



Image Release

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#OutWest

## REHEARSAL IMAGES RELEASED FOR OUT WEST AT THE LYRIC HAMMERSMITH THEATRE

Rehearsal images are released today for the **Lyric Hammersmith Theatre**'s summer reopening show ***Out West*** starring **Esh Alladi**, **Tom Mothersdale** and **Ayesha Antoine** in three new short plays written by three of the UK's leading playwrights.

***Out West*** explores race, geography, identity, belonging and hope rooted in multicultural England of past and present. **Tanika Gupta's *The Overseas Student*** reimagines Gandhi's formative student years in Victorian England; **Simon Stephens' *Blue Water and Cold and Fresh*** confronts white male privilege in the wake of city lockdown living and Black Lives Matter protests, and **Roy Williams' *Go, Girl*** is a celebratory story of Black female empowerment and everyday heroism.

The world premiere production is co-directed by Lyric Artistic Director and CEO **Rachel O'Riordan** and 2021 JMK Award winner **Diane Page**. Set and Costume Design is by **Soutra Gilmour**, Lighting Design by **Jessica Hung Han Yun** and Composition and Sound Design by **Simon Slater**.

Tickets for the live performances from **18 June to 24 July** and the online streaming from **12- 17 July** are available at [www.lyric.co.uk](http://www.lyric.co.uk)

### ***The Overseas Student***

London. 1888. 18-year old Mohandas K Gandhi has just arrived from India to study Law. Miles from home, his wife and his family, we see him navigate a time of uncertainty, growth and opportunity. As he builds a new life, he explores the joys of money, food and women whilst facing the struggles of class and imperialism.

**Tanika Gupta's (*A Doll's House, The Empress*)** sharp and profound play is a unique insight into the teenage years of a man who went on to become one of the most significant figures in history.

**Esh Alladi** plays Gandhi. His previous credits include a UK Theatre Award winning performance in *Hobson's Choice*, *Lions and Tigers* at Shakespeare's Globe, *Absolute Hell* at the National Theatre, *EastEnders*, *Casualty*,

### **Blue water and cold and fresh**

London 2020. In the wake of city lockdown living and Black Lives Matter protests, one man's journey across London raises difficult truths. His childhood memories. His father's drinking. The woman he married. The birth of his son. His own white privilege. This heartfelt piece explores what it means to be a father, husband and son.

**Simon Stephens'** (*The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time*, *Punk Rock*) latest play was inspired by a series of conversations with **Emmanuella Cole** (Collaborator on *Blue Water and Cold and Fresh*).

**Tom Mothersdale** plays Jack. His previous credits include *Peaky Blinders*, *Endeavour*, *Glass Kill*. *Bluebeard*. *Imp* at the Royal Court, *John* at the National Theatre, Headlong's *Richard III* in the title role.

### **Go, Girl**

London, 2020. Once the schoolgirl chosen to sing for First Lady Michelle Obama, Donna is now a security guard patrolling the grounds of Westfield shopping centre. The hope and excitement she once felt has now become isolation and judgement of the choices she has made. Yet when Donna and her teenage daughter find themselves in a situation that tests their bravery and humanity, she realises just how truly remarkable they are.

**Roy Williams'** (*Death of England*, *Soon Gone*, *A Windrush Chronicle*) new play holds a lens up to female resilience and celebrates Black women and everyday heroism in the face of adversity.

**Ayesha Antoine** plays Donna. Her previous credits include *Blank* at Donmar Warehouse, Netflix's *Cursed*, Rachel Baptiste in *Holby City*, Dee Dee Blasco in *Doctor Who*, Judith in Michaela Coel's *Chewing Gum*.

- ENDS -

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### **Notes to Editors**

IMAGES available to download [here](#)

## Listings

Lyric Hammersmith Theatre presents

### **Out West**

by **Tanika Gupta, Simon Stephens and Roy Williams**

Co-Directed by **Rachel O’Riordan & Diane Page**

Designed by **Soutra Gilmour**

Lighting Design by **Jessica Hung Han Yun**

Composition and Sound Design by **Simon Slater**

Resident Director **Alex Hurst**

Collaborator on *Blue Water and Cold and Fresh* **Emmanuella Cole**

**Dates:** Friday 18 June to Saturday 24 July 2021

**Free First Night:** Friday 18 June, 7.30pm

**Press performance:** Thursday 24 June, 7pm

**Performance Schedule:** Monday to Saturday at 7.30pm (excl. Saturday 26 June), plus Wednesday and Saturday matinees at 2.30pm

**Open Captioned Performance:** Saturday 10 July, 2.30pm

**Audio Described Performance:** Saturday 10 July, 7.30pm

**Online streaming:** Available to watch from Monday 12 to Saturday 17 July

Lyric Hammersmith Theatre

Lyric Square, King Street, London, W6 0QL

Box office: 020 8741 6850

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

Tickets from £10

Twitter: [@LyricHammer](https://twitter.com/LyricHammer)

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#OutWest

## Biographies

### **Tanika Gupta**

**Writer, *The Overseas Student***

For the Lyric: *A Doll’s House*.

Theatre includes: *Lions And Tigers* (Shakespeare’s Globe); *A Short History of Tractors in Ukrainian* (Hull Truck); *A Midsummer Night’s Dream* (Shakespeare’s Globe – Dramaturg); *Hobson’s Choice* (Young Vic/ Royal Exchange, Manchester); *Anita and Me* (Birmingham Rep); *Love N Stuff* (Theatre Royal Stratford East); *The Empress* (RSC); *Wah! Wah!* (Sadler’s Wells); *Mindwalking* (*Bandbazi Theatre*); *Great Expectations* (Watford Palace/ETT); *Meet The Mukherjees* (Bolton Octagon); *Sugar Mummies* (Royal Court); *Gladiator Games* (Sheffield Crucible); *Fragile Land* (Hampstead Theatre); *Sanctuary, The Good Woman Of Setzuan, The Waiting Room* (National Theatre) and *Skeleton* (Soho Theatre).

Television includes: *EastEnders*, *Doctors* (BBC); *London Bridge* (ITV) and *Flight* (NBC).

Radio includes: *Trumpet, A Passage To India, Emma, The God Of Small Things* (BBC Radio 4).

### **Simon Stephens**

**Writer, *Blue Water and Cold and Fresh***

For the Lyric: *Punk Rock* (also Royal Exchange, Manchester), *Morning* (also Edinburgh Fringe Festival), *Three Kingdoms* (also Tallinn/Munich), *A Thousand Stars Explode in the Sky* and *The Seagull*.

Theatre includes: *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time* (National Theatre /Apollo /Gielgud /Barrymore Theatre, Broadway); *On The Shore Of The Wide World* (Royal Exchange, Manchester); *Blindness* (Donmar); *Fortune* (Metropolitan Theatre, Tokyo); *Light Falls, Blindsided* (Royal Exchange, Manchester); *Rage, Maria* (Thalia, Hamburg); *Song From Far Away, The Cherry Orchard, A Doll's House, I Am The Wind* (Young Vic); *Carmen Disruption* (Deutsches Schauspielhaus/Almeida); *Birdland, Wastwater, Motortown, Country Music, Herons, Bluebird* (Royal Court); *Pornography* (Deutsches Schauspielhaus/Edinburgh Festival/Birmingham Rep/Tricycle Theatre); *Sea Wall* (Bush Theatre) and *Harper Regan* (National Theatre).

**Roy Williams**  
**Writer, Go, Girl**

For the Lyric: *Absolute Beginners*.

Theatre includes: *Death of England, Death of England: Delroy, Sing Yer Heart Out For The Lads* (National Theatre); *Sucker Punch, Fallout, Clubland, Lift Off* (Royal Court); *The Firm, Wildefire* (Hampstead Theatre); *Soul: The Untold Story of Marvin Gaye* (Royal and Derngate/Hackney Empire); *Antigone* (Pilot Theatre/UK Tour); *Kingston '14, The No-Boys Cricket Club* (Theatre Royal Stratford East); *Category B* (Tricycle); *Days Of Significance* (RSC); *Joe Guy* (Tiata Fahodzi); *The Gift* (Birmingham Rep/ Tricycle) and *Starstruck* (Tricycle).

Film includes: *Fast Girls* (DJ Films).

Television includes: *Soon Gone, A Windrush Chronicle* (BBC4); *Fallout* (Channel 4); *Offside* (BBC).

Radio includes: *A Choice Of Straws, The Midwich Cuckoos, Interrogation* (BBC Radio 4).

**Rachel O'Riordan**  
**Co-Director**

Rachel O'Riordan was appointed Artistic Director of the Lyric Hammersmith Theatre in February 2019. *Out West* will be the third show directed by Rachel at the Lyric following the success of *A Doll's House* in September 2019 and *Love, Love, Love* in March 2020 both of which featured as part of her acclaimed inaugural season.

Previously, Rachel was the Artistic Director and CEO of Sherman Theatre from February 2014 – February 2019. 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, Schaubüne, Berlin and off-Broadway).

**Diane Page**  
**Co-Director**

Diane Page was recently announced as the 2021 JMK Award winner.

Training includes: MFA Theatre Directing Birkbeck University.

For the Lyric: *In Love and Loyalty* (as Director and Writer); *Ghost Stories, Leave to Remain, Dick Whittington, othellomacbeth* (also HOME, Manchester) (as Assistant Director); *Ghost Stories – West End* and UK tour (as Associate Director).

Theatre includes: As Director, *Yeggs* (Online rehearsed reading for Wildcard); *Love and Information* (ArtsEd); *Krool Britannia* (Rabbit Hole Theatre/ Camden Fringe). As Assistant

Director, *Bartholomew Fair* (Sam Wanamaker Playhouse, Shakespeare's Globe) and *Easter* (RADA).

### **Soutra Gilmour**

#### **Set and Costume Designer**

Theatre includes: *Romeo and Juliet* (Lyttelton Films for the NT); & *Juliet* (Shaftesbury Theatre); *Pinter at the Pinter* (Harold Pinter Theatre); *Evita* (Regent's Park); *Timon of Athens* (RSC/ TFANA Brooklyn); *Guys and Dolls* (Royal Exchange, Manchester); *Knives in Hens*, *Inadmissible Evidence*, *Piaf* (Donmar); *Apologia*, *Richard III*, *The Maids*, *The Homecoming* (Trafalgar Studios); *The Guards at the Taj* (Bush Theatre); *My Brilliant Friend* (Rose Kingston); *Pitchfork Disney*, *Killer* (Shoreditch Town Hall); *Twelfth Night*, *Les Blancs*, *Antigone* (National Theatre); *I See You*, *The Pride* (Royal Court); *Assassins*, *Merrily We Roll Along* (Menier); *Bull* (Young Vic); *Reasons to be Happy* (Hampstead); *Urinetown* (St James, West End); *The Crucible*, *The Duchess of Malfi* (Old Vic); *Reasons to be Pretty* (Almeida); *The Caretaker* (Sheffield Crucible/Tricycle); *The Commitments*, *From Here to Eternity*, *The Lover* and *The Collection* (West End).

### **Jessica Hung Han Yun**

#### **Lighting Designer**

Theatre includes: *Equus* (Theatre Royal Stratford East/Trafalgar Studios/UK Tour); *The Band Plays On* (Sheffield Theatres); *Blindness* (Donmar); *Dick Whittington* (National Theatre); *Inside* (Orange Tree Theatre); *Fairview* (Young Vic); *The Glow*, *Seven Methods of Killing Kylie Jenner*, *Pah-La* (Royal Court); *Snowflake* (Kiln Theatre); *The Last of the Pelican Daughters* (Complicité, Edinburgh/Royal & Derngate); *Cuckoo* (Soho Theatre); *Armadillo* (The Yard); *Rockets and Blue Lights* (Royal Exchange, Manchester); *One* (Manchester Home/UK Tour/International Tour); *Summer Rolls* (also Bristol Old Vic); *A Pupil* (Park Theatre); *Faces in the Crowd*, *Mephisto [A Rhapsody]*, *Dear Elizabeth*, *The Human Voice* (Gate Theatre); *Forgotten* (Plymouth/Arcola); *Hive City Legacy* (Hot Brown Honey at Roundhouse); *Nine Foot Nine* (Bunker Theatre/Edinburgh Festival) and *Becoming Shades* (Vaults Festival).

### **Simon Slater**

#### **Composer and Sound Designer**

For the Lyric: *Love, Love, Love*.

Theatre includes: *Amadeus* (National Theatre); *Constellations* (Royal Court/Duke of York/Friedman Theatre, NY/Vaudeville Theatre); *Europe* (Donmar); *Orpheus Descending* (Theatre Clwyd/Menier Chocolate Factory); *Jude*, *Cost of Living*, *I and You*, *Wonderland*, *Raving*, *No Naughty Bits*, *Enlightenment* (Hampstead Theatre); *The Snow Queen*, *Treasure Island*, *Alice In Wonderland*, *39 Steps*, *The Rise and Fall of Little Voice* (Stephen Joseph Theatre); *Honour* (Park Theatre); *Foxfinder* (Ambassador's Theatre); *BIRD* (Royal Exchange, Manchester/Sherman Cymru); *Cannibals* (Royal Exchange, Manchester); *The Winter's Tale*, *'Tis Pity She's A Whore*, *A Broken Heart*, *King Lear* (Sam Wanamaker/Shakespeare's Globe); *Carmen Disruption* UK premiere (Almeida); *Romeo and Juliet*, *Henry V*, *Julius Caesar*, *Macbeth* (RSC) and *Rose Rage* (*Chicago Shakespeare Theatre/Duke Theatre*, New York).

Film includes: *Impact Earth* (Channel 5); *Then and Now* (Camelot Films); *My One and Only* (Union Content films).

Television includes: *Dalziel and Pascoe* (BBC); *Inquisition* (Channel 5); *Hunting Venus* (Yorkshire TV/ Buffalo pictures); *Traitors* (Channel 4) and *Trial of Christine Keeler* (BBC).

**Alex Hurst**  
**Assistant Director**

Alex is currently the Resident Assistant Director at the Lyric Hammersmith Theatre, whilst studying for his Directing MFA at Birkbeck College.

Directing credits include: *Market Boy* (Rose Bruford College); *Scripts Aloud: Burden*, (Manchester ADP); *Fell* (Obscura Theatre); *Crumpet* (53TWO); *Jubilee* (Royal Exchange, Manchester); *What Do Bears Eat?* (Edinburgh Fringe); *Excerpt from Buried Child* (University of Manchester) and *The Glass Menagerie* (University of Manchester).

**Emmanuella Cole**  
**Collaborator, Blue Water and Cold and Fresh**

For the Lyric: *Faustus: That Damned Woman*.

Theatre includes: *Hamlet & The Cherry Orchard* (Windsor Theatre Royal); *We Know Not What We May Be* (Barbican); *The Claim* (Paines Plough); *An Octoroon*, *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time*, *Danton's Death* (National Theatre); *Revolt. She Said. Revolt Again* (RSC); *The Iliad* (Edinburgh Lyceum); *The Shakespeare Monologues at Westminster Abbey* (Shakespeare's Globe); *Amanda* (Young Vic); *but i cd only whisper* (Arcola); *Roadkill* (Traverse); *Faith, Hope and Charity* (Southwark Playhouse); *Danton's Death* (National Theatre); *Dancing Bears* (Soho Theatre) and *African Snow* (Trafalgar Studios).

Television includes: *I May Destroy You*, *Cormoran Strike* (BBC/HBO); *Top Boy* (Netflix); *In The Long Run* (Sky One); *Obsession* (Discovery USA); *Cucumber* (Channel 4) *Scott & Bailey* (ITV/ Red Productions); *Law and Order* (ITV/Kudos) and *Thorne* (Sky One)

**Esh Alladi**

Theatre includes: *Hobson's Choice* (Manchester Royal Exchange); *Lions and Tigers*, *Nell Gwynn* (Shakespeare's Globe); *The Argument* (Theatre Royal Bath); *Rutherford and Son* (Sheffield Crucible); *Absolute Hell*, *The Beaux Stratagem*, *Dara*, *From Morning to Midnight*, *Romeo and Juliet* (National Theatre); *Twelfth Night* (RSC); *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (New Wolsey Theatre) and *The Wind in the Willows* (Birmingham Rep).

Film includes: *The Leak* (Mother Films); *Ordinary Love* (Canderblinks); *Christmas at the Palace* (Hallmark) and *Backseat* (BFI/Ideastap/Short Film).

Television includes: *Halo* (Paramount); *Fear Fatigue/Unprecedented* (Headlong/BBC); *EastEnders*, *Casualty*, *Anthony*, *Apple Tree House*, *Frankie* (BBC); *A Confession* (ITV) and *Houdini and Doyle* (ITV/FOX).

**Ayesha Antoine**

Theatre includes: *Blank* (Donmar Warehouse); *White Teeth* (Kiln Theatre); *Hamlet* (Kenneth Branagh Theatre Company); *Red Velvet* (West End); *Life of Galileo*, *Trade* (Young Vic); *The Suicide* (National Theatre); *The Wolf in Snakeskin Shoes*, *The House That Will Not Stand* (Tricycle Theatre); *Napoleon Disrobed* (Told by an Idiot); *Dirty Great Love Story* (Arts Theatre); *The Ghost Train* (Royal Exchange/Told by An Idiot); *We Are Proud to Present* (Bush Theatre); *Tartuffe* (Birmingham Rep); *Cinderella* (Theatre Royal Stratford East); *The Mountaintop* (Derby LIVE); *Big White Fog* (Almeida); *Absurd Person Singular* (Stephen Joseph Theatre) and *My Wonderful Day* (UK tour and off-Broadway).

Film includes: *Artemis Fowl* (Disney).

Television includes: *In the Long Run* (Sky); *Cursed* (Netflix); *Holby City*, *Doctor Who*, *Pompidou*, *Grange Hill* (BBC); *Chewing Gum* (Channel 4); *The Long Song* (BBC); *Mouth to Mouth* (BBC Three); *Skins* (E4) and *Malory Towers* (CBBC).

## **Tom Mothersdale**

For the Lyric: *A Thousand Stars Explode In The Sky*.

Theatre includes: *Richard III* (Headlong); *Glass. Kill. Bluebeard. Imp.* (The Royal Court); *The Cherry Orchard* (Young Vic); *John* (National Theatre); *Oil* (Almeida Theatre); *The Woods* (The Royal Court); *Dealing With Clair* (Orange Tree Theatre); *Boys*, *The Glass Menagerie* (Headlong) and *Cleansed* (National Theatre).

Film includes: *Overlord* (Bad Robot).

Television includes: *Peaky Blinders*, *King Charles III* (BBC); *Doc Martin*, *Van Der Valk*, *Endeavour* (ITV); *Alex Rider* Season 2, *Hanna* (Amazon); *War of the Worlds* Season 2 (Fox); *A Discovery Of Witches* (Sky); *Treadstone* (USA Network); *Electric Dreams: The Hood Maker* (Channel 4).

## **The Lyric Hammersmith Theatre is 'See It Safely' approved**

Ensuring the safety of our artists, audience and team is our number one priority. Our socially distanced seating and industry standard 'See It Safely' approved cleaning and Covid-safety measures complying with the latest Government guidelines mean that everyone can experience the joy of live theatre again at the Lyric. You can find out more at <https://lyric.co.uk/faqs/>