

ALMEIDA THEATRE

Press release: Thursday 20 September

Artistic Director Rupert Goold today announces the Almeida Theatre's new season:

- Simon Russell Beale takes the title role in Shakespeare's *The Tragedy of King Richard the Second*, directed by Joe Hill-Gibbins.
- For the first time, the Almeida collaborates with National Theatre Live to broadcast *The Tragedy of King Richard the Second* on Tuesday 15 January 2019 to cinemas in the UK and internationally.
- The world premiere of *Shipwreck*, a new play by Anne Washburn, directed by Rupert Goold.
- Almeida Associate Director Rebecca Frecknall and Patsy Ferran reunite, following *Summer and Smoke*, for Chekhov's *Three Sisters*, in a new version by Cordelia Lynn.
- Almeida For Free, the annual free festival for 25s and under, to take place during the run of *Three Sisters*, following the success of previous festivals during *Hamlet* and *Summer and Smoke*.
- The world premiere stage adaptation of Thomas Vinterberg's acclaimed film *The Hunt*, adapted by David Farr and directed by Rupert Goold.
- Tinuke Craig directs a new version of Maxim Gorky's *Vassa*, adapted by Mike Bartlett.
- Also announced today, the Almeida's new Youth Advisory Board, a group of young people aged between 18-25 who will advise on key areas of the company's work.

Rupert Goold said, "It is incredibly exciting to be announcing this slate of work today, featuring artists new to the theatre, alongside names more familiar to the Almeida. The season begins with two plays which explore the seduction of power, one written at the end of the 16th century about an English king and one hot-off-the-press digging into the current American political culture. The former sees director Joe Hill-Gibbins return to the theatre, following his compelling production of *Little Revolution* in 2014, alongside Simon Russell Beale, who played Macbeth here in 2005, in a role that has been waiting for him. The latter brings the fearlessly original Anne Washburn back to the Almeida after *Mr Burns* and *The Twilight Zone*.

“Next up, we are thrilled to be reuniting Rebecca Frecknall and Patsy Ferran, following their sensational production of *Summer and Smoke* earlier this year (and soon to open in the West End), for a new version of *Three Sisters* written by Cordelia Lynn. The show also will see the return of our annual, essential Almeida For Free festival. The two previous festivals, during *Summer and Smoke* and *Hamlet*, saw 2300 people aged 25 and under attend a performance for free, and we can’t wait to throw open the theatre doors again to young people for a programme free performances, talks and masterclasses.

“15 years after *Festen*, one of the Almeida’s most celebrated shows, Thomas Vinterberg’s work returns to the theatre with *The Hunt* adapted by David Farr from Vinterberg and Tobias Lindholm’s 2012 film, *Jagten*, a terrifying examination of accusation and denial in a world premiere for the stage.

“And concluding the season, we are delighted to welcome exciting director Tinuke Craig to the theatre for the first time to work with Mike Bartlett on a new version of Gorky’s darkly comic, family drama *Vassa*.

“Alongside our work here at the theatre, *Summer and Smoke* opens at the Duke of York’s Theatre in November and Spring 2019 will see our production of James Graham’s *Ink* head across the pond.

“It’s also fantastic to be able to announce our new Youth Advisory Board – a group of fiercely intelligent, talented young people who will be offering thoughts, suggestions and guidance to the Almeida management team on all aspects of the theatre’s operation.”

THE TRAGEDY OF KING RICHARD THE SECOND

by **William Shakespeare**

Direction: **Joe Hill-Gibbins**; Design: **Utz**

Monday 10 December 2018 – Saturday 2 February 2019

Press night: Tuesday 18 December 7pm

NT Live screening: Tuesday 15 January 2019 (tickets go on sale from Monday 22 October)

Cast includes: **Simon Russell Beale**.

King. The male ruler of an independent state; one who inherits the position by right of birth.

King of the castle. A children's game in which each child attempts to stand alone on a mound, or sandcastle, by pushing other children off it.

Simon Russell Beale plays King Richard II in a new production about the limits of power, directed by Joe Hill-Gibbins (*Little Revolution*, *Absolute Hell*).

Joe Hill-Gibbins previously directed *Little Revolution* for the Almeida Theatre. His other credits include *Absolute Hell* and *Edward II* (National Theatre); *A Midsummer Night's Dream*; *Measure for Measure*; *The Changeling*; *The Glass Menagerie*; *The Beauty Queen of Leenane*; *A Respectable Wedding* (Young Vic); *The Girlfriend Experience* (Young Vic and Royal Court/Drum Theatre Plymouth); *Bliss*; *The Family Plays* and *A Girl in a Car with a Man* (Royal Court); *The Fever* (Theatre 503 in association with the Young Vic) and *A Thought in Three Acts* (BAC). He was previously Associate Director at the Young Vic and Deputy Artistic Director at the Royal Court.

Simon Russell Beale returns to the Almeida for the first time since *Macbeth* in 2005. His theatre credits include *The Lehman Trilogy*; *King Lear*; *Timon of Athens*; *Collaborators*; *London Assurance*; *Landscape*; *Major Barbara*; *Much Ado About Nothing*; *The Alchemist*; *Life of Galileo*; *Hamlet*; *Othello*; *Richard III* (National Theatre); *The Tempest* (RSC); *Temple* (Donmar Warehouse); *Privates on Parade* (Michael Grandage Company/Noel Coward Theatre); *The Hothouse* (Jamie Lloyd Company/Trafalgar Studios); *The Cherry Orchard* and *The Winter's Tale* (Old Vic/Brooklyn Academy/world tour). His television work includes *Penny Dreadful*; *The Hollow Crown* (*Henry IV Parts 1 and 2*; *Henry V*); *Spooks* and forthcoming *Vanity Fair*. For film, his work includes *The Death of Stalin*; *The Legend of Tarzan*; *Into the Woods*; *My Week with Marilyn*; *Deep Blue Sea* and the forthcoming *Radioactive*.

World Premiere

SHIPWRECK

by **Anne Washburn**

Direction: **Rupert Goold**; Design: **Miriam Buether**

Monday 11 February – Saturday 30 March 2019

Press night: Tuesday 19 February 7pm

From across the room I saw the President, torchlight playing across his visage.

And the violins began, and the low rumble of the timpani.

I screamed. I ran.

An old farmhouse upstate. Snow is falling. Mountains are falling. Something is breaking apart.

You are formally invited to dinner with the 45th president of the United States.

Anne Washburn (*The Twilight Zone, Mr Burns*) returns to the Almeida with a sinister and sensational new play, directed by Almeida Artistic Director Rupert Goold.

Anne Washburn's world premiere adaptation of *The Twilight Zone* ran at the Almeida in 2017/18 and her play *Mr Burns: A Post Electric Play* 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), *Little Bunny Foo Foo* (Premiere: Actors Theater of Louisville, Kentucky), *The Small* (Premiere: Clubbed Thumb Summerworks, NYC), and transadaptations 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. She is an associated artist with The Civilians, Clubbed Thumb, New Georges, and is an alumna of New Dramatists and 13P.

Rupert Goold is the Almeida's Artistic Director where he has previously directed *Albion, Ink* (transferred to the West End), *Richard III* (broadcast live to cinemas around the world), *Medea, The Merchant of Venice, King Charles III* (West End, Broadway, UK and international tour) and *American Psycho* (also Broadway). He was Artistic Director of Headlong from 2005 until 2013 where his work included *The Effect, ENRON, Earthquakes in London* and *Decade*. Other theatre credits include *Made in Dagenham* (West End); *The Last Days of Judas Iscariot* (Almeida); *Macbeth* (Chichester Festival Theatre, West End and Broadway) and *No Man's Land* (The Gate, Dublin and West End). He has twice been the recipient of the Laurence Olivier, Critics' Circle and Evening Standard Awards for Best Director. He was Associate Director at the

Royal Shakespeare Company from 2009 to 2012 and was Artistic Director of Northampton Theatres from 2002 to 2005. On film, he directed the BAFTA nominated *Richard II*, part of *The Hollow Crown*; *Macbeth* for the BBC; feature film *True Story* starring James Franco and Jonah Hill; a television adaptation of his production of Mike Bartlett's *King Charles III* for BBC Two, and the forthcoming feature film *Judy*. He was awarded a CBE for services to drama in 2017.

THREE SISTERS

by **Anton Chekhov**

in a version by **Cordelia Lynn**

Direction: **Rebecca Frecknall**; Design: **Hildegard Bechtler**

Monday 8 April – Saturday 1 June 2019

Press night: Tuesday 16 April 7pm

Almeida For Free festival: during week commencing 27 May

Cast includes: **Patsy Ferran, Pearl Chanda.**

We have no happiness and it doesn't exist, we only desire it.

1901. Moscow.

In a drawing room, on a summer day, three sisters look for a new start.

Olga, the eldest. Masha, the middle child. Irina, the youngest.

2019. London.

In a drawing room, on a summer day, three sisters look for a new start.

Olga, the eldest. Masha, the middle child. Irina, the youngest.

The clock strikes. Life is not yet over.

Following her critically acclaimed production of *Summer and Smoke*, Almeida Associate Director Rebecca Frecknall directs Anton Chekhov's *Three Sisters*, in a new adaptation by Cordelia Lynn (*One for Sorrow, Lela & Co*).

Rebecca Frecknall is Associate Director at the Almeida Theatre and was previously on the Almeida's Resident Director Scheme supported by the Eranda Rothschild Foundation. For the Almeida, she previously directed *Summer and Smoke* (transferring to the West End in November 2018) and worked as Resident Director on *Ink* at the Almeida/Duke of York's Theatre and Movement Director on *Albion*. Her

production of *Steel* by Chris Bush has just opened in the Sheffield Crucible Studio. 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, she 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.

Cordelia Lynn's plays include *One For Sorrow*, *Best Served Cold*, *Lela & Co*, *Believers Anonymous* and *After The War*. Her opera writing credits include *Miranda* and other vocal work includes *Heave*, *The White Princess* and *you'll drown dear*. She was the recipient of the Harold Pinter Commission 2017.

Patsy Ferran previously appeared in *Summer and Smoke* at the Almeida Theatre. Her other theatre credits include *My Mum's A Twat* (Royal Court); *Speech and Debate* (Trafalgar Studios); *As You Like It* and *Treasure Island* (National Theatre); *The Merchant Of Venice* (RSC); *The Angry Brigade* (Paines Plough) and *Blithe Spirit* (Gielgud Theatre). Her 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*. She won a Critics' Circle Theatre Award for Most Promising Newcomer in 2014.

Pearl Chanda previously appeared at the Almeida in *Ink* (also West End). Her other credits include *One For Sorrow* (Royal Court); *Julie* (Northern Stage Theatre); *The Glass Menagerie* (Nuffield Southampton Theatres); *The Angry Brigade* (Bush Theatre); *Crave* and *4.48 Psychosis* (Sheffield Theatres); *The Two Gentlemen of Verona* (RSC); *Godchild* (Hampstead Theatre); and *The Seagull* (Headlong Theatre). Her television credits include *Motherland*, *Endeavour* and *Arthur and George*. For film, her work includes *The Final Haunting* and *Mr Turner*.

World Premiere

THE HUNT

by **Thomas Vinterberg** and **Tobias Lindholm**

adapted by **David Farr**

Direction: **Rupert Goold**

Monday 17 June – Saturday 3 August 2019

Press night: Wednesday 26 June 7pm

We are a small community. The happiness of our children is everything. Our hopes and dreams rest in these tiny souls.

In a small town in northern Denmark, the children celebrate Harvest Festival.

In the forest by the water the men of the lodge stand naked in the cold. This is their country. This is their song.

In the shadows a lonely child gives a strange man her heart.

The hunt begins.

Almeida Artistic Director Rupert Goold directs *The Hunt* by David Farr (*The Night Manager*, *Spooks*), based on the critically acclaimed Danish film thriller *Jagten*, by Thomas Vinterberg and Tobias Lindholm.

David Farr's plays include *The Heart of Robin Hood*, *The UN Inspector*, and adaptations of *The Odyssey* and Kafka's *Metamorphosis*. His writing for television includes an episode of *Philip K Dick's Electric Dreams* (also director); *The Night Manager*, *Spooks* and the forthcoming series *Hanna*, based on his 2011 film of the same name. His film writing work includes *Hanna* and *The Ones Below* (also director). He has previously been Artistic Director at the Gate Theatre, Bristol Old Vic and Lyric Theatre Hammersmith and he was also Associate Director at the RSC where he directed several Shakespeare plays and Harold Pinter's *The Homecoming*.

VASSA

by **Maxim Gorky**

adapted by **Mike Bartlett**

Direction: **Tinuke Craig**

Monday 7 October – Saturday 23 November 2019

Press night: Tuesday 15 October 7pm

There are no miracles in this world. Only those we make for ourselves.

It's 8am and a revolt is underway.

The father is dying. The son is spying. The wife is cheating. The uncle is stealing. The mother is scheming. The dynasty is crumbling.

One house. One fortune. One victor.

Tinuke Craig (Genesis Future Directors Award, *Random/Generations*) makes her Almeida debut with a new production of Maxim Gorky's savagely funny play, adapted by multi award-winning playwright Mike Bartlett (*Albion, King Charles III*).

Tinuke Craig's directing work includes *Random/Generations* (Chichester Festival Theatre); *I Call My Brothers* (Gate Theatre) and *dirty butterfly* (Young Vic). As an Assistant/Associate director, her credits include *wonder.land* (National Theatre); *Hamlet* and *All's Well That Ends Well* (RSC) and *The Changeling* (Young Vic). She was the Gate Theatre's Associate Director from 2015-2016. In 2014 she was the winner of the Genesis Future Director Award. She is an Associate Artist of HighTide, a selector for the National Student Drama Festival, an Associate of the National Youth Theatre, and an Education Associate Practitioner at the RSC. She also regularly directs at Mountview, RADA and LAMDA.

Mike Bartlett's plays for the Almeida include *Albion, Game* and the multi-award winning *King Charles III* (Olivier Award - Best New Play) which premiered at the Almeida before West End and Broadway transfers, a UK and international tour. His television adaptation of the play was broadcast on BBC in 2017. Other plays include *Wild; An Intervention; Bull* (won the Olivier Award for Outstanding Achievement in an Affiliate Theatre); an adaptation of *Medea; Chariots of Fire; 13; Decade* (co-writer); *Earthquakes in London; Love, Love, Love; Cock* (Olivier Award for Outstanding Achievement in an Affiliate Theatre), *Contractions* and *My Child Artefacts*. His writing for television includes *Press; Trauma; Doctor Foster* and *King Charles III*.

AWAY FROM THE ALMEIDA

SUMMER AND SMOKE IN THE WEST END

As announced earlier this year, Almeida Associate Director Rebecca Frecknall's acclaimed production of Tennessee Williams' *Summer and Smoke* transfers to the Duke of York's for a limited run from 10 November 2018 – 19 January 2019 (press night: Tuesday 20 November). The Almeida production is produced in the West End by Sonia Freidman Productions.

INK ON BROADWAY

Rupert Goold's production of James Graham's *Ink* heads to Broadway, presented by Manhattan Theatre Club, the Almeida Theatre and Sonia Friedman Production at the Samuel J. Friedman Theatre on Broadway. Previews begin Tuesday 2 April 2019 and the production opens on Wednesday 24 April. Casting to be announced.

YOUTH ADVISORY BOARD

The Almeida's new **Youth Advisory Board** is a group of young people aged between 18-25 who will offer guidance and opinion to the Almeida's management team. The Youth Board exists to provoke, inspire and

create positive change at the Almeida and consists of 9 young people between the ages of 18 and 25 who are interested in arts leadership. They meet regularly as a group and are in dialogue with the Almeida Board and the senior management team at the Almeida. The Board members are Helen Baldwin, Dipo Baruwa-Etti, Simeon Blake-Hall, Liz Daramola, Chloe Evans, Emma Groome, Kripa Gurung, Sarisha Kumar and Aaron McGregor.

ENDS

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

For images use this link: <https://we.tl/t-hzCAuFnnQN>

BOOKING DATES:

The Tragedy of King Richard the Second:

Bronze, Silver and Gold Friends - Tuesday 25 September
10am

Almeida Friends - Thursday 27 September 10am

General sale - Thursday 4 October 10am

NT Live on sale - from Monday 22 October

Shipwreck and Three Sisters:

Bronze, Silver and Gold Friends - Tuesday 13 November
10am

Almeida Friends - Thursday 15 November 10am

General sale - Thursday 22 November 10am

The Hunt and Vassa:

On sale in early 2019.

ALMEIDA LISTINGS INFORMATION

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

Performance times

All productions except *Shipwreck*:

Evening performances at 7.30pm

Wednesday and Saturday Matinees at 2.30pm

Shipwreck performance times:

Evening performances at 7pm

Wednesday and Saturday performances 1:30pm

All press night performances at 7.00pm

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

PRODUCTIONS THE TRAGEDY OF KING RICHARD THE SECOND

Monday 10 December – Saturday 2 February

Press night: Tuesday 18 December 7pm

SHIPWRECK

Monday 11 February – Saturday 30 March

Press night: Tuesday 19 February 7pm

THREE SISTERS

Monday 8 April – Saturday 1 June

Press night: Tuesday 16 April 7pm

THE HUNT

Monday 17 June – Saturday 3 August

Press night: Wednesday 26 June 7pm

VASSA

Monday 7 October – Saturday 23 November

Press night: Tuesday 15 October 7pm

Access

Richard II Audio Described performance:

Saturday 26 January 2:30pm (Touch Tour at 12.45pm)

Richard II Captioned performance:

Thursday 24 January 7:30pm

Shipwreck Audio Described performance:

Saturday 23 March 1:30pm (Touch Tour at 12pm)

Shipwreck Captioned performance:

Thursday 21 March 7pm

Three Sisters Audio Described performance:

Saturday 11 May 2.30pm (Touch Tour at 12.45pm)

Three Sisters Captioned performance:

Friday 17 May 7.30pm

The Hunt Audio Described performance:

Saturday 20 July 2.30pm (Touch Tour at 12.45pm)

The Hunt Captioned performance:

Thursday 11 July 7.30pm

Almeida Questions An eclectic programme of pre-show discussions, which consider some of the questions raised by the work on our stage

Me, My Selfie and I – Monday 21 January 6pm

Taking Care: The Politics of Transracial Adoption – Monday 4 March 5:30pm

A Woman's Place – Monday 13 May 6pm

Watch past events at almeida.co.uk/explore

ABOUT THE ALMEIDA THEATRE

The Almeida Theatre 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.

Since 2013, the Almeida has been led by Artistic Director Rupert Goold. During his tenure, 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). Recently, there have been West End transfers for Robert Icke's productions of *Hamlet* (also screened on the BBC) and *Mary Stuart, Ink*, directed by Goold, and Rebecca Frecknall's production *Summer & Smoke* transfers to the Duke of York's Theatre in November 2018. The Almeida was named London Theatre of the Year at the 2018 Stage Awards.

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. The small auditorium, even when sold out, only provides 40% of the funding we need to operate. Therefore, more than £2m each year needs to be raised in order 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.