



Press Release

Monday 07 August

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## LYRIC HAMMERSMITH THEATRE APPOINTS NEW TRUSTEES TO THE BOARD

- Lyric Hammersmith Theatre announces new appointments to the **Board of Trustees** under Chair **Lorraine Heggessey**.
- Joining **Artistic Director and CEO Rachel O’Riordan** and **Executive Director Amy Belson**, these appointments to the Board of Trustees will further drive the strategic work and vision of the organisation, following the recent successes of the West End transfer of *Accidental Death of an Anarchist*, sold-out hit show *School Girls; Or, The African Mean Girls Play* and a revival of the Olivier and Tony Award-winning play *God of Carnage*, coming this autumn.
- The four new Trustees joining the Lyric’s Board are:
  - o **Shivani Jaswal**, Management Consultant and specialist in financial technology and innovation, currently working for one of Europe’s fastest-growing financial technology companies.
  - o **Oliver Mackwood**, Commercial Producer and Executive Director of Jamie Wilson Productions. Oliver has produced over 40 productions across the West End, North America, Europe, and Asia with recent productions including *Pressure*, *Singin’ in the Rain*, *Sister Act*, and *Mrs Doubtfire*.
  - o **Lisa Popham**, CEO of Playing Field, a leading theatre investor and producer of acclaimed West Ends shows such as *Life of Pi*, *Back to the Future*, *The Lehman Trilogy* and *Dr Semmelweis*.
  - o **Harbinder Singh Birdi**, Architect and Creative Director of London based design consultancy, Birdi & Partners, and Principal Architect for the detail design and construction for three of the stations for the Elizabeth Line, including lead designer for Tottenham Court Road station.

The **Lyric Hammersmith Theatre** is delighted to welcome these four new Trustees to its Board bringing new talent and skills to the existing Board, chaired by **Lorraine Heggessey**.

**Shivani Jaswal**, **Oliver Mackwood**, **Lisa Popham**, and **Harbinder Singh Birdi** join current Trustees **Cllr Emma Apthorp**, **Cllr Bora Kwon**, **Lameya Chaudhury**, **David Greig**, **Liz Elston Mayhew**, **Farah Karim-Cooper**, **Julie Molloy**, **David Sharkey**, **Cllr Nikos Souslous**, and **Cllr Nicole Trehy**.

**Lorraine Heggessey, Chair of the Lyric Hammersmith Theatre** said, *"We are delighted to welcome four such high calibre Trustees who bring vital additional expertise to the Board to help us support the creative vision and ambition of the team led by Artistic Director, Rachel O'Riordan and Executive Director Amy Belson. It is a challenging time for subsidised theatre and the Lyric Hammersmith Theatre plays a valuable role in bringing high quality productions to the communities of West London and beyond at prices they can afford, as well as supporting new and emerging talent. An engaged Board with the relevant experience is crucial to help the team build on their recent successes."*

**Rachel O'Riordan, Artistic Director and CEO, and Amy Belson, Executive Director of the Lyric Hammersmith Theatre** said, *"We are thrilled of the appointment of Shivani Jaswal, Oliver Mackwood, Lisa Popham and Harbinder Singh Birdi to the Lyric's Board of Trustees. Together they bring a breadth of experience and vast knowledge from across a range of sectors that will further enable the Lyric to produce world-class theatre and serve our West London community. We greatly look forward to collaborating with them."*

## **Biographies**

**Shivani Jaswal** trained as a Management Consultant at Ernst & Young after completing a degree in Politics & International Relations at the University of Warwick. At EY she supported a number of financial institutions with their digital transformation agendas as well as cost benchmarking, cost reduction, strategy, customer service and target operating model design. After leaving Ernst & Young, Shivani moved into the Fintech industry, working for one of Europe's fastest-growing Fintechs in the Partnerships function. Shivani will bring a varied skill-set to the role, spanning commercial, marketing, product and strategy as well as strong experience in technology innovation. She also brings a strong passion for the theatre, after experiencing first-hand the transformative effect a grounding in the arts can have on young people. She is greatly looking forward to actively supporting the intersection between the arts industry and the technology industry and providing guidance to support a bright future for the Lyric.

**Oliver Mackwood** is a commercial Producer and Executive Director working at the forefront of largescale commercial productions in the West End. He has worked at Chichester Festival Theatre, and with The Royal Shakespeare Company, Sadler's Wells, The National Theatre, English National Opera, and produced over 40 productions across the West End, North America, Europe, and Asia. Recent productions include *Pressure*, *Singin' in the Rain*, *Sister Act*, and *Mrs Doubtfire*. Oliver is passionate about access to the arts, and has worked with The Big House, which supports care leavers through participation in theatre, and Silent Opera, an Immersive Opera Company established to develop new audiences. He is a member of the Society of London Theatre, a mentor through Stage One, and an ambassador for Inspiring the Future.

**Lisa Popham** is CEO of Playing Field. Her career spans strategy, sales, marketing, theatre management, business management, innovation, and consultancy. Previously she worked for Dewynters, The Royal Court Theatre, The Really Useful Group, The Theatre of Comedy Company, The Society of London Theatre, and Capital Radio. At Dewynters, one of the world's leading entertainment marketing agencies, Lisa's roles ranged from Head of Marketing to Chief Operating Officer. Lisa holds an MBA from Durham Business School, and a BA (Hons) Business Studies from the University of Westminster. She is an Executive Coach and Mentor and a Fellow of the Institute of Leadership and Management. She was a founding member of the Society of London Theatre's Industry Marketing Steering Group and a Council Member of the Society of

Ticket Agents and Retailers. She is member of the Society of London Theatre and of the League of Independent Producers, and sits on the Council of Stage One.

**Harbinder Singh Birdi** is an Architect and Creative Director of Birdi & Partners, a London based design consultancy that advises government bodies, academic institutes, and the private sector. He was the Principal Architect for the detail design and construction for three of the stations for the Elizabeth Line and led the design for Tottenham Court Road station where he integrated the works of five conceptual artists. He was also the Principal Architect for the central section of Thames Tideway Tunnel. He lectures on architecture at Cambridge University and the UCL as well as mentoring and teaching architectural graduates and apprentices. He designed the New Art Exchange gallery in Nottingham and was recently a trustee of the Grade 1 listed Pitzhanger Manor and Gallery, designed by Sir John Soane, where he advised on the construction of a new volunteers building. He is a Fellow of the RIBA, ICE and RSA.

**Lorraine Heggsey** has been pivotal to success and transformation in a range of high-profile roles in the public, private and charity sectors. She was the first female controller of BBC 1 and introduced a number of flagship shows including *Strictly Come Dancing* and the new *Dr Who*; as CEO of talkbackThames she revitalised the programming portfolio and created a new digital division; in 2012 as Founder and Executive Chair of Boom Pictures she built the 7th largest independent production company in the UK. More recently, her charity roles have included CEO of The Royal Foundation of the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge and the Duke and Duchess of Sussex. She is Chair of the Grierson Trust and the independent adviser to Channel 4's Growth Fund.

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### Notes to Editors

IMAGES available to download [here](#).

### 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)  
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**Upcoming at the Lyric Hammersmith Theatre**

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 Lyric Hammersmith Theatre and Pins and Needles co-production

***Raymond Briggs' Father Christmas 2023***

**Dates:** Wednesday 22 November – Saturday 30 December 2023

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