



Paines
Plough



EKP

Press release - 19 October 2023

THE ROYAL COURT THEATRE ANNOUNCES TWO NEW PLAYS FOR NOVEMBER-DECEMBER 2023

- ***BULLRING TECHNO MAKEOUT JAMZ* BY NATHAN QUEELEY-DENNIS**
- ***TALKING ABOUT THE FIRE* BY CHRIS THORPE**

The Royal Court Theatre has today announced new productions for the end of 2023. The theatre will welcome back **Chris Thorpe** with his brand new play ***Talking About The Fire***, and will present the work of **Nathan Queeley-Dennis**, a current member of the Court's Long-Form writers' group, for the first time with a transfer of his critically acclaimed Edinburgh show ***Bullring Techno Makeout Jamz***.

Both productions will play in conjunction in the Jerwood Theatre Upstairs from November until the end of the year. *Talking About The Fire* is presented by China Plate and Staatstheater Mainz, *Bullring Techno Makeout Jamz* is presented by The Royal Court Theatre, Ellie Keel Productions, Paines Plough and The Belgrade Theatre, in association with Royal Exchange Theatre.

The newly announced productions join **Rory Mullarkey's *Mates in Chelsea*** which runs in the Jerwood Theatre Downstairs from 3 November - 16 December. The brand new comedy, directed by Sam Pritchard, is currently in rehearsals.

Bruntwood Prize Award winner Nathan Queeley-Dennis' debut play *Bullring Techno Makeout Jamz*, directed by **Dermot Daly**, premiered at Paines Plough's Roundabout this summer to sold out audiences and critical acclaim and will have its London premiere at The Royal Court. Queeley-Dennis also performs in the production which is a love letter to Birmingham exploring Black masculinity through Beyoncé lyrics, techno raves and the deeply intimate relationship between a man and his barber. It runs in the Jerwood Theatre Upstairs from Tuesday 28 November - Wednesday 20 December 2023, with Press Night on Wednesday 29 November 2023.

For a strictly limited run in December, China Plate and Staatstheater Mainz present the premiere of Chris Thorpe's brand solo show *Talking About The Fire*. Written and performed by the multi-award-winning Thorpe (*Confirmation/Status*), the play explores the ubiquitous but invisible presence of nuclear weapons in modern life. Examining international policy making, and the development of The Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW), Chris Thorpe invites the audience to engage, through direct conversation, with the international effort to eradicate the threat of nuclear weapons. Directed and created with **Claire O'Reilly**, and developed with **Rachel Chavkin**. It runs in the Jerwood Theatre Upstairs from Wednesday 6 December - Saturday 16 December 2023, with Press Night on Thursday 7 December 2023.

Rory Mullarkey's riotous comedy *Mates In Chelsea* begins on 3 November 2023 in the Jerwood Theatre Downstairs, running until 16 December.

Mohamed-Zain Dada's debut play *Blue Mist* is currently running in the Jerwood Theatre Upstairs, until 18 November 2023.

Show information:

Royal Court Theatre presents an Ellie Keel Productions, Paines Plough and The Belgrade Theatre production, in association with Royal Exchange Theatre

Bullring Techno Makeout Jamz

Written by Nathan Queeley-Dennis

Directed by Dermot Daly

Tuesday 28 November - Wednesday 20 December 2023

Jerwood Theatre Upstairs

Press night: Wednesday 29 November 2023, 7pm

Trim? Fresh.

Skin? Glowing.

Vibes? Immaculate.

Nathaniel is a serious romantic who sees love as a fine art. He's looking for the Mona Lisa to his da Vinci, and tonight is the night: his date with Destiny...s Child.

Winner of the Bruntwood Prize for Playwriting 2022, Nathan Queeley-Dennis' debut play is a love letter to Birmingham, exploring Black masculinity through Beyonce lyrics, techno raves and the deeply intimate relationship between a man and his barber.

Nathan Queeley-Dennis is an actor and writer from Birmingham. The production is directed by **Dermot Daly**.

China Plate and Staatstheater Mainz present

Talking About The Fire

Written and performed by Chris Thorpe

Created by Chris Thorpe and Claire O'Reilly

Developed with Rachel Chavkin

Directed by Claire O'Reilly

Wednesday 6 December - 16 December 2023

Jerwood Theatre Upstairs

Press night: Thursday 7 December 2023, 7pm

If nuclear weapons continue to exist, we won't. That's how this started.

Very few of us have lived in a world without nuclear weapons. Not me. Probably not you. They just... exist.

Sometimes the threat slides into view. Russia invades Ukraine, maybe. But that doesn't make the weapons more dangerous. They're always dangerous. And one day – deliberately

or accidentally – they’ll be used again. And then it’s all over.

From the team that created the award-winning Status and Confirmation, comes the world premiere of a show about a new nuclear weapons treaty – one that’s trying to give the power to eliminate nuclear weapons to the states, and people, who don’t possess them.

A play that inspires us to make a change, through the true story of one woman who did.

Supported by Battersea Arts Centre, The Albany and Véronique Christory.

Chris Thorpe is an Associate Artist at the Royal Exchange, Manchester. The production is directed by **Claire O’Reilly**. Design is by **Eleanor Field**, and Production Manager is **Rob Athorn**.

ENDS

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Images can be downloaded [here](#)

Upcoming press performances:

Thursday 9 November 2023, 7pm	<i>Mates in Chelsea</i> by Rory Mullarkey	Jerwood Theatre Downstairs
Wednesday 29 November 2023, 7pm	<i>Bullring Techno Makeout Jamz</i> , by Nathan Queeley-Dennis	Jerwood Theatre Upstairs
Thursday 7 December 2023, 7pm	<i>Talking About The Fire</i> , by Chris Thorpe	Jerwood Theatre Upstairs

Booking Information.

General ticket prices

Mates in Chelsea: £12 - £49

Blue Mist: £12 - £25

Bullring Techno Makeout Jamz: £12 - £20

Talking About The Fire: £12 - £20

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 to Support the Court, a fund which enables the Royal Court to continue to create ground-breaking new work for audiences. The support allows the theatre to keep running all of its behind-the-scenes projects, delivering writers programmes here in the UK and across the world, and schemes for, and with, young people. 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 (in production order)

Bullring Techno Makeout Jamz

Nathan Queeley-Dennis (Writer and Performer)

Bullring Techno Makeout Jamz is Nathan's debut play as a writer.

As actor, theatre includes: **As You Like It (@sohoplac)**; **Black Love (Kiln)**; **A Taste of Honey (National)**; **Really Big and Really Loud (Paines Plough/UK Tour)**; **Rebel Music (& Middle Child)**, **Little Baby Jesus (Birmingham Rep)**; **Pinocchio (Orange Tree)**.

As actor, television includes: **Doctors**.

Awards include: **Bruntwood Prize for Playwriting (Bullring Techno Makeout Jamz)**.

Dermot Daly (Director)

Theatre includes: **At What a Price**, **Krapp's Last Tape**, **Dream Reality Radio**, **My Voice Was Heard But it Was Ignored**, **Glory (Leeds Playhouse)**.

Radio includes: **Kafka's Dick**, **Initiation**, **Rise**, **United Kingdoms**.

Film includes: **Excursion to the Mountains**.

Awards include: **Lustrum Award, Black British Theatre Award (My Voice Was Heard But It Was Ignored).**

Talking About The Fire

Chris Thorpe (Writer and Performer)

For the Royal Court: **Victory Condition, The Milk of Human Kindness, Always Maybe The Last Time, What Do You Want Me To Say?.**

Other theatre includes: **There Has Possibly Been An Incident, The Mysteries (Royal Exchange); Chorus (Gate); Hannah, Beowulf and One of Aesop's Fables (Unicorn); Confirmation, Status, (& Tour), A Family Business (& Staatstheater Mainz) (China Plate); Overdrama, House-Garden, Dead End, Your Best Guest (Mala Voadora); The Oh Fuck Moment (St George's West); I Wish I Was Lonely (Drill Hall); Torycore (Battersea Arts Centre).**

Film includes: **The Shape of Pain.**

Chris is an Associate Artist at the Royal Exchange, Manchester.

Claire O'Reilly (Director)

As director, theatre includes: **The Solution (Dublin Theatre Festival), Hothouse (Dublin Fringe), Bulrusher (The Lir Academy); A Family Business (China Plate/Staatstheater Mainz); Where Sat The Lovers, Accents (Dublin Fringe); Christine (Peacock).**

As associate director, theatre includes: **A Streetcar Named Desire (& Almeida), Dr Semmelweis (West End).**

As assistant director, theatre includes: **Uncle Vanya (West End); Translations (National).**

Claire was the Resident Director at the Abbey Theatre 2022

Rachel Chavkin

As a director, theatre includes: **Natasha, Pierre, & The Great Comet of 1812, Hadestown (Broadway), The American Clock (Old Vic), Lempicka (Williamstown), Light Shining in Buckinghamshire (New York Theatre Workshop), The Royale (Lincoln Center), Small Mouth Sounds (Signature Theatre) Confirmation, Status, (& Tour) I'll Get You Back Again (Round House),**

Rachel is the founding Artistic Director of TEAM.

Listings Information

Blue Mist

Written by Mohammed-Zain Dada

Directed by Milli Bhatia

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

Thursday 5 October - Saturday 18 November 2023

Monday - Saturday 7.45pm

Thursday & Saturday matinees 3pm

Captioned Performances Thursday 9 November 2023, 3pm, Friday 10 November 2023, 7.45pm

Relaxed Environment Performance Saturday 11 November 2023, 3pm

Press Performance Wednesday 11 October 2023, 7pm

Post-Show Talk Tuesday 17 October 2023

Standard Tickets £12 - £25

First Look Tickets**

Concessions*

Under 27s***

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

*ID required. All discounts subject to availability.

Mates in Chelsea

Written by Rory Mullarkey

Directed by Sam Pritchard

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

Friday 3 November - Saturday 16 December 2023

Monday - Saturday 7.30pm

Thursday & Saturday matinees 2.30pm

Captioned Performances Wednesday 6 December 2023, 7.30pm, Thursday 7 December 2023, 2.30pm

Audio Described Performance Saturday 9 December 2023, 2.30pm, Touch Tour at 1pm

Relaxed Environment Performance Saturday 9 December 2023, 2.30pm

Press Performance Thursday 9 November 2023, 7pm

Post-Show Talk Tuesday 14 November 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.

Bullring Techno Makeout Jamz

Written by Nathan Queeley-Dennis

Directed by Dermot Daly

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

Tuesday 28 November - Wednesday 20 December

Tuesday 28 November - Saturday 2 December; & Monday 18 December - Wednesday 20 December, 7pm

Monday 4 December - Friday 8 December; & Monday 11 December - Friday 15 December, 9:15pm

Saturday 9 December & Saturday 16 December, 3pm

Press Performance Wednesday 29 November 2023

Standard Tickets £12 - £20

First Look Tickets**

Concessions*

Under 27s***

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

*ID required. All discounts subject to availability.

Talking About The Fire

Written and performed by Chris Thorpe

Created by Chris Thorpe and Claire O'Reilly

Developed with Rachel Chavkin

Directed by Claire O'Reilly

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

Wednesday 6 December - Saturday 16 December

Wednesday 6 December - Friday 8 December; & Monday 11 December - Friday 15 December, 7pm

Saturday 9 December & Saturday 16 December, 5:15pm

Press Performance Thursday 7 December 2023, 7pm

Standard Tickets £12 - £20

First Look Tickets**

Concessions*

Under 27s***

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

*ID required. All discounts subject to availability.

Notes to Editors

About The Royal Court

The Royal Court Theatre is the writers' theatre. It is a leading force in world theatre for cultivating and supporting writers - undiscovered, emerging and established.

Since 1956, we have commissioned and produced hundreds of writers, from John Osborne to Jasmine Lee-Jones. Royal Court plays from every decade are now performed on stages and taught in classrooms and universities across the globe.

Through the writers, the Royal Court is at the forefront of creating restless, alert, provocative theatre about now. We open our doors to the unheard voices and free thinkers that, through their writing, change our way of seeing.

We strive to create an environment in which differing voices and opinions can co-exist. In current times it is becoming increasingly difficult for writers to write what they want or need to write without fear, and we will do everything we can to rise above a narrowing of viewpoints.

Through all our work we strive to inspire audiences and influence future writers with radical thinking and provocative discussion.

The Royal Court Theatre is supported using public funding by Arts Council England.

Ellie Keel Productions' track record of producing new plays at the Edinburgh Festival Fringe includes the multi-award-winning shows *SAP* by Rafaella Marcus (Roundabout, 2022, followed by Soho Theatre and a national tour), *Collapsible* by Margaret Perry (HighTide Festival at Assembly, 2019, then Abbey Theatre Dublin and Bush Theatre), and *HOTTER* by Mary Higgins and Eil Potter (Underbelly, 2019, then Soho Theatre and tour). Keel is known for her prestigious slate of acclaimed new plays, which have included *You Bury Me* by Ahlam (Bristol Old Vic, Royal Lyceum Theatre, Edinburgh, and Orange Tree Theatre, London), *Reasons You Should(n't) Love Me* by Amy Trigg (Kiln Theatre and tour), *Still No Idea* by Lisa Hammond and Rachael Spence (Traverse Theatre, Southbank Centre and tour), and *FITTER* by Mary Higgins and Eil Potter (Soho Theatre). Keel is the Founder Director of the Women's Prize for Playwriting.

About Paines Plough

Paines Plough is a touring theatre company dedicated entirely to developing and producing exceptional new writing, led by Artistic Directors Charlotte Bennett and Katie Posner. The work we create connects with artists and communities across the UK.

Since 1974 Paines Plough has produced more than 200 new productions by world renowned playwrights including Sarah Kane, Mark Ravenhill, Dennis Kelly, Mike Bartlett, Kae Tempest and Vinay Patel and we tour our plays to over 40 places each year. We reach over 30,000 people annually from

Cornwall to the Orkney Islands, in village halls, off Broadway and in our own pop-up theatre Roundabout.

Website: www.painesplough.com

Instagram and Twitter: @PainesPlough

Facebook: /painesploughHQ

Youtube: www.youtube.com/painesplough

About The Belgrade Theatre

The Belgrade Theatre is Coventry's largest professional theatre, producing and presenting a diverse range of shows, events and ground-breaking community and education initiatives. In its landmark building, across the region, the UK and online, it uses theatre to entertain, inspire, share the city's stories, uncover hidden histories, and unleash the creativity of diverse communities.

64 years ago, critic Kenneth Tynan saw the theatre's completion as the beginning of a new era. 'Enter most theatres and it's the gilded, cupidaceous past', he wrote. 'Enter this one, and you enter the future.' The theatre is now a year into a new future, led by CEO Laura Elliot and Creative Director Corey Campbell. These leaders have ambitious plans to build on the Theatre's rich history of pioneering theatre, participation, and talent development - to realise a lasting place of sanctuary for creatives and communities.

Through values of COLLABORATION, EVOLUTION, and AUTHENTICITY - their working mission is to USE THE TRANSFORMATIVE POWER OF THEATRE TO ENRICH THE PEOPLE OF COVENTRY and BEYOND.

Over the next three years, they will lead a people first approach; prioritising co-creation and cultural democracy; aiming to be a leading example of a regional inclusive learning theatre that sits at the heart of its community.

About Royal Exchange Theatre

Manchester's Royal Exchange Theatre Company transforms the way people see theatre, each other, and the world around them. Our historic building was taken over by artists in 1976. Today it is an award-winning cultural charity that produces new theatre in-the-round, in communities, on the road and online.

Exchange remains at the heart of everything we make and do. Now our currency is brand new drama and reinvigorated classics, the boldest artists, and a company of highly skilled makers - all brought together in a shared imaginative endeavour to trade ideas and experiences with the people of Greater Manchester (and beyond).

The Exchange's unique auditorium is powerfully democratic, a space where audiences and performers meet as equals, entering and exiting through the same doors. It is the inspiration for all we do; inviting everyone to understand the past, engage in today's big questions, collectively imagine a better future, and lose themselves in the moment of a great night out.

The Royal Exchange was named Regional Theatre of the Year in 2016 and School of the Year at The Stage Awards 2018. Our work, developed with an incredible array of artists and theatre makers, includes HAMLET with Maxine Peake (for stage and film), THE SKRIKER (with the Manchester International Festival), KING LEAR (co-produced with Talawa Theatre Company, filmed for BBC iPlayer and BBC Four), THE HOUSE OF BERNARDA ALBA (a co-production with Graeae theatre Company), OUR TOWN (directed by Sarah Frankcom), LIGHT FALLS (a world-premiere from Simon Stephens directed by Sarah Frankcom with original music by Jarvis Cocker), WUTHERING HEIGHTS (directed by Joint Artistic Director Bryony Shanahan), ROCKETS AND BLUE LIGHTS (by award-winning writer Winsome Pinnock and directed by Miranda Cromwell), THE MOUNTAINTOP (Digital Streaming directed by Joint Artistic Director Roy Alexander Weise), ALL I WANT FOR CHRISTMAS (Digital commission for Dec 2020), OH WOMAN! (Digital commissions for International

Women's Day 2021) and BLOODY ELLE – A GIG MUSICAL by Lauryn Redding, directed by Bryony Shanahan and which reopened the Theatre in June 2021.

About China Plate

China Plate is a theatre producing studio based in Birmingham and working across the UK. As an arts charity, we help people to make creative projects happen – from theatre shows, to audio anthologies, to bus stop galleries. Our mission is to develop a new model of creating and producing theatre that opens up the way performance is made, who makes it and who it's experienced by.

We have recently made work with Caroline Horton, Inspector Sands, David Edgar, Chris Thorpe, Rachel Chavkin, Rachel Bagshaw, Urielle Klein-Mekongo, Roy Williams, Chris Haydon, April De Angelis, Lucy Rivers, Tim Sutton, Casey Bailey and BBC iPlayer. We are resident Associate Producers at Warwick Arts Centre and partners in Derby CAN, Derby Theatre's Arts Council England Producing Hub.

For more information, please visit: www.chinaplatetheatre.com

X (formerly Twitter): [@YourOldChina](https://twitter.com/YourOldChina)

Instagram: [@china_plate_theatre](https://www.instagram.com/china_plate_theatre)

Facebook: [chinaplatetheatre](https://www.facebook.com/chinaplatetheatre)

LinkedIn: [China Plate Theatre Ltd](https://www.linkedin.com/company/china-plate-theatre-ltd)

About Staatstheater Mainz

In the center of the city, the Staatstheater Mainz is a lively place of artistic and social debate. The theater combines opera, drama and dance as well as concerts under one roof. The performances take place in the Großes Haus, the Kleines Haus, the Studiobühne U17 deep underground, the Glashaus with a view of the city and the Kakadu Bar above the theater restaurant Zum grünen Kakadu. A permanent ensemble as well as the continuous cooperation with influential directors have an identity and profile-building effect, an extensive repertoire guarantees a diverse repertoire and steadily increases the numbers of visitors. Since 2014/15 Markus Müller is the director of the house.

The examination of the region shapes the program of Staatstheater Mainz just as much as classics, unusual projects, contemporary works and world premieres. At the center of the artistic confrontation with themes and materials is always the question of the relationship to the present: What does it concern us today? Furthermore the theatre department co-produced work with international groups from Europe and abroad. International cooperations as well as artistic exchange with social institutions and other arts are also important for the self-image of Staatstheater Mainz. The young state theater justmainz plays a central role in the theater's program – all sections produce plays for children and young people, and all ensemble members are also on stage with great enthusiasm for justmainz. A program of plays with current social relevance – and at the same time high identifying potential – is also designed for young audiences.