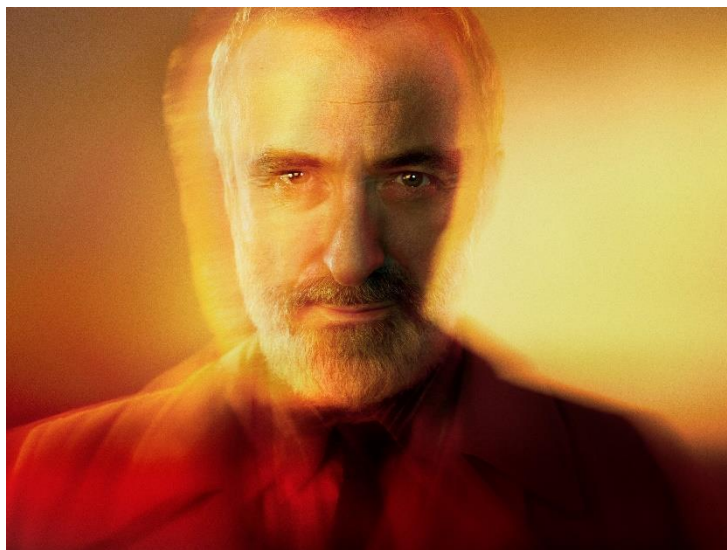




Press Release
Monday 15 January
[DOWNLOAD IMAGES](#)

T: [@LyricHammer](#) | I: [/LyricHammersmith](#) | F: [/LyricHammersmith](#)

FULL CAST ANNOUNCED FOR RACHEL O'RIORDAN'S REVIVAL OF *FAITH HEALER* AT LYRIC HAMMERSMITH THEATRE



- LYRIC HAMMERSMITH THEATRE'S ARTISTIC DIRECTOR RACHEL O'RIORDAN DIRECTS MAJOR REVIVAL OF *FAITH HEALER* BY AWARD-WINNING IRISH PLAYWRIGHT BRIAN FRIEL.
- CAST FEATURES DECLAN CONLON AS FRANK, NICK HOLDER AS TEDDY AND JUSTINE MITCHELL AS GRACE.
- VOTED IN *THE INDEPENDENT'S* TOP 40 PLAYS OF ALL TIME, *FAITH HEALER* KICKS OFF RACHEL O'RIORDAN'S 2024 PROGRAMME.
- *FAITH HEALER* PREVIEWS FROM 14 MARCH WITH PRESS NIGHT ON 20 MARCH. THE RUN MUST END 13 APRIL. TICKETS ARE ON SALE NOW WWW.LYRIC.CO.UK

Full casting is announced today for the powerful *Faith Healer*, written by Olivier and Tony Award-winning **Brian Friel** and directed by the **Lyric Hammersmith Theatre's Artistic Director Rachel O'Riordan**. Named in *The Stage's* Top 100 List of most influential people in theatre, Rachel O'Riordan's direction of *Faith Healer* follows recent triumphs *Iphigenia in Splott* (Lyric Hammersmith Theatre) and *Romeo & Julie* (National Theatre), of which the former was voted

as *The Guardian's* top theatre show of 2022. A modern classic, *Faith Healer* is a powerful stage mystery, interrogating truth, identity and the strength of storytelling.

Starring in the production is one of Ireland's most respected stage actors **Declan Conlon**, playing Frank, who is also reuniting with director O'Riordan after previously working together on *Come on Home* (Abbey Theatre, Dublin). Declan is joined by **Nick Holder**, playing Teddy (*Assassins* at Chichester Festival Theatre) and **Justine Mitchell**, whose work includes *Dancing at Lughnasa* (National Theatre), Channel 4 hit series *Derry Girls* and Sally Rooney's *Conversation with Friends* (BBC), who is playing Grace.

Rachel O'Riordan, Artistic Director & CEO of Lyric Hammersmith Theatre, said: "*Faith Healer is a play I have long wanted to direct ; its exploration of the instability of truth opens up great possibilities. As one of the most highly-regarded playwrights of our time, Friel's play deservedly earns its status as a 'masterpiece'. I couldn't be prouder to be directing this Irish classic with a powerhouse cast for our audiences here in West London and beyond.*"

Faith Healer is designed by **Colin Richmond**, the lighting design is by **Paul Keogan**, composition and sound design is by **Anna Clock**, and casting by **Sophie Parrott CDG**

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 play Faith Healer has spellbinding allure, and powerful stage mystery; it has thrilled audiences across the world since it first opened on Broadway in 1979.

Notes to Editors

IMAGES available to download [here](#).

CREATIVE biographies available to download [here](#).

Listings

Lyric Hammersmith Theatre
Lyric Square, King Street, London, W6 0QL
Box office: 020 8741 6850
www.lyric.co.uk
Tickets from £10

X: [@LyricHammer](#)

Instagram: [/LyricHammersmith](#)

Facebook: [/LyricHammersmith](#)

Faith Healer

A Lyric Hammersmith Theatre production
Written by Brian Friel
Directed by Rachel O'Riordan
Set and costume design by Colin Richmond
Lighting design by Paul Keogan

Composition and sound design by Anna Clock
Casting by Sophie Parrott CDG
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, 7.30pm

Biographies

Cast

Declan Conlon plays Frank and reunites with director Rachel O’Riordan after previously working together on *Come on Home* (Abbey Theatre, Dublin). Declan has worked extensively across theatre and television with most recent theatre credits including *Ghosts* (Abbey Theatre, Dublin), *The Ferryman* (Gielgud Theatre), *My Eyes Went Dark* (59E59Theaters), *Anna Karenina* (Abbey Theatre, Dublin), *Quietly* (The Irish Repertory Theatre), *Juno and the Paycock* (The Gate Theatre, Dublin), *The Gigli Concert* (The Gate Theatre, Dublin), and *Dancing at Lughnasa* (The Lyric Theatre, Belfast). For television, his credits include Sky series *Mary and George*; *Der Irland-Krimi* (Beta Film); *Balor Hall* (RTE); *Dangerfield* (BBC); and *Hot House* (Channel 4). Film credits include *That They May Face The Rising Sun* (SWB Films West); *God’s Creatures* (Sixty Six Films); *Wastewater* (Warrior Films); *Sacrifice* (SFP); and the Clint Eastwood film *Hereafter* (Warner Bros).

Nick Holder plays Teddy. His most recent theatre credits include *Assassins* (Chichester Festival Theatre); *Love* (National Theatre/European Tour/The Armory NYC nominated for Outstanding Featured Performance New York Drama Desk Awards); *Fatherland* (Manchester Int. Festival/Royal Exchange Theatre); *Faith Hope and Charity*, *The Threepenny Opera* and *London Road* at the National Theatre, *The Winter’s Tale* and *The Taming of the Shrew* at the RSC and *Uncle Vanya* (Manchester HOME). Television credits include *Black Mirror*; *Parade’s End*; *Psychoville*; *Peaky Blinders*; *Sneakerhead*; *Brassic*; *The Tower*; *Grantchester*; *Siblings* and *Coalition*. Film credits include *The World’s End*; *Love*; *Beirut*; *Les Misérables* and *Anna Karenina*.

Justine Mitchell plays Grace. Her recent television roles include the acclaimed Channel 4 hit series *Derry Girls* as well as BBC series *Conversations with Friends* based on Sally Rooney’s cult-hit novel. Justine most recently appeared on stage in *Dancing at Lughnasa* (National Theatre); *Rutherford and Son* (National Theatre); *Shipwreck* (Almeida Theatre); *The Way of the World* (Donmar); and *Beginning* (National Theatre/West End). Other television credits include *Smother* (BBC Studios); *A Spy Among Friends* (ITVX); *Element* (BBC); *Maryland* (BBC); *Finding Joy* (Treasure/Acorn TV); *Trying* (Apple TV); and *Cheat* (ITV).

Creative Team

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 where she launched her critically acclaimed debut season in Autumn 2019 with a triumphant adaptation of *A Doll’s House* by Tanika Gupta. She most recently directed *Romeo & Julie*, by Gary Owen, at the National Theatre and Sherman, which received five star reviews and is currently in development for a film adaptation. She also directed the sold-out remount of *Iphigenia in Splott* at the Lyric Hammersmith Theatre in Autumn 2022, which was featured as one of The Guardian’s 50 best theatre shows of the 21st century and was Number 1 in The Guardian’s Top 10 Theatre Productions of 2022. At the Lyric Hammersmith Theatre, she co-directed the Lyric’s 2020 summer reopening production *Out West*. Other Lyric shows include *Love, Love, Love* by Mike Bartlett, in the 10 year anniversary revival; Martin McDonagh’s *The Beauty Queen of Leenane* with Chichester Festival Theatre. Previously, she 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*, *Bird* 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, she 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*.

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 and Executive Director Amy Belson, 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.

- ENDS -

Press contact at the Lyric Hammersmith Theatre:
Burte Tsogbadrakh / 020 8741 6822 (ext. 403)/ burte.tsogbadrakh@lyric.co.uk



Supported by
**ARTS COUNCIL
ENGLAND**