

ALMEIDA THEATRE

HAMLET

by William Shakespeare

directed by Robert Icke

Friday 17 February – Saturday 8 April 2017

Press night: Tuesday 28 February at 7pm

As rehearsals begin, the cast for **HAMLET** at the Almeida Theatre is announced. **Barry Aird**, **Elliot Barnes-Worrell**, **Marty Cruickshank**, **Calum Finlay**, **Joshua Higgott**, **Amaka Okafor**, **Daniel Rabin**, **David Rintoul**, **Peter Wight**, **Angus Wright** and **Matthew Wynn** join the previously announced **Jessica Brown Findlay**, **Andrew Scott**, **Juliet Stevenson** and **Luke Thompson** in a production directed by Almeida Associate Director **Robert Icke**.

ghost / devil
acting / madness
be / not be

HAMLET is designed by **Hildegard Bechtler**, with lighting by **Natasha Chivers**, sound by **Tom Gibbons**, and video design by **Tal Yarden**. The Associate Director is **Daniel Raggett**. Casting is by **Julia Horan**.

Barry Aird's theatre credits include *Hamlet* at the Barbican; *Othello* for Frantic Assembly; *The Mousetrap* and *The Shawshank Redemption* in the West End; *Measure for Measure*; *Hamlet* for Theatre Royal Plymouth and on tour; *The Sons of York* at the Finborough Theatre; *What the Butler Saw* at Salisbury Playhouse; *Watership Down* at the Lyric Hammersmith and on tour; *The Taming of the Shrew* at Bristol Old Vic; *Speaking Like Magpies*; *Sejanus His Fall*; *Believe What You Will*; *Sir Thomas Moore*; *Othello*; *Henry VIII*; *The Merry Wives of Windsor*; *Camino Real*; and *St Erkanwald* for the RSC. Television includes *Berlin Station*; *Marcella*; *Close to the Enemy*; *Peaky Blinders*; *Doctor Who*; *Love and Marriage*; *Merlin*; *Lewis*; *Misfits*; *Survivors*; *Dracula*; and *Being Human*. Film includes *The Marker*; *City of Tiny Lights*; *Avengers: Age of Ultron*; *Dungeons and Dragons: The Book of Vile Darkness*; and *Eleven Fifty-Nine*.

Elliot Barnes-Worrell's theatre includes *Man and Superman* at the National Theatre; *Richard II*, *The Two Gentleman of Verona*; and *Henry IV, Part I & 2* for the RSC; *The Loneliness of The Long Distance Runner* for Pilot Theatre at York Theatre Royal and on tour; and *Loyalty* at Hampstead Theatre. Television includes *Jericho*; *Poirot* and *Doctor Who*; and film includes *Ready Player One*.

Jessica Brown Findlay has previously appeared in *Uncle Vanya* at the Almeida and *Oresteia* at the Almeida and Trafalgar Studios. Her television credits include *Downton Abbey*, *The Outcast*, *Jamaica Inn*, *Labyrinth* and *Black Mirror: 15 Million Merits*. Her film credits include *Albatross* (nominated for her performance in the Best Newcomer categories at the 2012 British Independent Film Awards and the Evening Standard Film Awards), *Winter's Tale*, *Lullaby*, *The Riot Club*, *Victor Frankenstein*, *Steven* and *This Beautiful Fantastic*.

Marty Cruickshank's theatre includes *Richard II*; *The Heresy of Love*; *Hamlet*; and *Love in a Wood* for the RSC and *A Midsummer's Night's Dream* for the RSC and Garsington Opera; *After Electra* at the Tricycle Theatre; *Exit the King* for Theatre Royal, Bath; *Early Days*; *A Fair Quarrel*; and *The World Turned Upside Down* for the National Theatre; *Much Ado About Nothing* and *Two Clouds Over Eden* at the Royal Exchange; *London Wall* at the Finborough Theatre and in the West End; *Pygmalion* at Chichester Festival Theatre and in the West End; *Summer Lightning*; *Habeas Corpus*; *Quartermaine's Terms* at the Royal & Derngate; *A Delicate Balance* at Nottingham Playhouse; and *A Flea in Her Ear* at the West Yorkshire Playhouse. Television includes *Babs*; *Line of Duty*; *Lewis*; *Spooks*; *Kavanagh QC*; *Faith in the Future*; and *Unnatural Pursuits*. Film includes *London Wall*; *I, Anna*; and *The Fool*. As a writer, Marty's credits include *The Princess of Cleves* for ICA; *A Difficult Age* for English Touring Theatre; *Why Things Happen* for Second Stride; and *Bathing Elizabeth* for Channel 4/Warner Sisters.

Calum Finlay's theatre credits include *The Ghost Train* and *Too Clever By Half* at Manchester Royal Exchange; *Dunsinane* for the RSC and National Theatre of Scotland and *The Merry Wives of Windsor*, *The Mouse and His Child*, *Macbeth* and *Jubilee* for the RSC; *Tartuffe* at Birmingham Repertory Theatre; and *The Prince of Denmark* for the National Theatre.

Joshua Higgott has previously appeared in *Oresteia* (also Trafalgar Studios) and *1984* for the Almeida Theatre and in the West End. Past theatre credits include *Shakespeare in Love* at the Noël Coward Theatre; *The Alchemist* for Liverpool Everyman; *Regeneration* for Royal & Derngate Theatre; *Birdsong* UK Tour; and *Twelfth Night* at the Cambridge Arts Theatre. His film credits include *Darkest Hour*, *The Mummy*, *Juliet Remembered*; and *The Machine*.

Amaka Okafor's theatre credits includes *Peter Pan* at the National Theatre; *I See You* at the Royal Court; *Hamlet* at the Barbican; *Mermaid* for Shared Experience; *Glasgow Girls* for the National Theatre of Scotland, Citizens Theatre and Theatre Royal Stratford East; *Flathampton* for the Royal & Derngate; *Dr Korczak's Example* for the Royal Exchange and Arcola Theatre; *The Bacchae* for the National Theatre of Scotland; *Branded* and *Hitting Heights* at the Old Vic; and *Meantime* at Soho Theatre. Amaka was in the Ensemble at The Unicorn Theatre for two years.

Daniel Rabin is currently appearing in *Mary Stuart* at the Almeida and previously appeared in *1984* for the Almeida in the West End. Other theatre includes *Pericles*; *The Winter's Tale*; *King John*; *Tis Pity She's a Whore*; *Anthony and Cleopatra*; and *Holy Warriors* at Shakespeare's Globe; *Oedipus* for Nottingham Playhouse and the Spoleto Festival; *Ignorance* at Hampstead Theatre; *Blue Remembered Hills* at Chichester Festival Theatre; and *The Bomb* at the Tricycle Theatre. Television includes *The Royals*; *Game of Thrones*; *Ambassadors*; *Our Men*; *Henry - Mind of a Tyrant*; *The Roman Mysteries*; and *Money Can't Buy You Love*. Film includes *Lilac's Laughter*; *Mind The Gap*; and *Two's Company*.

David Rintoul's theatre credits include *Nell Gwynn* for Shakespeare's Globe and at the Apollo Theatre; *Remembrance of Things Past*; *The World Turned Upside Down*; *The Trojan War Will Not Take Place*; *A Midsummer Night's Dream*; and *The Rivals* at the National Theatre; *The Roaring Girl*; *The White Devil*; *The Witch of Edmonton*; *The Taming of the Shrew*; *Breakfast with Mugabe*; *The American Pilot*; *Keepers of the Flame*; *Henry IV, Parts I & II*; *Edward III*; and *Island Princess* at the RSC; *The Speculator* at the Traverse Theatre; *As You Like It* and *Map of the Heart* at Shakespeare's Globe; *The Big Fella* and *Anderson's English* for Out of Joint; *Gaslight* and *Phaedra* for the Royal Lyceum Theatre, Edinburgh; *Dirty Dancing* at Aldwych Theatre; *Lady Windermere's Fan*; *The Winslow Boy*, and *Putting It Together* for Chichester Festival Theatre; *An Ideal Husband* and *Macbeth* for the Old Vic; and *Etta Jenks* and *Sergeant Ola and his Followers* for the Royal Court. Television includes *Game of Thrones*; *Muncie*; *Silk*; *Doctor Finlay*; *The Bible*; *Injustice*; *Private Practice*; *Pride and Prejudice*; *Taggart*; *The Cherry Orchard*; *Hornblower*; *Poirot*; and *Sweet Medicine*. Film includes *The Iron Lady*; *My Week with Marilyn*; *Unrelated*; and *The Ghost Writer*.

Andrew Scott will play Hamlet. Andrew most recently appeared in *The Dazzle* at Found111. His other theatre credits include Olivier Award-winning performances in *Cock* and *A Girl in a Car with a Man*, as well as *Birdland*, *Dying City*, *Crave* and *Playing The Victim* at the Royal Court; *50 Years on Stage*, *Sea Wall*, *Emperor and Galilean* and *Aristocrats* at the National Theatre; *Design for Living* and *Dublin Carol* at the Old Vic; and *The Vertical Hour* on Broadway. His recent films include *Swallows and Amazons*; *Alice in Wonderland: Through the Looking Glass*; *Spectre*, *Jimmy's Hall*, *Victor Frankenstein*, *Locke*, *Pride* (BIFA Award for Best Supporting Actor). Forthcoming films include *Denial*, *Handsome Devil*. Television credits include his BAFTA winning role as Moriarty in the BBC's *Sherlock*, *The Hollow Crown*, *The Town*, *The Hour*, *John Adams* and *Band of Brothers*. He has twice won the BBC Audio Drama award for his work on Radio.

Juliet Stevenson is currently sharing the role of Mary Stuart and Elizabeth I with Lia Williams in *Mary Stuart* at the Almeida, having previously appeared here in *Duet for One*. Other theatre credits

include Winnie in Beckett's *Happy Days* at the Young Vic; *The Seagull*, *Private Lives*, *Caucasian Chalk Circle*, *Hedda Gabler* and *Yerma* for the National Theatre; *Les Liaisons Dangereuses*, *As You Like It*, *Troilus and Cressida*, *Measure for Measure* and *A Midsummer Night's Dream* for the RSC; *The Heretic*, *Alice* and *Death and The Maiden* (Olivier Award for Best Actress) at the Royal Court. Her film credits include *Departure*, *Mona Lisa Smile*, *Bend it Like Beckham*, *Emma*, *Truly Madly Deeply* and the upcoming *Let Me Go*. Her television credits include *The Enfield Haunting*, *The Village*, *White Heat*, *The Accused*, *The Road from Coorain*, *The Politician's Wife* and *One of Us*. She was awarded a CBE in 1999 for her services to drama.

Luke Thompson previously appeared in *Oresteia* at the Almeida and at Trafalgar Studios. His other theatre credits include *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (shortlisted for the Evening Standard Outstanding Newcomer award), *Blue Stockings*, *Julius Caesar* and *The Broken Heart* at Shakespeare's Globe; *Tiger Country* at Hampstead Theatre. Television credits include *The Suspicions of Mr Whicher* and *In the Club*. Film includes *Making Noise Quietly*.

Peter Wight's theatre credits include *The Red Lion*; *Ivanov*, *Sleep With Me*; *Murmuring Judges*; *The Resistible Rise of Arturo Ui*; *Black Snow*, and *Waiting for Godot* at the National Theatre; *Trelawny of The Wells* at the Donmar Warehouse; *In Basildon*; *Otherwise Engaged*; *Chekhov's Women in the West End*; *The Spanish Tragedy*; *Much Ado About Nothing*; *Barbarians*; *A Clockwork Orange*; and *Hamlet* for the RSC; *Mouth to Mouth*, *The Seagull* (also Broadway) , *In The Republic of Happiness*; *In Basildon* (also West End); *Face to the Wall*; and *Not A Game for Boys* at the Royal Court; *The Caretaker* for the Globe Warsaw; *Edward II* at the Royal Exchange Manchester; *Dearly Beloved* and *Grace* for Hampstead Theatre. Television includes *Brief Encounters*; *I Want My Wife Back*; *Our Zoo*; *The Mimic*; *The Paradise*; *Hit and Miss*; *Public Enemies*; *Titanic*; *Money*; *Monday Monday*; *Boy Meets Girl*; *10 Days to War*; *Party Animals*; *Dalziel and Pascoe*; *Persuasion*; *Fantabulosa!*; *Murder Prevention*; *Early Doors*; *Room at the Top*; *The Security Men*; and *Uncle Adolf*. Film includes *The Program*; *Mr Turner*; *King of Soho*; *Another Year*; *Kon-Tiki*; *Hard Boiled Sweets*; *Womb*; *Atonement*; *Hot Fuzz*; *Lassie*; *Babel*; *Pride and Prejudice*; and *Vera Drake*.

Angus Wright has previously appeared in *Oresteia* (also Trafalgar Studios), *1984* in the West End, and *A Midsummer Night's Dream* for the Almeida. Other theatre credits include *The Cherry Orchard* at the Young Vic; *Twelfth Night & Richard III* for Shakespeare's Globe on Broadway; *Privates on Parade* in the West End; *The Master and Margarita* for Complicite; *The Cat in The Hat* at the National Theatre and Young Vic; *Wastwater* at the Royal Court; *Design for Living* at the Old Vic; *The Merchant of Venice*; *Hamlet*; *Talk of the City*; *The Theban Plays*; *The Dybbuk*; *Henry IV Parts 1 & 2* for the RSC; *Measure for Measure* for Complicite and the National Theatre, *Mrs Affleck*; *War Horse*; *Saint Joan*; *The Seagull*; *Dream Play*; *Stuff Happens*; *Three*

Sisters; Chips with Everything; and Mother Courage at the National Theatre. Television includes *Flowers; Peep Show; Father Brown; Being Human; Breathless; Murder on the Home Front; Above Suspicion; Boudica; Cambridge Spies; The Shooting of Thomas Hurndall; The Way We Live Now; and Between the Lines*. Film includes *A Little Chaos; Jack Ryan; Maleficent; Closed Circuit; Private Peaceful; The Iron Lady; Affair of the Necklace; Kingdom of Heaven; RKO 281; The Bank Job; Bridget Jones's Diary; Charlotte Gray; Cutthroat Island; First Knight; Labyrinth; and Frankenstein*.

Matthew Wynn's theatre credits include *Measure for Measure* at the Young Vic; *Henry V* and *A Midsummer Night's Dream* at the Nuffield Theatre, Southampton; *The Guardsman* at the Albery Theatre; and *Bouncers* for Wakefield Theatre Royal and Hull Truck. Film includes *Interview With A Hitman; Leave To Remain; and Aberdeen*. Television includes *Silent Witness; Spooks; Man Down; Mount Pleasant; The Real Essex Boys; 55 Degrees North; Harry & Cosh* and *Byker Grove*.

Almeida Associate Director **Robert Icke** has adapted and directed *Mary Stuart, Uncle Vanya, Oresteia* (also West End; won the Critics' Circle and Evening Standard Awards for Best Director) and the multi-award winning *1984* with Duncan Macmillan (also West End as well as playing several UK and international tours) at the Almeida. His work as a director includes *The Fever* at The May Fair Hotel, *Mr Burns* at the Almeida, *Boys* and *Romeo and Juliet* for Headlong. He made his National Theatre debut directing *The Red Barn*, at the Lyttelton Theatre in October 2016.

ENDS

For all press enquiries and images, contact Susie Newbery, Press and Media Relations Manager, on 020 7288 4911 or snewbery@almeida.co.uk

Notes to Editors

ABOUT THE ALMEIDA THEATRE

The Almeida Theatre exists to launch the next generation of British artists onto the world stage. A small room with an international reputation, the Almeida began life as a literary and scientific society – complete with library, lecture theatre and laboratory. From the beginning, the building existed to investigate the world. Today, the Almeida makes brave new work that asks big questions: of plays, of theatre and of the world around us.

The Almeida brings together the most exciting artists to take risks; to provoke, inspire and surprise audiences; to interrogate the present, dig up the past and imagine the future. Whether new work or reinvigorated classic, whether in the theatre, on the road or online, the Almeida makes live art to excite, enliven and entertain. The Almeida makes argument for theatre as an essential force in an increasingly fragmented society.

Founded by Pierre Audi in 1980, his successors were Jonathan Kent and Ian McDiarmid in 1990, and Michael Attenborough in 2002. Productions including *Hamlet* with Ralph Fiennes in 2005,

Rufus Norris' *Festen*, *Ruined* by Lynn Nottage and most recently *Chimerica*, *Ghosts* and *King Charles III* have given the theatre international renown.

In summer 2013, Rupert Goold joined the Almeida as Artistic Director. His first production was *American Psycho: a new musical thriller*, which transferred to Broadway in 2016. In 2014 the Almeida productions of *Ghosts* and *Chimerica* won eight Olivier Awards including Best Actress, Best Actor in a Supporting Role, Best New Play, Best Director and Best Revival and enjoyed transfers to the West End and Broadway respectively. This was followed by *King Charles III*, which transferred to the West End at the Wyndham's Theatre and won the Olivier Award for Best New Play in 2015, transferred to Broadway, and toured the UK and Sydney. Other notable productions as Artistic Director include *The Merchant of Venice*, *Medea* and *Richard III*, which in July 2016 was broadcast to cinemas around the world via Almeida Theatre Live.

In summer 2015, the Almeida presented *Almeida Greeks*, which included three major new productions of *Oresteia*, *Bakkhai* and *Medea*, the latter of which was directed by Goold, with a festival of events, performances, talks and readings running alongside.

He co-directed *The Iliad* and *The Odyssey* with Almeida Associate Director Robert Icke. Involving more than 60 readers, *The Iliad* reached an audience of over 50,000 people across the world, watching online, or in person at the British Museum and the Almeida Theatre. *The Odyssey* followed the huge success of *The Iliad*, and involved an army of artists in various locations around London. As with *The Iliad*, both theatrical events were live streamed throughout and achieved ground-breaking levels of online engagement.

The Almeida is grateful to its Principal Partner Aspen, in its second term as the Almeida's most significant corporate supporter. Aspen was established in 2002 and is a leading global insurance and reinsurance company.

www.aspen.co

The Almeida is supported using public funding by Arts Council England.

ALMEIDA LISTINGS INFORMATION

Friday 17 February – Saturday 8 April 2017

HAMLET

by William Shakespeare

directed by Robert Icke

Press night: Tuesday 28 February 2017, 7pm

Address

Almeida Theatre, Almeida Street, London, N1 1TA

Café Bar

The Almeida Café Bar is open from 11.30am -11.00pm, Monday to Saturday

Box Office

Online almeida.co.uk

Phone 020 7359 4404 (10am – 7pm Monday – Saturday)

In person 10am – 7pm, Monday – Saturday

Nearest Tube: Angel / Highbury & Islington

Performances at 7pm

Midweek matinees on Wednesday at 1.30pm from 11 March

Saturday matinees at 1.30pm from 11 March

Website almeida.co.uk
Twitter @AlmeidaTheatre
Facebook facebook.com/almeidatheatre
Instagram @almeida_theatre

Access *Hamlet* Audio Described performances:
Saturday 1 April at 1.30pm (Touch Tour at 11.15am)
Hamlet Captioned performances: Friday 7 April at 7pm

Almeida Questions **Playing Hamlet** Thursday 6 April 2017 at 2pm