



Press Release

**Embargo: 00.01 Wednesday 26 February 2025**

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## CAST & CREATIVES ANNOUNCED FOR *GHOSTS* AT LYRIC HAMMERSMITH THEATRE



**Lyric Hammersmith Theatre** have today announced cast and creatives for their upcoming production of *Ghosts* which runs at the venue from 10 April - 10 May 2025.

Reuniting the team behind the critically acclaimed *Iphigenia in Splott*, **Gary Owen's** reimagining of **Henrik Ibsen's** classic play is directed by **Artistic Director Rachel O'Riordan**.

Casting for the production includes **Patricia Allison** (*Sex Education, A Dolls House Part 2*) as Reggie, **Callum Scott Howells** (*It's a Sin, Cabaret, Romeo & Julie*) as Oz, **Victoria Smurfit** (*Rivals, Bloodlands*) as Helena, **Rhashan Stone** (*Tambo & Bones, Keeping Faith*) as Anderson and **Deka Walmsley** (*Roots, Look Back in Anger*) as Jacob.

Victoria Smurfit said: *"As a long-time admirer of the Lyric and Rachel, to join her cast in Ghosts is a wish I had not been brave enough to wish for but one I am thrilled has now come true!"*

Callum Scott Howells said: *"I am very excited to be part of this project. Gary Owen's adaptation sheds brilliant new light on Ibsen's extraordinary piece and in Rachel O'Riordan's hands it promises to be an exciting ride. I am looking forward to getting started and getting to know my fellow cast members."*

Patricia Allison added: *"I'm thrilled to be working on Ghosts; it feels exciting to be part of this new rendition of it."*

Set and Costume Design is by **Merle Hensel**, Lighting Design by **Simisola Majekodunmi**, Sound Design by **Donato Wharton**, Music by **Simon Slater** and Casting by **Anna Cooper CDG**. The Assistant Director is **Harper K. Hefferon**.

Gary Owen's most recent play *Romeo & Julie*, also directed by Rachel O'Riordan, at the National Theatre and Sherman Theatre played to 5\* reviews. It was his fourth collaboration with O'Riordan, a relationship which began in 2015 with *Iphigenia in Splott* for the Sherman Theatre, which then transferred to the Shed at the National, and toured to Berlin and New York. *Iphigenia in Splott* won the UK Theatre Best New Play award and the James Tait Black Prize for Drama, and earned its lead, Sophie Melville, a Stage Award for Acting Excellence and an Evening Standard Award nomination for Best Actress. In 2022 the production was revived to critical acclaim at the Lyric Hammersmith Theatre, and was voted as *The Guardian's* top theatre show of that year.

Owen's other collaborations with O'Riordan are a radical reworking of *The Cherry Orchard* for the Sherman, which translated the action of the play to 1980s Pembrokeshire at the beginning of the Thatcher era, and *Killology*, a co-production between the Sherman and the Royal Court, which won Outstanding Achievement in an Affiliate Theatre at the 2018 Olivier Awards.

This world premiere production re-situates this classic story into the modern day, and follows in the footsteps of similarly re-lensed classics in the Lyric's recent history including *A Doll's House* and *Accidental Death of an Anarchist*.

Rachel O'Riordan, Director and Artistic Director of the Lyric Hammersmith Theatre, said: "*Ghosts is my fifth time collaborating with Gary Owen and I'm delighted to be bringing his radical reimagining of Ibsen's classic to the Lyric stage in our 130<sup>th</sup> anniversary year. In transporting the action of the play to present day England, its themes of family loyalty and the legacy of inheritance reveal themselves to be as timely as ever. I couldn't be prouder of the powerhouse cast we've assembled to tell this bold, thrilling story and cannot wait for audiences to see them in action.*"

*Helena is a woman on a mission. Since the death of her high-flying husband, she has dedicated herself to reclaiming his legacy. And her hard work is about to pay off, with a new children's hospital bearing his name on the brink of opening.*

*But when their son Oz returns to the family home for the grand unveiling, he has ambitions of his own. Ambitions that threaten to unravel their family's most tightly kept secrets.*

**COCKAYNE** *Ghosts* is supported by Cockayne Grants for the Arts, a Donor Advised Fund, held at The Prism Charitable Trust.

- ENDS -

Press contacts at the Lyric Hammersmith Theatre:

Bread and Butter PR

Ben Chamberlain - [ben@breadandbutterpr.uk](mailto:ben@breadandbutterpr.uk) - 07931 723 988

Ben Wooldridge - [benw@breadandbutterpr.uk](mailto:benw@breadandbutterpr.uk) - 07791 183 043

Maisie Allen - [maisieallen@breadandbutterpr.uk](mailto:maisieallen@breadandbutterpr.uk) - 07951 615 717



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## **Notes to Editors**

### **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

### ***Ghosts***

A Lyric Hammersmith Theatre production  
By Henrik Ibsen  
In a new version by Gary Owen  
Directed by Rachel O'Riordan  
**Dates:** Thursday 10 April - Saturday 10 May 2025  
**Opening Night:** Wednesday 16 April 2025, 7pm  
**Audio Described Performance:** Tuesday 06 May, 7.30pm  
**BSL Performance:** Tuesday 29 April, 7.30pm  
**Chilled Performance:** Wednesday 30 April, 2.30pm  
**Open Captioned Performance:** Thursday 08 May, 7.30pm

### **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 130 years. Under the leadership of its joint CEOs, Artistic Director 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.

### **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).

### **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 for 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.