

PRESS RELEASE

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## ROYAL COURT THEATRE ANNOUNCES CAST FOR SCENES FROM A REPATRIATION BY JOEL TAN



Clockwise from top left: Kaja Chan, Aidan Cheng, Jon Chew, Fiona Hampton, Robin Khor Yong Kuan, Sky Yang.

Royal Court Theatre today announces the casting for Joel Tan's ***Scenes from a Repatriation*** directed by **emma + pj**. The cast includes **Kaja Chan, Aidan Cheng, Jon Chew, Fiona Hampton, Robin Khor Yong Kuan and Sky Yang**.

*Scenes from a Repatriation* is designed by TK Hay, with lighting design by Alex Fernandes, sound design by Patch Middleton and the movement director is Ken Nakajima. The casting director is Jatinder Chera, and the assistant designer is Yijing Chen. The production is directed by **emma + pj**, the collaboration between theatre makers Emma Clark and PJ Stanley.

The production runs from Friday 25 April 2025, until Saturday 24 May 2025 with press night on 30 April 2025.

*'All of human history? It's basically people taking things from each other'*

A 1000-year-old statue of the Bodhisattva Guan Yin lives in The British Museum.

When it emerges that the statue was stolen from its original home, the museum attempts to deflect both the public response and controversial repatriation claims from the Chinese government.

As statesmen scheme and grease their palms, beneath the statue witches dance, a cleaner prays, and spirits weep. Guan Yin's gaze falls over the broken shards of human life from empires old and new.

Joel Tan's shape-shifting play unfolds the statue's journey from China to Britain and back again, stirring up centuries of ghosts. Directed by experimental theatre-makers emma + pj (*Ghosts of the Near Future, Barbican*), *Scenes from a Repatriation* questions who can claim cultural artefacts – and why.

*Scenes from a Repatriation* is a Royal Court Theatre commission.

Please find images [here](#)

#### **Joel Tan** (he/him)

As writer, for the Royal Court: **Living Newspaper**.

As writer, other theatre includes: **G\*d is a Woman (Wild Rice, Singapore); No Particular Order (Theatre503); Tartuffe (Wild Rice, Singapore); When The Daffodils (Orange Tree); Overheard (Chinese Arts Now); My White Best Friend (and Other Letters Left Unsaid) (Bunker); Tango (Pangdemonium, Singapore); Café (Twenty Something Theatre Festival, Singapore); Mosaic (Singtel Waterfront Theatre, Singapore); The Way We Go (Checkpoint Theatre, Singapore).**

As dramaturg, theatre includes: **You are Here (Wild Rice, Singapore).**

#### **emma + pj**

Theatre includes: **Ghosts of the Near Future (Barbican/UK Tour); The Shivers (New Diorama); Atlantic (VAULT Festival).**

#### **Cast:**

#### **Kaja Chan** (she/her)

Theatre includes: **The 47th (Old Vic).**

Television includes: **Absentia, Bridgerton, 1899.**

Film includes: **Anniversary, Flight 298.**

#### **Aidan Cheng** (he/him)

Theatre includes: **The Good Person of Szechwan (Lyric Hammersmith); The King of Hell's Palace (Hampstead); Macbeth (Globe).**

Television includes: **3 Body Problem, You, Red Eye, Sky's Devils, The Girlfriend Experience, Harlots.**

#### **Jon Chew** (he/him)

Theatre includes: **Pacific Overtures (Menier Chocolate Factory); The Good Person of Szechwan (Sheffield Crucible/Lyric Hammersmith); Anything Goes (Barbican); The King and I (London Palladium); Forgotten 遗忘 (Arcola); Wild Goose Dreams (Theatre Royal, Bath); Asian Pirate Musical (Vaults Festival); Unity 1918, Cock (The Actor's Studio); Angels in America Part 1 (Damansara Performing Arts Centre); The Bee, Philadelphia Here I Come!, The Last Five Years, Birdy, Boom (Kuala Lumpur Performing Arts Centre).**

Television includes: **Silo, The Great, KAOS, EastEnders, Doctors, The First Team, Nova Jones.**

Film includes: **Robin and the Hood.**

Radio includes: **Curse of the Five Elements: Fire, Dragons of the Pool, A Many-Splendoured Thing, The Good Earth, Zoetrope.**

**Fiona Hampton** (she/her)

Theatre includes: **The Forsyte Sage (Park Theatre); Touching the Void (Bristol Old Vic/West End); Metamorphosis, Raleigh: The Treason Trail, Much Ado About Nothing (Globe); Tamburlaine (New Earth Theatre); A Midsummer's Dream (New Wolsey Theatre); The Glass Menagerie, Tull, Of Mice and Men, Lighthearted Intercourse, Winter Hill (Octagon); Playhouse Creatures (Chichester Festival); The Changeling (Southwark Playhouse); The Merchant of Venice (Derby Playhouse).**

Television includes: **Nutriciously Nicola, Summer Lane Drive, The Collection, Switch, Holby City and The Sarah Jane Adventures.**

Film includes: **The Good Neighbour; The Windmill; Kingsman: Secret Service**

**Robin Khor Yong Kuan** (he/him)

Theatre includes: **Bat Night Market (LIFT); Imperial Troopers (Blaagaard Theatre, Copenhagen), The Magic Flute (Festival d'Aix-en-Provence); Moon Rabbit (Lakeside Arts Nottingham); Strange Tales (Traverse); Let Me Play The Lion Too (Barbican).**

Television includes: **Mind Game, Daddy Dearest, The Precedents.**

Film includes: **High Wire, Rain Town.**

**Sky Yang** (he/him)

Theatre includes: **The Book of Dust (Bridge).**

Television includes: **Halo series 1, Holding**

Film includes: **Rebel Moon, Shoulders, Anniversary, Last Days.**

**ENDS**

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**Upcoming press performances:**

Wednesday 26 February, 7pm	<i>A Knock on the Roof</i> by Khawla Ibraheem	Jerwood Theatre Downstairs
Tuesday 8 April 2025, 7pm	<i>Manhunt</i> by Robert Icke	Jerwood Theatre Downstairs
Wednesday 30 April 2025, 7pm	<i>Scenes from a Repatriation</i> by Joel Tan	Jerwood Theatre Upstairs
Wednesday 18 June 2025, 7pm	<i>4.48 Psychosis</i> by Sarah Kane	Jerwood Theatre Upstairs

**Concessions** – Enhanced 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.