

Lyric

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#Scandaltown

FIRST LOOK AT THE CAST OF MIKE BARTLETT'S NEW COMEDY SCANDALTOWN



The first images are released today of the full company of **Scandaltown**, a brand new comedy and irreverent satire by award-winning writer **Mike Bartlett** (BBC's *Doctor Foster*) directed by the **Lyric Hammersmith Theatre's Artistic Director Rachel O'Riordan** (Olivier Award winning *Killology*) who reunite following their critically acclaimed 2020 revival of *Love, Love, Love*.

Scandaltown is a modern restoration comedy, set in post-pandemic London, full of immorality, political hypocrisy and the machinations of a fame-hungry elite. The world premiere production runs at the Lyric Hammersmith Theatre from 07 April to 14 May with opening night for press on 14 April. Tickets are available from £10 at www.lyric.co.uk

Scandaltown brings together a 12-strong cast: **Rachael Stirling** as Lady Susan Climber (*The Bletchley Circle, Hollington Drive*); **Richard Goulding** as Matt Eton (*The Windsors, King Charles III*); **Emma Cunniffe** as Aunty Julie (*Queen Anne - RSC*); **Cecilia Appiah** as Phoebe Virtue (*The Long Song - CFT*); **Matthew Broome** as Jack Virtue in his stage debut; **Henry Everett** as Peter Media OBE and Carson (*Antony and Cleopatra - National Theatre*); **Luke Hornsby** as Freddie Peripheral (*1917, Harlots*); **Thomas Josling** as Tom Double-Budget (*Habeas Corpus - Menier*); **Aysha Kala** as Hannah Tweetwell (BAFTA Breakthrough Brit, *The Welkin - National Theatre*); **Annette McLaughlin** as Rosalind Double-Budget and Scrub (*Matilda, Harry Potter and The Cursed Child*); **Ami Okumura Jones** as Jenny Hood (*EastEnders, Wendy & Peter Pan - Leeds Playhouse*); and **Chukwuma Omambala** as Sir Dennis Hedge and Kevin the Postman (*A Midsummer Night's Dream, Hecuba - RSC*).

We are not virtuous, but neither are we cruel. We believe in simply: no shame. When noble heroine Miss Phoebe Virtue receives worrisome news on Instagram that her twin brother Jack may be endangering his reputation in London Town, she decides she must visit herself, and investigate. Scandaltown is a modern restoration comedy and an irreverent satire for our times. Expect the finest couture, rakish behaviour, explicit hashtags and a party that will have all of London talking. Welcome to Scandaltown.

Mike Bartlett, Writer, said: *"I'm so pleased that Rachel's assembled this amazing cast for Scandaltown. As a provocative play, with contradictory and absurd human beings at its heart, drawing on a restoration form, it's going to be so much about performance. I can't wait to start rehearsals."*

Rachel O'Riordan, Director, said: *"I am delighted to be directing Mike Bartlett's new play Scandaltown at the Lyric. Mike is one of our most exciting writers, with a huge heart. I was so disappointed when we had to cancel the run of Love, Love, Love due to Covid because audiences were having such a good time in our theatre. Mike wrote Scandaltown especially for our beautiful Matcham auditorium - the most beautiful theatre in London. I can't wait to share this funny, bold new play with our audiences."*

Set Design is by **Good Teeth**, Costume Design by **Kinnetia Isidore**, Lighting Design by **Paul Keogan**, Sound Design and Composition by **Simon Slater**, Choreography by **Malik Nashad Sharpe**, Wigs, Hair and Make-up Design by **Susanna Peretz**, Casting by **Amy Ball CDG**, Gender Consultant **Dr Lloyd (Meadhbh) Houston**, and Assistant Director **Kwame Owusu**.

- ENDS -

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Notes to Editors

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Cast biographies

Cecilia Appiah is Phoebe Virtue

Cecilia Appiah is a recent graduate from the Royal Welsh College of Music & Drama and a winner of the 2020 Carleton Hobbs Bursary Award. She appeared on stage in *The Long Song* at Chichester Festival Theatre and her TV credits include *The Chelsea Detective*, *Toast of Tinseltown* and *Casualty* for BBC.

Matthew Broome is Jack Virtue

Matthew Broome graduated from Guildhall School of Music & Drama this year. *Scandaltown* is his professional stage debut.

Emma Cunniffe is Aunty Julie and Rachel De Souza

Emma Cunniffe has worked extensively in theatre and television with notable recent stage roles including the Nurse in *Romeo & Juliet* (Regent's Park Open Air Theatre) and in the title role of *Queen Anne* (RSC & West End). Other theatre includes: *Wendy and Peter Pan* (RSC); *Three Sisters*, *Major Barbara*, *Twelfth Night* (Manchester Royal Exchange); *Proof* (Menier Chocolate Factory); *The Crucible* (Regent's Park Open Air Theatre); *The Entertainer* (Old Vic); *The Master Builder* (English Touring Theatre) for which she received the UK theatre Award for Best Supporting Actress; *Losing Louis* (Hampstead/Trafalgar Studios) and *Tales from Hollywood* (Donmar Warehouse). TV includes: *Grantchester*, *Agatha Raisin*, *The Mezzotint*, *Endeavour*, *Roadkill*, *The Irregulars*, *Unforgotten*, *Doctor Who*, and *The Lakes*. Feature film includes: *Miss Marx*.

Henry Everett is Peter Media OBE and Carson

Henry Everett's stage credits include: *The Memory of Water* (Hampstead Theatre), *Tartuffe*, *Antony and Cleopatra* (National Theatre), *Table* (New Vic), *Babette's Feast* (Print Room), *The Rivals* (Bristol Old Vic and UK Tour), *German Skerries* (Orange Tree Theatre) and *Richard II* (Shakespeare's Globe). TV includes: *Grantchester*, *EastEnders* and *Emmerdale*. He has also appeared as the Duke of Chesterton in *Jonathan Pie's* YouTube series.

Richard Goulding is Matt Eton

Richard Goulding is best known for playing Prince Harry in both Channel 4's *The Windsors* and the stage and screen adaptations of Mike Bartlett's *King Charles III*. He recently starred as Edward Adeane in *The Crown* series 4 and has previously played Oliver Trenchard in *Belgravia*, Boris Johnson in *Brexit: The Uncivil War* and Tomothy Pembleton in *Fresh Meat*. Other TV credits include *Traitors*, *Ripper Street* and *Foyle's War*. Stage credits also include: *A Passage to India* (Royal and Derngate), *St George and the Dragon* (National Theatre), *They Drink it in The Congo*, *King Lear* (Almeida), *Candide*, *A Mad World My Masters* and *Titus Andronicus* (RSC).

Luke Hornsby is Freddie Peripheral

Luke Hornsby's screen credits include the feature film *1917* as Private Pine and, for TV, *No Man's Land*, *Harlots*, *Endeavour*, *Informer*, *World on Fire*, *Casualty* and *The Feed*. His stage credits include *Paterson* and *The Family Reunion* (Tanzlar Theatre).

Thomas Josling is Tom Double-Budget

Thomas Josling recently graduated from the Royal Welsh College of Music & Drama and received the Timothy West & Prunella Scales Speech Prize. He has appeared on stage in *Habeas Corpus* at the Menier Chocolate Factory and on television in *Masters of the Air*.

Aysha Kala is Hannah Tweetwell

Aysha Kala was named a BAFTA Breakthrough Brit of 2015. Her theatre credits include: *The Welkin* (National Theatre), *Vanya and Sonya and Masha and Spike* (Theatre Royal Bath), *An Adventure* (Bush Theatre), *Frogman* (Shoreditch Town Hall), *Obsession* (Barbican), *Punk Play* (Southwark Playhouse) and *Djinns of Eidgah* (Royal Court). TV includes *Indian Summers*, *Call the Midwife*, *Man Vs Bee*, *Darkness Rising*, *Master of None*, *Vicious* and *Shameless*. Film includes *Second Coming*, *Jadoo* and *Swallow*.

Annette McLaughlin is Rosalind Double-Budget and Scrub

Annette McLaughlin has performed in West End productions including *Harry Potter and The Cursed Child*, *Matilda*, and *Chicago*. Other theatre includes: *Pinocchio*, *Anything Goes*, *Love's Labour's Lost*

(National Theatre), *Twelfth Night* (Shakespeare's Globe), *Volpone*, *Measure for Measure*, *Love's Sacrifice*, *The Jew of Malta* (RSC), *Billy Elliot* (UK Tour), *Kneehigh's Brief Encounter* (UK and Broadway) and *Our Town* (Almeida Theatre). TV credits include *Silent Witness*, *Holby City* and *Grantchester*.

Ami Okumura Jones is Jenny Hood

Ami Okumura Jones appeared on stage most recently in *Wendy & Peter Pan* at Leeds Playhouse and *As You Like It* and *Hamlet* at The Watermill Theatre and previously as Jim Hawkins in *Treasure Island* at Bolton Octagon. Television credits include as Mieko Yoshi in *EastEnders* and Erin Turner in *Midsomer Murders*.

Chukwuma Omambala is Sir Dennis Hedge and Kevin the Postman

Chukwuma Omambala's stage credits include Oberon in *A Midsummer Night's Dream* and Odysseus in *Hecuba* both for the RSC, and John Churchill in *Queen Anne* for the RSC and Theatre Royal Haymarket. Other theatre includes: *Intimate Apparel* (Theatre Royal Bath, Park Theatre) and *King Lear* (BAM / Chichester Festival Theatre). His TV credits include: *Magpie Murders*, *Flack*, *Queens of Mystery*, *Liar*, *Midsomer Murders*, *Houdini and Doyle* and *Stan Lee's Lucky Man*.

Rachael Stirling is Lady Susan Climber

Rachael Stirling returns to the Lyric Hammersmith Theatre following Rachel O'Riordan's revival of Mike Bartlett's *Love, Love, Love* in March 2020. She is a two-times Olivier Award nominated actor for roles in *An Ideal Husband* (West End) and *The Prioress* (Royal Court). She recently starred in *Hollington Drive* (ITV) and other TV roles include; *Detectorists*, *Life* (Mike Bartlett), *The Bletchley Circle* and many more. Film credits include; *Their Finest*, *Snow White and the Huntsman*, *Salmon Fishing in the Yemen* and *The Young Victoria*. Other theatre credits include: *Medea* (Headlong); *An Intervention* (Watford Palace/Paines Plough); and more recently *Labour of Love* (West End); and *The Winter's Tale* (Sam Wanamaker Playhouse).

Creative Team

Mike Bartlett, Writer

Mike Bartlett is a multi-award-winning playwright. Theatre includes: *Snowflake* (Arts at the Old Fire Station / Kiln Theatre); *Albion, Game* (Almeida Theatre); *Wild* (Hampstead Theatre); *King Charles III* (Almeida Theatre / West End/ Broadway); *An Intervention* (Paines Plough, Watford Palace Theatre); *Bull* (Sheffield Theatres/Off Broadway/Young Vic); *Chariots of Fire* (Hampstead Theatre/Gielgud Theatre); *13* (National Theatre); *Earthquakes In London* (Headlong, National Theatre); *Love, Love, Love* (Paines Plough / Plymouth Theatre Royal/Royal Court/Roundabout Theatre Company, New York); *Cock* (Royal Court / Broadway); *Contractions*, *Thrown*, *My Child* (Royal Court) and *Artefacts* (Bush Theatre/ Nabokov). Television includes: *Doctor Foster*, *King Charles III*, (Drama Republic/BBC); *Sticks and Stones*, *Trauma* (Tall Story Pictures/ITV); *Press* (Lookout Point/BBC) and most recently *Life* (Drama Republic / BBC). He has also written extensively for radio.

Rachel O'Riordan, Director

Rachel O'Riordan is Artistic Director and CEO of the Lyric Hammersmith Theatre where she launched her critically acclaimed debut season in Autumn 2019 with a triumphant adaptation of *A Doll's House* by Tanika Gupta. She recently co-directed the Lyric's 2020 summer reopening production *Out West*, and Martin McDonagh's *The Beauty Queen of Leenane* with Chichester Festival Theatre. Previously, Rachel was Artistic Director and CEO of Sherman Theatre, Wales from 2014 and transformed the venue which won The Stage's prestigious Regional Theatre of the Year Award in 2018. Directing credits include the Olivier Award-winning *Killology* and *Iphigenia in Splott*. She was Artistic Director of Perth Theatre, Scotland between 2011 and 2014 and won The Critics Award for Theatre in Scotland for Best Director and Best Ensemble for *The Seafarer* by Conor McPherson. From 2002 to 2011, Rachel co-founded and ran Ransom Productions in Northern Ireland. She has been named as one of the most influential people in UK Theatre in the Stage 100. Published work includes *Women in Irish Theatre*.

Good Teeth, Set Designer

Good Teeth is a theatre design studio which was founded by artists and designers to expand their design landscape through broadening participation and in-depth material research. Good Teeth is an Artistic

Associate at the Lyric Hammersmith Theatre. Previous design collaborations include: *The Beauty Queen of Leenane* (Lyric Hammersmith Theatre & Chichester Festival Theatre), *Dumb Waiter* (Hampstead Theatre), *Winter's Tale* (Shakespeare's Globe), *Skylight* (Theatr Clwyd), *Little Shop Of Horrors* (Royal Exchange, Manchester), *While We're Here* (Bush Theatre), *Pilgrims* (Hightide, Theatr Clwyd), *German Skerries*, *Jess And Joe* (The Orange Tree Theatre), *Breeders* (St James Theatre), *Lost In Yonkers* (Watford Palace Theatre), *Dances Of Death* (Gate Theatre), *Foxfinder* (Finborough Theatre), *Life Of Stuff* and *Many Moons* (Theatre503). www.goodteeththeatre.co.uk

Kinnetia Isidore, Costume Designer

After graduating with a degree in costume design from Wimbledon College of Art, Kinnetia Isidore has worked across a diverse range of costume roles predominantly as a theatrical costume designer. Her recent credits include, as Costume Designer: *Aladdin* (Lyric Hammersmith Theatre), *Our Generation* (National Theatre), *Adult Children* (Donmar Warehouse), *Jesus Hopped the 'A' Train* (Young Vic) and *Enter Achilles* (Rambert, Sadlers Wells & Onassis STEGI). As Associate Costume Designer: *The Wife of Willesden* (Kiln Theatre), *Constellations* (Vaudeville, Donmar Theatre, West End) and *Ragtime* (Arts Ed). As Costume Supervisor: *The Third Day - Live Event* (Punchdrunk, Sky & HBO).

Paul Keogan, Lighting Designer

Paul Keogan's theatre credits include: *Love, Love, Love* (Lyric Hammersmith Theatre), *Plough and The Stars* (Lyric Hammersmith Theatre and Abbey Theatre, Dublin); *I Think We Are Alone* (Frantic Assembly UK tour), *Shirley Valentine*, *Double Cross* (Lyric Theatre, Belfast); *Blood in the Dirt*, *The Walworth Farce* (Landmark, Dublin); *Last Orders at the Dockside*, *Citysong*, (Abbey Theatre, Dublin); *Lady Windermere's Fan*, *De Profundis*, *Smaller* (West End); *Miracle on 42nd Street*, *A Streetcar Named Desire* (Liverpool Everyman & Playhouse); *Cyprus Avenue* (Abbey, Dublin/Royal Court); *Harvest* (Royal Court, London); *The Caretaker* (Bristol Old Vic); *Hamlet* (Gate Theatre, Dublin); *The Gaul* (Hull Truck Theatre); *Born Bad* (Hampstead) and *Novecento* (Trafalgar Studios).

Simon Slater, Sound Designer and Composer

Simon Slater has composed over 300 original scores for film, TV, theatre and radio, and received an Olivier Award nomination for best sound and music for *Constellations* at the Royal Court. *Theatre includes: Out West*, *Love, Love, Love* (Lyric Hammersmith Theatre); *Europe* (Donmar); *Orpheus Descending* (Theatr Clwyd/Menier); *Jude*, *Cost of Living*, *I and You*, *Wonderland*, *Raving* (Hampstead Theatre); *The Snow Queen*, *Treasure Island* (SJT); *Honour* (Park Theatre); *Foxfinder* (Ambassadors); *Amadeus* (NT); *BIRD* (Royal Exchange/Sherman); *Cannibals* (Royal Exchange); *The Winter's Tale*, *'Tis Pity She's A Whore*, *A Broken Heart* (Sam Wanamaker/Shakespeare's Globe); *Carmen Disruption* (Almeida); *Romeo and Juliet*, *Henry V*, *Julius Caesar* and *Macbeth* (RSC). Film and television includes: *Prizefighter*, *Impact Earth*, *Dalziel and Pascoe*, *Inquisition* and *Hunting Venus*.

Malik Nashad Sharpe, Choreographer

Malik Nashad Sharpe is an artist working with choreography, creating primarily underneath the alias Marikiscrycrycry. His works have been presented throughout the UK and internationally. As a movement director and dramaturg, credits include: *Fairview* (Young Vic), *The Glow* (Royal Court), *Two-Character Play* (Hampstead Theatre), *Effigies of Wickedness* (Gate Theatre/English National Opera). He has recently been awarded artistic residencies at Sadler's Wells and the Barbican. Working in fashion, he has performed and modelled at London Fashion Week and at Paris Fashion Week 21-22. He was named a Rising Star in Dance by Attitude Magazine. He is currently an Associate Artist at The Place and lives and works between London and Montreal.

Susanna Peretz, Wigs, Hair and Make-up Designer

Susanna Peretz is a London-based internationally Hair/Make-up/FX designer working across theatre, opera, television and film. She has collaborated on various projects with artists, film makers and creatives such as Ai Wei Wei, Alan Moore and Martin McDonagh. Recent theatre includes: *Love, Love, Love* (Lyric Hammersmith Theatre), *The Cherry Orchard*, *Hamlet* (Windsor Theatre Royal), *Carousel* (Regent's Park Open Air Theatre), *The Long Song* (Chichester Festival Theatre) *Is God Is*, (Royal Court), *The Book of Dust*, *A Very Very Very Dark Matter* (The Bridge), *The Exorcist* (Phoenix), *Everybody's Talking About Jamie* (West End). Recent film and TV include: *Hamlet*, *Prisoners of Paradise*, *The Show*, *Electric Dreams*.

Amy Ball, CDG, Casting

Recent theatre includes: *Walden*, *Uncle Vanya* (Harold Pinter); *The Son* (Kiln Theatre/Duke of York's); *The Night of the Iguana* (Noël Coward); *Sweat* (Donmar Warehouse/Gielgud); *Rosmersholm* (Duke of York's); *True West* (Vaudeville); *The Ferryman* (Royal Court/Gielgud/Bernard B. Jacobs Theatre); *The Moderate Soprano* (Hampstead Theatre/Duke of York's); *The Birthday Party*, *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?* (Harold Pinter), *Consent* (National/Harold Pinter); *The Goat, or Who Is Sylvia?* (Theatre Royal Haymarket); *Hangmen* (Royal Court/Wyndham's/Atlantic Theatre Company); *Berberian Sound Studio* (Donmar Warehouse); *The Hunt*, *Shipwreck*, *Dance Nation*, *Albion* (Almeida); *Stories*, *Exit the King* (National); *A Very Very Very Dark Matter* (Bridge); *The Brothers Size* (Young Vic) and many further productions for the Royal Court.

Dr Lloyd (Meadhbh) Houston, Gender Consultant

Dr Lloyd (Meadhbh) Houston is a non-binary academic, writer, and activist based at the University of Alberta, where they are SSHRC-CIHR Banting Postdoctoral Fellow in English, and Goldsmiths College, University of London, where they are Associate Lecturer in Theatre and Performance. Their research explores the cultural politics of sexual health, queer history and culture, and the history of censorship and obscenity. In tandem with their academic work, they also serve as a gender diversity consultant and creative facilitator, working with theatres, production companies, and arts organizations to help them produce sensitive and engaging work in an inclusive environment. Their writing has been featured in the *Times Literary Supplement*, the *Irish Times*, and on RTÉ, and their first monograph, *Irish Modernism and the Politics of Sexual Health*, is forthcoming with Oxford University Press.

Listings

Lyric Hammersmith Theatre

In association with Fictional Company presents

Scandaltown

Written by **Mike Bartlett**

Directed by **Rachel O'Riordan**

Set Design by **Good Teeth**

Costume Design by **Kinnetia Isidore**

Lighting Design by **Paul Keogan**

Sound Design and Composition by **Simon Slater**

Choreography by **Malik Nashad Sharpe**

Wigs, Hair and Make-up designed by **Susanna Peretz**

Casting by **Amy Ball CDG**

Gender Consultant **Dr Lloyd (Meadhbh) Houston**

Assistant Director **Kwame Owusu**

Lyric Hammersmith Theatre

Lyric Square, King Street, London, W6 0QL

Dates: Thursday 07 April – Saturday 14 May 2022

Press Night: Thursday 14 April

Free First Night: Thursday 07 April

Open Captioned Performance: Saturday 23 April, 2.30pm

Audio Described Performance: Saturday 23 April, 7.30pm

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Tickets from £10

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Age guidance: 16+

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