

ALMEIDA THEATRE

Press Release: Tuesday 2 January

The cast is announced for Rebecca Frecknall's revival of Tennessee Williams' classic *Summer and Smoke* at the Almeida Theatre.

SUMMER AND SMOKE

By Tennessee Williams

Directed by Rebecca Frecknall

Almeida Theatre

Saturday 24 February – Saturday 7 April 2018

Press night: Wednesday 7 March at 7pm

The girl who said 'no' — she doesn't exist anymore, she died last summer — suffocated in smoke from something on fire inside her.

In the heat of summer – under the wings of an angel – Alma meets John.

Trapped between desire and fear in a life of obligation, her world turns upside down in the search for salvation.

Joining the previously announced **Patsy Ferran** are **Seb Carrington, Nancy Crane, Eric MacLennan, Forbes Masson, Matthew Needham, Tok Stephen** and **Anjana Vasan**.

The production is designed by **Tom Scutt**, with lighting design by **Lee Curran**, composition by **Angus MacRae**, sound by **Carolyn Downing** and casting by **Julia Horan**.

Tennessee Williams, whose plays include *The Glass Menagerie, A Streetcar Named Desire, Cat on a Hot Tin Roof* and *Sweet Bird of Youth*, transformed the American stage through his poetic writing and provocative subject matters. Williams was awarded two Pulitzer Prizes and Tony Awards, three Drama Critic Circle Awards and the Presidential Medal of Freedom. *Summer and Smoke* was first performed on Broadway in 1948, and ran for the first time in the West End in 2006.

Rebecca Frecknall (Director) was previously on the Almeida Resident Director Scheme. She worked as Resident Director on *Ink* (also Duke of York's Theatre) and Movement Director on *Albion*. Prior to the

Almeida, she was Resident Director at Northern Stage from 2015-2016 after winning the acclaimed RTYDS bursary. During this time she directed *Idomeneus; What Are They Like?*, *Educating Rita* (for Durham Gala) and *Julie* by Zinnie Harris. Before taking up this role, Rebecca worked as a freelance Director in London and has worked with the National Theatre, RSC and Young Vic. She was the 2012 recipient of the National Theatre Studio's Resident Director Bursary and was awarded one of the Young Vic's Jerwood Assistant Director Bursaries in 2011.

ENDS

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

For cast headshots, please use the link: <https://we.tl/k7RNo4Yp3W>

ALMEIDA LISTINGS INFORMATION

Saturday 24 February – Saturday 7 April 2018

Summer and Smoke

By **Tennessee Williams**

Directed by **Rebecca Frecknall**

Press night: Wednesday 7 March at 7pm

Address Almeida Theatre, Almeida Street, London, N1 1TA

Café Bar The Almeida Café Bar is open from 11am -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 [almeidatheatre](https://www.facebook.com/almeidatheatre)

Instagram [@almeida_theatre](https://www.instagram.com/almeida_theatre)

Access Captioned performance:
Monday 26 March 7:30pm
Audio Described performance:
Saturday 24 March 2.30pm (Touch Tour at 12.45pm)

Talkback Post-show discussion with members of the company
Free to same day ticket holders
Monday 26 March

Notes to Editors

CAST BIOGRAPHIES

Seb Carrington plays Archie Kramer. His theatre work includes *Ivanov* for the Boris Shchukin Theatre Institute. His television work includes *Father Brown* and *The Crown*.

Nancy Crane plays Mrs Winemiller/Mrs Bassett. She previously appeared at the Almeida in *Against* and *Chimerica*. Other theatre credits include *The Sewing Group*, *Now or Later*, *The Sweetest Thing in Baseball* and *The Strip* at the Royal Court; *Teddy Ferrara* at the Donmar Warehouse; *Next Fall* at Southwark Playhouse; *The Children's Hour* in the West End; *Design For Living* at The Old Vic; *Love The Sinner* and *Angels in America* at the National Theatre; *Chains of Dew* and *Trifles* at the Orange Tree Theatre. Her television work includes *Genius*; *Doctors*; *Nixon's The One*; *Upstairs Downstairs*. For film, her work includes *The Current War*; *Megan Leavey*; *Florence Foster Jenkins*; *The Danish Girl*; *Woman in Gold*; and *Batman: The Dark Knight*.

Patsy Ferran plays Alma. Her theatre credits include *Speech and Debate* at Trafalgar Studios; *As You Like It* and *Treasure Island* at the National Theatre; *The Merchant Of Venice* at the RSC; *The Angry Brigade* for Paines Plough and *Blithe Spirit* at the Gielgud Theatre. Patsy's television credits include *Guerrilla* and *Jamestown* (series regular). Film credits include *Darkest Hour*, *God's Own Country*, *Tulip Fever*, *The National Phobia*; *Association's Day Out*. Patsy won a Critics' Circle Theatre Award for Most Promising Newcomer in 2014.

Eric MacLennan plays Papa Gonzales/Vernon. For theatre his work includes *1984* at Creation Theatre; *Government Inspector* and *Anne Get Your Gun* at Young Vic; *Henry V* at Southwark Playhouse and *Cyrano de Bergerac* at Manchester Royal Exchange. His television credits include *The Night Manager* and *The Borgias*. For film, his work includes *Rogue One*; *Mindhorn*; *Anna Karenina* and *Tale of Tales*.

Forbes Masson plays Rev Winemiller/Dr Buchanan. His recent theatre work includes *Big Fish* at The Other Palace; *Boudica* at Shakespeare's Globe; *Terror* at Lyric Hammersmith; *Travesties* at the Menier

Chocolate Factory and Apollo Theatre; *A Midsummer Night's Dream* at Theatre Royal Bath; *Doctor Faustus* at the Duke of York's; *Mr Foote's Other Leg* at Hampstead Theatre and Theatre Royal Haymarket and *The Ruling Class*, *Richard III* and *Macbeth* at Trafalgar Studios. His television work includes *Catastrophe*; *Shetland: Dead Water* and *Monarch of the Glen*.

Matthew Needham plays John Buchanan. He is currently appearing in *The Twilight Zone* at the Almeida and was previously in *The Treatment* in 2017. 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*.

Tok Stephen plays Roger Doremus/Dusty. He recently graduated from RADA and his professional theatre work includes *Boudica* at Shakespeare's Globe.

Anjana Vasan plays Rosemary/Rosa Gonzales/Nellie. Her theatre work includes *King Lear* and *A Midsummer Night's Dream* at Shakespeare's Globe; *Life of Galileo* at the Young Vic; *Image of an Unknown Young Woman* at the Gate Theatre; *Dara* at the National Theatre and *Macbeth* at Manchester International Festival/Broadway. For television, her work includes *Hang Ups*; *Ill Behaviour*; *Black Mirror*; *Call the Midwife* and *Fresh Meat*. Her film work includes *The Children Act*, *Cinderella* and *Jack Ryan*.

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*, *Bakkhai* 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. The third series of films will be launched in spring 2018. www.speech.almeida.co.uk

3000 £5 tickets are available to audiences aged 25 and under each year.

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.