

ALMEIDA THEATRE

Press Release: Tuesday 17 October

The cast is announced for the world premiere of *THE TWILIGHT ZONE*, based on stories from the classic 1960s CBS television series, adapted by Anne Washburn, directed by Richard Jones

THE TWILIGHT ZONE

Based on stories by Rod Serling, Charles Beaumont and Richard Matheson

Adapted by Anne Washburn

Directed by Richard Jones

Almeida Theatre

Tuesday 5 December 2017 – Saturday 27 January 2018

Press night: Tuesday 12 December at 7pm

Between light and shadow, science and superstition, fear and knowledge is a dimension of imagination. An area we call the Twilight Zone.

Adapted by **Anne Washburn** (*Mr Burns*) and directed by Olivier Award-winner **Richard Jones**, this world premiere production of the acclaimed CBS television series *The Twilight Zone* lands on stage for the first time in its history. Or its present. Or its future.

Jones directs a cast featuring **Oliver Alvin-Wilson, Franc Ashman, Adrianna Bertola, Lizzy Connolly, Amy Griffiths, Neil Haigh, Cosmo Jarvis, John Marquez, Matthew Needham** and **Sam Swainsbury**.

The set is designed by **Paul Steinberg**, with costume designed by **Nicky Gillibrand**, lighting design by **Mimi Jordan Sherin**, composition and sound by **Sarah Angliss**, sound by **Christopher Shutt**, movement direction by **Aletta Collins**, casting by **Julia Horan**, and illusions by **Richard Wiseman**.

Anne Washburn's plays include *Mr Burns: A Post Electric Play*, which received its European premiere at the Almeida in 2014. Other plays include *10 out of 12* (Premiere: at Soho Rep, NYC), *Antlia Pneumatica* (Premiere: Playwrights Horizons, NYC), *The Communist Dracula Pageant* (Premiere: ART, Boston), *A Devil at Noon* (Premiere: Actors Theater of Louisville, Kentucky), *I Have Loved Strangers* (Premiere: Clubbed Thumb Summerworks, NYC), *The Internationalist* (Premiere: 13P, NYC), *The Ladies* (Premiere: The Civilians, NYC), *The Small* (Premiere: Clubbed Thumb Summerworks, NYC), and translation

adaptations of Euripides' *Orestes* (Premiere: The Folger, Washington D.C.), and *Iphigenia In Aulis* (Premiere: Classic Stage Company, NYC). Awards include a Guggenheim, an Alpert, and a Laura Pels for an artist in mid-career. Anne is an associated artist with The Civilians, Clubbed Thumb, New Georges, and is an alumna of New Dramatists and 13P.

Richard Jones (Director) has directed theatre at the Young Vic, The Old Vic, the National Theatre, in the West End, for the Royal Court/Ambassadors, for the RSC, in New York at the Public Theatre and on Broadway. He has directed opera at the Royal Opera House, the ENO, Aix en Provence, Paris, Amsterdam, Glyndebourne, la Scala, Frankfurt, Munich, Berlin and at the Met in New York. In theatre he has been awarded Olivier Awards for *Too Clever by Half* (The Old Vic) and *Into the Woods* (Phoenix Theatre - West End), the Evening Standard Award as best director for *The Illusion* (The Old Vic). He was nominated for a Tony Award for *La Bête* on Broadway. He has been awarded three Olivier Awards in opera, for *Hansel and Gretel* (WNO), *Lady Macbeth of Mtsensk* (ROH) and for *The Mastersingers of Nuremberg* (ENO) which was also awarded a South Bank Show Award. He was given the Evening Standard Award for outstanding artistic achievement for his production of Wagner's *Ring* at the Royal Opera House. This year his recent Old Vic production of *The Hairy Ape* played at the New York Park Armory and was nominated for 6 Drama Desk nominations. He was appointed CBE in the 2015 New Year's Honours list.

ENDS

For all press enquiries and images, contact Alexander Milward, Press and Media Relations Manager, on 020 7288 4911 or amilward@almeida.co.uk

ALMEIDA LISTINGS INFORMATION

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The Twilight Zone

Based on stories by **Rod Serling, Charles Beaumont and Richard Matheson**

Adapted by **Anne Washburn**

Directed by **Richard Jones**

Press night: Tuesday 12 December at 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 – 7.30pm Monday – Saturday)

In person 10am – 7:30pm Monday – Saturday

Nearest Tube: Angel / Highbury & Islington

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

Access ***The Twilight Zone*** Captioned performance:
Friday 5 January 7:30pm
The Twilight Zone Audio Described performance:
Saturday 13 January 2.30pm (Touch Tour at 12.45pm)

Talkback Post-show discussion with members of the company
Free to same day ticket holders

The Twilight Zone Thursday 11 January

At least 500 £5 tickets per production are available to audiences aged 25 and under. Audiences aged 30 and under have access to 450 £15 tickets per production. See almeida.co.uk/concessions for further details.

Notes to Editors

CAST BIOGRAPHIES

Oliver Alvin-Wilson's theatre credits include *A Midsummer Night's Dream* at the Young Vic; *The Red Barn* at the National Theatre; *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Henry V* and *The Merchant of Venice* for Propeller Theatre; *Antigone* for Theatre Royal Stratford East; a UK tour of *Blue/Orange*; *Emperor and Galilean* and *All's Well That Ends Well* at the National Theatre. For television, his work includes *The Rebel*; *Collateral*; *Lovesick*; *From Cradle to Grave* and *Misfits*. His film work includes *The Huntsman*.

Franc Ashman's theatre credits include *The Royale* and *Perseverance Drive* at the Bush Theatre; *Torn* at the Royal Court; *Hopelessly Devoted* for Paines Plough; *This May Hurt A Bit* and *Bang, Bang, Bang* for Out Of Joint; and *People* at the National Theatre. For television, her work includes *Sick Note*; *The Child in Time*; *Liar*; *Apple Tree Yard*; *Prime Suspect 1973*; *The Windsors* and *Peep Show*. Her film work includes *A Streetcat Named Bob* and *The Ones Below*.

Adrianna Bertola's theatre credits include *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory* at the Theatre Royal Drury Lane; *Matilda the Musical* for the RSC; *Les Misérables* at the Queen's Theatre; *The Sound of Music* at the London Palladium. Her television work includes *Upstart Crow*, *Hank Zipster*, *Call the Midwife*, *The Little House*, *Little Einsteins* and *Casualty* (series regular Sharice Brooks). For film, her work includes *Nativity 2* and *The Runner*.

Lizzy Connolly's theatre credits include *On the Town* at Regent's Park Open Air Theatre; *Once in a Lifetime* at the Young Vic Theatre; *Vanities* at Trafalgar Studios; *Mrs Henderson Presents* at Theatre Royal Bath and in the West End; *Xanadu* at Southwark Playhouse; *Dirty Rotten Scoundrels* at the Savoy Theatre. For television, her work includes *The Windsors* and *Plebs*. Her film work includes the forthcoming *The High Window*.

Amy Griffiths' theatre credits include *Once in a Lifetime* at the Young Vic; *Chitty Chitty Bang Bang* at West Yorkshire Playhouse; *Everyman*, *An Oak Tree*, *Medea* and *The Magistrate* at the National Theatre; *Stephen Ward* at the Aldwych Theatre; *The Pajama Game* at Chichester Festival Theatre; *Crazy For You* and *Into The Woods* at Regent's Park Open Air Theatre. For television, her work includes *The Trails of Jimmy Rose* and *Spotless*. Her film work includes *London Road* and *Les Misérables*.

Cosmo Jarvis' theatre credits include *The Hairy Ape* on Broadway. His television work includes *Vera*; *The Humans*; *My Mother and Other Strangers*; *Moving On* and *The Naughty Room*. His film work includes the forthcoming *Annihilation*; *Hunter Killer*, *The Marker*, *Lady Macbeth*, *The Habit of Beauty* and *Spooks: The Greater Good*. Jarvis is also a singer-songwriter and has released four solo albums.

Neil Haigh's theatre credits include *The Trial* at the Young Vic; *World Cup 1966* at the Bristol Old Vic; *Everyday* at Tramway Glasgow; *The Irish Giant* at Southwark Playhouse; *Made Up* at Soho Theatre and *The Summerhouse* and *Increased Difficulty of Concentration* at the Gate Theatre; *Stalingrad* at the Sheffield Crucible Studio and *I Dare You* at West Yorkshire Playhouse.

John Marquez's previous work for the Almeida Theatre includes *House of Games* and *Chain Play II*. His other theatre credits include *Once in a Lifetime*, *Annie Get Your Gun* and *The Good Soul of Szechuan* at the Young Vic; *Dirty Rotten Scoundrels* at the Savoy Theatre; *Neville's Island* at Chichester Festival Theatre; *Privates on Parade* for Michael Grandage Company and *Ding Dong The Wicked* at the Royal Court Theatre. For television, his work includes *Doc Martin* (series regular PC Joe Penhale); *Death in Paradise*; *In the Club*; *Hotel Babylon*; *Suburban Shootout* and *Ronni Ancona & Co*.

Matthew Needham's previous work for the Almeida Theatre includes *The Treatment*. His other theatre credits include *Much Ado About Nothing*, *Imogen*, *The Comedy of Errors*, *Titus Andronicus* and *The Knight of the Burning Pestle* at Shakespeare's Globe; *Henry IV Parts I and II*, *Love's Sacrifice*, *The Jew of Malta*, *Candide* and *Titus Andronicus* for the RSC; *Our Country's Good* for Out of Joint and *There is a*

War at the National Theatre. For television, his work includes *Endeavour*, *The Hollow Crown: Part Two*; *Monroe* and *Sherlock*. His film work includes *The Ritual*.

Sam Swainsbury's theatre credits include *A Midsummer Night's Dream* and *Privates on Parade* for Michael Grandage Company; *The Taming of the Shrew* for the RSC; *When Did You Last See My Mother?* at Trafalgar Studios; *The Comedy of Errors* and *Richard II* for Propeller and *Hay Fever* at the Rose Theatre Kingston. His television work includes *Fearless*; *Mum*; *Atlantis* and *Harley Street*.

ABOUT THE ALMEIDA THEATRE

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. It 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. 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. In summer 2013, Rupert Goold joined the Almeida as Artistic Director. Under his leadership, notable productions have included *American Psycho: a new musical thriller* (transferred to Broadway); *Ghosts* (transferred to the West End and won three Olivier Awards); *Chimerica* (won eight Olivier Awards and transferred to Broadway); *King Charles III* (transferred to the West End, won the Olivier Award for Best New Play, transferred to Broadway, toured the UK and Sydney, and received a BBC television adaptation) and *Oresteia* (transferred to the West End and won the Olivier Award for Best Director). This year has seen West End transfers for *Hamlet*, directed by Robert Icke, *Ink*, directed by Goold, and Icke's new adaptation of *Mary Stuart* transfers to the West End from January 2018, before touring to Bath, Salford and Cambridge.

In summer 2015, the Almeida presented *Almeida Greeks*, which included three new productions of *Oresteia*, *Bakchhai* and *Medea*, and live durational readings of *The Iliad* and *The Odyssey* which were both live streamed achieving ground-breaking levels of online engagement.

In May 2017, the Almeida launched *Figures of Speech*, a major digital film project interrogating the vitality of speech and rhetoric, and what visionary leadership sounds like. A second series of films is currently being released with a new film launched every Monday. www.speech.almeida.co.uk

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The Almeida is grateful to its Principal Partner Aspen, in its third 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.