PRESS RELEASE



CASTING ANNOUNCED

Fatherland

Created by Scott Graham of Frantic Assembly, Karl Hyde and Simon Stephens Songs and stories from a forgotten England

Commissioned and produced by Lyric Hammersmith, LIFT, Manchester International Festival, Frantic Assembly and the Royal Exchange Theatre. Supported by PRS for Music Foundation.

25 May – 23 June 2018 Press Night: Thursday 31 May 2018 at 7pm

This bold new production, by Scott Graham, Karl Hyde and Simon Stephens, focusing on contemporary fatherhood in all its complexities and contradictions, premiered at the Royal Exchange Theatre as part of Manchester International Festival. *Fatherland* will open in May at the Lyric Hammersmith and will be a part of the 2018 LIFT festival.

This intensely physical production is performed by a 13-strong cast who will be joined by the Chorus of Others, a cacophony of voices, specially formed as part of *Fatherland*, for the production at the Lyric. *Fatherland* features exclusive songs and music written by Karl Hyde (*Underworld*) and Matthew Herbert.

Inspired by conversations with fathers and sons from Corby, Kidderminster and Stockport, the three co-creators' hometowns, *Fatherland* explores identity, nationality and masculinity. In a vivid and deeply personal portrait of 21st-century England at the crossroads of past, present and future, *Fatherland* is a show about what we were, who we are and what we try to be.

Co-Author & Director: Scott Graham Co-Author & Composer: Karl Hyde Co-Author & Writer: Simon Stephens

Cast: Mark Arends (Karl), Declan Bennett (Scott), Nyasha Hatendi (Simon), Joe Alessi (Alan), Luke Brown (Martin), Craig Stein (Luke), Ankit Giri (Samir), Michael Begley (Mel), David Judge (Daniel), Neil Mccaul (Graham), Tachia Newall (Craig), Luke Rigg (Jack) and James Doherty (Steven).

Mark Arends plays Karl

Theatre credits include: Old Fools (Southwark Playhouse); The Missing Light (The Old Vic); Hamlet (Trafalgar Studios); Don't Sleep There Are Snakes (The Park Theatre); The Angry Brigade (Bush); The Two Gentlemen Of Verona (RSC); Beauty And The Beast, A Dream Play Cat In The Hat (Also Young Vic), The U.N. Inspector (National Theatre); Love's Comedy, Alison's House (Orange Tree Theatre); 1984 (Also Headlong), Marianne Dreams (Almeida); Macbeth, The May Queen, Urban Legend (Liverpool Everyman); The Glass Menagerie, Henry V, What Every Woman Knows (Manchester Royal Exchange); At The End of Everything Else, Something Very Far Away (Unicorn Theatre/International Tour); Hallelujah (Theatre503); Vieux Carré (Manchester Library Theatre); Fierce: An Urban Myth (Grid Iron Theatre Company); Tamburlaine The Great (The Rose Theatre).

Film and television credits include: New Tricks, Doctors, Skins, The Innocence Project, Silent Witness, The Bill, Casualty, Holby City, Draw On Sweet Night, Cat In The Hat, Sex & Drugs & Rock & Roll, Pride and Prejudice.

Declan Bennett plays Scott

Theatre credits include: *Kiss of the Spider Woman* (Menier Chocolate Factory); *Jesus Christ Superstar* (Open Air Theatre); *Once* (Phoenix Theatre); *American Idiot* (St. James Theatre/Broadway); *Rent* (Nederlander Theatre/Broadway/US National Tour); *Taboo* (The Venue/UK Tour); *The Kissing Dance* (Edinburgh Festival/UK Tour); *It's a Lovely Day Tomorrow*, *Our Day Out* (Belgrade Theatre).

Television credits include: *EastEnders*.

Film credits include: Inside Llewyn Davis, Contagion.

Nyasha Hatendi plays Simon

For the Lyric: The Resistible Rise of Arturo UI.

Theatre credits include: *King Charles III* (Music Box Theatre/Almedia); *Richard III* (Nottingham Playhouse/York Theatre Royal); *NHAMO* (Tiata Fahodzhi/Tricycle Theatre); *Tis Pity She's a Whore* (Cheek By Jowl); *The Last Pilgrim* (The White Bear); *The Ark* (Arcola); *11 and 12* (Theatre Bouffe Du Nord); *The Brother's Size* (ATC/ Young Vic); *Real Black Men Don't Sit Crosslegged on the Floor* (New Federal Theatre); *August in April* (Brooklyn College/Arizona University); *Perciles, The Winter's Tale* (RSC); As You Like It, (Theatre Royal Bath); *American Buffalo, Dr. Faustus, Yonadab* (Bedlam Theatre).

Film credits include: To Leech, Magpie, Narcopolis, The Comedian, Fast Freddie the Widow and Me, The Ghost, No Money, And the Woods Fell Silent, Clive Hole, The Three Dumas, Side Effects Including Road Kill, The Good Shepherd.

Television credits include: The Forgiving Earth, Casual, The Cloud, W1A, Strikeback III, Garrow's Law, Above Suspicion: Silent Scream, Law and Order (UK), Blood and Oil, No.1 Ladies Detectives Agency, Silent Witness, Holby City.

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Joseph Alessi plays Alan

Theatre credits include: *Fatherland* (Manchester Royal Exchange, Manchester International Festival 2017); *The Lorax* (The Old Vic/Toronto); *The Plague* (Arcola Theatre); *Adding Machine* (Finborough); *Monster Raving Loony* (Drum Theatre, Plymouth/Soho); *The One That Got Away* (Ustinov Theatre, Bath); *The Hook*, (Also Liverpool Everyman); *Midsummer Night's Dream* (Royal and Derngate); *Brief Encounter* (Kneehigh/UK,USA, Australian tours/Studio 54, Broadway); *Tartuffe* (Liverpool Playhouse/ETT UK tour); *Absurd Person Singular* (Curve, Leicester); *Privates on Parade* (West Yorkshire Playhouse/Birmingham Rep); *The Drowsy Chaperone* (Novello); *Antony and Cleopatra, Julius Caesar, The Tempest* (RSC/Novello/USA tour); *The Postman Always Rings Twice* (West Yorkshire Playhouse/Playhouse); *The Play Wot I Wrote* (UK tour); *Light* (Complicite/Almeida/UK tour); *The Colour of Justice - The Stephen Lawrence Enquiry* (Tricycle); *Animal Crackers* (Royal Exchange/UK tour/Barbican/West End).

Luke Brown plays Martin

Performance credits include: The Dandelion Child (Tobacco Factory Theatre); Fatherland (Manchester Royal Exchange, Manchester International Festival 2017); The Hotel Experience (The Point Eastleigh, The Gulbenkian Kent, Chichester University); For You I Long the Longest (Swindon Dance Theatre, The Point Eastleigh, Newbury Corn Exchange, Marine Theatre, South Hill Park); Us (Norwich and Norfolk Outdoor Festival, Eastleigh Unwrapped at The Point, Out There Festival Great Yarmouth); Marble and Bread (The Sailors House Limerick); The Perfect American Opera (English National Opera, London Coliseum London, Opera Queensland); Spectrum (The Point Eastleigh).

Film credits include: The Reunion.

Craig Stein plays Luke

Theatre credits include: *Wig Out, FELA!, Nation* (National Theatre); *Doctor Faustus* (Duke of York/ATG), *Neighbours* (High Tide/Nuffield Theatres Southampton); *Ghost* (Piccadilly); 5,6,7,8, (Royal Court/Rough Cuts); *Harder They Come* (Nottingham Playhouse/UK Tour); *Wicked* (Apollo Victoria).

Film and television credits include: Lake Placid: Legacy, Mary Poppins Returns, Soft Lad, Doctors, Song From Jenny, Law and Order, Love Matters: Aphrodite Fry, Holby City, Down To Earth, The Biz!, Casualty.

Ankit Giri plays Samir

Ankit Giri graduated from East15 Acting School in 2017.

Theatre credits include: *Fatherland* (Manchester Royal Exchange, Manchester International Festival 2017); *Pericles* (Cornucopia Theatre Company).

Michael Begley plays Mel

Theatre credits include: *Matilda* (RSC); *After Electra* (Theatre Royal Plymouth); *The Glass Supper* (Hampstead Theatre); *Mrs Lowry and Son* (Trafalgar Studios); *Sweet Bird of Youth* (The Old Vic); *If There Is I Haven't Found It Yet* (Bush); *Rhinoceros, The Arsonists* (Royal Court); *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf, Adam Geist, Mad For It* (Royal Exchange, Manchester); *Pravda* (Chichester Festival Theatre/Birmingham REP); *Martha Loves Michael* (Ruffian/Pleasance); *The Norman Conquests* (Birmingham REP); *Hobson's Choice* (Touring Consortium/Birmingham REP/Plymouth Theatre Royal); *Flip Fest, The Tempest* (Contact Theatre, Manchester); *Death of a Salesman, Wildest Dreams, Life of Galileo* (Manchester Library Theatre); *Deep Blue Sea* (Nottingham Playhouse); *One Day in October* (Riverside Studios); *Hunting Scenes From Lower Bavaria* (Gate Theatre).

Television credits include: Foyle's War, EastEnders, Switch, Holby City, Dr Who, Casualty, Being Human, Doctors, Minder, Silent Witness, The Children, The Bill, The Last Detective, Miss Marple, By the Pricking of My Thumbs, The Eleventh Hour, Wire in the Blood, Dalziel and Pascoe, William and Mary, The Royal, Stretford Wives, Bob and Rose, In Deep, City Central, Heartbeat, The Grand, Grafters, McLibel!, See You Friday, This Life, Hillsborough, London's Burning, Julius Caesar.

Film credits include: Vacuuming Completely Nude in Paradise.

David Judge plays Daniel

For the Lyric: Three Sisters

Theatre credits include: The Kitchen Sink (Oldham Coliseum); The Caretaker (Bristol Old Vic/Royal & Derngate Northampton); Fatherland (Manchester Royal Exchange, Manchester International Festival 2017); Scuttlers; Christmas is Miles Away (Manchester Royal Exchange); Statements (Jermyn Street Theatre); Schoolboy/Lover (West Yorkshire Playhouse); Scrappers (Liverpool Playhouse); A Taste of Honey (Sheffield Crucible); Northern Spirit (Northern Stage); Coming Home, Afterbirth (Arcola); Irish Pele, Crying in the Chapel (Manchester Contact Theatre); The Eleventh Capital (Royal Court); The Rise and Fall of Little Voice (Harrogate Theatre); An Argument About Sex (Tramway/Traverse).

Television and film credits include: *Prey, Casualty, The Bill,* Hollyoaks, *The Omid Djalili Show, New Street Law, Silent Witness, An American Haunting*

Neil Mccaul plays Graham

Theatre credits include: *Fatherland* (Manchester Royal Exchange, Manchester International Festival 2017); After Electra (Theatre Royal Plymouth/Tricycle Theatre); *Guys and Dolls* (Chichester Festival Theatre); A Life (Finborough Theatre/Snapdragon); The Drawer Boy (Finborough); *Twelfth Night* (The Singapore Repertory Theatre); A Round Heeled Woman (Riverside Studios/Aldwych); *Fings They Used To Be* (Union Theatre); *Little Voice* (Hull Truck); *Calendar Girls* (Noel Coward); *Oedipus* (Royal National Theatre); *Once Upon a Time at the*

Adelphi (Liverpool Playhouse); *Flying Under Bridges* (Watford Palace); *Brighton Rock* (Almeida); *Accomplices* (NT/Sheffield Co).

Film Credits Include: Speed of Love, John, Short Films, Kevin Short Pleasure Island, Mr Mackie, Mike Doxford In Love With Alma, Eddie, Pier Films Ltd, Tony Britten Billy The Kid & The Green Baize Vampire, Big Jack Jay, ITC & Zenith, Alan Clarke The Pirates Of Penzance, Policeman, Universal Pictures, Wilford Leach.

Television Credits Include: Benidorm, Midsomer Murders, Dark Matters, Foyles War, Blue Murder, Doctors, Holby City, Mysterious Murders.

Tachia Newall plays Craig

Theatre credits include: *Scuttlers* (Royal Exchange); *Fatherland* (Manchester Royal Exchange, Manchester International Festival 2017); *Hamlet, Hoax: My Lonely Heart* (Royal Exchange Manchester); *Some Like it Hip Hop* (Sadler's Wells); *Arabian Nights, The Manchester Lines* (The Library Theatre); *Aladdin* (Preston Charter Theatre); *Crystal Kisses* (Contact Theatre); *Aladdin* (Imagine Theatre); *Ghost Boy* (20 Stories High).

Television credits include: Silent Witness, From Darkness, Vera, Scott and Bailey, Casualty, Waterloo Road, Coronation Street, Waterloo Road, Young Dracula, Doctors, Coronation Street, Moving on.

Film credits include: Dirty God.

Luke Rigg plays Jack

Performance credits include: *Fatherland* (Manchester Royal Exchange, Manchester International Festival 2017); *Trapped* (Experiential, tour); 5 Soldiers (Rosie Kay Dance, tour); *Bounce* (Harnisch Lacey, tour); *Milk Night* (Frantic Assembly, tour); *Lucid Grounds, Two Old Men, Out Of His Skin, 7.0, Subterania* (2Faced Dance, tour); *Stags* (Citrus Arts, tour).

Film credits include: Coded Dreams.

James Doherty plays Steven

For the Lyric: Aladdin.

Theatre credits include: London Road, NT:50, Beyond Caring (National Theatre); Eventide (Arcola); Chicago (Garrick); Marguerite (Theatre Royal Haymarket); Les Miserables (Palace Theatre); Kiss Me Kate (Royal Albert Hall); God Of Carnage (Northampton Theatre Royal); Teenage Kicks (Edinburgh Festival); Teechers (Haymarket); House and Garden (Harrogate Theatre); Gangster No 1, Harlequinade and Separate Tables (King's Head).

Film and television credits include: The Windsors, Veep, The Thick Of It, Him and Her The Wedding, Rev, Miranda, The IT Crowd, Delicious, From The Cradle To The Grave, The Job

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Lot, Phoneshop, Count Arthur Strong, A Touch Of Cloth, Top Coppers, Boomers, Mongrels, Katy Brand Show, Todd Margaret, Watson & Oliver, Give Out Girls, Rides, The Royal Bodyguard, Small Potatoes, Endeavour, Ambassadors, Suspicion, Londoners, The Jury, The Royal, Peak Practice, Footballers Wives, Night and Day, Is Harry on The Boat, EastEnders, Coronation Street, Waterloo Road, Casualty, Holby City, Doctors, The Bill, 2.4 Children, In Sickness and In Health, Dad, Hippies, Hotel Getaway, Bob Martin, The Wyvern Mystery, The Slightly Filthy Show, According To Bex, All About George. London Road, In The Loop, Kat and The Band, MSND, The Forgotten, Inbred, Closed Circuit, Deviation, Veritys Summer, City Rats, Backbeat.

Creative Team

Scott Graham

Scott Graham is Artistic Director and co-founder of Frantic Assembly, for which he recently directed *Things I Know To Be True*, *No Way Back*, *Othello* and *The Believers*.

He has been nominated for an Olivier and a Tony Award for Best Choreography on the multiaward-winning NT production *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time*. For Frantic Assembly he has co-directed *Little Dogs, Lovesong, Beautiful Burnout, Stockholm, pool (no water), Dirty Wonderland, Rabbit, Peepshow and Underworld.*

Director/performer credits include Hymns, Tiny Dynamite, On Blindness, Heavenly, Sell Out, Zero, Flesh, Klub and Look Back in Anger.

Other directing credits include: *Man to Man* at Wales Millennium Centre and *Home* for the National Theatre of Scotland. Choreography/movement direction includes *The Merchant of Venice* for Singapore Repertory Company; *Praxis Makes Perfect* for National Theatre Wales; *The Canticles* at Brighton Festival/Aldeburgh Music; Husbands & Sons, Port, *Hothouse and Market Boy* at the National

Theatre; Dr Dee for Manchester International Festival/ ENO.

With Steven Hoggett and Bryony Lavery, he created *It Snows*, a National Theatre Connections play. He has, with Steven Hoggett, written The Frantic Assembly Book of Devising Theatre (Routledge 2nd ed.)

Scott is Visiting Professor in Theatre Practice at Coventry University.

Karl Hyde

Karl Hyde studied fine art at Stourbridge & Cardiff and is a founding member of Underworld and the art collective Tomato. As half of Underworld, Hyde has spent the last 25 years recording and touring, whilst also exploring solo and collaborative projects with Brian Eno and others. He has exhibited art works internationally since 1978, published two books of street poetry 'Mmm Skyscraper I love You' & 'In the Belly of St Paul' (with John Warwicker) and his semi-autobiographical book 'I am Dogboy'. Film and Theatre credits (as Underworld) include *Beautiful Burnout* (National Theatre of Scotland / Frantic Assembly), *Frankenstein* (National Theatre), *Sunshine* (dir Danny Boyle), *Breaking & Entering* (dir Anthony Minghella) and the London 2012 *Olypmic Opening Ceremony*. Underworld's Grammy nominated "*Barbara Barbara, we face a*

shining future" was released in 2016 to critical acclaim and saw the band performing headline slots at Glastonbury, Coachella and Summer Sonic.

In 2017 in addition to *Fatherland*, at Manchester International Festival, Hyde and Underworld partner Rick Smith presented 'Manchester Street Poem', a performed installation piece and project that brings attention to the stories of those who find themselves homeless in the city.

Simon Stephens

Simon is an award-winning playwright. For the Lyric: Fatherland (Manchester International Festival 2017 / Lyric & LIFT Festival 2018), Herons, 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.

Co-Author & Director	Scott Graham
Co-Author & Composer	Karl Hyde
Co-Author & Writer	Simon Stephens
Designer	Jon Bausor
Lighting Designer	Jon Clark
Co-Composer & Music Producer	Matthew Herbert
Sound Designer	lan Dickinson for Autograph Sound
Choreographer	Eddie Kay
Dramaturg	Nick Sidi
Casting Director	Will Burton CDG

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Booking Information

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Fatherland

Friday 25 May – Saturday 23 June 2018 Mon-Thu & Sat 7.30pm; Fri 8pm Also Sat & Wed 2.30pm (excluding Sat 26 May & Wed 30 May. No performance on Mon 28 May) Free First Night: Friday 25 May at 7.30pm. For more information: www.lyric.co.uk Previews: Saturday 26 – Wednesday 30 May 2018 Press Performance: Thursday 31 May at 7pm Preview Tickets: From £10 | Tickets: From £15

NOTES TO EDITORS

About the Lyric Hammersmith

The Lyric Hammersmith is one of the UK's leading producing theatres. For more than a hundred and twenty years it has been responsible for creating some of the UK's most adventurous and acclaimed theatrical work. It has also gained a national reputation for its work with and for children and young people and creates pathways into the arts for young talent from all backgrounds, helping to diversify our industry. Recent productions include our critically acclaimed annual pantomimes, the smash hit *Bugsy Malone*, the international tour and co-production with Filter Theatre of *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, Lesley Sharp in Simon Stephen's new version of Chekhov's *The Seagull* and the UK premiere of the international phenomenon *Terror*.

The Lyric's dual commitment to producing the highest quality contemporary theatre, whilst nurturing the creativity of young people is what makes it unique within the cultural ecology of the UK. It is a local theatre rooted in its community with a national and international reputation for the quality and innovation of its artistic work.

In April 2015 the Lyric reopened following a multi-million pound capital project, which saw the addition of the Reuben Foundation Wing housing state-of-the-art facilities for theatre, dance, film, music, digital and more. The 'new' Lyric is now the largest creative hub in West London and home to an innovative partnership of like-minded leading arts organisations who work together to deliver life-changing creative opportunities for thousands of young West Londoners.

www.lyric.co.uk

Also booking at the Lyric Hammersmith

The Plough and the Stars Thursday 15 March – Saturday 07 April 2018 Mon-Sat 7.30pm Also Sat at 2.30pm (Excluding Sat 17 Mar). Also Thu 22 March at 1.30pm. (No performance Monday 02 April) Free First Night: Thursday 15 March at 7.30pm. For more information: www.lyric.co.uk

Previews: Friday 16 March – Monday 19 March 2018 Press Performance: Tuesday 20 March at 7pm Open Captioned Performance: Saturday 31 March at 2.30pm Audio Described Performance: Saturday 31 March at 7.30pm Preview Tickets: From £10 | Tickets: From £15

4:48 Psychosis

23, 24, 26, 28, 30 April, 02 & 04 May All performances at 7.30pm; Free First Night: Monday 23 April at 7.30pm. For more information: www.lyric.co.uk Press Performance: Tuesday 24 April at 7.30pm All performances are sung in English and surtitled Tickets: From £15

Hofesh Shechter / Shechter II - Clowns & New Creation

Tuesday 08 May – Saturday 12 May 2018 Tue-Sat 7.30pm; Also Sat at 2.30pm Free First Night: Tuesday 08 May at 7.30pm. For more information: www.lyric.co.uk Press Performance: Tuesday 08 May at 7.30pm Tickets: From £15

othellomacbeth

Friday 5 October – Saturday 3 November 2018 Mon-Sat 7.30pm Also Wed 1.30pm (excluding Wed 10 & Wed 24 October) & Sat 2:30pm (excluding Sat 6 Oct) Free First Night: Friday 5 October at 7.30pm. For more information: www.lyric.co.uk Previews: Friday 5 – Tuesday 9 October 2018 Press Performance: Wednesday 10 October at 7pm Preview Tickets: From £10 | Tickets: From £15

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