

ALMEIDA THEATRE

Press release: Thursday 26 April

The Almeida Theatre today announces the full cast for its revival of Sophie Treadwell's *Machinal*, directed by Natalie Abrahami.

MACHINAL

By Sophie Treadwell

Directed by **Natalie Abrahami**; Designed by **Miriam Buether**

Costume Design by **Alex Lowde**; Choreography by **Arthur Pita**

Lighting Design by **Jack Knowles**; Composition and Sound by **Ben and Max Ringham**

Casting by **Julia Horan**

Monday 4 June – Saturday 21 July 2018

Press night: Monday 11 June 7pm

"Your skin oughtn't to curl - ought it - when he just comes near you - ought it? That's wrong, ain't it? You don't get over that, do you - ever, do you or do you?"

The city. A woman is restless. A woman is suffocating. A woman is silenced.

The woman revolts.

The cast includes **Nathalie Armin, Emily Berrington, Khali Best, Denise Black, Demetri Goritsas, Andrew Lewis, Jonathan Livingstone, John Mackay, Alan Morrissey, Kirsty Rider, Augustina Seymour** and **Dwane Walcott**.

Natalie Abrahami directs a visceral production of Sophie Treadwell's masterpiece.

Sophie Treadwell (1885 – 1970) was a playwright and journalist. She was the author of 39 plays including *Machinal* (most recently revived in London at the National Theatre in 1993), *Gringo*, *O Nightingale*, *Ladies Leave*, *Lone Valley*, *Plumes in the Dust* and *Hope for a Harvest*.

Natalie Abrahami directs. She was previously Artistic Director of the Gate Theatre from 2007-2012 and Associate Director at the Young Vic from 2013-2016. Her credits include *Wings, Ah, Wilderness!, Happy Days* and *After Miss Julie* at the Young Vic; *Queen Anne* for the RSC and at the Theatre Royal Haymarket; *Hitchcock Blonde* at Hull Truck Theatre; *Yerma, How To Be An Other Woman, The Kreutzer Sonata, Vanya, Unbroken, Women in Love* and *The Internationalist* at the Gate Theatre; *Pericles* at Regent's Park Open Air Theatre and *A Midsummer Night's Dream* for Headlong.

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

Monday 4 June – Saturday 21 July

Machinal

By **Sophie Treadwell**

Directed by **Natalie Abrahami**

Press night: Monday 11 June 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 Captioned performance:
Tuesday 10 July 7:30pm
Audio Described performance:
Saturday 7 July 2.30pm (Touch Tour at 12.45pm)

Talkback Post-show discussion with members of the company
Free to same day ticket holders
Thursday 12 July

Almeida Questions An eclectic programme of pre-show discussions, which consider some of the questions raised by the work on our stage
Monday 25 June 6pm – *Unsung Heroines*

Notes to Editors

CAST BIOGRAPHIES

Nathalie Armin plays various parts. Her theatre credits include *Limehouse* at the Donmar Warehouse; *Another World: Losing Our Daughters to Islamic State*, *The Motherf**ker with the Hat*, *Dara* and *Behind the Beautiful Forevers* at the National Theatre; *Arabian Nights* and *Othello* at the RSC and *Crazyblackmuthaf**kin'self* at the Royal Court. For television her recent credits include *Marcella*; *Philip K. Dick's Electric Dreams*; *Unforgotten* and *Humans*. Her film work includes *Final Score*; *Denial* and *Grow Your Own*.

Emily Berrington plays Young Woman. She returns to the Almeida having appeared in *Children's Children*. Her other theatre credits include *Dead Funny* at the Vaudeville Theatre. For television, her work includes *Humans*; *The Miniaturist*; *Sons of Liberty*; *24*; *Outnumbered* and *The White Queen*. For film, she has appeared in *The Hippopotamus*; *The Inbetweeners 2*; *The Last Showing* and *The Look of Love*.

Khali Best plays various parts. His theatre credits include *Choir Boy* at the Royal Court. His television work includes *Eastenders* (as series regular Dexter) and for film, his credits include *Show Dogs*.

Denise Black plays Mother. Her theatre credits include *The Cherry Orchard* at Sherman Theatre; *Winter Hill* at Bolton Octagon; *Pack* at Finborough Theatre; a UK tour of *Sister Act*; a UK tour of *Calendar Girls*; *Sisters* at Sheffield Crucible; *Aristo* at Chichester Festival

Theatre; *Roots* at Royal Exchange Manchester and *The Seagull* at the Royal Court. Her television work includes series regular roles in *Coronation Street* and *Emmerdale*.

Demetri Goritsas plays various parts. He returns to the Almeida having appeared in *Mr Burns*. His other theatre credits include *Last of the Boys* at Southwark Playhouse; *The Sweetest Thing in Baseball* and *Boy Gets Girl* at the Royal Court; *His Girl Friday*, *A Prayer for Owen Meany* and *Finding the Sun* at the National Theatre. His recent television work includes *Modus*; *Black Mirror*, *A Poet in New York*; *Nixon's The One*; *Episodes* and *Twenty Twelve*. His recent film credits include *The Catcher Was a Spy*; *Borg McEnroe*; *Papillon*; *The Darkest Hour*; *Snowden*; *Everest* and *Rush*.

Andrew Lewis plays various parts. His theatre credits include *Network*, *Deep Blue Sea* and *Salome* at the National Theatre; *Henry VI Parts I, II and III* and *Richard III* for the RSC; *Buried Child* at Trafalgar Studios; *Miss Julie* at Theatre Royal Haymarket. For television, his work includes *Holby City* (series regular) and his film credits include *The Man with the Iron Heart*.

Jonathan Livingstone plays George H Jones. His theatre credits include *The Caretaker* at the Bristol Old Vic; *Romeo and Juliet* at Shakespeare's Globe; *Now We Are Here* at the Young Vic; *Our Country's Good*, *Treasure Island* and *War Horse* at the National Theatre; *Tis Pity She's A Whore* for Cheek by Jowl and *Taming of the Shrew* for the RSC. His work for television includes *Chewing Gum* and his film credits include *Still Life*.

John Mackay plays various parts. He returns to the Almeida having appeared in *Oresteia*. His other theatre credits include *The Sewing Group* at the Royal Court; *Wild*, *Drawing the Line* and *55 Days* at Hampstead Theatre; *Measure for Measure* at the Young Vic; *Richard III* for Shakespeare at the Tobacco Factory and *Little Eagles*, *Anthony and Cleopatra*, *King Lear*, *The Winter's Tale*, *Julius Caesar* and *The Grainstore* for the RSC. His television work includes *Hollow Crown II* and *The Honourable Woman*.

Alan Morrissey plays various parts. His theatre credits include *Beautiful* at Aldwych Theatre; *I Can't Sing* at the Palladium; *Boiling Frogs* at Southwark Playhouse; *Romeo and Juliet* at Shakespeare's Globe and on European tour; *The Seagull Project* at Hampstead Theatre; *James and the Giant Peach* at Bolton Octagon and *Solstice*, *Twelfth Night* and *As You Like It* for the RSC. For film, he appeared in *The League of Gentleman's Apocalypse*.

Kirsty Rider plays various parts. Her theatre credits include *The Great Wave* and *St George and the Dragon* at the National Theatre and *Pride and Prejudice* at Regent's Park Open Air Theatre and on UK tour. Her television work includes *Space Pirates*.

Dwane Walcott plays Dick Roe. His theatre credits include *One Night in Miami* and *Coriolanus* at the Donmar Warehouse; *Henry V* at Regent's Park Open Air Theatre; *The Iphigenia Quartet* at the Gate Theatre; *Hamlet* for Sonia Friedman Productions; *The Twits* at the Royal Court; *Titus Andronicus*, *A Mad World*, *My Masters* and *Candide* for the RSC and *Damned by Despair* at the National Theatre. His television work includes *Into the Badlands* and *Our Girl*. For film, his credits include *Mindhorn*.

Augustina Seymour plays various parts. Her theatre credits include *Playing for Time* at Sheffield Crucible; *Hitchcock Blonde* at Hull Truck Theatre; *The Nutcracker* at Nuffield Southampton Theatres and *A Doll's House* at Theatre by the Lake.

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* (transferred to the West End and won five Olivier Awards); *1984* (transferred to West End, Broadway and Australia); *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 was adapted for BBC television) and *Oresteia* (transferred to the West End and won the Olivier Award for Best Director). 2017 saw West End transfers for *Hamlet*, directed by Robert Icke (also screened on the BBC) and *Ink*,

directed by Goold, and Icke's new adaptation of *Mary Stuart* recently finished a West End run. The Almeida was named London Theatre of the Year at the 2018 Stage Awards.

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 was launched in March 2018 at www.speech.almeida.co.uk. The Almeida is grateful to the Esmée Fairbairn Foundation and a range of generous individual supporters for making this project possible.

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

The Almeida Theatre is a registered charity and is dependent on the support of individuals, companies, trusts and foundations. Our small auditorium, even when sold out, only provides 40% of the funding we need to operate. We therefore need to raise more than £2m each year to realise our artistic ambitions, reach new audiences, and secure the financial future of the theatre.

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 grateful for the support of Arts Council England.