



PRESS RELEASE
20 March 2025

ROYAL COURT THEATRE ANNOUNCES LINE-UP FOR INAUGURAL OPEN SUBMISSIONS FESTIVAL



Clockwise from top left: Mary Higgins, Rhys Warrington, Noga Flaishon, Benjamin Kuffuor, Jack Nicholls

Today the Royal Court Theatre announces the line-up for the inaugural **Open Submissions Festival**, the theatre's brand new regular professional platform to showcase stand-out new writing which has been submitted to the theatre through our year-round open submissions portal.

The plays will be performed as staged readings in the Jerwood Theatre Upstairs over a week in early April, each paired with a director and a professional team, to give these plays the best possible industry spotlight.

The writers featuring in the Festival are **Mary Higgins**, **Rhys Warrington**, **Noga Flaishon**, **Jack Nicholls** and **Benjamin Kuffuor**. The plays are directed by **Katie Mitchell** and **Ellis**

Buckley, Blanche McIntyre, Daniel Goldman, David Byrne and Aneesha Srinivasan and Nancy Medina.

The Royal Court's year-round open submission portal, along with the guarantee that every play submitted through it will be read by a team of readers, is integral to the theatre's ongoing mission to seek out the best new writers and writing around the world.

Gillian Greer, Associate Playwright and Senior Dramaturg at the Royal Court Theatre and co-curator of the festival, said, *"We are delighted to offer this opportunity to five stand out writers who bravely shared their plays with us. These plays represent the most exciting work we have read among the thousands of plays submitted to us each year - we can't wait to share them with you."*

The festival runs from Monday 7 - Saturday 12 April 2025 in the Jerwood Theatre Upstairs. Tickets cost £7.50 and go on-sale to the public at midday on Thursday 20 March 2025.

SHOW BY SHOW

very wet

By Mary Higgins

Directed by Katie Mitchell and Ellis Buckley

Monday 7 April 2025, 7.45pm

Rain. Nell arrives at a half-drowned house in rural Scotland to confront Brigid, her dead mum's ex lover. Rain. Her boyfriend follows. Rain. Four people find themselves neck-deep in a looming eco-crisis and sucked into the currents of the past. Flood.

Monument

By Rhys Warrington

Directed by Blanche McIntyre

Wednesday 9 April 2025, 7.45pm

With the eyes of the world watching, a Welsh farming community gathers to vote on whether or not to build a Memorial. But what does this Memorial commemorate? Why is it so contentious? And how, when the time comes, will you vote?

Part fiery town hall debate, part relationship drama; Monument is an epic examination of a rural community (with all its eccentricities and humour) dealing with an unprecedented event.

Memoriam

By Noga Flaishon

Directed by Daniel Goldman

Thursday 10 April 2025, 7.45pm

The near-future. Memories can be bought and sold. Rachel negotiates those deals, helping people to share experiences, to heal the gaps in their own lives. She knows her job makes a difference. Until she's tasked with extracting a precious memory from her own grandmother, Rivka, the last survivor of the Holocaust. She is forced to ask: is this a vital historical record, or commercial exploitation of victimhood? Is reliving unimaginable suffering ever justified?

And what has generational trauma done to her family? *Memoriam* is a searingly observed examination of remembrance, Jewish identity and the burden of history.

The Shitheads

By Jack Nicholls

Directed by David Byrne and Aneesha Srinivasan

Friday 11 April 2025, 7.45pm

Tens of thousands of years ago, Britain's earliest inhabitants reckon with care, family, and the weather.

Working Men

By Benjamin Kuffuor

Directed by Nancy Medina

Saturday 12 April 2025, 7.45pm

A fatal incident on a council estate leads a team of employees to retrace their steps as senior management, local counsellors and the wider public are in search of someone to blame.

Working Men is about money and social housing. The play looks at how decisions are made for those who have no choice.

ENDS.

See [here](#) for images.

Press contacts:

Ella Gold ellagold@royalcourttheatre.com

Maisie Lawrence maisie@breadandbutterpr.uk

Chloe Heard chloe@breadandbutterpr.uk

Biographies

Noga Flaishon

Noga Flaishon is a neurodivergent British/Israeli writer and producer. Initially training as an actor at the Royal Central School of Speech and Drama, she worked in the industry for several years before transitioning to full-time writing and producing in 2020. She is a writer and producer at Big Finish Productions, creating audio dramas in the Doctor Who universe. She writes for Six to Start, contributing to the interactive mobile game *Zombies, Run!*. She is also completing an MFA in Writing for Stage and Broadcast Media at the Royal Central School of Speech and Drama.

Noga's work has been recognised by the Arts Council of England, The Offie Awards, The Standing Ovation Awards, Papaptango Award, Verity Bargate Award, The King's Head Theatre, Pleasance Theatre, and The Jewish Play Project, among others.

Her work explores mental health, memory, and gender politics, often blending sci-fi, horror, and magical realism to tell poignant and unsettling stories about real-life issues.

Mary Higgins

Mary Higgins (they/them) is an actor, theatremaker, and writer. They are co-founder of Hotter Project, the queer verbatim theatre company behind HOTTER, FITTER, and The Last Show Before We Die. As a writer/performer they have toured across the UK and internationally at venues such as Soho Theatre, The Yard Theatre, Traverse and Tanzquartier Wien. They also co-host the podcast Life of BI: a slippery history of bisexuality. Written over lockdown, very wet is their first stage play. It was longlisted for the Bruntwood Prize 2022 and the Women's Prize for Playwriting 2023.

Benjamin Kuffuor

Benjamin Kuffuor won the George Devine Award in 2024 for his play, Working Men. He has worked on attachment at the National Theatre, under commission at the Bush and was shortlisted for the Verity Bargate Award in 2022. He earned his MA in screenwriting from the prestigious National Film and Television School and has developed original projects and contributed in writers' rooms for Netflix, BBC, Channel 4 and Amazon. His debut short film as writer/director has screened in multiple festivals internationally, as well as BIFA-qualifying festivals in the UK.

Jack Nicholls

Jack Nicholls is a writer from Cornwall. He wrote and directed the BFI-funded short film, "Nettle Day", which recently premiered at Manchester Film Festival, and he has participated in two Royal Court Writer's Groups. As a poet, he has twice been a prize-winner in the National Poetry Competition, and his poems have been published or are forthcoming in Poetry Review, PN Review, The New Statesman, The Rialto, The Spectator, and a number of other magazines. He now lives in Manchester, where he hosts and produces the alternative comedy night, "Title Fight."

Rhys Warrington

Rhys is a Welsh writer and actor who trained at the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland. His writing credits for stage include BLUE (Chippy Lane Productions/Chapter Arts Centre), Get Ready With Me (Pentabus Young Writers Cohort 2023) and Out Of The Blue (Llandovery Heart of Wales Theatre Festival). In 2024 Rhys was one of the BBC Welsh Voices. In 2024 his play Monument was shortlisted for the Papatango Prize 2024, the BOLD Playwright Award & longlisted for the Verity Bargate Award. Rhys is published by Methuen.