



Press Release

Tuesday 21 February 2023

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## LYRIC HAMMERSMITH THEATRE ANNOUNCES AUTUMN/WINTER 2023-24 SEASON

Highlights of the season include:

- Over 2,500 free tickets available for those who live and work in the Lyric's home Borough of Hammersmith & Fulham through 'Free First Night' and £5 tickets to all Main House shows for Young Lyric members, applicable to anyone under 25 living in West London.
- **Yasmina Reza's *God of Carnage***, in a translation by **Christopher Hampton**, directed by the Lyric's Associate Director **Nicholai La Barrie** opening in September 2023.
- The London transfer of the Royal Shakespeare Company's ***The Empress*** by Lyric Associate Artist **Tanika Gupta**, directed by **Pooja Ghai** running in October 2023.
- The highly anticipated Lyric pantomime returns with ***Cinderella*** in a new adaptation by award-winning writer, composer and comedian **Vikki Stone**, following the success of ***Aladdin*** in 2021.
- The start of the Lyric's new co-producing partnership with Frantic Assembly is an adaptation of Franz Kafka's ***Metamorphosis***, by **Lemn Sissay (OBE)**, directed by **Scott Graham**. The production tours the UK in 2023, before running at the Lyric from February 2024.
- Artistic Director, **Rachel O'Riordan** directs a major revival of **Brian Friel's** masterpiece ***Faith Healer*** in Spring 2024.
- ***For the Culture: Celebrations of Blackness***, a multi-art form festival championing and celebrating Black British artists, activists, and thinkers returns to the Lyric for its third year, kindly supported by Hammersmith BID.

**Rachel O'Riordan, Artistic Director & CEO of Lyric Hammersmith Theatre** said:

*"This new season is interrogative and imaginative, with plays by bold and exceptional writers - Brian Friel, Tanika Gupta, Yasmina Reza, Lemn Sissay and Vikki Stone. These plays are an interrogation of identity, truth and the power of storytelling. How reliable are the stories history tells us, or those that we tell each other and ourselves?"*

*Theatre generates open debate and conversation; it provokes, challenges and can also create a unique sense of unity in an audience. It reflects our stories back to us, and asks us to understand those stories that are far from our own experience. This is live theatre's most special power- the creation of new understanding, empathy and compassion in a shared space. Come and be thrilled, entertained, challenged and charmed in our beautiful theatre. We can't wait for you to join us for this unflinchingly and entertaining season of new stories."*

The season opens with **Yasmina Reza's** Olivier Award-winning comedy-drama ***God of Carnage***, translated by **Christopher Hampton**, directed by the Lyric's Associate Director **Nicholai La Barrie**. This will be followed by the London transfer of **Tanika Gupta's *The Empress*** directed by **Pooja Ghai**, following the success of Gupta's *A Doll's House* directed by Rachel O'Riordan in 2019. *The Empress* opens at the Swan Theatre, Stratford-upon-Avon in July, before its run at the Lyric in October. The epic drama that unveils the long and embedded culture of British Asian history was recently added to the GCSE drama syllabus.

Following the success of ***Aladdin*** in 2021, award-winning writer, composer, and comedian **Vikki Stone** returns to write ***Cinderella*** for this year's much-loved pantomime. A new partnership with Frantic Assembly launches with an adaptation of **Franz Kafka's *Metamorphosis*** by **Lemn Sissay (OBE)**, directed by Artistic Director of Frantic Assembly, **Scott Graham**, running in January 2024.

Completing the season is a revival of **Brian Friel's *Faith Healer***, voted as one of the 100 most significant plays of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, and named one of the Independent's 40 best plays of all time, will be directed by Artistic Director **Rachel O'Riordan** in spring.

Furthering the Lyric's commitment to accessibility, this season sees an increased access offer with the new addition of **Chilled Environment** and **BSL interpreted** performances to all Main House shows alongside the pre-existing Audio Described and Open Captioned performances.

The Lyric believes that everyone should have the opportunity to access theatre. Through the Free First Night scheme across all Main House shows, over 2,500 free tickets will be given to the Hammersmith & Fulham community. The Free First Night scheme, supported by the London Borough of Hammersmith & Fulham, offers two free tickets to the first night of all Main House productions and four free tickets for Lyric pantos to people who live or work in Hammersmith & Fulham. Plus anyone aged under 25 living in the Borough can become a Young Lyric member to access £5 tickets to all Main House shows. £10 tickets also continue to be available for Main House shows, and special ticket offers for schools.

## ***God of Carnage***

A Lyric Hammersmith Theatre production

Written by Yasmina Reza

Translated by Christopher Hampton

Directed by Nicholai La Barrie

Friday 01 – Saturday 30 September 2023

Press Night: Wednesday 06 September 2023

*The other day in the park, 11 year old Ferdinand knocked 11 year old Bruno's two front teeth out. Their parents meet up to have a civil conversation about the misdemeanours of their*

children in a suitably calm and rational way... what can go wrong? As night falls chaos ensues with explosive tantrums, name-calling and tears. They say kids will be kids, but the adults are worse - much worse.

Lyric Associate Director Nicholai La Barrie directs Yasmina Reza's Olivier and Tony Award winning play, translated by Christopher Hampton. With her sharp corrosive wit, Reza rips the thin veneer of civility with heart-pounding honesty. *God of Carnage* is the unmissable darkly funny roller-coaster you won't want to end.

**Yasmina Reza (Writer)** is a French playwright, actress, novelist and screenwriter. Her plays include *Conversations après un Enterrement* (1987 Molière Award for Best Author), *La Traversée de l'hiver*, *Art* (1994 Molière Award for Best Author, Best Play and Best Production, and 1998 Olivier Award for Best Comedy and Tony Award for Best Play), *L'Homme du Hasard*, *Trois Versions de la Vie*, *Une Pièce Espagnole*, *Le Dieu du Carnage* (2009 Olivier Award for Best Comedy and Tony Award for Best Play), and *Bella Figura*. Her novels include *Hammerklavier*, *Une Désolation*, *Adam Haberberg*, *Nulle Part*, *Dans la Luge d'Arthur Schopenhauer*, *L'Aube le soir ou la nuit*, *Heureux les Heureux*, *Babylone*, *Anne-Marie la Beauté* and *Serge*.

**Christopher Hampton (Translator)** is a British playwright, screenwriter, translator and film director, who has collaborated frequently with Yasmina Reza translating her work. His plays include *When Did You Last See My Mother?*, *Total Eclipse*, *The Philanthropist*, *Savages*, *Treats*, *Tales from Hollywood*, *White Chameleon*, *Alice's Adventures Under Ground*, *The Talking Cure*, *Appomattox*, *A German Life* and *Visit From an Unknown Woman*. As a translator, his work includes *The Seagull*, *Uncle Vanya*, *Hedda Gabler*, *Don Juan*, *A Doll's House*, *Tales from the Vienna Woods*, *Don Juan Comes Back from the War*, *Faith, Hope and Charity*, *Art*, *Enemy of the People*, *Conversations After a Burial*, *Life x3*, *God of Carnage*, *Judgement Day*, *Rebecca*, *The Father*, *The Mother*, *The Truth*, *The Lie*, *The Mentor*, *Christmas Eve*, *The Height of the Storm* and *The Son*. His Musicals include *Sunset Boulevard*, *Dracula*, *Rebecca* and *Stephen Ward*. His work as a screenwriter includes *A Doll's House*, *Able's Will*, *Tales from the Vienna Woods*, *The History Man*, *The Honorary Consul*, *The Wolf at the Door*, *Hotel du Lac*, *Dangerous Liaisons*, *The Ginger Tree*, *Carrington*, *Mary Reilly*, *The Secret Agent*, *The Quiet American*, *Imagining Argentina*, *Atonement*, *A Dangerous Method*, *The Thirteenth Tale*, *Adoration*, *Ali and Nino*, *The Father*, *The Singapore Grip* and *The Son*.

**Nicholai La Barrie (Director)** is a theatre and film director, Associate Director of the Lyric Hammersmith Theatre and has been a MOBO Fellow. His work in theatre includes: *Tina - The Tina Turner Musical* as Resident Director (Australia & previously West End); *Jack and the Beanstalk*, *Liar Heretic Thief* (Lyric Hammersmith Theatre); *Portrait For Posterity* (Arcola Theatre); *Statements After an Arrest Under the Immorality Act* (Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama); *Grey*, *There is Nothing There* (Oval House); *White* (Edinburgh Festival); *Gob* (London International Festival of Theatre); *The Book of Disquiet* (Blue Elephant Theatre); *I'll Take You There* (Gate); *Chet Baker: Speedball* (606 Jazz Club). Film credits include: *Hamlet Sort Of*, *North East South West*, *Aingeal*, *Dark Stranger* (2009 Official selection Caribbean film festival). Dramaturge credits include: *Feels*, *The Mob Reformers* (Lyric Hammersmith Theatre).

## YOUNG LYRIC

In response to *God of Carnage*, Young Lyric will deliver a performance project with young people aged 16 – 25 from West London exploring the intersection between class and race through the

lens of the contemporary world they live in. This project will culminate in a performance sharing at the Lyric Hammersmith Theatre.

Lyric Hammersmith Theatre presents the Royal Shakespeare Company production of

## **The Empress**

Written by Tanika Gupta

Directed by Pooja Ghai

Wednesday 04 - Saturday 28 October 2023

Press Night: Tuesday 10 October 2023

Designer **Rosa Maggiora**; Lighting Designer **Matt Haskins**; Music and Sound by **Ben and Max Ringham**; Movement by **Wayne Parsons**; Fights and Intimacy by **Rachel Bown-Williams** and **Ruth Cooper-Brown**

This autumn the Royal Shakespeare Company brings the acclaimed play *The Empress* by Lyric Hammersmith Theatre Artistic Associate Tanika Gupta to The Lyric for four weeks only from 4 October.

*It is 1887, the year Queen Victoria celebrates her Golden Jubilee.*

*Sixteen year old Rani Das, ayah (nursemaid) to an English family arrives at Tilbury docks after a long voyage from India, to start a new life in Britain.*

*On the boat, Rani befriends a lascar (sailor), an Indian politician and a royal servant destined to serve the Queen. Full of hopes and dreams of what lies ahead, they each embark on an extraordinary journey.*

*Will their expectations come true or will they have to forge a different path in their new country?*

Spanning 13 years over the 'Golden Era' of Empire, this story blends the experiences of Indian ayahs and lascars who worked on the ships carrying trade goods, alongside the first Indian politician to be elected as a Member of Parliament. This epic story reveals how socially diverse the Asian presence was in nineteenth century Britain.

Transferring directly from the Swan Theatre in Stratford-upon-Avon and directed by Pooja Ghai, Artistic Director of Tamasha, this new production of *The Empress* will take you from the rugged gangways of Tilbury docks to the grandeur of Queen Victoria's Palace, whilst unveiling the long and embedded culture of British Asian history.

**Tanika Gupta** has written over 25 stage plays that have been produced in major theatres across the UK. Her critically acclaimed adaptation of Ibsen's *A Doll's House* set in colonial Calcutta launched Rachel O'Riordan's first season as Artistic Director of the Lyric in 2019. She was awarded an MBE for Services to Drama and is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Literature. She is an Artistic Associate at the Lyric and was recently announced as one of two new Writers in Residence at the Bush Theatre in 2023.

**Pooja Ghai** is Artistic Director of Tamasha, and artistic associate at Kali. Prior to this she was Associate Director at Theatre Royal Stratford East. Her most recent directing credits include *Hakawatis and Lions and Tigers* at the Sam Wanamaker Playhouse; *Lotus Beauty* at Hampstead Theatre; *Seriously Annoying* by Mark Thomas for Tin Cat Productions, 2020 at Tara Theatre, *Approaching Empty* at the Kiln (Tamasha/Kiln/Live Theatre) and *Rapunzel, Counting*

*Stars and House of in Between* at Theatre Royal Stratford East. Awards include Best Director for *Lions and Tigers* at the Eastern Eye Arts, Culture and Theatre Awards (ACTA) in 2017. Pooja is a Dramaturg for *Voxed, Meeting, Out Late, Vestige* and *It's Not Me*.

## YOUNG LYRIC

In response to *The Empress*, Young Lyric will create a series of teacher CPD sessions for secondary schools across West London which examines Gupta's text and curriculum links. The production will be accompanied with a complimentary teachers guide exploring *The Empress* as a set text on the AQA Drama curriculum, this guide will be created in collaboration with RSC Education.

## **Metamorphosis**

A Frantic Assembly, Theatre Royal Plymouth, Curve, MAST Mayflower Studios and Lyric Hammersmith Theatre co-production

Written by Franz Kafka

Adapted by Lemn Sissay OBE

Directed by Scott Graham

Thursday 01 February - Saturday 02 March 2024

Press Night: Tuesday 06 February 2024

*One morning Gregor Samsa awakes to find himself changed. To those around him he is dangerous, untouchable vermin. Worse than that, he is a burden.*

*A word said, an action out of place, the opening of old wounds, none of which can be undone. Until now Gregor has woken every morning, quietly left to take the same train, and worked to pay off the family debt. But that world explodes on this morning of brutal metamorphosis.*

In their first commission since 2019, Frantic Assembly and Lemn Sissay OBE collaborate on this thrilling new adaptation of *Metamorphosis*. Combining the fluidity and lyricism of Lemn Sissay's adaptation and Frantic's uncompromising physicality, this promises to be an unmissable retelling of Franz Kafka's shocking tale of cruelty and kindness; a visceral and vital depiction of humans struggling within a system that crushes them under its heel. Directed by Frantic's Artistic Director **Scott Graham** (*Othello, Lovesong, Beautiful Burnout*), the new production will premiere at Theatre Royal Plymouth from 12 – 16 September 2023, followed by an extensive tour including Leicester's Curve 19 – 23 September 2023, MAST Mayflower Studios 26 – 30 September 2023 and a four-week run at the Lyric from 01 February – 02 March 2024. Further tour venues to be announced soon.

This is Frantic Assembly's first new production since 2019's *I Think We Are Alone* and is a co-production with Theatre Royal Plymouth, Curve, MAST Mayflower Studios and Lyric Hammersmith Theatre. Frantic are renowned for their use of physicality and movement in their work and *Metamorphosis* will be no different.

**Scott Graham (Director)** is Artistic Director of Frantic Assembly, co-founding the company in 1994. He has received nominations for his work on *Beautiful Burnout* (Drama Desk Award, New York), *Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time* (Olivier, Tony and Fred Astaire Awards). With Steven Hoggett he won the TMA Award (now UK Theatre Awards) for Best Direction for *Othello*. He has provided movement direction for shows at the Royal National Theatre, National Theatre Wales and National Theatre of Scotland. He has developed and written extensively about the Frantic Method. With Steven Hoggett, he has written *The Frantic Assembly Book of*

*Devising Theatre* (Routledge) and Frantic Assembly is the subject of a book in the Routledge Performance Practitioners series. Scott is passionate about creating opportunities for people who might see theatre as a challenge or alienating, and believes that these new voices and fresh perspectives are vital to the health of the arts sector.

**Lemn Sissay OBE (Adaptor)** is a poet, playwright, memoirist, performer and broadcaster. Lemn was the recipient of The Pen Pinter Prize in 2019 for his memoir *My Name is Why*, and in 2021 he won Indie Book Awards non-fiction prize. Lemn is an Honorary Professor at the University of Manchester, a Visiting Fellow at Jesus College Cambridge and an Honorary Bencher of The Inner Temple. As an author, his work includes *Tender Fingers in a Clenched Fist*, *Rebel Without Applause*, *Morning Breaks in the Elevator*, *The Fire People*, *The Emperor's Watchmaker*, *Listener*, *Hidden Gems*, *Refugee Boy*, *My Name is Why*. As a playwright his work includes; *Skeletons in the Cupboard*, *Don't Look Down*, *Chaos by Design*, *Storm*, *Something Dark*, *Why I Don't Hate White People* and *Refugee Boy*. His television documentaries have been BAFTA and RTS Award nominated. He has judged many literary competitions including 2020 Booker Prize, The Gold Man Booker Awards, The National Poetry Competition, The Forward Prize, The Ted Hughes Prize, Cardiff International poetry competition, The Creative Future Literary Awards, and the Bridport Prize.

## YOUNG LYRIC

In response to *Metamorphosis*, Young Lyric in collaboration with Frantic Assembly will deliver a schools' response project for West London secondary schools. Using devising and physicality taken from the Frantic Method, theatre students will explore the production themes over a series of free workshops in schools. The response will culminate in a new schools performance at the Lyric Hammersmith Theatre as part of a collaborative sharing of learning and ideas between theatres and educational institutions.

## **Faith Healer**

A Lyric Hammersmith Theatre production

Written by Brian Friel

Directed by Rachel O'Riordan

Thursday 14 March – Saturday 13 April 2024

Press Night: Wednesday 20 March 2024

*Trawling through the remote and lonely villages of Ireland, Wales and Scotland is, The Fantastic Frank Hardy, who for one night only promises miracle cures for the sick and the suffering. He might just be more showman than shaman but... the promise of the impossible is irresistible.*

*But it's Frank's shapeshifting gift and proclamations that bring him into conflict with his wife Grace and manager Teddy. As they each recount their lives together, they unveil a well of fractured memories.*

Brian Friel's extraordinary play *Faith Healer* is one of Britain's top 100 plays of the 20th Century. Its spellbinding allure, and powerful stage mystery has thrilled audiences across the world since it first opened on Broadway in 1979. Artistic Director Rachel O'Riordan (*A Doll's House*, *Iphigenia in Splott*) directs Friel's "masterpiece" (The Guardian).

**Brian Friel (9 January 1929 – 2 October 2015; Writer)** is widely regarded as one of Ireland's greatest dramatists, having written over 30 plays across six decades. He was a member of Aosdána, the society of Irish artists, the American Academy of Arts and Letters, the Irish

Academy of Letters, and the Royal Society of Literature where he was made a Companion of Literature. He was awarded the Ulysses Medal by University College, Dublin. Plays include *Hedda Gabler* (after Ibsen), *The Home Place*, *Performances*, *Three Plays After* (*Afterplay*, *The Bear*, *The Yalta Game*), *Uncle Vanya* (after Chekhov), *Give Me Your Answer Do!*, *Molly Sweeney* (Winner of the New York Drama Critics Circle Award for Best Foreign Play), *Wonderful Tennessee*, *A Month in the Country* (after Turgenev), *The London Vertigo* (after Charles Macklin), *Dancing at Lughnasa* (Winner of 3 Tony Awards including Best Play, New York Drama Critics Circle Award for Best Play, Olivier Award for Best Play), *Making History*, *The Communication Cord*, *American Welcome*, *Three Sisters* (after Chekhov), *Translations*, *Aristocrats* (Winner of the Evening Standard Award for Best Play and New York Drama Critics Circle Award for Best Foreign Play), *Faith Healer*, *Fathers and Sons*, *Living Quarters*, *Volunteers*, *The Freedom of the City*, *The Gentle Island*, *The Mundy Scheme*, *Crystal and Fox*, *Lovers: Winners and Losers*, *The Loves of Cass Maguire*, *Philadelphia Here I Come!*

**Rachel O’Riordan (Director)** is Artistic Director and CEO of the Lyric Hammersmith Theatre. Prior to this, she was Artistic Director of Cardiff’s Sherman Theatre, which in 2018 won The Stage Awards Regional Theatre of Year. For the Lyric, her work as a director includes Gary Owen’s critically acclaimed *Iphigenia in Splott* (also for the Sherman and National Theatre), Mike Bartlett’s *Love, Love, Love*, and Tanika Gupta’s triumphant adaptation of *A Doll’s House*, which launched her debut season in autumn 2019. She also co-directed the Lyric’s 2020 summer reopening production *Out West*, and Martin McDonagh’s *The Beauty Queen of Leenane* with Chichester Festival Theatre. Between 2011 and 2014, she was Artistic Director of Perth Theatre, Scotland and won The Critic’s Award for Theatre in Scotland for Best Director and Best Ensemble for *The Seafarer* by Conor McPherson. Other recent directing credits include the Olivier Award-winning *Killology* (Sherman Theatre and Royal Court) as well as *Romeo & Julie* (National Theatre); published work includes *Women in Irish Theatre*. Rachel has been named as one of the most influential people in UK Theatre in The Stage 100.

## ALSO COMING UP AT THE LYRIC IN 2023/2024

### ***For the Culture: Celebrations of Blackness***

Third year of events honouring Blackness through art, performance, conversation, love, and joy

Curated by Associate Director Nicholai La Barrie  
Autumn 2023

Following the inaugural *For The Culture: Celebrations of Blackness Festival* in 2022, this multidisciplinary festival celebrating Black joy, talent, culture, and creativity will return to the Lyric in Autumn 2023. Through a programme of curated events and performances, highlighting Black culture, identity and history, this continued work is a space for reflection, conversation and resistance. The festival features theatre, film, music, visual art, food, and discussion, inviting artists and audiences back to experience this inclusive programme to facilitate new discussions. Kindly supported by Hammersmith BID.

### ***Cinderella***

A Lyric Hammersmith Theatre production  
Written by Vikki Stone  
Saturday 18 November 2023 - Saturday 06 January 2024  
Press Day: Saturday 25 November 2023

*The Fairy Godmother of panto returns! Dust off your carriage and polish your slippers, for you shall go to the ball next winter.*

Award-winning writer and composer Vikki Stone returns to the Lyric following her British Panto Award for Best Script for *Aladdin* in 2021.

**Vikki Stone (Writer)** is an award-winning writer, composer, comedian and musician. Most recently she was musical director, pianist and band leader of the ITV Saturday night show *Romeo & Duet*, making her the first on-screen female musical director of a primetime entertainment show in the UK. Writing credits include: co-adapting hit TV show *Hey Duggee* for a UK tour, *#zoologicalsociety* for Royal & Derngate, *Aladdin* for the Lyric, *Ten Pieces Special Report* for BAFTA-nominated children's music series BBC Ten Pieces, and *Alice In Wonderland*, which is heading to the Liverpool Everyman in 2023. TV appearances include: BBC Proms coverage for BBC Four, *Romeo & Duet*, *Richard Osman's House of Games*, *Celebrity Pointless* and the BAFTA award-winning *Ten Pieces* for BBC. Awards include: 2022 - The British Panto Awards - Best Script – Winner; 2021/2020/2019 - Stiles and Drew Best New Song – Nominee; 2019 - Best Musical Show - Leicester Comedy Festival – Winner.

## **ABOUT THE LYRIC HAMMERSMITH THEATRE**

The Lyric Hammersmith Theatre produces bold and relevant world-class theatre from the heart of Hammersmith, the theatre's home for more than 125 years. Under the leadership of Artistic Director and CEO Rachel O'Riordan, it is committed to being vital to, and representative of, the local community. A major force in London and UK theatre, the Lyric produces adventurous and acclaimed theatrical work that tells the stories that matter. The Lyric Hammersmith Theatre has a national reputation for ground-breaking work to develop and nurture the next generation of talent, providing opportunities for young people to discover the power of creativity and to experience the life changing impact of theatre. We are the creative heart of Hammersmith, proud of our history and ambitious for our future.

## **ABOUT FRANTIC ASSEMBLY**

Award winning theatre company Frantic Assembly's method of devising theatre has been impacting theatrical practice and unlocking the creative potential of future theatre-makers for over 25 years. One of the most exciting theatre companies in the UK, Frantic Assembly is led by Artistic Director and co-founder Scott Graham and Executive Director Kerry Whelan. It has toured extensively across Great Britain and worked in more than 40 countries internationally, collaborating with some of today's most inspiring artists.

Frantic Assembly is currently studied as a leading contemporary theatre practitioner on five British and international academic syllabuses. The success of the company's distinct approach has influenced contemporary theatre-making and foregrounded the use of movement directors and choreographers in new dramatic works. With a history of commissioning writers such as Simon Stephens, Abi Morgan, Bryony Lavery, Anna Jordan and Mark Ravenhill, the company has been acclaimed for its collaborative approach.



Frantic Assembly's flagship initiative Ignition, a free nationwide talent development programme for young people aged 16-24, seeks out underrepresented talent and provides opportunities for young people to discover what is possible, increasing involvement in and access to the arts in places of low cultural engagement.

Frantic Assembly productions include *Othello* (UK tour), *I Think We Are Alone* (UK tour), *The Unreturning* (UK tour), *Fatherland* (Manchester International Festival 2017 and Lyric Hammersmith Theatre 2018), *Things I Know To Be True* (UK and Australia), *Beautiful Burnout* (UK, Australia, New Zealand and New York), *Lovesong* (UK and Australia) and *The Believers*. They are also the Movement Directors on the award-winning National Theatre of Great Britain, production *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time* (West End, Broadway, UK & international tours). Television credits include Movement Direction on BAFTA-winning British - American series *Humans* (AMC, Channel 4 & Kudos).

**Frantic Assembly is supported by the National Lottery through Arts Council England.**

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

### **ABOUT ROYAL SHAKESPEARE COMPANY (RSC)**

The Royal Shakespeare Company is a theatre and learning charity that creates world class theatre, made in Stratford-upon-Avon and shared around the world, performing plays by Shakespeare and his contemporaries, as well as commissioning an exceptionally wide range of original work from contemporary writers. The RSC's purpose is to ensure that Shakespeare is for everyone, and it does that by unlocking the power of Shakespeare's plays and of live performance and with learning and education work throughout the UK and across the world.

The RSC believe everybody's life is enriched by culture and creativity. The RSC has trained generations of the very best theatre makers and we continue to nurture the talent of the future. Its transformative Learning programmes reach over half a million young people and adults each year, and through its Creative Placemaking and Public Programme, it create projects with and for communities who have not historically engaged with its work. The RSC is a leader in creative immersive technologies and digital development.

The RSC has a proud record of innovation, diversity and excellence on stage and are determined to grasp the opportunity to become an even more inclusive, progressive, relevant and ambitious organisation.

The RSC has one of the UK's largest arts learning programmes, working with over 1,000 schools each year to broaden access to high quality arts learning and transform experiences of Shakespeare in schools. Through its national partnership programme with schools and regional theatres, the RSC target areas of structural disadvantage, including 26 areas of multiple deprivation across the country, from Cornwall to Middlesbrough. Research shows that the RSC's approaches to teaching Shakespeare support the development of reading and writing skills, accelerate language acquisition and development, raise aspirations and improve student attitudes to school and learning in general. They also foster well-being, self-esteem, empathy, resilience and tolerance and promote critical-thinking, creative, analytical, communication and problem-solving skills.

The RSC is committed to being a teaching and learning theatre and we are the only arts organisation to have been awarded Independent Research Organisation status. The company creates world class theatre for, with and by audiences and theatre makers of all ages. The RSC provides training for emerging and established theatre makers and arts professionals, for

teachers and for young people. The RSC shares learning formally and informally and embeds its training and research across the company, its work and processes.

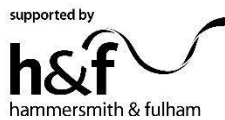
The recognises the climate emergency and works hard to embed environmental sustainability into its operations, creative work and business practice, making a commitment to continually reduce our carbon footprint.

[www.rsc.org.uk](http://www.rsc.org.uk)

- ENDS -

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### **Notes to Editors**

IMAGES available to download [here](#).

### **Free First Night**

Thanks to the London Borough of Hammersmith & Fulham, people who live or work in Hammersmith & Fulham get two free tickets to the first night of all Main House Lyric productions and four free tickets for Lyric pantos.

### **School Tickets**

The Lyric offers a discounted schools rate for all Main House shows, which is available to all schools, colleges and universities.

Tickets are offered at £15 per student with one free teacher ticket for every ten students and two free teacher tickets for SEND schools. This offer is available for all performances Monday – Wednesday during the main run of the show (subject to availability).

Thanks to the London Borough of Hammersmith & Fulham, state schools in the London Borough of Hammersmith & Fulham are offered free tickets to Lyric's annual panto.

### **Young Lyric Membership**

The Lyric offers Young Lyric Membership for young people aged 0-25 who live in one of the 10 West London boroughs (Brent, Ealing, Hammersmith & Fulham, Harrow, Hillingdon, Hounslow, Kensington and Chelsea, Richmond upon Thames, Wandsworth and Westminster). You can sign up membership as an individual (over 18) or as a parent/carer of a young person (under 16). Young Lyric members get £5 tickets to Main House shows, access to low cost or free courses and masterclasses, access to free bursary spaces for classes, performance opportunities and many more opportunities throughout the year.

Tickets go on sale today at [www.lyric.co.uk](http://www.lyric.co.uk)

## Listings

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)  
Instagram: [/LyricHammersmith](https://www.instagram.com/LyricHammersmith)  
Facebook: [/LyricHammersmith](https://www.facebook.com/LyricHammersmith)

## LISTINGS

A Lyric Hammersmith Theatre and Sheffield Theatres co-production in association with Playful Productions

### ***Accidental Death of an Anarchist***

By Dario Fo and Franca Rame

In a new adaptation by Tom Basden

Directed by Daniel Raggett

**Dates:** Monday 13 March – Saturday 08 April 2023

**Press Night:** Friday 17 March, 7pm

**Audio Described Performance:** Tuesday 28 March, 7.30pm

**Open Captioned Performance:** Friday 31 March, 7.30pm

**BSL Performance:** Monday 03 Apr, 7.30pm

**Chilled Environment Performance:** Wednesday 05 Apr, 7.30pm

A Lyric Hammersmith Theatre, ETT and Sheffield Theatres production  
Commissioned by ETT

### ***The Good Person of Szechwan***

By Bertolt Brecht

Translated by Nina Segal

Directed by Anthony Lau

**Dates:** Saturday 15 April - Saturday 13 May 2023

**Press Night:** Thursday 20 April, 7pm

**Audio Described Performance:** Tuesday 02 May, 7.30pm

**Open Captioned Performance:** Thursday 04 May, 7.30pm

**BSL Performance:** Tuesday 09 May, 7.30pm

**Chilled Environment Performance:** Wednesday 10 May, 1.30pm

Lyric Hammersmith Theatre presents

### ***For the Culture – Celebrations of Blackness***

Curated by Nicholai La Barrie

Spring - Autumn 2023

Full festival programme to be announced soon

A Lyric Hammersmith Theatre production

### ***School Girls; Or, the African Mean Girls Play***

By Jocelyn Bioh

Directed by Monique Touko

**Dates:** Thursday 08 June – Saturday 15 July 2023  
**Press Night:** Wednesday 14 June, 7pm  
**Audio Described Performance:** Tuesday 27 June, 7.30pm  
**Chilled Environment Performance:** Wednesday 28 Jun, 2.30pm  
**BSL Performance:** Tuesday 04 Jul, 7.30pm  
**Open Captioned Performance:** Friday 07 Jul, 7.30pm

A Lyric Hammersmith Theatre production (in the Studio Theatre)

***The Bacchae***

By **Euripides**

Adapted by **Katherine Soper**

Directed by **Kwame Owusu**

**Dates:** Thursday 20 – Saturday 22 July 2023

A Lyric Hammersmith Theatre production

***God of Carnage***

By **Yasmina Reza**

Translated by **Christopher Hampton**

Directed by **Nicholai La Barrie**

**Dates:** Friday 01 – Saturday 30 September 2023

**Press Night:** Wednesday 06 September 2023, 7pm

**Open Captioned Performance:** Fri 15 September, 7.30pm

**Chilled Environment Performance:** Wednesday 20 September, 2.30pm

**BSL Performance:** Thursday 21 September, 7.30pm

**Audio Described Performance:** Tuesday 26 September, 7.30pm

A Royal Shakespeare Company production

***The Empress***

By **Tanika Gupta**

Directed by **Pooja Ghai**

**Dates:** Wednesday 04 – Saturday 28 October 2023

**Press Night:** Tuesday 10 October 2023, 7pm

**Audio Described Performance:** Tuesday 17 October, 7.30pm

**Chilled Environment Performance:** Wednesday 18 October, 1.30pm

**Open Captioned Performance:** Friday 20 October, 7.30pm

**Integrated BSL Performance:** Friday 27 October, 7.30pm

**Swan Theatre Stratford-upon-Avon dates:** Friday 7 July- Saturday 18 November

A Lyric Hammersmith Theatre production

***Cinderella***

By **Vikki Stone**

**Dates:** Saturday 18 November 2023 – Saturday 06 January 2024

**Press Day:** Saturday 25 November 2023, 2pm and 6pm

**Relaxed Performance:** Tuesday 05 December, 10am

**Audio Described Performance:** Thursday 14 December, 7pm

**Open Captioned Performance:** Wednesday 20 December, 6pm

**BSL Performance:** Wednesday 27 December, 2pm

A Frantic Assembly, Theatre Royal Plymouth, Curve, MAST Mayflower Studios and Lyric Hammersmith Theatre co-production

***Metamorphosis***

By **Franz Kafka**

Adapted by **Lemn Sissay OBE**

Directed by **Scott Graham**

**Dates:** Thursday 01 February 2024 - Saturday 02 March 2024

**Press Night:** Tuesday 06 February 2024, 7pm

**Audio Described Performance:** Tuesday 13 February 2024, 7.30pm

**Open Captioned Performance:** Friday 16 February 2024, 7.30pm

**BSL Performance:** Monday 19 February 2024, 7.30pm

**Chilled Environment Performance:** Wednesday 21 February 2024, 1.30pm

A Lyric Hammersmith Theatre production

***Faith Healer***

Written by **Brian Friel**

Directed by **Rachel O’Riordan**

**Dates:** Thursday 14 March – Saturday 13 April 2024

**Press Night:** Wednesday 20 March 2024, 7pm

**Chilled Environment Performance:** Wednesday 27 March 2024, 2.30pm

**Open Captioned Performance:** Tuesday 02 April 2024, 7.30pm

**Audio Described Performance:** Monday 08 April 2024, 7.30pm

**BSL Performance:** Thursday 11 April 2024, 7.30pm