



PRESS RELEASE - 25 JANUARY 2024

THE ROYAL COURT THEATRE ANNOUNCES LONDON TRANSFER OF DIRTY HARE'S AWARD-WINNING *GUNTER*

ROYAL COURT THEATRE
WEDNESDAY 3 - THURSDAY 25 APRIL 2024



Photographer credit: Alex Brenner

The Royal Court Theatre has today announced the transfer of **Dirty Hare's** award-winning production of *Gunter*, co-created by **Lydia Higman, Julia Grogan** and **Rachel Lemon**.

Gunter will run in the Jerwood Theatre Upstairs from Wednesday 3 to Thursday 25 April 2024, with a press night on Friday 5 April 2024. Tickets will go on sale to the general public at 10am on Friday 26 January 2024.

This follows its sold-out premiere at Summerhall at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival 2023. For its Fringe run, *Gunter* was awarded the Scotsman Fringe First Award 2023, Playbill's Pick of the Fringe, Lyn Gardner's Pick of the Fringe and Dirty Hare were named one of The Stage's Top Breakthrough Theatre Makers.

In a small village just outside Oxford in 1604, Anne Gunter starts convulsing, vomiting pins, and accusing local women of bewitching her.

Two boys have been murdered by local brute Brian Gunter at a football match and their mum wants justice. But Brian is the richest and most powerful man in the village, and has an ego

too fragile to tolerate public slander. A nasty feud begins, and when Brian's daughter Anne starts demonstrating strange afflictions, an allegation is made: she has been bewitched.

Lydia Higman, Julia Grogan and Rachel Lemon, who make up Dirty Hare, work with history, reconstructing stories from the past to challenge the present. Dirty Hare formed in 2021 and made the sell-out show *BELLY UP*, which opened to critical acclaim at VAULT and then transferred to the Turbine Theatre in 2022. *Gunter* is the company's next show. Directed by Lemon with live music composed by Higman, *Gunter* presents a harrowing, real-life tale of abuse and fear set in the idyll of a country scarred by witch trials. The original cast returns: Julia Grogan, Norah Lopez Holden, Hannah Jarrett-Scott and Lydia Higman.

The creative team is completed by design by Anna Orton, lighting by Amy Daniels, video/projection by Michelle Alise, music and lyrics by Lydia Higman, Tom Alford as sound consultant and Anisha Fields as design associate. Lydia Higman is also the historian on the production.

Dirty Hare said, *"We are unbelievably excited to be bringing Gunter to the Royal Court - to be part of a building with such a rich history which is also on the brink of an exciting future is so cool. Also to share this story with bigger audiences will be amazing! We're also working on a redesign with the incredible Anna Orton, so we're hoping to bring a new and more ambitious energy to the show for London. We can't wait!"*

Gunter opens at the Jerwood Theatre Upstairs from Wednesday 3 April. The Royal Court Theatre's 2024 Season, the inaugural programme under new Artistic Director David Byrne, will be announced later this Spring.

ENDS

Images [here](#).

Press contacts:

Ella Gold on EllaGold@royalcourttheatre.com

Kate Hassell on Kate@breadandbutterpr.uk

Chloe Heard on Chloe@breadandbutterpr.uk

Biographies:

Julia Grogan (Co-Creator and Cast)

Julia trained as an actor at Rose Bruford College. She wrote her debut play *Playfight* while on the Royal Court Writers' Group. She has been a Writer on Attachment at the RSC and part of Channel 4 Screenwriters. She is currently developing original work with Hat Trick and she has her first feature film in development.

Theatre includes: *Belly Up* (VAULT, The Turbine), *Playfight* (Theatre Uncut).

Film includes: *Lives at Steak*.

Awards include: The Experienced Theatre Practitioners Early Playwriting Award (*Playfight*); Samuel French Festival (*Dogs of Society*).

Lydia Higman (Co-Creator and Cast)

Lydia Higman is a historian, writer and musician. She is a graduate of History from Oxford University, and was awarded a distinction MA from King's College London in Early Modern History. She has a broad interest in the history of emotion, and how this area relates to sexuality and political thought. She has consulted on a range of theatre

projects, history books, and co-wrote *Belly Up* with Julia. She is also the main songwriter for her all-female folk band, *Iris & Steel*, who recently played on the Alcove Stage at Latitude Festival.

Rachel Lemon (Co-Creator)

Rachel Lemon is a theatre director, teacher, and facilitator. She trained at Rose Bruford and on the National Theatre Directors course.

Theatre includes: *Bottom* (Summerhall, Soho & UK Tour); *Stripped!* [co-director] (VAULT); *Belly Up* (VAULT, The Turbine).

Anna Orton (Designer)

Anna Orton is a designer working across Theatre, Dance, Opera and Exhibition.

Theatre includes: *Messiah*, *Robin Hood Legend of the Forgotten Forest* and *King Lear* (Bristol Old Vic); *Blond Eckbert* and *Acis & Galatea* (Hans Otto Theatre, Germany); *Adults* (Traverse); *Kidnapped* (National Theatre of Scotland); *This is Memorial Device* (Royal Lyceum, Edinburgh); *The Tsar Has His Photo Taken*, *La Bohème* (Scottish Opera); *Peter Pan* and *Wendy*, *A Christmas Carol* (Pitlochry).

She was recipient of the OLD VIC 12 Designer Affiliation in 2019, an MGC Futures recipient in 2021 and was the first JMK runner up in 2023.

Cast:

Hannah Jarrett-Scott

Street Soccer: *Same Team* (Traverse/Wonderfools); *Alright Sunshine* (Òran Mór); *Underwood Lane*, *Pride and Prejudice** (*sort of) (& Criterion/West End/UK Tour), *Cinderella*, *The Taming of the Shrew* (& Sherman) (Tron); *The Wolves*, *Janis Joplin: Full Tilt* (Royal Stratford East).

Television includes: *Outlander*, *Two Doors Down*, *Float*, *Annika*, *Scot Squad*, *Trust Me*, *Short Stuff*.

Awards include: Olivier Award for Best Comedy & Broadway World UK Award for Best Supporting Performer in a New Production of a Play. (*Pride and Prejudice** (*sort of)).

Hannah is a singer-songwriter currently releasing music with CLR theory.

Norah Lopez Holden

Theatre includes: *Shed:Exploded View*, *The Almighty Sometimes* and *Our Town* (Royal Exchange); *The Flea* (Yard); *The Art of Illusion* (Hampstead); *Hamlet* (Young Vic); *Equus* (Royal Stratford East); *The Winter's Tale/Eyam* (Globe); *Ghosts* (HOME); *Epic Love and Pop Songs* (Pleasance).

Radio includes: *Our Friends In The North*, and various other productions for BBC Radio 4.

Press performance:

Friday 5 April 2024, 7pm	<i>Gunter</i> by Lydia Higman, Julia Grogan and Rachel Lemon	Jerwood Theatre Upstairs
--------------------------	--	--------------------------

Listings Information:

Co-created by Lydia Higman, Julia Grogan and Rachel Lemon

Directed by Rachel Lemon

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

Wednesday 3 - Thursday 25 April 2024

Monday – Saturday, 7.30pm, 5.30pm, 2.30pm and 1.30pm

Captioned Performance Friday 19 April 2024, 7.30pm

Relaxed Environment Performance Saturday 20 April 2024, 1.30pm

Press Performance Friday 5 April 2024, 7pm

Standard Tickets £15 - £26.50

First Look Tickets**

Concessions*

Under 27s***

Access £19 (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 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 £15 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.

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.