobyl* (Sky/HBO). SISTER has made a series of bold investments in new creator-led businesses including award-winning documentary production company Dorothy Street Pictures, premier British animation company Locksmith Animation, Zando, an ambitious publishing venture from Molly Stern, Campside Media, an award-winning podcast studio, AWA Studios, a comic book and digital media publisher, a partnership with iconic London music venue KOKO and Yes Yes Media, a new non-scripted TV and tech entertainment company. To learn more about SISTER and its work, visit www.sister.net