



PRESS RELEASE
TUESDAY 25 JUNE 2024

Royal Court Theatre in association with Brian & Dayna Lee, Stephanie Kramer & Nicole Kramer and Robyn Goodman & Josh Fiedler presents

GIANT

Written by Mark Rosenblatt
Directed by Nicholas Hytner

- **Tessa Bonham Jones, Romola Garai, Richard Hope and Rachael Stirling to star alongside John Lithgow as Roald Dahl and Elliot Levey as Tom Maschler in the World Premiere of *Giant*.**
- **Written by Mark Rosenblatt and directed by Nicholas Hytner, the creative team is complete with Bob Crowley, Anna Watson and Alexandra Faye Braithwaite.**
- **Set across a single afternoon Roald Dahl's family and Jewish publishers gather to navigate the fall-out from Dahl's recent antisemitic outbursts in the press - *Giant* offers a complicated portrait of the much loved children's author.**
- ***Giant* runs at the Royal Court Jerwood Theatre Downstairs from 20 September - 16 November with opening night on 26 September.**

The Royal Court Theatre has today announced the full cast and creative team for the world premiere of **Mark Rosenblatt's** debut play *Giant*, directed by **Nicholas Hytner** (*Straight Line Crazy, La Belle Sauvage*). The play will begin previews from Friday 20 September 2024 with opening night on Thursday 26 September 2024.

Rachael Stirling (*The Divine Mrs S*) will star as Felicity Crosland, Roald Dahl's fiancée; alongside **Romola Garai** (*Scoop*) as Jessie Stone, Dahl's Jewish American publisher; **Tessa Bonham Jones** (*A Midsummer Night's Dream*) as Hallie, the Dahl family's housekeeper; and **Richard Hope** (*Hijack*) as Wally Saunders, Dahl's handyman. They join Tony and Golden Globe-winner **John Lithgow** (*Killers of the Flower Moon, The Crown*) who will play Roald Dahl and Olivier Award-winner **Elliot Levey** (*Cold War, Patriots, Good*) as Tom Maschler, Dahl's British Jewish Publisher.

"I wanted to put you bang in the picture. Appraise you of the difficulties. Because, in case you hadn't noticed, he's a human fucking boobytrap. And now, guess what, surprise surprise, boom!"

A world-famous children's author under threat. A battle of wills in the wake of scandal. And one chance to make amends...

It's the summer of 1983, *The Witches* is about to hit the shelves and Roald Dahl is making last-minute edits. But the outcry at his recent, explicitly antisemitic article won't die down.

Across a single afternoon at his family home, and rocked by an unexpectedly explosive confrontation, Dahl is forced to choose: make a public apology or risk his name and reputation.

Inspired by real events, *Giant* explores with dark humour the difference between considered opinion and dangerous rhetoric offering a complicated portrait of a fiendishly charismatic icon.

Giant is designed by Olivier Award-winning theatre designer **Bob Crowley** with lighting design by **Anna Watson**, sound design by **Alexandra Faye Braithwaite** and casting by **Arthur Carrington**. Completing the creative team is **Bellaray Bertrand-Webb** as Assistant Director and **Jaimie Todd** as Associate Designer.

Tessa Bonham Jones said: *'I'm beyond excited to be working with Nick again and with these wonderful actors whom I've admired for so long. Mark's play is provocative and brilliant. It's a privilege to be performing it at the Royal Court, a bucket list theatre of mine ever since coming to the UK.'*

Romola Garai said: *'Giant is an extraordinary piece of new writing and I couldn't be more honoured to be part of bringing this fascinating, knotty, complicated, and unafraid piece to audiences for the first time.'*

Richard Hope said: *'Delighted to be back at the Royal Court. theatre with a capital T!'*

Elliot Levey said: *'What an honour to be making my Royal Court debut playing a man so central to its history. Tom Maschler is in the marrow of the Royal Court. It was his second home. John Osborne, Arnold Wesker, George Devine, Tony Richardson - all the gang in those early heady days - owed something of their careers to Tom. Rosenblatt's new play couldn't be more timely, brilliant and revelatory - it packs a punch. I'm thrilled to be coming along for the ride. Maschler and the old gang would be proud of this one.'*

John Lithgow said: *'I'm thrilled to be performing at The Royal Court where I've seen so much great work, stretching all the way back to the late 1960's. There's no better place to unveil Mark Rosenblatt's stunning new play.'*

Rachael Stirling said: *'I am beyond thrilled to be a part of the first staging of this extraordinary and incendiary new play.'*

Biographies

Tessa Bonham Jones (she/her)

Theatre includes: **Distinguished Villa** (Finborough); **A Midsummer Night's Dream** (Bridge); **In Praise of Folly**, **The Will** (Foppish Theatre Company).

Television includes: **Dune: Prophecy**, **Death in Paradise**, **The Spanish Princess**, **The Trial of Christine Keeler**, **Breeders**, **Krapopolis**.

Film includes: **Young Woman and the Sea**, **Wonder Woman 1984**.

Romola Garai (she/her)

For the Royal Court: **The Village Bike**.

Other theatre includes: **Calico** (Sonia Friedman Productions); **Indian Ink** (Roundabout); **King Lear/The Seagull**, **Queen Anne** (RSC); **Measure for Measure** (Young Vic); **The Writer** (Almeida); **Three Sisters** (Lyric Hammersmith).

Television includes: **The Following Events are Based on a Pack of Lies**, **Vigil**, **Becoming Elizabeth**, **Born to Kill**, **Churchill's Secret**, **Crimson Petal and the White**, **Daniel Deronda**, **Emma**, **The Hour**, **The Miniaturist**.

Film includes: **Scoop**, **One Life**, **The Critic**, **Earwig**, **Miss Marx**, **Outside**, **1939**, **Amazing Grace**, **Angel**, **Atonement**, **Glorious 39**, **I Capture the Castle**, **Inside I'm Dancing**, **One Day**, **Suffragette**.

Richard Hope (he/him)

For the Royal Court: **Hard Fruit**.

Theatre includes: **Queen Anne**, **The Park** (RSC); **The Woman in Black** (& PW Productions), **Noises Off** (ATG); **The History Boys** (Selladoor Theatre Company); **Orlando** (Manchester Royal Exchange); **King Lear**, **When the Rain Stops Falling** (Almeida); **Democracy** (Old Vic/Sheffield Theatres); **The Swan**, **There is a War**, **The Hour We Knew Nothing of Each Other**, **A Prayer for Owen Meany**, **War and Peace** (& Shared Experience), **The Visit** (& Complicite), **Pravda**, **Hamlet**, **The Government Inspector**, **Don Juan**, **Much Ado About Nothing** (National); **Dirty Dancing** (Aldwych/Playful Productions); **Donkeys' Years** (Sonia Friedman Productions); **Life After George** (Michael Codron); **Cymbeline** (Globe); **Anna Karenina** (Shared Experience); **Betrayal** (West Yorkshire Playhouse); **Accidental Death of an Anarchist** (Belt & Braces); **1001 Nights** (Le Grand Magic Circus); **The Third Policeman**, **Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy**, **The Warp** (Science Fiction Theatre of Liverpool).

Television includes: **Hijack**, **Endeavour**, **1899**, **The Walk-In**, **Pennyworth**, **Gentleman Jack**, **Top Boy**, **Mandy**, **Poldark**, **Broadchurch**, **Unforgotten**, **The Lost Honour of Christopher Jefferies**, **Father Brown**, **Doctor Who**, **Poirot**, **Midsomer Murders**, **Silent Witness**, **Murder Investigation Team**, **Foyle's War**, **Tipping the Velvet**, **A is for Acid**, **The Demon Headmaster**, **The Riff Raff Element**, **Band of Gold**, **Brideshead Revisited**.

Film includes: **Cleaner**, **The Village in the Woods**, **Finding Your Feet**, **Last Love**, **Sergeant Pepper**, **McLibel**, **Bellman and True**, **Singleton's Pluck**, **The French Lieutenant's Woman**.

Short film includes: **The Secret Assistants**, **See You At Wembley** Frankie Walsh.

Elliot Levey (he/him)

Theatre includes: **Cold War**, **Nine Lessons and Carols**, **The Three Sisters** (Almeida); **Cabaret**, **Good**, **Mary Stuart**, **The Ruling Class**, **Much Ado About Nothing** (West End); **Snowflake** (Kiln); **St Joan**, **Coriolanus** (Donmar); **The Mighty Walzer** (Royal Exchange); **Kafka's Dick** (Theatre Royal Bath); **Canvas** (Chichester Festival Theatre); **Danton's Death**, **The Habit of Art**, **All's Well That Ends Well**, **England People Very Nice**, **Henry IV Parts 1 & 2**, **His Dark Materials** (National); **Beasts and Beauties** (Bristol Old Vic); **Comedy of Errors** (RSC); **How Much Is Your Iron, Monkey!** (Young Vic); **Loves Work** (Gate); **On Ego**, **On Religion** (Soho); **Take Flight** (Menier Chocolate Factory); **The Tempest** (British Council Tour/A&BC); **Three Sisters on Hope Street**

(Hampstead/Liverpool Everyman); **Tonight We Fly** (Trestle); **The Warp** (Ken Campbell Company).

Television includes: **Bookish, Malice, We were the lucky ones, Queenie, Anne, This Way Up, The Amazing Mr. Blunden, Endeavour, Life, Truth Seekers, Quiz, Martin's Close, The State of the Union, Peaky Blinders, Press, Watergate, Black Earth Rising, Silent Witness, Man Down, The Child in Time, A Midsummer Night's Dream, The Wrong Mans, Ripper Street, Jamaica Inn, New Tricks, Truckers, Da Vinci's Demons, Parade's End, A Touch of Cloth, Casualty, Amnesia, Beau Brummel, Eastenders, Fat Friends, Holby City, Hotel Babylon, Lump in my Throat, Robin Hood, Sex, the City and Me, Sirens, Jason and the Argonauts.**

Film includes: **Murder on the Orient Express, Denial, Fallen, The Master of York, Florence Foster Jenkins, The Lady in the Van, Spooks, Philomena, The Wall, The Queen, Filth and Wisdom, Song of Songs, Supertex, Book of John.**

Awards include: **Olivier Award for Best Actor in a Supporting Role (Cabaret).**

John Lithgow (he/him)

Theatre includes: **The Changing Room; My Fat Friend; Trelawney of the 'Wells'; Comedians, Anna Christie; Bedroom Farce; Beyond Therapy; M. Butterfly; The Front Page; Retreat from Moscow; All My Sons; The Columnist; Stories By Heart; Hillary and Clinton; Dirty Rotten Scoundrels; Sweet Smell of Success.**

Television includes: **The Crown, Dexter, Amazing Stories, 3rd Rock from the Sun, Perry Mason, The Old Man.**

Film includes: **The World According to Garp, Terms of Endearment, All That Jazz, Blow Out, Twilight Zone: The Movie, Footloose, 2010, Buckaroo Banzai, Harry and the Hendersons, Memphis Belle, Raising Cain, Ricochet, Cliffhanger, Orange County, Shrek, Kinsey, Rise of the Planet of the Apes, This is 40, Interstellar, Love is Strange, Beatriz at Dinner, Pet Sematary, Daddy's Home 2, Bombshell, Sharper, Killers of the Flower Moon, Conclave.**

Awards include: **Tony Award for Best Featured Actor in a Play (The Changing Room), Tony Award for Best Actor in a Musical (Sweet Smell of Success), Primetime Emmy Award for Outstanding Guest Actor in a Drama Series (Amazing Stories), 3 Primetime Emmy Awards for Outstanding Lead Actor in a Comedy Series (3rd Rock from the Sun), Primetime Emmy Award for Outstanding Guest Actor in a Drama Series (Dexter), Primetime Emmy Award for Outstanding Supporting Actor in a Drama Series (The Crown), Golden Globe Award for Best Actor – Television Series Musical or Comedy (3rd Rock from the Sun), Golden Globe Award for Best Supporting Actor – Series, Miniseries or Television Film (Dexter), 2 Screen Actors Guild Awards for Outstanding Performance by a Male Actor in a Comedy Series (3rd Rock from the Sun), Screen Actors Guild Award for Outstanding Performance by a Male Actor in a Drama Series (The Crown).**

Rachael Stirling (she/her)

For the Royal Court: **The Priory.**

Other theatre includes: **The Divine Mrs. S, Anna in the Tropics (Hampstead); Private Lives, The Recruiting Officer, Helpless (Donmar); Scandaltown, Love Love Love (Lyric Hammersmith); Labour of Love, An Ideal Husband, A Woman of No Importance (West End); The Winter's Tales (Sam Wanamaker); An Intervention (Paines Plough/Watford); Variation on a Theme (Finborough); Medea (Headlong); A Midsummer Night's Dream (Rose); Pygmalion (International Tour); Taming of the Shrew, Uncle Vanya (Wilton's); Look Back in Anger (Theatre Royal Bath); Tamburlaine (Bristol Old Vic); Theatre of Blood (N.T. Improbable Theatre Company).**

Television includes: **Heartstopper, The Chelsea Detective, Hollington Drive, Grantchester, Life, Wild Bill, The Bletchley Circle, Detectorists, Capital, Churchill's Secret, The Game, Dr. Who, Women in Love, Minder, Boy Meets Girl, Lewis, Beyond, The Haunted Airman, Riot at the Rite,**

Murder at the Vicarage, The Final Quest, Poirot, Tipping the Velvet, Bait, Othello, In the Beginning.

Film includes: **Their Finest, Sixteen, Snow White and the Huntsman, Salmon Fishing in the Yemen, Centurian, The Young Victoria, Dangerous Parking, The Truth, Freeze Frame, Triumph of Love, Another Life, Complicity, Maybe Baby, Still Crazy.**

Giant has been generously supported by a lead gift from Charles Holloway, OBE.

ENDS

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Images can be downloaded [here](#).

Royal Court Theatre in association with Brian & Dayna Lee, Stephanie Kramer & Nicole Kramer and Robyn Goodman & Josh Fiedler presents

Giant

Written by Mark Rosenblatt

Directed by Nicholas Hytner

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

Friday 20 September - Saturday 16 November 2024

Press Night: Thursday 26 September 2024, 7pm

Monday – Friday, 7.30pm and 2.30pm

Saturday, 1.30pm and 6.30pm

Post-show talk: Tuesday 1 October 2024

Captioned Performance: Saturday 2 November, 1.30pm and Wednesday 6 November 2024, 7.30pm

Relaxed Environment Performance: Saturday 2 November 2024, 1.30pm

Audio-described Performance: Saturday 9 November 2024, 1.30pm

BSL-interpreted Performance: Saturday 9 November 2024, 6.30pm

Standard Tickets £15 - £58

First Look Tickets**

Concessions*

Under 30s***

Access £19 (plus a companion at the same rate)

***ID required. All discounts subject to availability.**

Originally developed with London Theatre Company.

Tickets: Ways to Save

Concessions – Enhanced for 2024 to include more performance days and price bands, Concession tickets are now available for previews, matinees and Friday performances on Band AA – C 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 (Previews) - 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 - 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 30s Tickets – We're also extending our scheme for young audiences, with Under 27s ticket prices now available for ages 30 and under, meaning even more people can access even more tickets at the £15 rate. A number of £15 tickets will be available for selected performances in the Jerwood Theatre Downstairs. Available on Band C & D tickets, subject to availability.

Monday Tickets – Every 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.

10p Standing - We will start to sell standing tickets for 10p from 6pm on the day of each performance. Patrons buying standing tickets must stand in the windows provided on the side of the auditorium on the circle level.

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.