



**ACCESS  
ALL AREAS**

**PRESS RELEASE - TUESDAY 22 AUGUST 2023**

For images see [here](#).

## **INITIAL CASTING ANNOUNCED FOR *IMPOSTER 22* AT THE ROYAL COURT THEATRE**



Co-creators of *Imposter 22*. Clockwise from top left: Kirsty Adams, Cian Binchy, Housni Hassan (DJ), Dayo Koleosho, Stephanie Newman, Lee Phillips, Charlene Salter. Photographer credit: Chris Mann.

The **Royal Court Theatre**, in collaboration with **Access All Areas**, today announces the initial casting for *Imposter 22* by **Molly Davies** (*God Bless the Child*, *A Miracle*). The production has been created from an original idea by neurodivergent Royal Court Associate Director **Hamish Pirie**, and is a co-creation with seven learning disabled and autistic artists who also perform in the piece. Directed by Pirie, these artists and performers are **Kirsty Adams**, **Cian Binchy**, **Housni Hassan (DJ)**, **Dayo Koleosho**, **Stephanie Newman**, **Lee Phillips** and **Charlene Salter**. **Anna Constable** will also perform as an alternate to Stephanie Newman, with further casting to be announced. The production runs from **Saturday 23 September - Saturday 14 October 2023**, with a press night on **Friday 29 September 2023**.

### **Introducing the co-creators and cast:**

**Kirsty Adams said:** *"I'm really excited and happy about making this show. It's important that learning disabled and autistic people have a voice and express how they feel on stage. We all collaborated and improvised together to create characters, and my character Blossom is cheeky and a little bit bossy."*

**Cian Binchy said:** *“This show is a very original idea, and I’m feeling great about it. Autistic and learning disabled people have got so much to offer so it’s important that we continue to be on every stage. My character Jake doesn’t want to put up with the stuff other disabled people put up with, I’ve helped create the character and improvised with the cast since 2019.”*

**Housni Hassan (DJ) said:** *“I feel incredible about making this show - I can’t wait! We are as fantastic as non-disabled people, talented in our own unique way and all of us were born for the stage. My character Kev is a funny, quirky, deep thinker who is generous and kind.”*

**Dayo Koleosho said:** *“I feel amazing and I’m looking forward to being in the show. I want to show that we can own and perform on the biggest stages in theatre with confidence, and that’s why it’s important that learning disabled and autistic people are on stage at the Royal Court.”*

**Stephanie Newman said:** *“I’m most excited about attracting other learning disabled and autistic people to feel welcomed on stage, and I want us to be an example. I created my character, Rose is friendly and rule breaking.”*

**Lee Phillips said:** *“It feels great, a brilliant opportunity to be more creative and become a better performer. I hope the audience takes away the fact that we are amazing, that this is a good story and that they understand the characters. Geoff, the character I play, is clever, likes to have fun and the joke is always on him!”*

**Charlene Salter said:** *“It’s really important for learning disabled and autistic people to be represented and shown as role models on stage. We are here to be seen and not pushed aside. For the audience to wake up and realise that we have got talent and we can perform as good as non-disabled actors. We need more roles to represent us on TV and film.”*

The whodunnit caper has been collectively created, inspired by the lived experiences and imaginations of the group, over a five-year workshop process. The production marks a new partnership between Access All Areas and the Royal Court and is a playful account of barrier navigation, the politics of neurodiversity and the power of sharing a platform.

*“We need to start at the start.*

*Yes, yes, we do or the Neurotypicals will be confused”*

There was something off about the new guy. But now he’s dead, and the sirens are fast approaching.

Who to trust – what was it he told you that time on the pedalo?

You need to get your story straight; because CCTV and number plates.

Because everyone’s perspective is different, and only certain perspectives count.

You need an empty stage, a mic, a London bus.

You need a captive audience, roller skates, and a man 25 to 45 who will do as he's told.

Pressure's on. Engine's running.

The new production will be created with the sensory needs of neurodivergent audience members in mind and all performances will be relaxed.

## ENDS

### Press contacts:

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### Press performance:

|                                  |   |                            |
|----------------------------------|---|----------------------------|
| Friday 29 September 2023,<br>7pm | <i>Imposter 22</i> by Molly Davies,,<br>created with Kirsty Adams, Cian<br>Binchy, Housni Hassan (DJ),<br>Dayo Koleosho, Stephanie<br>Newman, Lee Phillips and<br>Charlene Salter, from an original<br>idea by Hamish Pirie | Jerwood Theatre Downstairs |
|----------------------------------|---|----------------------------|

### Listings Information

#### *Imposter 22*

#### By Molly Davies

Co-created with Kirsty Adams, Cian Binchy, Housni Hassan (DJ), Dayo Koleosho, Stephanie Newman, Lee Phillips and Charlene Salter

From an original idea and directed by Hamish Pirie

Jerwood Theatre Downstairs, Royal Court Theatre, Sloane Square, SW1W 8AS

Saturday 23 September - Saturday 14 October 2023

Monday - Saturday 7.30pm

Captioned Performances Thursday 12 October 2023, Saturday 14 October 2023

BSL Performance Friday 13 October 2023

Audio Described Performance Saturday 14 October 2023, Touch Tour at 6pm

All performances of *Imposter 22* will be relaxed.

Press Performance Friday 29 September 2023, 7pm

Post-Show Talk Tuesday 3 October 2023

Standard Tickets £15 - £49

First Look Tickets\*\*

Concessions\*

Under 27s\*\*\*

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

\*ID required. All discounts subject to availability.

### Booking Information.

#### 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 offer a limited number of £15 tickets for selected performances in the Jerwood Theatre Downstairs. Available on Band B tickets, subject to availability.

**Monday Tickets** – Every other Monday, every seat in the house for Jerwood Theatre Downstairs productions is available for £12 from 9am online. A limited number are available in advance, subject to availability, to Friends and Supporters. The same price is available every Monday for Jerwood Theatre Upstairs productions.

**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.

## Support

As a registered charity, all donations received via bookings will go directly towards supporting the mission of the Royal Court. The income we receive from our audiences and community enables us to deliver renowned writers programmes across the globe, create ground-breaking theatre that is open to everyone and provide writers with the space and platform to experiment and develop their writing. Find out more [here](#).

## Backstage tours

Join us on a backstage tour of the Royal Court Theatre, one of the most important theatres of its time. Explore the design of the building before going behind the scenes for a glimpse of how our work goes from page to stage, and everything in between.

Post-tour cream tea packages are available. See website for tour dates. Group & bespoke tour packages available.

## Biographies:

### Molly Davies (Writer)

For the Royal Court: **God Bless The Child, A Miracle.**

Other theatre includes: **Chicken (Eastern Angles/Paines Plough Roundabout); Shooting Truth (National Theatre Connections); Orpheus & Eurydice (National Youth Theatre/Old Vic Tunnels); Magic (Paines Plough/Ipswich New Wolsey Theatre); Birds Stopped Singing (Company of Angels); The Future of Bump, Jenny Sings (Hampstead - heat&light and ESOL group); Things are Fragile (Shared Experience youth); The Best Team Since the A-Team (Southwark Playhouse youth); My Days (& Company of Angels), No Fairy Stories (Soho).**

Film includes: **TRUE THINGS.**

Awards include: **Harold Pinter Playwriting Award, Evening Standard Theatre Award for Most Promising Playwright (God Bless the Child), Westminster Prize (No Fairy Stories).**

### Hamish Pirie (Director)

For the Royal Court: **Living Archive, Rare Earth Mettle, Living Newspaper, Listen Local (Waltham Forest), Instructions for Correct Assembly, Goats, Beyond the Court: Tottenham, Primetime 2017, Human Animals, Violence & Son, Who Cares, Teh Internet is Serious Business.**

Other theatre includes: **Shibboleth (Abbey, Dublin); I'm with the Band (Traverse & Wales Millennium Centre), Quiz Show, Demos, 50 Plays for Edinburgh (Traverse); Love With a Capital 'L', 3 Seconds, Most Favoured, The Last Bloom (Traverse/Óran Mór); Bravo Figaro (Royal Opera House/Traverse); Salt Root & Roe (Donmar/Trafalgar Studios); Stacy (Arcola & Trafalgar Studios), Purgatory (Arcola); Pennies (nabokov); Paper House (Flight 5065).**

Hamish trained as Resident Assistant Director at Paines Plough & at the Donmar Warehouse. He was previously Associate Director at the Traverse Theatre. Hamish is an Associate Director at the Royal Court.

**Kirsty Adams (Co-Creator and Performer)**

Kirsty is an actor, associate artist of Access All Areas, member of the Separate Doors National Ensemble and the BareFace Collective.

Theatre includes: **Fix Us** (Lyric Hammersmith, Rosemary Branch, Soho, VAULT Festival and Edinburgh Fringe Festival); **unReal City** (Access All Areas, Battersea Arts Centre & Brighton Dome in collaboration with dreamthinkspeak); **Women Centre Stage** (Hampstead).

Other credits include: **Class Act**.

Awards include: **Shortlisted for the Pleasance Theatre Charlie Hartill Award (Fix Us)**.

Kirsty graduated from Access All Areas' Performance Making Diploma at the Royal Central School of Speech and Drama.

**Cian Binchy (Co-Creator and Performer)**

Cian is an actor, writer, and associate artist of Access All Areas.

Theatre includes: **The Misfit Analysis** (solo show with Access All Areas, Edinburgh Fringe/UK Tour/Mexico Tour with British Council); **unReal City** (Access All Areas, Battersea Arts Centre & Brighton Dome in collaboration with dreamthinkspeak); **MADHOUSE re:exit** (Access All Areas, Lowry Theatre & Shoreditch Town Hall); **Eye Queue Hear** (Access All Areas, Rich Mix & UK Tour).

Television includes: **Grace, Doctors, The Level**.

Awards include: **VAULT Festival People's Choice Award (The Misfit Analysis)**.

Cian's consultancy work includes supporting the original development of "The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time" (National).

Cian graduated from Access All Areas' Performance Making Diploma at the Royal Central School of Speech and Drama.

**Anna Constable (alternate to Stephanie Newman)**

Anna is an actor and associate artist of Access All Areas.

She graduated in 2023 from Access All Areas' Performance Making Diploma at the Royal Central School of Speech and Drama.

This is Anna's first professional role, and she is honoured to be performing at the Royal Court.

**Housni Hassan (DJ) (Co-Creator and Performer)**

DJ is an actor and dancer, an associate artist of Access All Areas, Associate Artistic Director at dance company Corali, and a performer with cabaret collective Not Your Circus Dog.

Theatre includes: **Not F\*\*kin' Sorry** (Soho & UK tour); **Duckie Presents – Princess** (Royal Vauxhall Tavern); **unReal City** (Access All Areas, Battersea Arts Centre & Brighton Dome in collaboration with dreamthinkspeak); **MADHOUSE re:exit** (Access All Areas, Lowry Theatre & Shoreditch Town Hall); **Eye Queue Hear** (Access All Areas, Rich Mix & UK Tour).

Dance includes: **The People Race The Fish, Hearts and Faces, Origami Atoms** (Corali), **The Overlap** (solo show and national tour), **The Manifesto for a Perfect Cup of Tea** (solo show and international tour).

DJ graduated from Access All Areas' Performance Making Diploma at the Royal Central School of Speech and Drama.

**Dayo Koleosho (Co-Creator and Performer)**

Dayo is an actor and associate artist of Access All Areas, where he is also a trustee.

Theatre includes: **Faith, Hope and Charity** (National Theatre & international tour); **Jitney** (Leeds Playhouse, Old Vic, Headlong UK tour); **#crazyfuturelove** (Occupy Festival at Battersea Arts Centre, the Bubble Club and the Autism Arts Festival); **unReal City** (Access All Areas, Battersea Arts Centre & Brighton Dome in collaboration with dreamthinkspeak); **MADHOUSE re:exit** (Access All Areas, Lowry Theatre & Shoreditch Town Hall); **Eye Queue Hear** (Access All Areas, Rich Mix & UK Tour).

Television includes: **Casualty, Strike, Grace, Doctors, The Level, Damned, Holby City**.

Other credits include: **Paralympics Opening Ceremony**.

Dayo founded collective duo 'Everyday Daylee' with actor Lee Phillips.

**Dayo graduated from Access All Areas' Performance Making Diploma at the Royal Central School of Speech and Drama.**

**Stephanie Newman (Co-Creator and Performer)**

**Stephanie is an actor, associate artist of Access All Areas, and a performer with cabaret collective Not Your Circus Dog.**

**Theatre includes: Not F\*\*kin' Sorry (Soho & UK tour); Duckie Presents – Princess (Royal Vauxhall Tavern); unReal City (Access All Areas, Battersea Arts Centre & Brighton Dome in collaboration with dreamthinkspeak); Joy (Royal Stratford East).**

**Stephanie graduated from Access All Areas' Performance Making Diploma at the Royal Central School of Speech and Drama.**

**Lee Phillips (Co-Creator and Performer)**

**Lee is an actor, writer, facilitator, and associate artist of Access All Areas.**

**Theatre includes: #crazyfuturelove (Occupy Festival at Battersea Arts Centre, the Bubble Club and the Autism Arts Festival); The Darkest Part of the Night (Kiln); unReal City (Access All Areas, Battersea Arts Centre & Brighton Dome in collaboration with dreamthinkspeak); All Wrapped Up (UK tour, Oily Cart).**

**Other credits include: Training films for both NHS England and Resources for Autism.**

**Lee graduated from Access All Areas' Performance Making Diploma at the Royal Central School of Speech and Drama.**

**He founded collective duo 'Everyday Daylee' with actor Dayo Koleosoho.**

**Lee also performs with London Bubble, Sardines Dance, and Entelechy Arts.**

**Charlene Salter (Co-Creator and Performer)**

**Charlene is an actor, writer, facilitator, and associate artist of Access All Areas, where she is also co-chair of the board of trustees.**

**Theatre includes: unReal City (Access All Areas, Battersea Arts Centre & Brighton Dome in collaboration with dreamthinkspeak), The Interrogation (solo show with Access All Areas & Lowry Theatre); ZARA (Mind the Gap).**

**Television includes: Casualty, Doctors.**

**Charlene graduated from Access All Areas' Performance Making Diploma at the Royal Central School of Speech and Drama.**

**She is a facilitator on Access All Areas' consultancy programmes, co-directed "Winged" (Access All Areas), and has worked as a script development consultant for a major broadcaster. She sits on the Creative Partnerships Group board for Battersea Arts Centre and was appointed to the #FreelanceTaskForce.**

### **About Access All Areas**

Access All Areas makes award-winning, disruptive performance by learning disabled and autistic artists. Our productions create intimate moments of interaction between performers and public, occupying unexpected spaces in venues, on the streets, online, and in public buildings.

As well as making shows, our company of Associate Artists works to make our culture more inclusive for learning disabled and autistic talent. We engage communities, train artists through our award-winning Diploma with Sky Studios and the Royal Central School of Speech and Drama, and work closely with TV, film, and theatre companies to make their work and workplaces more accessible.

Our partners include TV Access Project, Netflix, Sky Studios, The Lowry, and BAC, and we've worked on recent projects with National Theatre, Old Vic, Kiln Theatre, BBC, ITV Studios, and Channel 4.

All our work, from productions, to consultancy, to creative workshops, is co-led by Access All Areas' learning disabled and autistic artists, ensuring lived experience drives everything we do.

For more information on our work contact  
hello@accessallareastheatre.org

