PRESS RELEASE

Thursday 11 July 2019

CASTING ANNOUNCED

A Doll’s House

By **Henrik Ibsen**

In a new adaptation by **Tanika Gupta**

Directed by **Rachel O’Riordan**

A Lyric Hammersmith Theatre production.

06 September 2019 – 05 October 2019

Press Night: Wednesday 11 September 2019

The **Lyric Hammersmith Theatre** today announces the cast for ***A Doll’s House,*** the first production directed **by Rachel O’Riordan** in her inaugural season as Artistic Director. Written by **Henrik Ibsen** and adapted by the award winning **Tanika Gupta,** this new take on an old classic explores gender politics, ownership and race in 1879, Calcutta.

As previously announced, the role of Niru – Nora in the original - is played by **Anjana Vasan**, who is currently performing in *Rutherford and Son* at the National Theatre, and played Rosemary/Rosa Gonzales in *Summer and Smoke* at the Almeida and in the West End last year. Niru’s husband, Tom Helmer – originally Torvald - is played by **Elliot Cowan,** known for his Ian Charleson Award nominated portrayal of Lord Goring in *An Ideal Husband* at the Vaudeville Theatre.

Anjana and Elliot will be joined by **Arinder Sadhra** (*Icarus* at the Unicorn Theatre*, War Horse* at the National Theatre*,* *Redefining Juliet* at the Barbican) as Uma, **Colin Tierney** (*The Girl on the Train* at the West Yorkshire Playhouse, *The March on Russia* at the Orange Tree Theatre, *All Our Children* at Jermyn Street Theatre) as Dr Rank, **Tripti** **Tripuraneni** (*Much Ado About Nothing* at Watford Palace Theatre, UK Tour of *Jungle Book*, *Macbeth* at the National Theatre) as Mrs Lahiri, and **Assad Zaman** as Kaushik Das (*White Teeth* at the Tricycle Theatre, *Coriolanus* and *Salome* at the RSC, and *Arms And The Man* at the Watford Palace).

Niru is a young Bengali woman in a mixed-race marriage with Tom, an English colonial bureaucrat. He loves Niru, exoticising her as a frivolous plaything to be admired and kept. But Niru has a long-kept secret, and just as she thinks she is almost free of it, it threatens to bring her life crashing down around her.

Tanika’s adaptation gives new urgency to the forces that drive a heroine to choose between society’s expectations and her own identity.

**CAST FULL BIOGRAPHIES**

**Elliot Cowan** plays TOM HELMER:

Theatre credits include: *Shipwreck* (The Almeida), *An Ideal Husband* (London Vaudeville Theatre), *Macbeth* (Globe Theatre*), Frost/Nixon, A Streetcar Named Desire* (Donmar Warehouse), *Les Blancs,* *The Revengers Tragedy* (National Theatre), *Julius Caesar* (Sheffield Crucible)

Film credits include: *All the Devil’s Men* (Big Book Media), *Narcopolis* (T Squared Film), *Angels of Decay* (Investigation Discovery), *Hammer of the Gods* (Vertigo Films), *Happy Go Lucky* (Thin Man Films), *Alexander* (Intermedia films)

TV credits include: *Peaky Blinders* (BBC*) Da Vinci’s Demons, Spanish Princess* (STARZ), *Krypton* (SyFy) *Cilla* (ITV), *Luther* (BBC), *Ambassadors* (BBC 2), *Sinbad* (Sky), *Marchlands* (ITV)

**Arinder Sadhra** plays UMA:

Theatre credits includes: *Icarus* (Unicorn Theatre), *War Horse* (National Theatre and Tour), *Redefining Juliet* (Barbican), *Scar Test* (The Arcola Theatre), *Singing Stones* (The Arcola Theatre) *Broken* (Park Theatre), *Something About You* (Soho Theatre)

Film credits include: *Lighter* (Good Orderly Direction), *Approval Needed* (Precious Hack Production), *City Of Tiny Lights* (BBC Films), *The Black Prince* (Brillstein Entertainment), *Second Coming* (Hillbilly Films), *After The World Ended - An Earth Future Tale* (Vertigo-Heights Films)

TV credits includes: *Bancroft II* (ITV), *The Strike Series: Cuckoos Calling* (HBO/BBC), *Broken* (BBC/LA Productions), *Moving On* (BBC/LA Productions), *Holby City* (BBC)

**Colin Tierney** plays DR RANK:

Theatre credits include: *The Girl on the Train* (West Yorkshire Playhouse), *The March on Russia* (Orange Tree Theatre), *All Our Children* (Jermyn Street Theatre), *The Odyssey: Missing Presumed Dead* (Liverpool Everyman), *The Father* (Bath Theatre Royal), *Britannia Waves The Rules* (Royal Exchange), *The Last Days of Troy* (Royal Exchange), *The Misanthrope* (Liverpool Everyman), *Betrayal* (Sheffield Crucible), *Tartuffe* (ETT), *Hamlet* (Sheffield Crucible)

Film credits include: *Nowhere Boy* (Ecosse Films), *Splintered* (NotANumber Productions Ltd.), *Bye Bye Baby* (Harbour Films)

TV credits include: *Endeavour VI* (Mammoth Screen), *Eastenders* (BBC), *Coronation Street* (ITV), *Vera* (ITV), *Silent Witness* (BBC), *Holby City* (BBC), *DCI Banks* (Left Bank Pictures), *Garrow’s Law* (Shed Media), *New Tricks* (Wall to Wall)

**Tripti Tripuraneni** plays MRS LAHIRI:

Theatre credits include: *Much Ado About Nothing* (Watford Palace Theatre), *Jungle Book* (UK tour), *Macbeth* (National Theatre) and *Romeo and Juliet* (National Theatre)

TV credits include: *Temple* (Sky Atlantic) and *Casualty* (BBC)

**Anjana Vasan** plays NIRU:

Theatre credits include**:** *Rutherford and Son* (National Theatre), *Summer and Smoke* (Duke of York’s Theatre/Almeida), *An Adventure* (Bush Theatre), *King Lear* (The Globe*), Life of Galileo* (Young Vic), *Midsummer Night’s Dream* (The Globe), *Image of An Unknown Young Woman* (Gate Theatre), *Dara* (National Theatre*), Behind the Beautiful Forevers* (National Theatre), *Macbeth* (Park Armory New York/ Broadway), Taming of the Shrew (RSC), *Much Ado About Nothing* (RSC), *The Radicalisation of Bradley Manning* (National Theatre Wales) and *The Rules – 66 Brooks* (Bush Theatre)

Television credits include: *Lady Parts (Comedy Blap)* (E4), *Temple* (Sky), *Brexit: The Uncivil War* (Channel 4), *Sex Education* (Netflix), *Pls Like* (BBC One), *Hang Ups* (Channel 4), *Ill Behaviour* (BBC), *Black Mirror* (Netflix), *Call the Midwife* (BBC) and *Fresh Meat* (Channel 4)

Film credits include: *Mughal Mowgli* (BBC), *The Children Act* (BBC) and *Cinderella* (Disney).

**Assad Zaman** plays KAUSHIK DAS:

Theatre credits include: *White Teeth* (Tricycle Theatre), *Coriolanus* (RSC/Barbican), *Salome* (RSC), *Arms And The Man* (Watford Palace), *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (New Wolsey Theatre Ipswich), *East Is East National Tour* (Jamie Lloyd Productions/ATG), *Behind The Beautiful Forevers* (National Theatre, London), *Beats North* (Northern Stage/Curious Monkey), *Tyne* (Live Theatre and Theatre Royal Newcastle), *Grimm Tales* (Northern Stage)

TV credits include: *Our Girl* (BBC), *Vera* (ITV), *Apple Tree Yard* (Kudos for BBC1), *Cucumber* (Red Productions for Channel 4)

Audiobook credits include: *The Boy with the Topknot*

**CREATIVE TEAM**

New Adaption by Tanika Gupta

Directed by Rachel O’Riordan

Designed by Lily Arnold

Lighting by Kevin Treacy

Composition by Arun Ghosh

Casting by Stuart Burt CDG

**Tanika Gupta** has written over 20 stage plays that have been produced in major theatres across the UK and has written extensively for BBC Radio drama. In 2008 she was awarded an MBE for Services to Drama and in 2016 was made a Fellow of the Royal Society of Literature. Tanika has an honorary doctorate in the Arts from Chichester University and is an Honorary Fellow at Rose Bruford College and Central School of Speech and Drama.

**Rachel O’Riordan** was appointed the Artistic Director of the Lyric Hammersmith Theatre in February 2019*.* Rachel was the Artistic Director and CEO of Sherman Theatre from February 2014 – February 2019. During her tenure the theatre was transformed into a vibrant, exciting and influential producing theatre, winning The Stage’s prestigious Regional Theatre of the Year Award in 2018. Her credits as a director for the theatre include: *The Cherry Orchard*; the Olivier award-winning Killology (with the Royal Court); *Bird* (with the Royal Exchange) and *Iphigenia in Splott* (also at the National Theatre; England tour, Edinburgh Festival, Schaubūne, Berlin and off-Broadway)

**Lily Arnold** is a theatre designer, who’s designs include *Pah-La* (Royal Court); *The Remains Of The*

*Day, Rules for Living* (Royal & Derngate); *Sleeping Beauty* (Theatre Royal Stratford East); *Things Of Dry Hours* (Young Vic); *Snow In Midsummer, The Jew of Malta, The Rape of Lucrece, King Lear, The Taming of the Shrew* (RSC); *Room* (Abbey Theatre, Theatre Royal Stratford East); *Love Lies Bleeding* (Print Room); *Henry V* (Tobacco Factory); *The Secret* Garden (Theatre by the Lake); *The Girl on the Train, The Fruit Trilogy, Blake Remixed* (Leeds Playhouse); Dublin Carol (Sherman); *Broken Biscuits*(Paines Plough, Live); *Bits of Me Are Falling Apart* (Soho Theatre*); The Solid Life of Sugar Water* (National Theatre, Theatre Royal); *The Sugar Coated Bullets of The Bourgeoisie* (HighTide/Arcola); *Tomcat* (Southwark Playhouse); *Jeramee, Hartleby & Ooglemore* (Unicorn); *Forget Me Not* (Bush Theatre); *So Here We Are* (HighTide, Royal Exchange); *Gruesome Playground Injuries, The Edge of Our Bodies* (Gate Theatre); *Yellow Face* (Park, NT Shed); *Peddling* (HighTide, 59E59); *Happy New* (Trafalgar Studios); *Ahasverus*, *The Bullet* (Hampstead); *Opera Scenes* (National Opera Studio); *A Season in the Congo and The Scottsboro Boys* (Young Vic).

**Kevin Treacy’s** lighting design for *A Doll’s House* will be his 12th collaboration with Director Rachel O’Riordan. Previous shows include *Killology* (Royal Court Theatre - Olivier Award 2018 for the Outstanding Achievement in Affiliate Theatre), *The Cherry Orchard*, *The Weir* (Sherman Theatre, Cardiff), *Bird* (Royal Exchange, Manchester), *Unfaithful* (Traverse Theatre, Edinburgh); *Macbeth*, *The Seafarer* (Perth Theatre, Scotland), *Come on Home* (Abbey Theatre, Dublin). Opera Credits include - *L’Elisir d’Amore* (Norwegian National Opera), *The Turn of The Screw* (Kolobov Novaya, Moscow), *Orpheus in the Underworld* ( Scottish Opera), *Macbeth* (Welsh National Opera), *Die Fledermaus* (Wermland Opera, Sweden) *Faramondo* (Handel Festspiele, Göttingen Germany). *Albert Herring* (Grange Festival).

**Arun Ghosh** is a British-Asian clarinettist, multi-instrumentalist and composer. Twice awarded 'Jazz Instrumentalist of the Year' at the Parliamentary Jazz Awards, he is a renowned innovator of modern IndoJazz. A leading light on UK and international jazz scenes, Arun has released four albums on camoci records, appearing twice on the covers of Jazzwise and Jazz UK magazines. Recent theatre compositions include: *Hobson's Choice* (Royal Exchange, Manchester), *Noughts & Crosses* (Pilot Theatre / Derby Theatre) *Approaching Empty* (Tamasha / Kiln) and *Lions and Tigers* (Shakespeare's Globe). Arun Ghosh is a Creative Associate at Watford Palace Theatre, and an Associate Artist of Z-arts, Manchester. He will compose the show, and will also perform live.

**Stuart Burt** is a freelance Casting Director, Artistic Associate of the Lyric Hammersmith and a member of the Casting Director’s Guild of Great Britain and Ireland. Recent projects include: Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat (Palladium), & Juliet (Shaftesbury Theatre/Manchester Opera House), Guys & Dolls, Standing at the Sky’s Edge (Sheffield Crucible), The Madness of King George III, Kindertransport, The Memory of Water, Skellig (Nottingham Playhouse), The Rocky Horror Show (UK Tour), Little Shop of Horrors (Regent’s Park), HOGARTH’s PROGRESS: The Art of Success & Taste of the Town (Rose Theatre, Kingston), The Christmasaurus (Hammersmith Eventim Apollo), Oklahoma (Grange Park Opera), The Seagull, A Doll’s House (Lyric Hammersmith), Terror (Lyric Hammersmith & Brisbane International Festival), Big Fish (The Other Palace), Uncle Vanya (Clwyd/Sheffield Crucible) and The Rocky Horror Show (European Tour). As Casting Director for The Jamie Lloyd Company, West End productions include Pinter at the Pinter (as Season Casting Director, Harold Pinter Theatre), Doctor Faustus (Duke of York’s), The Maids, The Homecoming, East is East, The Ruling Class, Richard III, The Pride, The Hothouse and Macbeth (Trafalgar Studios). As Head of Casting for The Ambassador Theatre Group (2012-1017), plays in the West End include Buried Child, The Spoils, The End of Longing and Passion Play. Touring plays include Blue/Orange, Private Lives and Gaslight. Musical credits include Dirty Rotten Scoundrels, The Rocky Horror Show, Women on the Verge of a Nervous Breakdown, Annie Get Your Gun, Tonight’s the Night, The Choir and Spamalot.

For press enquiries please contact the **Lyric Hammersmith Press Office:**

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NOTES TO EDITORS

**Booking Information**

Tickets 020 8741 6850 | [www.lyric.co.uk](http://www.lyric.co.uk)

Lyric Square, King Street, London, W6 0QL

**A Doll’s House**

Friday 06 September – Saturday 05 October

Mon-Sat 7.30pm

Also Weds 1.30pm and Sat at 2.30pm

Free First Night: Friday 06 September

Press Performance: Wednesday 11 September, 7pm

Open Captioned Performance: Saturday 28 December, 2.30pm

Audio Described Performance: Saturday 28 September, 7.30pm

Preview Tickets from £10 | Tickets from £15

**Currently playing at the Lyric Hammersmith Theatre:**

**Noises Off**

Until 3 August

Mon-Sat 7:30pm

Also Wed and Sat at 2.30pm

Open Captioned Performance: Saturday 20 July 2019 at 2:30pm

Audio Described Performance: Saturday 20 July 2019 at 7:30pm

Tickets: From £15

**Also booking at the Lyric Hammersmith Theatre:**

**Solaris**

Thursday 10 October - Saturday 02 November 2019

Mon-Sat 7.30pm

Also Wed at 1.30pm and Sat at 2.30pm.

Free First Night: Thursday 10 October.

Press Performance: Monday 14 October, 7pm

Open Captioned Performance: Saturday 19 October, 2.30pm

Audio Described Performance: Saturday 19 October, 7.30pm

Preview Tickets from £10 | Tickets From £15

**Cinderella**

Saturday 16 November 2019 – Sunday 05 January 2020

Check website for performance schedule.

Free First Night: Saturday 16 November.

Press Performance: Saturday 23 November, 6pm

Audio Described Performance: Saturday 14 December, 6pm

Open Captioned Performance: Wednesday 18 December, 6pm

BSL Performance: Friday 27 December, 2pm

Relaxed Performance: Wednesday 04 December, 1.30pm

Preview Tickets: From £10 | Tickets From £15

**Love, Love, Love**

Thursday 05 March – Saturday 04 April 2020

Mon-Sat 7.30pm

Also Wed at 1.30pm and Sat at 2.30pm.

Free First Night: Thursday 05 March.

Press Performance: Wednesday 11 March, 7pm

Audio Described Performance: Saturday 28 March, 7.30pm

Open Captioned Performance: Saturday 28 March, 2.30pm

Preview Tickets: From £10 | Tickets From £15

**Sophocles’ Antigone: The Burial at Thebes**

Saturday 18 April – Saturday 16 May 2020

Mon-Sat 7.30pm

Also Wed at 1.30pm and Sat at 2.30pm.

Free First Night: Saturday 18 April.

Press Performance: Thursday 23 April, 7pm

Audio Described Performance: Saturday 09 May, 7.30pm

Open Captioned Performance: Saturday 09 May, 2.30pm

Preview Tickets: From £10 | Tickets: From £15

**About the Lyric Hammersmith Theatre**

The Lyric Hammersmith Theatre is one of the UK's leading producing theatres; creating world class theatre from the heart of Hammersmith, the theatre’s home for more than a hundred and twenty years.

The Lyric has two stages – a Frank Matcham designed traditional Victorian Main House and a flexible contemporary Studio theatre. The theatre’s Reuben Foundation Wing, which opened in 2015, houses state-of-the-art creation and arts education facilities for theatre, dance, film, digital and music.

At the heart of the Lyric is a commitment to young people’s creativity. The theatre has gained a national reputation for its ground breaking work to forge pathways into the arts for young talent from all backgrounds, helping to diversify our industry.  Central to the Lyric’s work is a commitment to providing opportunities for children and young people who are disadvantaged. The Lyric is the largest creative hub in West London and home to an innovative partnership of arts organisations who work together to deliver life-changing creative opportunities for thousands of young West Londoners.

**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 offered 3799 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.

For more information visit www.lyric.co.uk.

Twitter: @LyricHammer | Facebook: LyricHammersmith



