PRESS RELEASE

LYRIC HAMMERSMITH THEATRE ANNOUNCES RACHEL O’RIORDAN’S FIRST SEASON AS ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

The Lyric Hammersmith Theatre today announces its 2019/2020 programme of work, Rachel O’Riordan’s inaugural season as Artistic Director:

* *A Doll’s House:* A new version of Ibsen’s play by Tanika Gupta and directed by Rachel O’Riordan – her first show as the Lyric’s Artistic Director, with Niru – Nora in the original– played by Anjana Vasan (*Summer and Smoke*).
* *Solaris:* co-produced with Malthouse Theatre Melbourne and The Royal Lyceum Theatre Edinburgh*,* the Lyric presentsa new play by David Greig, adapted from the cult science fiction novel by Stanislaw Lem.
* *Cinderella*: Panto returns for 2019, written by Jude Christian and directed by Tinuke Craig. Featuring the Lyric Ensemble.
* *Love, Love, Love*: Rachel O’Riordan directs Mike Bartlett’s award-winning play.
* *Sophocles’ Antigone: The Burial at Thebes:* Roy Alexander Weise (*Nine Night*) directs a new production of Nobel Laureate Seamus Heaney’s translation. The Chorus will be played by the Lyric Ensemble.
* *The Beauty Queen of Leenane*: Headlining the Autumn 2020 season, Rachel O’Riordan directs Martin McDonagh’s darkly comic play.
* In collaboration with Headlong, the Lyric announces a long-term aspiration to commission and produce work of scale by women playwrights for the Lyric Main House and UK touring, with the first production in January 2020.
* The Lyric announces new Artistic Associates team: Stuart Burt (Casting Director); Tinuke Craig (Director); Phillip McMahon (Playwright and Director); Nina Steiger (Dramaturg) and Simon Stephens (Playwright).
* 30,000 tickets in the season are £15 or under, with 5000 of these completely through the Lyric’s community ticket schemes such as Free First Night.
* Continuing the Lyric’s commitment to reducing its impact on the environment, e-tickets are introduced for all Main House shows.
* The Little Lyric Autumn Season, for audiences aged under 11 years, is announced, including the return of Raymond Brigg’s *Father Christmas*, along with the new sponsor of Little Lyric shows and classes, The Collective.
* The Lyric continues its commitment to nurturing the next generation of artists with the Lyric Ensemble and Evolution Festival.
* Priority booking for Lyric Friends and Supporters opens today, 21 May 2019, with public booking opening at 9am on Friday 24 May.

Speaking about her first season at the Lyric Hammersmith Theatre, Artistic Director Rachel O’Riordan said:

“*I’m delighted to be announcing my inaugural season as Artistic Director of the Lyric Hammersmith Theatre. I am very proud to be here. We have a stunning 590 seat Frank Matcham designed Main House and will produce plays that celebrate our unique theatre in the heart of Hammersmith. Today we announce seven new productions by exceptional playwrights including reimagined classics, contemporary plays and bold new work; these plays are as dynamic and varied as our audience.*

*My first play as director is a bold new version of Ibsen’s* A Doll’s House *by the award-winning West-London born Tanika Gupta. Tanika sets the play in Calcutta, 1879, using the themes of the play to explore British colonialism, in a radical reframing of this classic text. Playing the lead role of Niru, Nora in the original, will be Anjana Vasan, who was compelling in* Summer and Smoke*. I’m really looking forward to working with her, Tanika, and designer Lily Arnold, to bring a new perspective to this iconic play. An element of my vision for the Lyric is rooted in reimagining classic texts; putting the interpretation of them in the hands of artists (writers and directors) whose voice brings new perspective.*

*Collaboration will be a vital part of the Lyric’s work. Our first co-production will be with The Royal Lyceum Theatre in Edinburgh and Malthouse in Melbourne, with David Greig’s* Solaris*. I’m also delighted that we today announce a new partnership with Headlong, focused on commissioning and producing major new work of scale by women writers, both on the Lyric Main House stage before the UK. Our first production together will be in January 2020. I am excited to see the great work that will come from these ambitious plans that we are making together.*

*Christmas at the Lyric is a magical time. Our panto is such an important event for our community, and I’m thrilled that Jude Christian returns to write* Cinderella. *She will be joined by Tinuke Craig for her Lyric - and panto - directing debut, and members of our Lyric Ensemble in their first professional Main House production - an opportunity which has become the springboard for many young people into a career in theatre.*

*At the heart of the vision for the Lyric is great writing, giving our audiences the opportunity to see work by extraordinary playwrights. I’m very excited that in spring I will direct Mike Bartlett’s* Love, Love, Love *in a major new revival. Bartlett’s play addresses intergenerational conflict with sharp humour and political precision; I can’t wait to see how audiences now will respond to the themes he addresses with such bold theatricality and skill.*

*Nobel Prize winning poet Seamus Heaney’s* The Burial at Thebes*, translated from Sophocles’* Antigone, *is a powerful and immediate text. Pairing this great work with powerhouse director Roy Alexander Weise will take this text into thrilling new territory. This large scale, ambitious production in the spring of 2020 will also include performers from the Lyric Ensemble, playing the pivotal role of Chorus.*

*In autumn 2020, I am delighted to say that Martin McDonagh’s ground- breaking, wave- making* The Beauty Queen of Leenane *is our headline show. This is a play I have wanted to direct for many years - its black humour and acute observations on rural Ireland are both hilarious and disturbing. It is a fascinating and compelling study of dysfunctional mother/ daughter love and is, rightfully, a modern classic. I can’t wait for its West London debut on our beautiful stage.*

*Today we also announce our new team of Artistic Associates. Continuing their association with the Lyric, Simon Stephens and Stuart Burt are joined by our new Associates; Tinuke Craig, Nina Steiger, and Phillip McMahon.*

*Join us for world class theatre from the heart of Hammersmith.*”

Executive Director of the Lyric Hammersmith Sian Alexander said:

*“We want the widest possible audience to enjoy the world class theatre that we make and for the Lyric to be open to everyone who wants to come and experience the work on our stages. I am therefore delighted that we are announcing today that there will be over 30, 000 tickets available this season for our Main House productions for £15 or under. 5000 of these tickets will be free tickets offered through our community ticket programmes to people who live, work or go to school in Hammersmith and Fulham. Most importantly these tickets are for some of the best seats in the theatre.*

*Little Lyric continues to delight our youngest audiences providing their first introduction to theatre and last year we welcomed more than 25,000 children and their families to our Studio programme. Today we announce a new season of autumn shows including regular Saturday performances, for October Half Term Lost and Found based on the popular book by Oliver Jeffers and from November the return of perennial favourite Raymond Briggs’ Father Christmas. I’m also pleased to announce the support of West London-based company The Collective Dairy, who will be sponsoring our Little Lyric shows and classes for under 11s.*

*Building on our work to reduce our environmental impact, from this Autumn, audiences will have the option to use E-tickets for all our Main House shows. This year we have been awarded the highest 5 Star Creative Green certification by Julie’s Bicycle as well as a local business award, and The Stage Award for Sustainability. Ensuring audiences have the option of E-tickets is part of our fight against the climate emergency.*

*Young people are at the heart of the Lyric Hammersmith Theatre and nurturing a new diverse generation of theatre artists is central to our work. We want talented young people from all backgrounds to have viable pathways into our industry and to develop their skills and own artistic practice.*

*I’m therefore incredibly excited for the new opportunity we will offer this season for our Lyric Ensemble of young performers age 18 – 25 to perform professionally in the Main House as the Chorus in The Burial at Thebes. Each year, as part of their training our Ensemble works with an up and coming theatre director to create their own show in our Studio Theatre each summer. I’m delighted to announce that this year’s Ensemble show director will be Abigail Graham.*

*Our festival for young emerging artists, Evolution, will return in Spring 2020. Today we are announcing the inaugural winner of The Bill Cashmore Award 2019 is Eve Cowley whose show Screwdriver will headline Evolution 2020. This newly established award, worth £10,000, will support the winner’s professional development and the creation of their new show.*

*World class theatre, cheap tickets, opportunities for all – everyone’s welcome at the Lyric Hammersmith Theatre this season*.”

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

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MAIN HOUSE PRODUCTIONS

*A Doll’s House*

A Lyric Hammersmith Theatre Production.

A New Version by Tanika Gupta based on the play by Henrik Ibsen

Directed by Rachel O’Riordan

Designed by Lily Arnold

Friday 06 September – Saturday 05 October 2019

Press Performance: Wednesday 11 September, 7pm

Calcutta. 1879.

Niru, is a young Bengali woman in a mixed-race marriage with an English colonial bureaucrat - Tom.

Tom 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 Gupta reimagines Ibsen’s classic play of gender politics through the lens of British colonialism, offering a bold, female perspective exploring themes of ownership and race.  
  
Rachel O’Riordan makes her directorial debut as Artistic Director of the Lyric, in a production that gives new urgency to the forces that drive our heroine to choose between society’s expectations and her own identity.

Cast includes Anjana Vasan as Niru. Further casting to be announced.

*Solaris*

A Lyric Hammersmith Theatre, Malthouse Theatre Melbourne and The Royal Lyceum Theatre Edinburgh Production.

A new play by David Greig adapted from Stanislaw Lem’s novel

Directed by Matthew Lutton

Designed by Hyemi Shin

Thursday 10 October – Saturday 02 November 2019

Press Performance: Monday 14 October, 7pm

On a space station orbiting Solaris, three scientists have made contact with a new planet.  
  
Sent from earth to investigate reports of abnormal activity on-board, Kris Kelvin arrives to find one crew member dead and two who are seeing things that cannot be explained.  
  
When her dead lover appears to her, it seems she too has fallen victim to the mystery of this strange planet. Should she return to reality, or is this her chance to turn back time?

Have the crew been studying Solaris - or has it been studying them? This psychological thriller asks who we are when we’re forced to confront our deepest fears.  
  
David Greig adapts Stanisław Lem’s cult science fiction novel for the stage. Our international co-production arrives at the Lyric direct from The Royal Lyceum, Edinburgh and Melbourne, Australia.

Casting to be announced.

*Cinderella*

A Lyric Hammersmith Theatre Production.

Written by Jude Christian

Directed by Tinuke Craig

Designed by Frankie Bradshaw

Saturday 16 November 2019 – Sunday 05 January 2020

Press Performance: Saturday 23 November, 6pm

Polish your glass slippers, dust off your carriage and join us as the clock strikes midnight for the Fairy Godmother of pantomimes, Cinderella. Expect the usual Lyric twist on Wicked Stepmothers, Ugly Stepsisters, pumpkins, mice and more.

You shall go to the ball with this festive fairy tale treat. Word has it that if you leave it too late to book, you might turn into a pumpkin…

Jude Christian returns to write *Cinderella* following the success of last year’s panto *Dick Whittington*. She will be joined by director Tinuke Craig for her Lyric and panto debut, and members of the Lyric Ensemble in their first professional main stage production – an opportunity that has launched the careers of many young people in theatre.

Casting to be announced.

*Love, Love, Love*

A Lyric Hammersmith Theatre production.

By Mike Bartlett

Directed by Rachel O’Riordan

Thursday 5 March – Saturday 4 April 2020

Press performance: Wednesday 11 March, 7pm

It’s 1967. The Beatles are performing *All You Need Is Love* on global TV for the very first time. Kenneth and Sandra meet.

*Love Love Love*, charts one couple’s journey forty years from the era of free love to the beginning of the 21st Century. Smoking, drinking, affectionate and paranoid, Kenneth and Sandra build their life and family together in a time of increasing national prosperity, when the future is always better than the past.

Now they’re retired and their children grown, but why hasn’t it all worked out the way they thought? What happens when the children you think you’ve done everything for, believe you haven’t done enough?

A family go to war over their personal politics in Mike Bartlett’s funny and scathing look at the opposing values of two very different generations.

Rachel O’Riordan directs a major revival of this award-winning play that’s now more relevant than ever.

Sophocles’ Antigone

The Burial At Thebes

A Lyric Hammersmith Theatre production.

Translated by Seamus Heaney

Directed by Roy Alexander Weise

Saturday 18 April – Saturday 27 June 2020

Press performance: Thursday 23 April, 7pm

The war has ended. Antigone, daughter of Oedipus, learns her brothers are dead. Forced onto opposing sides, they have killed each other in battle.   
  
When Creon, King of Thebes, grants the honour of a burial to one but not the other, Antigone and her sister must choose where their loyalties lie.   
  
This epic tale of humanity versus leadership centres on a young woman with the courage to defend her beliefs - whatever the cost.

Roy Alexander Weise directs Nobel laureate Seamus Heaney’s bold translation of Sophocles’ Antigone, in a large scale production featuring a chorus of young performers from the Lyric Ensemble.

*The Beauty Queen of Leenane*

A Lyric Hammersmith Theatre production.

By Martin McDonagh

Directed by Rachel O’Riordan

Autumn 2020 – Dates to be announced.

Set in the mountains of Connemara, County Galway, *The Beauty Queen of Leenane* tells the darkly comic tale of Maureen Folan, a plain, lonely woman in her early forties, and Mag, her manipulative ageing mother, whose interference in Maureen’s first and possibly final chance of a loving relationship sets in motion a train of events that leads inexorably towards the play’s final breathtaking conclusion.

Rachel O’Riordan directs a major London revival of this award-winning play by Martin McDonagh (*Three Billboards Outside Ebbing, Missouri; The Lieutenant of Inishmore*).

Partnership with Headlong

The Lyric Hammersmith Theatre embarks on a new partnership with Headlong Theatre, who together make a shared plan to commission and produce major new work of scale from women writers for the Lyric Main House stage and for touring across the UK. The first production will be performed at the Lyric in January 2020.

Young People at the Lyric

The Lyric continues its work as a sector leader in developing pathways into the arts for talented young people from a wide range of backgrounds:

The Lyric Ensemble

The Lyric Ensemble are a group of 15 -20 emerging performers, age 18 – 25 that make their home at the Lyric for nine months. In that time they work with some of the most exciting theatre professionals in the UK, taking masterclasses in performance, movement, text, design and personal development.

The first Lyric Ensemble was led by director Anne-Louise Sarks and produced their first production Abandon to critical acclaim in June 2018. This year’s Ensemble are working with director Holly Race Roughan to create a new show in the Lyric Studio for June 2019. Over 90% of past Ensemble members have gone on to secure places at drama school and universities including scholarships and bursaries, to secure agents, or to produce their own work, proving the success of the scheme as a way for young people from different backgrounds to take their first steps into a career that was previously closed to them.

For 2019/2020 the Lyric are further expanding the opportunities for the Lyric Ensemble to perform on the Main House stage: in the Autumn Ensemble members will perform in *Cinderella* and in the spring in the pivotal role of the Chorus in Roy Alexander Weise’s new production of Sophocles’ Antigone: *The Burial of Thebes*. They will also develop their own show with director Abigail Graham, which will be presented in the Lyric Studio in Summer 2020,

The Lyric Ensemble programme is generously supported by the Andrew Lloyd Webber Foundation and the McGrath Charitable Trust.

Evolution Festival

Evolution Festival, the Lyric’s annual celebration of young artists, returns for its 4th edition/year in Spring 2020. The headline show, commissioned especially for the Festival, will be supported by the newly established Bill Cashmore Award.

Bill Cashmore (1961 - 2017) was an English actor and playwright, as well as director and co-founder of the organisation Actors in Industry. The Bill Cashmore Award has been set up in Bill's memory by his family and friends to support an emerging artist to develop their work at the Lyric over the course of a year. The annual award, worth £10,000, will run for the next 3 years to support the professional development of a young artist and the rehearsal and development of a 'scratch' idea into a show to headline that year’s Evolution Festival.

Each year as part of the Evolution Festival young artists present ‘scratch’ performances of work they want to develop. From last year’s scratches, 5 artists were selected and through mini-residencies given the opportunity and support to develop their work further at the Lyric. These artists then shared work in progress with the Award Panel, which included Rachel O’Riordan, who selected the recipient of this year’s Award.

The inaugural winner of the Bill Cashmore Award for 2019 is Eve Cowley and her show Screwdriver. Eve is a theatre maker and performer from Yorkshire, who studied at Sheffield University. She works collaboratively with artists from various disciplines to make new work, placing women’s stories at the centre and has recently performed at Sheffield Theatres, HOME,The Royal Exchange, and The New Diorama, all in productions she has co-created. She is joined on the project by director Elin Schofield, a director and theatre maker from Manchester, who has been part of the Royal Court Writers’ Group and is currently the Young Company Director at Sheffield Theatres.

NOTES TO EDITORS

About 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 its home. In 2016 the theatre celebrated the 20th anniversary of its Free First Night scheme, part of a long term partnership with the London Borough of Hammersmith & Fulham, through which it gives free tickets to people who live or work locally. Through this scheme last year the Lyric gave 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, the theatre also provided 2,000 tickets to Hammersmith & Fulham schools. For full details including dates of future Free First Nights, www.lyric.co.uk.

About Rachel O’Riordan

Rachel O’Riordan was appointed Artistic Director of the Lyric Hammersmith Theatre in February 2019. Her first programmed season will begin in September 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).

Her freelance directing credits include: *Come on Home* (Abbey, Dublin); *Unfaithful* (Traverse, Edinburgh); *The Absence of Women (*Tricycle now Kiln, London); *Everything is Illuminated* (Hampstead Theatre); *The Glass Menagerie* (Lyric Theatre, Belfast) and with the Peter Hall Company she directed *Miss Julie* and an adaptation of George Orwell’s *Animal Farm* at the Theatre Royal Bath.

Rachel was named as one of the most influential people in UK Theatre in the most recent Stage 100 in 2017 and 2018. She was a participant in the British Council’s *Take the Stage* initiative, working with emerging Ukrainian directors on new writing in a conflict environment. Published work includes in *NT Connections: Plays, 2011*; *Women in Irish Theatre* (Macmillan); and various academic journals. She has also written articles for the *Irish Theatre Magazine* and *Fortnight* (on new writing in Northern Ireland).

Previously she was the Artistic Director of Perth Theatre in Scotland between 2011 and 2014. Her directing credits at the theatre included: *Someone Who’ll Watch Over Me; Moonlight and Magnolias; The Odd Couple, Female Version; The Seafarer* (with Lyric, Belfast), winning the Critics Award for Theatre in Scotland for Best Director and Best Ensemble for *Macbeth* (with Tron, Glasgow)*.* During this time Rachel directed five new short operas for the MAC in Belfast and a transfer of Owen McCafferty’s *The Absence of Women* to the Tricycle Theatre (now Kiln), London.

From 2002 to 2011 Rachel co-founded and ran Ransom Productions based in Northern Ireland. With Ransom she directed the award-winning *Hurricane*, which received high critical acclaim at the Edinburgh Festival Fringe, in the West and off Broadway. During her time as Artistic Director she commissioned and directed various new works including the first play by David Ireland, *Arguments for Terrorism*, *Early Bird* by Leo Butler, *Transparency* by Suzie Miller, *Protestants* by Robert Welch and *This Piece of Earth* by Richard Dormer. She also ran a three year programme, *Write on the Edge* (2007-2010), a project to develop women writers in post-conflict Northern Ireland.

Rachel trained at the Royal Ballet School. She went on study English and Theatre Studies at Queen Mary and Westfield College, University of London and completed her PhD at University of Ulster on *Shakespeare’s Physical Text.*

Malthouse Theatre

At Malthouse Theatre we collaborate with local and international artists to create inventive performances that cut to the core of the human experience. Theatre has the power to interrogate, disrupt and to be an agent of change—and we think it always should. At Malthouse Theatre the work we produce explores the world personally, socially and politically. Based in a dedicated venue, The Coopers Malthouse in Melbourne, we are a home for live experiences that entertain and provoke a dialogue with and within audiences.

The Royal Lyceum Theatre Company

The Royal Lyceum Theatre Companyis a crucible of Scottish talent, developing Scotland’s considerable indigenous artists and presenting the best of international drama from its home in a magnificent, intimate Victorian building in Edinburgh’s West End.   
  
Internationally celebrated playwright David Greig became the 8th Artistic Director of The Lyceum in 2016. As part of his premiere 2016/17 season, the company produced ten full productions, making it one of the biggest producing companies in the United Kingdom, and the theatre was awarded the 50/50 Applause Award in by The International Centre for Women Playwrights in 2018 for gender parity in the 2017/18 season.

In recent years, The Lyceum has staged co-productions with Edinburgh International Festival, Edinburgh International Book Festival, The Old Vic, Istanbul’s DOT Theatre, Melbourne’s Malthouse Theatre, Bristol Old Vic, National Theatre of Scotland, Bath’s Theatre Royal, London’s The Bush Theatre, Nottingham Playhouse Theatre Company, Glasgow’s Citizens Theatre, Liverpool Everyman & Playhouse, Chichester Festival Theatre, and London’s Lyric Hammersmith Theatre. For more information, please visit lyceum.org.uk

Headlong Theatre

Headlong is one of the UK’s leading theatre companies, dedicated to making exhilarating, risk-taking and provocative new work and collaborating with the most exciting and adventurous theatre artists in the country. Past productions include *All My Sons* (Old Vic), *Richard III* (UK Tour), *Mother Courage* (Manchester Royal Exchange), *Labour of Love*(West End), *People, Places & Things* (National Theatre/West End/UK Tour/New York), *This House*(West End/Chichester Festival Theatre/UK Tour), *The House They Grew Up In*(Chichester Festival Theatre), *Junkyard*(Bristol Old Vic/Theatr Clwyd/Rose Theatre Kingston), *Pygmalion*(UK Tour), *1984*(Almeida Theatre/West End/UK Tour/Broadway/World Tour), *The Nether*(Royal Court Theatre/West End), *Observe the Sons of Ulster Marching Towards the Somme*(UK Tour), *The Absence of War*(UK Tour), *The Glass Menagerie*(UK Tour), *Spring Awakening*(UK Tour), *Chimerica*(Almeida Theatre/West End), *American Psycho*(Almeida Theatre/Broadway), *The Seagull*(UK Tour), *ENRON*(West End/Broadway).

Tanika Gupta, writer: a new version of *A Doll’s House*

Over the past 20 years Tanika has written over 20 stage plays that have been produced in major theatres across the UK and has written extensively for BBC Radio drama.

Theatre credits include: *Lions And Tigers* (Globe Theatre. Winner of the James Tait Black Prize for Drama 2018); *A Short History of Tractors in Ukrainian* (Hull Truck Theatre); A *Midsummer Night’s Dream* (Globe Theatre –Dramaturg); *Anita and Me* (Birmingham Rep); *Love N Stuff* (Theatre Royal Stratford East); *The Empress* (Royal Shakespeare Company); *Wah! Wah! Girls - A British Bollywood Musical* (Sadler’s Wells); *Mindwalking* (Bandbazi Theatre); *Great Expectations* (Watford Palace Theatre/English Touring Theatre); *Meet The Mukherjees* (Bolton Octagon Theatre); *White Boy* (National Youth Theatre/Soho Theatre); *Sugar Mummies* (Royal Court Theatre); *Gladiator Games* (Sheffield Crucible Theatre); *Hobson’s Choice* (Young Vic); *Fragile Land* (Hampstead Theatre); *Inside Out* (Clean Break); *Sanctuary, Brecht’s The Good Woman Of Setzuan and The Waiting Room* (National Theatre); *Skeleton* (Soho Theatre); and *A River Sutra* (Indoza).

Television credits include:  *Doctors, London Bridge, All About Me, EastEnders, Grange Hill, The Bill, Flight, Banglatown Banquet, Our Lives As Animals ,The Fiancee* and *Bideshi*.

Radio credits include: *A Passage To India, Death of a Matriarch, The Home and The World, Emma, Writing The Century, Bindi Business, Song Of The Road, The God Of Small Things, Baby Farming* and Ibsen’s *A Doll’s House*.

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.

Anjana Vasan plays Niru in *A Doll’s House*

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); A *Midsummer Night’s Dream* (Globe Theatre); *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).

David Greig, writer: *Solaris*, adapted from Stanislaw Lem’s novel

David Greig is a multi award-winning playwright who became the Artistic Director of The Lyceum in 2016. His first season included the critically acclaimed work The *Suppliant Women*, adapted by David, which went on to the Belfast International Festival, The Royal Exchange, and the Young Vic in London; and the world premiere of *Glory On Earth*, by Linda McLean, which marked David’s directorial debut at the theatre.

Theatre credits include: *The Events* (Traverse, Scotland and Young Vic); *The Strange Undoing of Prudencia Hart* (Tron, National Theatre of Scotland); *Midsummer* (Traverse, Soho Theatre and Tricycle); *Dunsinane* (RSC at Hampstead and National Theatre of Scotland); *Damascus* (Traverse, Scotland and Tricycle); *Outlying Islands* (Traverse and Royal Court); *The American Pilot* (RSC); *Pyrenees* (Paines Plough); *The Cosmonaut’s Last Message to the Woman he Once Loved in the Former Soviet Union* (Donmar Warehouse and Paines Plough); *The Architect,* and *Europe* (Traverse).

Adaptation credits include: *Creditors* (Donmar Warehouse), which was performed as part of The Lyceum’s 2017/18 season; *The Bacchae* (Edinburgh International Festival/ National Theatre of Scotland), *Tintin in Tibet* (Barbican, Playhouse and UK tour), *When the Bulbul Stopped Singing* (Traverse Theatre, - Amnesty International Award; TapWater Award and Herald Angel), *Caligula* (Donmar Warehouse) and *Peter Pan* (National Theatre of Scotland, Traverse and Barbican).

David wrote the book for *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*, which opened in the West End in 2013 and transferred to Broadway in 2017. His adaptation of *Lanark* opened at the Edinburgh International Festival in 2015 and his adaptation of Dr Seuss’ *The Lorax* opened at The Old Vic for Christmas 2015. David also worked on *Cover My Tracks* (Old Vic), for which he wrote the book, with Noah and the Whale’s Charlie Fink.

Matthew Lutton, Director: *Solaris*

Matthew Lutton is Malthouse Theatre’s Artistic Director and Co-CEO. Prior to this, he was Malthouse Theatre’s Associate Director and the Artistic Director of ThinIce in Perth, Australia.

Theatre credits include: *Melancholia*, *Bliss,* *Black Rider: The Casting of the Magic Bullets,* *The Real and Imagined History of the Elephant Man,* *Away,* *Edward II,* *Picnic at Hanging Rock,* *I Am a Miracle*, *Night on Bald Mountain*, *The Bloody Chamber*, *Dance of Death*, *Pompeii, L.A.*, *On the Misconception of Oedipus*, *Die Winterreise, Tartuffe* (Malthouse Theatre); *The Trial*, *The Mysteries: Genesis, The Duel* (Sydney Theatre Company); *Love Me Tender* (Belvoir) and *Don’t Say the Words* (Griffin Theatre Company).

Opera credits include: *Make No Noise* (Bavarian State Opera); Strauss’ *Elektra* (Opera Australia and West Australian Opera) and *The Flying Dutchman* (New Zealand Opera).

Jude Christian, writer: *Cinderella*

Jude is a multi-skilled writer, director and theatre maker. She is an Associate Artist at the Gate Theatre and Associate Director at HOME.

For the Lyric as Writer: *Dick Whittington*.

For the Lyric as Director: *OthelloMacbeth* (also HOME); *Dick Whittington* and *Jack and the Beanstalk*.

Other theatre as Writer includes: *Nanjing* (The Yard, Shakespeare’s Globe, Royal Court).

Other theatre as Director includes: *Peter Pan* (Brageteatret); *Dark Night of the Soul* (The Globe); *Parliament Square* (Bush Theatre, Royal Exchange); *My Mum’s A Twat, Bodies, Lela & Co.* (Royal Court); *Trust* and *I’d Rather Goya Robbed Me Of My Sleep Than Some Other Arsehole* (Gate Theatre).

Tinuke Craig, director: *Cinderella* and new Artistic Associate

Tinuke was the Gate Theatre's Associate Director from 2015-2016. In 2014 she was the winner of the Genesis Future Director Award. She is a selector for the National Student Drama Festival, an associate of the National Youth Theatre, and an Education Associate Practitioner at the RSC. She trained as a director at LAMDA.

Directing credits for Theatre includes: *Random/Generations* (Chichester Festival Theatre); *I Call My Brothers*(Gate Theatre); *Dirty Butterfly*(Young Vic).

Assistant/Associate Director for Theatre includes: *Wonder.land* (National Theatre), Hamlet, *All's Well that Ends Well* (RSC) and *The Changeling* (Young Vic).

Upcoming productions include: *The Colour Purple* (Leicester Curve) and *Vassa* (Almeida Theatre).

Mike Bartlett, writer: *Love, Love, Love*

Plays for the theatre include: *Snowflake* (Arts at the Old Fire Station); *Albion* (Almeida); *Wild* (Hampstead Theatre); *Game* (Almeida); *King Charles III* (Almeida Theatre/Wyndham’s Theatre/Music Box Theatre, New York); *An Intervention* (Paines Plough/Watford); *Bull* (Sheffield Theatres/Off Broadway/Young Vic); *Medea* (Headlong/Glasgow Citizens/Watford/Warwick); *Chariots of Fire* (Hampstead Theatre/Gielgud Theatre); *13* (National Theatre); *Decade* (co-writer Headlong); *Earthquakes in London* (Headlong, National Theatre); *Love,Love,Love* (Paines Plough / Plymouth Theatre Royal/Royal Court/Roundabout Theatre Company, New York); *Cock, Contractions, My Child* (Royal Court); and *Artefacts* (Bush Theatre/ nabokov).

Theatre credits as Director: *Medea* (Headlong /Glasgow Citizens/ Watford/Warwick) and *Honest* (Theatre Royal Northampton).

Television includes: *Press* (BBC); *Trauma* (ITV); *King Charles III* (Drama Republic/BBC); *Doctor Foster* (Drama Republic/BBC) and *The Town* (Big Talk Productions).

*Doctor Foster* won Best New Drama at the 2016 National Television Awards, Best Drama Series at the 2016 Broadcast Awards, and Outstanding Newcomer for British Television Writing at the British Screenwriting Awards. At the 2015 Olivier Awards *King Charles III* won Best New Play and *Bull* won Outstanding Achievement in an Affiliate Theatre. *Love, Love, Love* won Best New Play in the 2011 Theatre Awards UK and *Cock* won an Olivier Award in 2010 for Outstanding Achievement in an Affiliate Theatre. Bartlett has been nominated for three BAFTAS: Best Single Drama for *King Charles III* in 2017, Best Mini-Series for *Doctor Foster* in 2015, and Breakthrough Talent for *The Town* in 2012.

Roy Alexander Weise, director: Sophocles’ *Antigone: The Burial at Thebes*

Roy Alexander Weise was the 19th annual winner of the James Menzies-Kitchin Award and directed his critically acclaimed, sell out production of *The Mountaintop* by Katori Hall at the Young Vic. Roy was nominated at the 2018 Evening Standard Awards for the ‘Emerging Talent’ Award.

Director credits for Theatre includes: *The Trick* (Bush Theatre and UK Tour); *Nine Night* (National Theatre & West End), *Dead Don’t Floss* (National Theatre); *The Dark* (Fuel Theatre); *The Mountaintop* (Young Vic and UK Tour); *Br’er Cotton* (Theatre 503); *Heretic Voices* (Arcola Theatre); *Jekyll and Hyde* (National Youth Theatre); *The Ugly One* (Park Theatre); *Zero for the Young Dudes* (Young & Talented in association with NT Connections); *Primetime* (Royal Court); and *Stone Face* (Finborough Theatre).

Assistant Director credits for Theatre includes: *Hangmen* (Royal Court and West End); *X*, *Escaped Alone*, *You For Me For You*, *Primetime 2015*, *Violence and Son*, *Liberian Girl* (Royal Court); *Albion*, *We Are Proud To Present…* (Bush Theatre); and *The Serpent’s Tooth* (Talawa /Almeida Theatre).

Trainee Director credits for Television includes: *Invisible* (Red Room/Ballet Boys/Channel 4).

Roy is an Associate Artist of the Donmar Warehouse.

Roy has previously worked at the Royal Court as the Trainee Director, at the Bush Theatre and Lyric Hammersmith Theatre as the BBC Theatre Fellow and at The Red Room as Associate Artist.

Abigail Graham, Director: Lyric Ensemble show

From 2013-2017 Abigail was Artistic Director of OpenWorks Theatre; she was JMK runner up in 2011, and won the Company of Angels Young Angels Theatre Maker Award in 2008.

Theatre credits includes: Linda (RADA); *Carmen The Gypsy* (Arcola); *31 Hours* (The Bunker); *Death of A Salesman* (Royal and Derngate and UK Tour); *And Now: The World!* (OpenWorks and Company of Angels in association with Derby Theatre, UKTour); *Timmy Failure: Mistakes Were Made* (Assembly Rooms, Edinburgh); *Debris* (OpenWorks, Southwark Playhouse); *Molly Sweeney* (Print Room, Lyric Belfast Northern Irish tour);  *The Ward Project* (Young Vic at Maudsley Hospital); *Remember How to Fly* (Young Vic SEN Festival); *Soft Scoop* (Clean Break) and *Blue Heaven* *– Three Short Plays* by Tennessee Williams (Finborough Theatre).

Film credits include: *Timetable*, which she also wrote.

**New Artistic Associates of the Lyric Hammersmith Theatre**

Stuart Burt

Stuart is a freelance Casting Director and a member of the Casting Director’s Guild of Great Britain and Ireland.

For the Lyric: *The Seagull, A Doll’s House* and *Terror*.

Theatre includes: *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); *The Christmasaurus* (Hammersmith Eventim Apollo); *Oklahoma* (Grange Park Opera); *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 credits 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 credits include: *Buried Child, The Spoils, The End of Longing*, and *Passion Play*, *Blue/Orange, Private Lives* and *Gaslight* (West End).

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* (West End).

Tinuke Craig

See earlier biog.

Phillip McMahon

Phillip is a playwright, director and maker based in Dublin. His work has shown at the Abbey Theatre Dublin, National Theatre UK, Traverse Edinburgh, across Australia, Europe, and The US. Phillip is co-founder and co-director of Irish theatrical juggernauts Thisispopbaby.

Theatre as Director includes: *Dublin Oldschool* (National Theatre); *Not A Funny Word* (Abbey Theatre) and *Rubberbandits* (Electric Picnic Music and Arts Festival).

Theatre as Writer includes: *Come On Home* and *Town is Dead* (Abbey Theatre).

Phillip was co-creator and co-curator of the *Poptopia* performance venue at Electric Picnic Music and Arts Festival 2008-2010, *Queer Notions* cross arts festival at Project Arts Centre, *Werk Performance/Art/*Club (Abbey Theatre, Melbourne Arts Festival & Irish Museum of Modern Art) and the *Where We Live* festival of performance and ideas 2018.

Phillip is currently touring with Thisispopbaby's *Riot*, the international smash hit show he co-created and co-directed with Jennifer Jennings.

Nina Steiger

Nina Steiger is Senior Dramaturg at the National Theatre's New Work Department.  Prior to this she was Associate Director at Soho Theatre.

Simon Stephens

Simon Stephens has been an Associate at the Royal Court, London and Steep, Chicago and a board member of Paines Plough. He is a Professor of Scriptwriting at Manchester Metropolitan University and an Associate Professor at the Danish National School of the Performing Arts, Copenhagen.

For the Lyric: *Fatherland* (also Royal Exchange); *Three Kingdoms* (also Munich Playhouse, NO99 Theater, Estonia), *The Seagull* and *Punk Rock* (also Royal Exchange).

Theatre credits include: *Maria, Rage* (Thalia Theater)*;* *Heisenberg* (Manhattan Theatre Club/Broadway); *Song from Far Away* (Young Vic); *Birdland* (Royal Court); *Blindsided* (Manchester Royal Exchange); *Wastwater* (Royal Court); *Port* (Royal Exchange); *Harper Regan* (National Theatre); *On the Shore of the Wide* (Royal Exchange, National Theatre, Atlantic Theatre); *Pornography* (Deutsches Schauspielhaus, Hannover Edinburgh Festival, Birmingham Rep, Tricycle); *Motortown* (Royal Court); *Country Music* (Royal Court); *Christmas* (Bush Theatre); *Herons* (Royal Court)and *Bluebird* (Royal Court).

He has written English language versions of Jon Fosse’s *I Am the Wind*; Odon Von Horvath’s *Kasimir and Karoline* (titled *The Funfair)*; Henrik Ibsen’s *A Doll’s House;* Anton Chekhov’s *The Cherry Orchard* and *The Seagull* and Bertolt Brecht and Kurt Weill’s *Threepenny Opera.*

BOOKING INFORMATION:

Tickets from £10

Priority booking for Lyric Friends and Supporters: 10.30am Tuesday 21 May 2019

Public booking: 9am Friday 24 May 2019

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 2019

Mon-Sat 7.30pm

Also Wed at 1.30pm and Sat at 2.30pm.

Free First Night: Friday 06 September. For more information: [www.lyric.co.uk](http://www.lyric.co.uk)

Press Performance: Wednesday 11 September, 7pm

Audio Described Performance: Saturday 28 September, 7.30pm

Open Captioned Performance: Saturday 28 September, 2.30pm

Preview Tickets from £10 | Tickets From £15

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. For more information: [www.lyric.co.uk](http://www.lyric.co.uk)

Press Performance: Monday 14 October, 7pm

Audio Described Performance: Saturday 19 October, 7.30pm

Open Captioned Performance: Saturday 19 October, 2.30pm

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. For more information: [www.lyric.co.uk](http://www.lyric.co.uk)

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. For more information: [www.lyric.co.uk](http://www.lyric.co.uk)

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

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. For more information: [www.lyric.co.uk](http://www.lyric.co.uk)

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

Little Lyric

Tickets: Saturday from £8 / Half term from £10 / Father Christmas from £12

Sat 07 Sep 11am & 1pm Hey Diddle Diddle, A Goblin Theatre Production

Sat 14 Sep 11am & 1pm Thumbelina, A Norwich Puppet Theatre Production

Sat 21 Sep 11am & 1pm Best Bossy Bum Bonkers Part, A School Of Comedy Production

Sat 28 Sep 11am & 1pm Nessasaurus, A Jazz-A-Nory Production

Sat 05 Oct 11am & 1pm Young Herbert’s Horrors, A Half Moon Theatre Production

Sat 12 Oct 11am & 1pm Eggs on Legs, A Garlic Theatre Production

Sat 19 Oct 11am & 1pm Mission…Save the World!, A M6 Theatre Production

Tues 22 – Sat 26 Oct 11am & 1pm Lost and Found, A Little Blue Monster Production

Sat 02 Nov 11am & 1pm Stella, A Filskit Theatre Production

Sat 09 Nov 11am & 1pm Frankenstein for Kids, A Circo Ridiculoso Production

Wed 20 Nov – Sun 29 Dec 9:30am, 9:45am, 11am, 12:30pm, 2pm, 3pm, 3:30pm, 5pm,

Raymond Briggs’ Father Christmas, A Lyric Hammersmith And Pins And Needles Production

Also booking at the Lyric Hammersmith Theatre:

Dead Dog in a Suitcase (and other love songs)

Tuesday 21 May – Saturday 15 June 2019

Mon-Sat 7:30pm

Also Wed at 1:30pm & Sat at 2:30pm

Free First Night: Tuesday 21 May at 7.30pm

Press Night: Thursday 23 May at 7pm

Open Captioned Performance: Saturday 8 June 2019 at 2:30pm

Audio Described Performance: Saturday 8 June 2019 at 7:30pm

Tickets: From £10

Noises Off

Thursday 27 June – Saturday 27 July 2019

Mon-Sat 7:30pm

Also Sat and Wed at 2.30pm, except week commencing 1 July when matinee performances will be on Sat and Thu at 2:30pm.

Free First Night: Thursday 27 June at 7.30pm.

Previews: Thursday 27 June - Monday 1 July 2019

Press Night: Tuesday 2 July at 7pm

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

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

Tickets: From £10