

ROYAL COURT



PRESS RELEASE

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ROYAL COURT ANNOUNCES ADDITIONAL TWO ASSOCIATE PLAYWRIGHTS



Following an extensive national open call-out, the Royal Court Theatre has today announced that **Ishy Din** (*Approaching Empty*) and **Beth Flintoff** (*Henry I*) will complete the team of Associate Playwrights at the Royal Court, announced earlier this year.

Ishy Din will take on the position of Associate Playwright and Beth Flintoff of Associate Playwright & Young Writers Associate. They join Mike Bartlett, Ryan Calais Cameron, Vinay Patel and Nina Segal as Associate Playwrights, and Gillian Greer as Associate Playwright & Dramaturg.

The call-out was conducted in collaboration with **#OpenHire** and received over 500 applications, with a three-stage selection process to reach the final appointments.

David Byrne, Artistic Director of the Royal Court said: *"It's been genuinely brilliant to see how many of the writers who applied for this role are dedicated to giving back to the wider playwriting community."*

I'd like to thank the artistic team at the Court and our existing Associate Playwrights who undertook the almost impossible task of shortlisting such passionate and eloquent applications. And the team at OpenHire for reaching so many potential applicants.

The process has been inspiring and galvanising - and I couldn't be more delighted to have Beth and Ishy joining us at the Court to be working on behalf of playwrights everywhere."

Ishy Din said: *"The opportunity to bring my lived experience from both inside and outside the industry to the world's premier new writing theatre is both a privilege and a huge responsibility. Hopefully I can make an impact by inspiring, encouraging and supporting voices of those outside of the traditional theatre community so that they can aspire to have their work performed on the hallowed stages of the Royal Court."*

Beth Flintoff said: *'When I started out, working in fringe theatres and making plays with young people and my local community, working somewhere like The Royal Court seemed like an impossible dream. I'm so grateful for this opportunity to support other writers, and in particular to encourage the next generation of young people to get writing and to have their voices heard.'*

The Associate Playwrights work closely with the wider artistic leadership at the Royal Court, helping to develop the Royal Court's mission, artistic programme and support of fellow writers, placing the writers' theatre in the hands of playwrights. Mike Bartlett, Ryan Calais Cameron, Ishy Din, Vinay Patel and Nina Segal work one day a week at the Royal Court, feeding into a collective approach to the leadership of the theatre, while Beth Flintoff will spend two days a week at the theatre, working on a soon-to-be-announced programme for young people, and Gillian Greer works at the theatre full-time, serving as lead dramaturg across the artistic programmes.

ENDS.

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Images can be downloaded [here](#).

Beth Flintoff

Beth is a playwright and dramaturg. Her play *The Ballad of Maria Marten* is currently one of Nick Hern Books' top 20 most performed plays around the world. Before becoming a freelance playwright she was the Outreach Director at The Watermill Theatre in Newbury.

Writing includes: *Henry I*, *Matilda the Empress*, *Henry II*, and *The Last Abbot* (all for Rabble), *The Ballad of Maria Marten* (3 national mid-scale tours 2020-2022), *The World We Made* (Warwick Arts Centre), *A Christmas Carol* (Reading Rep), *Who Killed Alfred Oliver* (BBC Sounds and Rabble), *The Rivals* (Watermill Theatre), *The Glove Thief* (Tonic commission), *Milady* (commissioned for the *Write the Girl* project), *The Rebellious Women of Wimbledon* (Attic Theatre Company), and *Come to Where I'm From* (Paines Plough). She co-directed the multiple Off West End Award-winning play, *The Incident Room* for New Diorama and has collaborated twice as writer/director with physical theatre ensemble Rhum and Clay, on *Jekyll and Hyde* and *Hardboiled: The Fall of Sam Shadow*.

Beth's writing has been longlisted for The Hope Mill Prize, The Papatango Prize, The Bruntwood Prize, and nominated for Most Promising New Playwright 2017 at the Off West End Awards. She was a member of the Sphinx Lab for British Female Playwrights 2020-2021 and a recipient of a 2021 MGCfutures Bursary. She is an Associate Artist at Rabble Theatre Company, and currently working on several new plays.

The Glove Thief and The Ballad of Maria Marten are published by Nick Hern Books.

Ishy Din

Ishy Din is a celebrated playwright and screenwriter known for his culturally rich storytelling across theatre, television, film, and radio. He is under commission to the Royal Shakespeare Company and Live Theatre Newcastle, with notable works including *Approaching Empty* (Tamasha/The Kiln/Live Theatre), which premiered in 2019 and toured nationally, and *Wipers* (Leicester Curve/Watford Palace/Belgrade Theatre), exploring South Asian soldiers in WWI, which toured in 2016. His breakthrough play *Snookered* (Tamasha/Oldham Coliseum/The Bush Theatre) toured in 2012, winning Best New Play at the Manchester Theatre Awards. Ishy was the 2012 Pearson Writer in Residence at Manchester Royal Exchange. His television credits include *Phoenix Park* (CBBC), *Atomic Bazaar* (Pulse Films), *Ackley Bridge* (C4), and *Shakespeare & Hathaway* (BBC), while his live theatre piece **Taxi Tales** aired on BBC Two in 2018. Other works include *Doughnuts* for Channel 4 and *Life's Like That* for the BBC. His short film *Our Lad* was featured at international festivals, and he is developing several feature projects, including *Paak United* with BFI support. His radio credits include *John Barnes Saved My Life* (BBC Radio 5 Live), *Whose Baby* (BBC Radio 4), and *Parking and Pakoras* for local radio. Widely acclaimed for his authenticity and focus on underrepresented voices, Ishy Din continues to make a significant impact across multiple mediums.