

IMAGE RELEASE - 26 OCTOBER 2023

PUBLICITY PICTURE BY COLD WAR STEVE RELEASED FOR NEW COMEDY
MATES IN CHELSEA AT THE ROYAL COURT THEATRE

WRITTEN BY RORY MULLARKEY AND DIRECTED BY SAM PRITCHARD

FRIDAY 3 NOVEMBER – SATURDAY 16 DECEMBER 2023



credit Cold War Steve

The Royal Court Theatre has revealed new publicity and rehearsal images for its upcoming comedy *Mates in Chelsea* by **Rory Mullarkey**. The main poster image, released today, is a new collage created by the celebrated artist and satirist Cold War Steve which sits in playful dialogue with the comedy's exploration of British popular culture's long held hyper-fixation with aesthetics of aristocracy. Also released today are rehearsal images and publicity pictures of the cast which includes **Amy Booth-Steel, Natalie Dew, Karina Fernandez, George Fouracres, Laurie Kynaston, Philipp Mogilnitskiy** and **Fenella Woolgar**.

Birmingham artist Cold War Steve specialises in surreal, satirical and hilarious collages. As well as a dedicated and ever-growing social media following, he has had three solo exhibitions, two books, commissions for the National Galleries of Scotland, Whitworth in Manchester, Birmingham Museum and Gallery, an installation at Glastonbury Festival, a TIME magazine cover and recently collaborated with the band Sleaford Mods on their new video. He has been shortlisted for the Design Museum's Design of the Year Award and nominated for the The Deutsche Börse Photography Foundation Prize. Cold War Steve has also made a feature length

documentary – Cold War Steve Meets The Outside World about his work made with Bafta winning film director Kieran Evans, the featured exhibition of the same name was nominated for a South Bank Award in 2021.

Directed by Royal Court Associate Director **Sam Pritchard**, **Rory Mullarkey's** riotous new play ***Mates in Chelsea*** takes inspiration from Wilde and Wodehouse to create a contemporary comedy of manners set among the dwellers of south west London who – somehow – remain our country's ruling class.

Playwright Rory Mullarkey said: *"Cold War Steve's grimly hilarious panoramas of life in this cruel little kingdom of ours have made me laugh a lot in the last few years, and I had them in my head when I was writing Mates in Chelsea, so I'm chuffed to absolute bits that he's done the poster for the show. I think it captures the satirical rage, comic chaos and sense of great fun at the heart of the play."*

Mates in Chelsea runs at the Royal Court Jerwood Theatre Downstairs from Friday 3 November to Saturday 16 December 2023. Press night is on Thursday 9 November 2023 at 7pm.

Mates in Chelsea is designed by **Milla Clarke**. Lighting design is by **Natasha Chivers**, sound design is by **Christopher Shutt**, movement direction is by **Malik Nashad Sharpe**, assistant director is **Aneesha Srinivasan**, dialect coach is **Penny Dyer**, and fight direction is by **Bret Yount**. The production manager is **Vivienne Clavering**, the stage manager is **Chris Peterson**, the deputy stage manager is **Julia Slienger**, and the assistant stage manager is **Tash Savidge**.

"But I do have a job. I'm a professional viscount"

Things aren't looking good for Theodore "Tug" Bungay.

His mother, Lady Agrippina, has a plan to cut off his funds. His fed-up fiancée wants to drag him up the aisle. An oligarch is eyeing up his beloved Northumberland castle. Is Tug's dissolute life about to change completely? Or will he get to carry on doing exactly as he pleases without ever facing any consequences?

There will be a post-show talk with Rory Mullarkey on Tuesday 14 November 2023.

ENDS

Cold War Steve's poster image can be downloaded [here](#).

Publicity images [here](#).

Rehearsal images [here](#).

Press contacts:

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Biographies:

Cold War Steve (Artist)

Cold War Steve aka Christopher Spencer is an artist from Birmingham, England who specialises in surreal, satirical and hilarious photomontage.

Multiple exhibitions, books, commissions for the National Galleries of Scotland, Whitworth in Manchester, Birmingham Museum and Gallery, giant billboard installations at Glastonbury Festival and an international TIME magazine cover have all followed.

In 2020 his first jigsaw Hellscape was shortlisted for the Design Museum's Design of the Year Award and his book A Prat's Progress nominated for the The Deutsche Börse Photography Foundation Prize. Cold War Steve the same year shot a feature length documentary - Cold War Steve Meets The Outside World about his work, made with Bafta winning director Kieran Evans. The film was released in October 2020 on Sky Arts and the featured outdoor exhibition of the same name was nominated for a South Bank Award in 2021.

Since 2016 Cold War Steve's artwork has been a lifeline to many in these dark times with his following increasing by the day.

coldwarsteve.com

Rory Mullarkey (Writer)

For the Royal Court: **This Play [Living Newspaper]; Pity; The Wolf from the Door; Remembrance Day [translation].**

Other theatre includes: **Wintry Tales (Live, Newcastle); The Cherry Orchard [translation] (Bristol Old Vic/Royal Exchange, Manchester); Saint George & the Dragon (National); The Oresteia [adaptation] (Globe); Each Slow Dusk (Pentabus/UK tour); Cannibals, Single Sex (Royal Exchange, Manchester); Flood (NYT); The Grandfathers (NT Connections/Bristol Old Vic/National); On the Threshing Floor (Heat&Light Company/Hampstead).**

Libretti include: **The Skating Rink (Garsington); Coraline (ROH); The Way Back Home (ENO/Young Vic).**

Awards include: **Abraham Woursell Prize; Harold Pinter Commission; George Devine Award; James Tait Black Prize for Drama.**

Sam Pritchard (Director)

For the Royal Court: **all of it (& Avignon Festival), A Fight Against..., Living Newspaper, Pity, Grimly Handsome, B.**

Other theatre includes: **The Mysteries, Galka Motalka (Royal Exchange, Manchester); Pygmalion (Headlong/Leeds Playhouse/Nuffield/UK tour); There Has Possibly Been an Incident (Royal Exchange, Manchester/Soho/Edinburgh Festival Fringe/Theatertreffen, Berlin); Fireface (Young Vic).**

Sam was the winner of the JMK Award for Directors in 2012. He is the Associate Director (International) at the Royal Court.

Cast:

Amy Booth-Steel

Theatre includes: **The Odyssey, Dick Whittington, A Pacifist's Guide to the War on Cancer (& Complicité), The Light Princess, One Man, Two Guvnors, She Stoops to Conquer (National); Assassins (Chichester Festival Theatre); Tammy Faye (Almeida); The Magician's Elephant (RSC); #HonestAmy (Pleasance, Edinburgh); Heathers, Sister Act, The Sound of Music (West**

End); **As You Like It** (Regent's Park Open Air); **The Assassination of Katie Hopkins** (Theatr Clwyd); **Anita & Me** (Birmingham Rep and Royal Stratford East); **The Secret Diary of Adrian Mole** (Leicester Curve); **Betty Blue Eyes** (Mercury/West Yorkshire Playhouse); **Thoroughly Modern Millie** (Watermill); **Nicked** (Hightide); **Swallows and Amazons** (Bristol Old Vic).

Television includes: **Late in Life, One Day, Nolly, Stath Lets Flats, The Mind of Herbert Clunkerdunk, Buffering, Call the Midwife, Close to Me, Newark Newark, Zomboat, Doctor Who, The Year of the Rabbit, Wannabe, Coronation Street, The Windsors, Doctors.**

Film includes: **Blue Jean.**

Natalie Dew

For the Royal Court: **Human Animals, Teh Internet is Serious Business, Rough Cuts.**

Other theatre includes: **The Provoked Wife and Venice Preserved, Arabian Nights** (RSC); **Twelfth Night** (Young Vic); **Deposit** (Hampstead); **Breaking the Code** (Royal Exchange); **Bend it like Beckham**, (West End); **Twelfth Night** (Liverpool Everyman); **Fault Lines** (Hampstead); **Romeo & Juliet** (National); **Hamlet** (Northern Broadsides); **As You Like It** (Leicester Curve); **Hansel & Gretel** (Barbican); **Twelfth Night** (Regents Park).

Television includes: **Bodies, Alex Rider, Archer, The Capture, Sandylands, The Great, Roadkill, Bodyguard, Kiri, Gavin & Stacey.**

Karina Fernandez

For the Royal Court: **Blue Heart (& Out of Joint).**

Other theatre includes: **Fanny and Alexander** (Old Vic); **Shrapnel: 34 Fragments of a Massacre, Mare Rider (& Podium Mozaiek), Gibraltar** (Arcola); **Double Feature** (National); **The Convicts' Opera (& Sydney Theatre Company), Shopping and F***king (& G & J Prods)** (Out of Joint); **Wedding Day at the Cro-Magnons** (Soho); **Macbeth** (Bristol Old Vic); **Mrs Pat** (Theatre Royal, York); **Crocodile Seeking Refuge** (Lyric Hammersmith and Ice and Fire); **Woody Allen's Murder Mysteries** (Croydon Warehouse); **Bites** (Bush/Mama Quillo); **Hamlet** (Wild Thyme); **Passion** (Chelsea Theatre); **Dealing with Claire** (Union); **Romeo & Juliet** (UK tour); **The Boy Who Left Home** (ATC); **Cool Water Murder** (Coventry Belgrade Theatre); **Trips** (Birmingham Rep).

Television includes: **The Thief, His Wife and the Canoe, Killing Eve, Trying, Holby City, A Young Doctor's Notebook, A Touch of Cloth, Falcon, Twenty Twelve, Married Single Other, My Family, My So-Called Life Sentence, The Forsyte Saga, Happy Birthday Shakespeare, Quick Cuts.**

Film includes: **Miss Marx, The One and Only Ivan, Nico 1988, Daphne, The Sense of an Ending, Pride, Mr Turner, Now is Good, Another Year, Happy Go Lucky, The Return, Gabriel.**

Radio includes: **Welcome to Iran, Plum House – Lights Camera Pudding, Brave New World, Rock Me Amadeus.**

George Fouracres

Theatre includes: **The Comedy of Errors, The Tempest, Much Ado About Nothing, Hamlet, Twelfth Night, A Midsummer Night's Dream** (Globe); **A Midsummer Night's Dream** (Filter Theatre) **The Diary of a Nobody** (Rough Haired Pointer); **Scrooge & Marley** (Dippermouth).

Television includes: **Don't Hug Me I'm Scared, Semi-Detached, Spitting Image, Whiskey Cavalier, Pls Like, Comic Relief, Drunk History, Raised by Wolves, The Scandalous Lady W.**

Film includes: **Accident Man: Hitman's Holiday.**

Comedy includes: **George Fouracres: Gentlemon, The 'Best' of Daphne, Daphne in the Moonlight, Daphne's Second Show, Daphne Do Edinburgh, Nova! Nova!.**

Radio includes: **George Fouracres: Black Country Gentlemon, The Now Show, Alexei Sayle's Absence of Normal, The Wilsons Save the World, The Lenny Henry Show, Always June, Claire in the Community, Vip Rip, Eastenders: The Podcast, Britain in Bits with Ross Noble, Jake Yapp's Media Circus, Lenny Henry's Rogues Gallery, Daphne Sounds Expensive, Spotlight Tonight with Nish Kumar, Newsjack.**

Laurie Kynaston

For the Royal Court: **The Ferryman (& West End).**

Theatre includes: **Spring Awakening (Almeida); The Son (Kiln/West End/Fiery Angel); Elegies for Angels, Punks and Raging Queens (Charing Cross); Jumpy, The Winslow Boy (Theatr Clwyd); This Smudge Won't Budge (The Other Palace).**

Television includes: **A Small Light, The Sandman, Fool Me Once, The Doll Factory, Life After Life, The Man Who Fell to Earth, Des, The Split, When Barbara Kissed Joan – Urban Myths, The Trouble With Maggie Cole, Derry Girls, The Feed, Cradle to Grave, Murder Games: the Life and Death of Breck Bednar, Doctors, Our World War, Casualty.**

Film includes: **How to Build a Girl, Muse, Nocturnal, Intrigo: Dear Agnes, Undercliffe, England is Mine, Gloves Off, They Found Hell, Gutterdämmerung.**

Radio includes: **The Son.**

Awards include: **Evening Standard Award for Emerging Talent (The Son); Screen International Star of Tomorrow.**

Philipp Mogilnitskiy

For the Royal Court: **two Palestinians go dogging.**

Other theatre includes: **Iran Conference (Weda, Warsaw); The Trials of John Demjanjuk: A Holocaust Cabaret (Confrontation Festival); The Face of Jizo (Ethud); Brothers & Sisters, An Enemy of the People, Gaudeamus, Life & Fate, Our Class (Maly Drama, St. Petersburg); The Pillowman (On Theatre).**

Television includes: **Rampvlucht (The Crash), Ze Network, The Thaw, Furia, Dom Pod Dwoma Orlami, Into The Night, Król, S'parta, Ziuk: The Young Pilsudski, De 12 Van Schouwendam, Maly Zgon, Full Moon, Nielegalni and more.**

Film includes: **Shttl, Minsk, Lucky Man, Zatopek, Small World, What the French Keep Still About.**

Fenella Woolgar

For the Royal Court: **Circle Mirror Transformation, Motortown.**

Theatre includes: **Slaves of Solitude (Hampstead); Welcome Home Captain Fox (Donmar); Handbagged (Kiln/West End); Hedda Gabler, The Real Thing (Old Vic); The Veil, Time and the Conways (National); Bronte, Passage to India (Shared Experience); A Midsummer Night's Dream, As You Like It, Bring Me Sunshine (Manchester Royal Exchange); Way Upstream (Derby Playhouse); How the Other Half Loves (Watford Palace); The Miser (Salisbury Playhouse); Charley's Aunt (Sheffield Crucible); The Cherry Orchard (York Theatre Royal).**

Television includes: **The Buccaneers, The Reckoning, Dalgliesh, Call the Midwife, House Party – Unprecedented, Plebs, Midsomer Murders, Quacks, Harlots, Inside No. 9, Home Fires, War and Peace, Spies of Warsaw, Case Histories, Silk, Halloween Party, Poirot, Freezing, Doctor Who, Jekyll, Mr Loveday's Little Outing, He Knew He Was Right, Eroica, The Way We Live Now, People Like Us.**

Film includes: **Mr Jones, Judy, Victoria & Abdul, Whisky Galore, Swallows and Amazons, Mr Turner, Cheerful Weather for the Wedding, You Will Meet a Tall Dark Stranger, St Trinian's, Scoop 2005, Wah Wah, Vera Drake, Stage Beauty, Bright Young Things.**

Awards include: **Clarence Derwent Award (Hedda Gabler).**

Listings information:

Upcoming press performances:

Thursday 9 November 2023, 7pm	<i>Mates in Chelsea</i> by Rory Mullarkey	Jerwood Theatre Downstairs

Mates in Chelsea

Friday 3 November to Saturday 16 December 2023

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

Relaxed Environment Performance Saturday 9 December 2023, 2.30pm

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

Press Performance Thursday 9 November 2023, 7pm

Post-show talk Tuesday 14 November 2023

Standard Tickets £15 - £49

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.

£12 Mondays – all tickets £12 on selected Mondays. Available on the day of the performance from 9am online. A limited number are available in advance, subject to availability, to Friends and Supporters.