

# THE ALMEIDA THEATRE & RON FOGELMAN ANNOUNCE THE WEST END TRANSFER OF THE SELL OUT PRODUCTION OF



### BASED ON STORIES BY ROD SERLING, CHARLES BEAUMONT & RICHARD MATHESON

### ADAPTED FOR THE STAGE BY ANNE WASHBURN & DIRECTED BY THE MULTI AWARD-WINNING RICHARD JONES

## OPENING AT THE AMBASSADORS THEATRE FROM 4 MARCH 2019 & ALL TICKETS FOR PREVIEWS AVAILABLE FOR £25 AND UNDER

"Washburn wryly posits the seminal sci-fi series as a cycle of legends on which contemporary America is founded."

**TIME OUT** 

"Richard Jones's funny & frightening production"

METRO

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TIME OUT, EVENING STANDARD, INDEPENDENT, THE STAGE, MAIL ON SUNDAY

You are about to enter another dimension, a dimension not only of sight and sound but of mind. A journey into a wondrous land of imagination.

Next stop, The Twilight Zone.

After a sell-out Almeida run, *The Twilight Zone* will transfer to the West End, and will run at the Ambassadors Theatre from 4 March 2019. Adapted by **Anne Washburn** (*Mr Burns*) and directed by the multi award-winning director (winner of 7 Olivier Awards), **Richard Jones**, this production of the acclaimed classic CBS television series *The Twilight Zone* is an ingenious mixture of morality tales, fables and fantasy that are as relevant today as when audiences first encountered them.

The Twilight Zone is based on original stories by Rod Serling, and two of the most frequent and celebrated contributors, Charles Beaumont and Richard Matheson from the CBS television series. It is one of television's most revered and influential science-fiction fantasy shows and ran on American network CBS from 1959 to 1964, winning 3 Emmy Awards during its 156-episode run. Its incisive parables explore humanity's hopes, despairs, prides and prejudices. The programme has had a seminal influence on popular culture; from Stephen King to Lin-Manuel Miranda, Breaking Bad creator Vince Gilligan to Steven Spielberg, The Simpsons to Black Mirror.

With the original series celebrating its 60th Anniversary Year, a new version of *The Twilight Zone* recently began production and is coming to *CBS All Access* in 2019 with Jordan Peele serving as host and narrator. The upcoming new series is produced by CBS Television Studios in association with Jordan Peele's Monkeypaw Productions and Simon Kinberg's Genre Films. Jordan Peele and Simon Kinberg serve as executive producers along with Win Rosenfeld, Audrey Chon, Carol Serling, Rick Berg and Greg Yaitanes.

The Twilight Zone stage production is presented under license by CBS Consumer Products.

**Ron Fogelman**, **Producer**, said "The impact the production had on the audience at the Almeida Theatre was wonderful, showing just how timeless these stories continue to be. Anne Washburn and Richard Jones have created a unique experience for the theatre that taps straight into the imagination."

**Rupert Goold, Artistic Director, Almeida Theatre** said "Half of the people who booked to see *The Twilight Zone* at the Almeida were visiting our theatre for the first time so it feels hugely exciting to be giving new audiences another chance to catch this extraordinary, wildly entertaining creation from Anne Washburn and Richard Jones."

**Veronica Hart, Executive Vice President, CBS Consumer Products** said "The play captures the thought-provoking, comedic and unnerving essence of the original *Twilight Zone*, allowing these powerful stories to be enjoyed in an entirely new way by a whole new audience."

The Twilight Zone has design by Paul Steinberg, with costume design by Nicky Gillibrand, lighting design by Mimi Jordan Sherin, and D.M Wood, composition and sound by Sarah Angliss, sound by Christopher Shutt, movement direction by Aletta Collins, casting by Julia Horan, and illusions by Richard Wiseman and Will Houstoun. Casting to be announced in due course.

The Twilight Zone is produced by Ron Fogelman for Your Next Stop Limited and the Almeida Theatre. Kenny Wax is executive producer.

Anne Washburn's latest play *Shipwreck* will make its world premiere at the Almeida Theatre in February 2019, directed by Rupert Goold. Her other plays include the *The Twilight Zone*, which ran at the Almeida in 2017/18 and her play *Mr Burns: A Post* 

Electric Play, which was recently listed as number 4 on The New York Times list of 25 Best American Plays since Angels in America, which premiered at the Woolly Mammoth in DC in 2012 and ran 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.

Richard Jones (Director) has directed theatre at the Young Vic, the Old Vic, the National Theatre, the West End, the Royal Court/ Ambassadors, the RSC, in New York at the Public Theatre, and three times 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* (Old Vic) and *Into the Woods* (Phoenix Theatre, West End) and the Evening Standard Award for best director for *The Illusion* (Old Vic). He was nominated for a Tony award for *La Bete* 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) - this production was also awarded a South Bank Show Award. He was given the Evening Standard Award for outstanding artistic achievement for his production of Wagners *Ring* at the Royal Opera House and last year his 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.

#### **NOTES TO EDITORS**

#### **RON FOGELMAN - YOUR NEXT STOP LTD**

Ron Fogelman is an established film, tv and stage producer, writer and executive working on both the creative and commercial sides of the entertainment business and across the spectrum of traditional & new media. Ron's consultancy agency supports major corporations, independent producers and trade bodies operating in the international Film, TV, Stage and New Media industries. Ron advises across all disciplines of production, financing and distribution. His corporate career has included senior positions on both the Independent and US Studio sides of the business at PolyGram Filmed Entertainment and as Senior Vice-President of international licensing and development at Universal Studios. Ron is also in a writing partnership with Philadelphia-based writer Kent Murray. They co-created, wrote and developed "The PLOT", a one-hour genre TV show bought by Sony Pictures Television in the US and are represented by Scott Seidel & Jordan Cerf at WME as well as by Sean Gascoine at United Agents in the UK.

#### **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.

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. <a href="https://www.aspen.co">www.aspen.co</a>

The Almeida is grateful for the support of Arts Council England.

#### **KENNY WAX LTD**

Kenny produced the Olivier Award winning *The Play That Goes Wrong* currently in the West End, on Broadway and on a US tour. *Peter Pan Goes Wrong* has played the West End twice and is set to open in Australia and New Zealand. *The Comedy About A Bank Robbery* is in its third year at the Criterion Theatre. The world première of *Top Hat* won three Olivier awards including 'Best New Musical' with *Once on This Island* winning the same award in 1995. Kenny's productions for children include *Hetty Feather* and *The Gruffalo* with a stage adaptation of Jill Murphy's *The Worst Witch* opening this year. His latest production is the sold out hit *Six* which returns to the Arts Theatre in January. Kenny is the President of the Society of London Theatre.

#### **LISTINGS**

#### THE TWILIGHT ZONE

BASED ON STORIES BY ROD SERLING, CHARLES BEAUMONT & RICHARD MATHESON ADAPTED BY ANNE WASHBURN DIRECTED BY RICHARD JONES AMBASSADORS THEATRE FROM 4 MARCH 2019

Priority On-sale: Via Almeida Theatre and Encore Tickets from Monday 8 October

General On-sale: From Thursday 11 October

Production Artwork: Available HERE

**Production Images:** Available <u>HERE</u> (Credit Marc Brenner @ Almeida Theatre)

#### **Press Performances:**

Friday 8 March at 7.45pm Saturday 9 March at 3.00pm Saturday 9 March at 7.45pm Tuesday 12 March at 7.45pm

#### **Embargo:**

All reviews are under embargo from running until 00.01 on Wednesday 13 March

#### **Performances:**

Monday – Saturday Evening at 7:45pm Thursday and Saturday Matinee at 3.00pm

Running Time: 2 hours 10 minutes including interval

Ticket Prices: From £19.50 (all tickets for previews priced at £25 and under)

Address: Ambassadors Theatre, West St, London, WC2H 9ND

**Ambassadors Theatre Box Office: 020 7395 5405** 

www.theambassadorstheatre.co.uk

Almeida Theatre Box Office: 020 7359 4404

www.almeida.co.uk

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Facebook/Twitter/Instagram: @TwilightZoneLDN

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