

PRESS RELEASE
20 June 2017



FURTHER CASTING ANNOUNCED

The Seagull

By Anton Chekhov in a new version by Simon Stephens
Directed by Sean Holmes

A Lyric Hammersmith production

Tuesday 03 October – Saturday 04 November 2017
Press Performance: Tuesday 10 October 2017 at 7pm

The Lyric Hammersmith today announces further casting for Simon Stephens's new version of Anton Chekhov's highly renowned play, *The Seagull*, directed by Artistic Director Sean Holmes. Adelayo Adedayo plays Nina, Michele Austin plays Pauline, Paul Higgins plays Hugo Dorn, Cherrelle Skeete plays Marcia, Nicolas Tennant plays Peter Sorin and Brian Vernel plays Konstantin, joining the previously announced Lesley Sharp who plays Irina Arkadina.

Unrequited love. Creative jealousy. Guns. Vodka.
And Art.

Chekhov's celebrated masterpiece is given vibrant new life in this dynamic new version by Olivier-award winning playwright Simon Stephens directed by Sean Holmes.

Switching effortlessly between the ridiculous and the profound *The Seagull* forensically examines the transcendence and destructiveness of love. The burning need to create Art and how harshly that need can be crushed permeates this classic play.

Cast Includes: Adelayo Adedayo, Michele Austin, Paul Higgins, Lesley Sharp, Cherrelle Skeete, Nicolas Tennant and Brian Vernel.

Adelayo Adedayo plays Nina

Theatre credits include: *Cuttin' It* (Young Vic/Royal Court); *Klippies* (Southwark Playhouse); *Rachel* (Finborough Theatre) and *The Dead Wait* (Park Theatre)

Film and TV credits include: *Unlocked*, *Timewaster*, *Houdini & Doyle*, *Some Girls*, *Stan Lee's Lucky Man*, *Law & Order UK*, *Skins*, *Gone Too Far*, *Sket*, *MI High*, *Meet The Bandaiis* and *The Bill*.

Lyric Hammersmith Lyric Square, King Street, London W6 0QL • Tel +44 (0)20 8741 6850 • www.lyric.co.uk

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Michele Austin plays Pauline

Theatre credits include: *Medea* and *The Chain Play* (Almeida); *Pride and Prejudice* (Sheffield Crucible Theatre); *The House That Will Not Stand* and *The Riots* (Tricycle); *I Know How I Feel About Eve* (Hampstead Theatre); *To Kill A Mockingbird* (Regents Park); *Six Books* (Bush); *Wild Child* (Rough Cuts); *The Lost Mariner*, *Been So Long* and *Breath, Boom* (Royal Court); *Generations* (Young Vic); *Out In The Open* (Hampstead); *Our Country's Good* (Out of Joint) and *It's A Great Shame* (Stratford East).

Film and TV credits include: *The Children Act*, *What We Did On Our Holidays*, *Another Year*, *The Infidel*, *All Or Nothing*, *I'll Sleep When I'm Dead*, *Second Nature*, *Secrets & Lies*, *Eastenders*, *The Coroner*, *The Casual Vacancy*, *Death In Paradise*, *Harry And Paul*, *Holby City*, *Peep Show*, *Silent Witness*, *Britannia High*, *Outnumbered*, *Never Better*, *Secret Life*, *The Bill*, *The Wife Of Bath*, *Clare In The Community*, *Doctors*, *Gimme Gimme Gimme*, *Eastenders*, *The Bill*, *Babes In The Wood*, *Kiss Me Kate* and *The Perfect Blue*.

Paul Higgins plays Hugo Dorn

Theatre credits include: *Temple*, *Luise Miller*, *The Cosmonaut's Last Message* (Donmar); *Blackbird*, *King Lear* (Citizens); *Hope*, *Nightsongs*, *American Bagpipes*, *The Conquest of the South Pole* (Royal Court); *Children of the Sun*, *White Guard*, *Paul*, *An Enemy of the People*, *The Hare Trilogy* (National Theatre); *Damascus* (Traverse/Tricycle/Middle East); *The Tempest* (Tron); *Black Watch* (National Theatre of Scotland); *Macbeth*, *Conversations After A Burial* (Almeida); *Measure for Measure* (RSC); *The Golden Ass*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Globe).

Film and TV credits include: *Line of Duty*, *Decline and Fall*, *The Thick of it*, *New Town*, *The Last Enemy*, *Murder*, *Raised By Wolves*, *Utopia*, *Low Winter Sun*, *Victoria & Abdul*, *Couple in a Hole*, *In The Loop*, *Red Road*, *Bedrooms and Hallways*, *Apostle* and *The Party's Just Beginning*.

Lesley Sharp plays Irina Arkadina

Theatre credits include: *A Taste of Honey*, *Harper Regan*, *Mother Courage and her Children*, *Murmuring Judges*, *Uncle Vanya* - Olivier Award nomination for Best Supporting Actress (National Theatre); *Ingredient X*, *Top Girls* and *Our Country's Good* (Royal Court); *Ghosts* (Duchess); *Little Voice* (Vaudeville); *God Of Hell*, *A Family Affair* - Olivier Award nomination for Best Comedy Performance (Donmar); *Playing With Trains* and *Mary and Lizzie* (RSC) and *Summerfolk* (Chichester Festival Theatre).

Film and TV credits include: *Three Girls*, *Scott & Bailey*, *Capital*, *Starlings*, *The Shadow Line*, *Whistle and I'll Come To You*, *Cranford*, *Poirot*, *Moving On*, *The Diary of Anne Frank*, *Dr Who*, *Afterlife*, *Planespotting*, *The Survivors*, *Carla*, *Carrie's War*, *Bob and Rose Slapper* and *Me*, *Inkheart*, *Vera Drake*, *Cheeky*, *From Hell*, *The Full Monty*, *Naked*, *Priest*, *Close My Eyes*, *The Rachel Papers*, *Rita*, *Sue and Bob Too*, *The Love Child*, *Clocking Off*, *Great Expectations*, *Playing The Field* and *Common as Muck*.

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Cherrelle Skeete plays Marcia

Theatre credits include: *Harry Potter and the Cursed Child* (Palace); *Three Days in the Country* and *Amen Corner* (National Theatre); *Wind in the Willows* (Royal and Derngate, Northampton); *And I and Silence* (Finborough) and *The Lion King* (Lyceum).

Film and TV credits include: *Silent Witness*, *Danny and the Human Zoo*, *The Five*, *Ordinary Lies* and *Call the Midwife*.

Nicolas Tennant plays Peter Sorin

For the Lyric: *Three Kingdoms* (also Tallinn/Munich),

Theatre credits include: *Curious Incident Of The Dog In The Night-Time* (Apollo); *Hamlet*, *Taming Of The Shrew*, *King Lear*, *As You Like It* and *All's Well That Ends Well* (RSC); *The Alchemist* and *Dr Faustus* (Liverpool Playhouse); *Tiger Country* and *Love Me Tonight* (Hampstead); *The Ragged Trousered Philanthropists* (Liverpool Everyman /Chichester); *The Power Of Yes*, *The Blue Ball* and *The U.N. Inspector* (National Theatre); *Roaring Trade* and *Piranha Heights* (Soho); *People At Sea* (Salisbury Playhouse); *Caucasian Chalk Circle* (Tour); *Under The Black Flag* (Shakespeare's Globe); *Members Only* (Trafalgar); *Dead Funny* (West Yorkshire Playhouse); *Cloud 9* and *Teeth 'N' Smiles* (Sheffield Theatre) and *Bad Company*, *Sugar*, *Sugar* and *Love & Understanding* (Bush).

Film and TV credits include: *Peaky Blinders*, *The Bill*, *The Gift*, *The Fool*, *Nice Town*, *Between the Lines*, *Breaking The Bank*, *Oscar & Lucinda*, *Friday On My Mind*, *Backbeat* and *Terry Pratchett's The Colour of Magic*.

Brian Vernel plays Konstantin

Theatre credits include: *Barbarians* (Young Vic); *Future Conditional* (The Old Vic); *Takin' Over the Asylum* (Royal Lyceum/Citizen's); *Macbeth*, *They Shoot Horses, Don't They?*, *The Cherry Orchard* (Royal Conservatoire of Scotland); *The Static*, *Blackout* (ThickSkin) and *Four Parts Broken* (National Theatre Of Scotland/Traverse /Oran Mor).

Film and TV credits include: *Dunkirk*, *Papillon*, *Star Wars: The Force Awakens*, *Winter Song*, *Offender*, *Let Us Prey*, *Collateral*, *The Tunnel*, *Dr Who*, *The Missing 2*, *The Last Kingdom*, *The Casual Vacancy*, *Grantchester*, *Prey* and *The Field of Blood*.

Further casting to be announced.



Simon Stephens

Simon is an award-winning playwright. For the Lyric: *Fatherland* (Manchester International Festival 2017 / Lyric & LIFT Festival 2018) *Hérons, Morning* (also Edinburgh Fringe Festival), *Three Kingdoms* (also Tallinn/Munich), *A Thousand Stars that Explode in the Sky* and *Punk Rock* – winner 2009 Manchester Evening News Award for Best Production (also Manchester Royal Exchange). Other theatre credits include: *The Threepenny Opera* (National Theatre); *Heisenberg* (Manhattan Theatre Company); *Obsession* (Barbican/Toneelgroep Amsterdam); *Song From Far Away, The Cherry Orchard, I Am The Wind* (Young Vic); *Carmen Disruption* (Deutsches Schauspielhaus/Almeida Theatre); *Nuclear War, Birdland, Wastwater* – winner 2011 Theater Heute's Award, *Motortown* - winner 2007 Theater Heute's Award, *Country Music, Herons, Bluebird* (Royal Court); *The Curious Incident Of The Dog In The Night-Time* - Winner Olivier and Tony Awards for Best New Play (National Theatre /Apollo /Gielgud /Barrymore Theatre, Broadway); *A Doll's House* (Young Vic/Duke Of York's); *Pornography* - winner 2008 Theater Heute's Award (Deutsches Schauspielhaus/Edinburgh Festival/Birmingham Rep/Tricycle Theatre); *Sea Wall* (Bush); *Harper Regan, Port* - winner 2001 Pearson Award for Best Play (Royal Exchange/National Theatre) and *On The Shore Of The Wide World* - winner 2005 Olivier Award for Best New Play (Royal Exchange). Film and television credits include: *Dive, Pornography* and *Cargese*. Radio credits include: *Five Letters Home to Elizabeth* and *Digging*. Simon is an Artistic Associate at the Lyric Hammersmith and Associate Playwright at the Royal Court. He was also on the board for Paines Plough between 2009 and 2014, and was a Writers' Tutor for the Young Writers' Programme at the Royal Court between 2001 and 2005.

Sean Holmes

Sean is Artistic Director of the Lyric Hammersmith. For the Lyric: *Terror, Shopping and F**king, Bugsy Malone, A Midsummer Night's Dream* (UK Tour/Manchester Royal Exchange/Brisbane Festival/Dublin International Festival), *Hérons, Secret Theatre Shows 1, 2, 3, 5 and 7, Cinderella, Desire Under the Elms, Morning, Have I None, Saved, Blasted* - winner Olivier Award 2011, Outstanding Achievement in an Affiliate Theatre, *A Thousand Stars Explode in the Sky, Ghost Stories* (also Duke of York's/Liverpool Playhouse/Panasonic Theatre, Toronto/Arts Theatre), *Three Sisters* and *Comedians*. In 2016 Sean directed *The Plough and the Stars* at the Abbey Theatre, Dublin (also Irish/US Tour). Sean was an Associate Director of the Oxford Stage Company from 2001 to 2006 and has also worked at the National Theatre, RSC, Tricycle, Royal Court, Donmar Warehouse, Chichester Festival Theatre and the Abbey Theatre, Dublin.

Written by Anton Chekhov

New Version by Simon Stephens

Directed by Sean Holmes

Design by Hyemi Shin

Lighting by Anna Watson

Sound by Pete Malkin

Casting by Stuart Burt CDG

Literal Translation by Helen Rappaport

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For more information visit www.lyric.co.uk

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Booking Information

Tickets 020 8741 6850 | www.lyric.co.uk

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The Seagull

Tuesday 03 October – Saturday 04 November 2017

Mon-Sat 7.30pm. Also Sat 2.30pm (excluding 7 October) & Wed 1.30pm (excluding 4 & 11 October) & Thu 12 Oct at 1.30pm.

Free First Night: Tuesday 03 October. For more information: www.lyric.co.uk

Previews: Wednesday 04 – Monday 9 October 2017 | Press Night: Tuesday 10 October 2017 at 7pm

Preview & Mid-week Matinees: £15, £20 | Tickets: £15, £20, £25, £30, £35, £40.

No booking fee.

Open Captioned Performance: Saturday 28 October 2:30pm

Audio Described Performance: Saturday 28 October 7:30pm

[Also booking at the Lyric Hammersmith](#)

Terror

Wednesday 14 June – Saturday 15 July 2017

Mon-Sat 7.30pm. Also Sat 2.30pm (excluding 17 June) & Wed 1.30pm (5 & 12 July only)

Previews & Mid-week Matinees: Thursday 15 – Monday 19 June 2017 | Press Performances:

Tuesday 20 at 7.30pm, Wednesday 21 at 7.30pm and Thursday 22 June 2017 at 7pm

Preview Tickets: £15, £20 | Tickets: £15, £20, £25, £30, £35. No booking fee.

Open Captioned Performance: Monday 3 July 7:30pm

Audio Described Performance: Thursday 6 July 7:30pm

Post-show talks with members of the cast & creative team: Tuesday 04 July and Tuesday 11 July
| Free



Fantastic Mr Fox

Wednesday 26 July – Sunday 20 August 2017

Various evening and matinee performance times. Please see www.lyric.co.uk

Free First Night: Wednesday 26 July. For more information: www.lyric.co.uk

Tickets: £15, £20, £25, £35, £40. No booking fee.

Audio Described Performance: Saturday 05 August 7pm

Open Captioned Performance: Saturday 12 August 2:30pm

Jack and the Beanstalk

Saturday 18 November 2017 – Saturday 06 January 2018

Various evening and matinee performance times. Please see www.lyric.co.uk

Free First Night: Saturday 18 November at 6pm. For more information: www.lyric.co.uk

Previews: Tuesday 21 – Friday 24 November 2017 | Press Night: Saturday 25 November 2017 at 6pm

Preview Tickets: £15, £20 | Tickets: £15, £20, £25, £30, £35, £40 | Schools' matinees: £15, £20

Family Ticket: £75 (limited availability). No booking fee.

Relaxed Performance (School Performance): Wednesday 06 December 1:30pm

Open Captioned Performance: Friday 15 December 7pm

BSL Performance: Saturday 16 December 2pm

Audio Described Performance: Sunday 17 December 5:30pm

Things I Know to be True

Thursday 11 January 2018 – Saturday 03 February 2018

Free First Night: Thursday 11 January. For more information: www.lyric.co.uk

Tickets: £15, £20, £25, £35, £40. No booking fee.

Open Captioned Performance: Saturday 27 January 2:30pm

Audio Described Performance: Saturday 27 January 7.30pm

Free First Night

The Lyric is proud to call Hammersmith their home. In 2016 they celebrated the 20th anniversary of their Free First Night scheme, part of their long term partnership with the London Borough of Hammersmith & Fulham, through which they give free tickets to people who live or work locally. Through this scheme last year they provided 2,354 Free First Night tickets to people who may not have had an opportunity to see theatre before. And as part of this commitment to the local community, they also provided 2,000 tickets to Hammersmith & Fulham schools. For full details including dates of future Free First Nights, www.lyric.co.uk



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