PRESS RELEASE

Monday 10 February 2020

CASTING ANNOUNCED FOR

Sophocles’ Antigone: The Burial at Thebes

Translated by **Seamus Heaney**

Directed by **Roy Alexander Weise**

A Lyric Hammersmith Theatre production.

18 April 2020 – 16 May 2020

Press Night: Thursday 23 April, 7pm

The **Lyric Hammersmith Theatre** today announces casting for ***Sophocles’ Antigone: The Burial at Thebes*,** directed by the joint Artistic Director of the Manchester Royal Exchange, **Roy Alexander Weise** (‘*Master Harold’…and the boys* and *Nine Night*).Originally part of Sophocles’ Theban trilogy, the tragedy was translated by Irish Nobel Prize Winner **Seamus Heaney,** and first performed at the Abbey Theatre in Dublin, 2004.

**Yusra Warsama** will play the role of Antigone. Yusra is known for playing Hanni Youis in *The Vote* at the Donmar Warehouse and television roles such as Dr Nadia Omar in *Castle Rock* (Hulu) and Nafula in *Our Girl* (BBC). Ismene, Antigone’s sister, will be played by **Babirye Bukilwa** (*When We Have Sufficiently Tortured Each Other,* National Theatre; *Cherry Orchard,* Nottingham Playhouse; *Filthy Business,* Hampstead Theatre).

Returning to the Lyric, having last performed here in Roald Dahl’s *Twisted Tales,* **Nick Fletcher** will play the role of Creon, Antigone’s uncle and the King of Thebes – his credits include *Dead Don’t Floss, The Deep Blue Sea and Treasure Island* (National Theatre). Eurydice, the Queen of Thebes, will be played by **Ruth Redman** (*All My Sons,* Old Vic*; The Glass Menagerie,* West End*).*

The blind oracle, Tiresias will be played by **Simon de Deney** (theatre includes:*The Importance of Being Earnest,* National Tour; film includes: *Damage,* New Line Cinema and *Shining Through,* 20th Century Fox). **Kwong Loke** (*Pah-La,* Royal Court; *The Great Wave*, National Theatre; *Labour of Love,* Noel Coward) will play Messenger and **Alexander Campbell** (Br’er Cotton*,* Theatre503; *Serpent’s Tooth,* Almeida Theatre; *One Flew Over the Cuckoo’s Nest,* Curve Theatre) will play Guard.

In line with the Lyric’s commitment to nurturing young talent, the Chorus will be formed by five young performers (aged 18 -25) as part of a paid training opportunity. The performers will work with the creative team and receive support in developing singing, movement and acting skills; over 120 young people auditioned for the roles. The final Chorus includes: **Pascale Kann, Jessica Mannion, Ethan Peters, Caleb Rowan** and **Westerfield Shoderu.**

Poet, Seamus Heaney was awarded the Nobel Prize in Literature in 1995; critically acclaimed poetry and translations include *Death of a Naturalist* (1966), *North* (1975) and *Beowulf: A New Verse Translation* (1999). His translation of ***Sophocles’ Antigone: The Burial at Thebes*** is an epic tale of humanity versus leadership centring on a woman with the courage to defend her beliefs – whatever the cost.

***Sophocles’ Antigone: The Burial at Thebes*** is designed **Lily Arnold** who was last at the Lyric with *A Doll’s House* in 2019, lighting design by **Amy Mae** and sound design by **Donato Wharton.** Casting by **Isabella Odoffin CDG.**

**FULL CAST BIOGRAPHIES**

**Babirye Bukilwa** plays Ismene

**Theatre includes:** *When We Have Sufficiently Tortured Each Other* (National Theatre); *The Empire Strikes Back* (Arcola Theatre); *The Cherry Orchard* (The Nottingham Playhouse); *Filthy Business* (Hampstead Theatre); *Ukumzi* (Brave New World); *Plaques & Tangles, Truth and Reconciliation* (Royal Court Theatre); *Beautiful Thing* (Nottingham Playhouse and Leicester Curve); *Romeo and Juliet* (National Theatre); *Neighbours* (HighTide Festival); *Whole* (Unity Theatre).

**Film includes:** *Yellow in Blue* (Tyon Mason)*, Strawberry Fields, We Lose Moses* (Film London); *Little Hard* (Waller and Wandsworth)

**Television includes:** *We Hunt Together* (BBC/UKTV); *Ackee and Saltfish, Our Girl, Casualty* (BBC); *Babylon, Random* (Channel 4)

**Radio includes:** *Sunflowers Behind A Dirty Fence*

**Alexander Campbell** plays Guard

**Training includes**: Arts Educational School

**Theatre includes**: Br’er Cotton(Theatre 503), (The Revenger's Tragedy (Nottingham Playhouse), *Serpent's Tooth* (Almeida Theatre), *One Flew Over The Cuckoo's Nest* (Curve Theatre), *Three Musketeers & The Princess Of Spain* (English Touring Theatre), *Prodigal Son*(Stephen Joseph Theatre), *Merlin & The Cave Of Dreams*(Manchester Library), *Six Degrees* *Of Separation* (Royal Exchange Manchester), *Antigone* (Jerwood Space), *The Boys Next Door* (Tabard Theatre).

**Television includes**: *Vikings 6* (History Channel), *Maigret* (ITV), *Sons Of Liberty* (Icon Films), *Lucan* (ITV), *The Bill* (Thames Television) *Casualty* (BBC1), *Murder Investigation Team* (ITV)

**Simon de Deney** plays Tiresias

**Theatre includes:** *The Importance of Being Earnest* (National Tour); *The Country Wife* (Mermaid); *The Madness of George Dubya* (Arts, West End); *The Prisoner of Windsor* (Leicester Square Theatre); *Christmas Carol* (Duke’s); *Spider’s Web* (Wolsey); *Charley’s Aunt* (Middlsboro); *Beneath The Waves* (Eastern Angles); *Between the Lines* (Park Theatre and Tour); *Twelfth Night* (Canizaro Park); *Miss Chester* (Player's); *The Producers* (Trinity); *Frankenstein*, (Jackson' s Lane), *Duchess of Malfi*, (Tristan Bates); *Felix*, (King' s Head), *Unmanned* (Arcola)

**Television includes:** *Emmerdale* (ITV); *House of Elliot* (BBC); *The Upper Hand* (ITV); *Rose Cottage* (Anglia Television).

**Film includes:** *Damage* (New Line Cinema); *Shining Through* (20th Century Fox); *Another Country* (20th Century Fox); *The Selfish Act of Community*

**Radio includes:** *Thunderball; Moonraker; School for Scandal, The Wooden Horse, Future Perfect*   *House*

**Nick Fletcher** plays Creon

**For the Lyric:** *Twisted Tales* (and Northern Stage)

**Theatre includes:** *La Maladie de la Mort* (Theatre des Bouffes du Nord); *Dead Don’t Floss, The Deep Blue Sea, Treasure Island, The Overwhelming, A Woman Killed with Kindness, The White Guard, Once in a Lifetime, Playing with Fire, The UN Inspector* (National Theatre); *For Services Rendered* (Chichester Festival Theatre); *Public Enemy, A Doll’s House, The Shawl* (Young Vic); *The Country Wife* (Manchester Royal Exchange); *Thyestes* (Arcola); *Rattle of a Simple Man* (Comedy Theatre); *The Two Gentlemen of Verona, A Midsummer Nights Dream* (Regents Park); *King Lear* (Old Vic)*, A Difficult Age, Love’s Labours Lost* (English Touring Theatre); *Star Quality* (Apollo Theatre); *The Slight Witch, Silence* (Birmingham Rep.); *All’s Well That Ends Well* (Chicago Shakespeare); *Henry V, A Chaste Maid in Cheapside* (Shakespeare’s Globe); *Burdalane* (BAC); *A Wife Without a Smile, The House Amongst The Stars, Court in the Act, The Way of the World, The Last Thrash, The Cassilis Engagement* (Orange Tree).

**Film includes:** *The Wife* (Meta Films)

**Television includes:** *Father Brown* (BBC); *Conspiracy of Silence* (Viacom); *Outlander* (Starz); *Midsomer Murders* (Bentley Productions); *Mutual Friends* (Hat Trick); *Whitechapel, Rough Treatment*  (ITV) *Harley Street* (Carnival); *Silk, New Tricks, True Dare Kiss, Grange Hill* (BBC); *After the War* (Granada)

**Kwong Loke** plays Messenger

**Theatre includes:** *Pah-La, New and Now, You For Me For You* (Royal Court), *The Great Wave* (National Theatre), *Labour of Love* (Noel Coward, West End), *Dear Elizabeth, Tibetan Inroads* (Gate Theatre), *Summer Rolls* (Park Theatre/Bristol Old Vic), *You Never Touched Dirt* (Royal Court at Edinburgh), *The Lulu Plays* (Almeida Theatre), *Hiawatha* (Bristol Old Vic), *Global Baby Factory* (Yellow Earth Theatre), *The Changeling* (Finborough Theatre), *Rashomon, Scenes from Paradise* (Riverside Studios), *The Magic Paintbrush*, *The Snow Lion* (Polka Theatre), *Blue Remembered Hills* (UK Tour), *Two Gentlemen of Verona* (Singapore Drama Centre), *The* *Soldier’s Tale* (South Bank).

**Television includes:** *The Feed* (ITV Amazon), *Gangs of London* (HBO-Sky), *As Time Goes By, Love Hurts, Blue Peter, Casualty, The Knock*, *The Monkey King.*

**Radio includes:** *At Sea on Inya Lake, Another Land, Our Farther the Mountain, Joy Luck Club.*

**Ruth Redman** plays Eurydice

**Theatre include:** *All My Sons* (The Old Vic), *The Glass Menagerie, Ghosts, Passion Play* (West End), *Lady Windermere’s Fan* (King’s Head Theatre), *Romeo and Rosalind* (Bread and Roses Theatre), *Death and the Maiden* (Tristan Bates Theatre), *The Memory Show* (Drayton Arms Theatre), *Shirley Valentine* (Marlborough Theatre Brighton), *The Miser* (Manchester Royal Exchange Theatre)

**Television includes:** *Doctors, Eastenders (*BBC)*; Kavanagh QC* (Carlton Television)*, London’s Burning* (London Weekend Television)*, The Bill* (ITV)*.*

**Yusra Warsama** plays Antigone

**Theatre includes:** *The Vote* (Donmar Warehouse); *Future Bodies* (HOME, Manchester); *The Claim* (Shoreditch Town Hall); *The Sound of Silence* (Royal Exchange Theatre, Manchester); *An Injury* (Ovalhouse); *On Corporation Street* (HOME, Manchester); *Sonnet Sunday* (Shakespeare’s Globe); *Shared Memories* (The Curve); *Crystal Kisses* (Contact Theatre, Manchester).

**Television includes:** *Castle Rock* (Hulu); *Call the Midwife* (BBC); *Mogadishu, Minnesota* (HBO); *Our Girl* (BBC); *Cold Feet S8* (ITV); *Flood Part Three* (BBC); *Critical* (Hat Trick); *Dracula* (Universal); *Savage* (BBC); *Postcode* (BBC).

**Film includes:** *The Journey is the Destination* (Prospero Pictures), *Last Days on Mars* (Fantastic Films); *The Huntsman: Winter’s War* (Universal Pictures)

**CREATIVE TEAM**

Directed by Roy Alexander Weise

Designed by Lily Arnold

Lighting by Amy Mae

Sound by Donato Wharton

Casting by Isabella Odoffin CDG

**Roy Alexander Weise**

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.

**Theatre includes:** *Master Harold And The Boys* (National Theatre), *The Trick* (Bush Theatre and UK Tour); *Nine Night* (National Theatre & West End), *Dead Don’t Floss* (National Theatre); *The Dark* (Fuel Theatre & UK Tour); *The Mountaintop* (Young Vic and UK Tour);  *Br’er Cotton* (Theatre 503); *Heretic Voices* (Arcola Theatre); *Jekyll and Hyde* (National Youth Theatre, West End); *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).

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. Roy is an Associate Artist of the Donmar Warehouse, Harts Theatre Company and Young & Talented School of Stage & Screen. He is a tutor for Open Door.

**Lily Arnold**

**For the Lyric:** *A Doll’s House*

**Designs include**: *Pah-La* (Royal Court); *The Remains Of The Day, Rules for Living* (Royal & Derngate); *Dick Whittington, 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); *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* (NT Shed, Theatre Royal Plymouth); *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);

**Amy Mae**

**For the Lyric:** *Noises Off*

**Credits Include:** *The Playboy Of The Western World* (Gaiety Theatre, Armagh and The Lyric Theatre, Belfast); *There Are No Beginnings*(Leeds Playhouse);*Two Trains Running*(Royal & Derngate/ETT/RTST);*[Un]Leashed: Sense Of Time*(Birmingham Royal Ballet);*The Memory Of Water*(Nottingham Playhouse); *The Fishermen*(New Perspectives, Edinburgh Fringe, Arcola, UK Tour and West End); *Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street*(Tooting, London - Knight of Illumination Award, also Off-Broadway - Drama Desk Award and Lucille Lortel award nominations for Best Lighting.)

**Donato Wharton**

Donato is a UK-based sound designer and musician. His music has been published on the Manchester/Berlin-based City Centre Offices label and on the Cardiff-based Serein label, and has been used in radio features, television programs, and theatre productions internationally. Donato teaches Sound for Theatre and Performance at The Royal Central School of Speech and Drama, in London, UK.

Theatre includes: *Three Sisters* (National Theatre); *Appropriate* (Donmar); *Norma* *Jeane Baker of Troy* (The Shed, New York); *La Maladie de la mort / The Malady of Death* (Théâtre des Bouffes du Nord, Paris and European Tour); *De Meiden* (Toneelgroep Amsterdam, Festival d’Avignon*); Anatomie Eines Suizids, Bluets, Schlafende Männer, 4.48 Psychose, Reisende auf einem Bein, Glückliche Tage, Alles Weitere kennen Sie aus dem Kino* (Deutsches Schauspielhaus Hamburg); *Appropriate* (Donmar Warehouse); *On the Exhale* (Traverse 2, Edinburgh/Audible Original); *Uit het leven van marionetten* (Toneelgroep Amsterdam), *Playing Cards 2: Hearts* (Robert Lepage / Ex machina)

**Isabella Odoffin CDG**

Isabella Odoffin has recently been nominated for a 'Best Theatre Casting' award for Rufus Norris' *Small Island* at the National Theatre.

**Credits include**: *Three Sisters, Master Harold and the Boys, All of Us* (National Theatre); *In A Word* (Young Vic)*, Sucker Punch* (Theatre Royal Stratford East).

For press enquiries please contact the **Lyric Hammersmith Theatre 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

Tickets from £10

***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

<https://lyric.co.uk/shows/antigone/>

**Currently playing at the Lyric Hammersmith Theatre**

***Faustus: That Damned Woman***

**Until Saturday 22 February**

**Mon – Sat 7.30pm**

**Also on Wed at 1.30pm and Sat at 2.30pm.**

**Open Captioned Performance: Saturday 15 February, 2.30pm**

**Audio Described Performance: Saturday 15 February, 7.30pm**

**Tickets from £15**

**Coming up next at the Lyric Hammersmith Theatre:**

***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

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

***Evolution 2020***

*Screwdriver,* Tuesday11 February – Friday 14 February

*Ad Nauseam* [Evolution Lab]*,* Tuesday 11 February -Wednesday 12 February

*Rhino[s]* [Evolution Lab], Tuesday 11 February -Wednesday 12 February

*Don’t Kill Kola* [Evolution Lab], Thursday 13 February – Friday 14 February

*In Love and Loyalty* [Evolution Lab], Thursday 13 February – Friday 14 February

*Evolution Scratches,* 11 – 14 February

***Lyric Ensemble 2020 Show***

24 Jun – 04 July

Further details TBC

**On Tour**

***Ghost Stories: UK Tour***

**Theatre Royal, Brighton from 11 – 15 February**

**The Lowry, Salford from 18 – 22 February**

**New Theatre, Cardiff from 25 – 29 February**

**The Marlowe Theatre Canterbury from 3 – 7 March**

**York Grand Opera House from 10 – 14 March**

**Richmond Theatre from 17 – 21 March**

**Liverpool Playhouse from 31 March – 4 April**

**Glasgow Theatre Royal from 7 – 11 April**

**King’s Theatre Edinburgh from 14 – 18 April**

**Sheffield Lyceum from 21 – 25 April**

**Nuffield Southampton Theatres from 27 April – 2 May**

**About the Lyric Hammersmith Theatre**

The Lyric has created some of the UK’s most adventurous and acclaimed theatrical work. This includes the debuts of Harold Pinter’s The Birthday Party (1958) and Michael Frayn’s Noises Off (1982), which returned and opened in the West End in 2019. Other iconic productions include the Olivier award-winning revival of Sarah Kane’s Blasted (2009), the triumphant Bugsy Malone (2015) and the international cult hit Ghost Stories, which is currently on a UK tour following a West End run.

Under the joint leadership of Artistic Director Rachel O’Riordan and Executive Director Sian Alexander, the Lyric’s 2019/2020 programme of reimagined classics, contemporary plays and bold new works celebrates its unique Matcham theatre.

At the heart of the Lyric is a commitment to young people’s creativity. The theatre has 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. The theatre is West London’s largest creative hub and home to an innovative partnership of arts organisations who work together to deliver life-changing creative opportunities for thousands of young West Londoners.

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

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