

ALMEIDA THEATRE

Press release: Tuesday 23 October

The Almeida Theatre today announces the full cast for Joe Hill-Gibbins's new production of Shakespeare's *The Tragedy of King Richard the Second*, with Simon Russell Beale in the title role.

THE TRAGEDY OF KING RICHARD THE SECOND

by William Shakespeare

Direction: **Joe Hill-Gibbins**; Design: **Uitz**; Lighting: **James Farncombe**; Sound: **Peter Rice**
Dramaturg: **Jeff James**; Casting: **Ginny Schiller**; Resident Director: **Lucy Wray**

Monday 10 December 2018 – Saturday 2 February 2019

Press night: Tuesday 18 December 7pm

NT Live screening: Tuesday 15 January 2019 (tickets now on sale)

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*).

Joining the previously announced **Simon Russell Beale**, are **Leo Bill**, **Martins Imhangbe**, **Natalie Klamar**, **John Mackay**, **Joseph Mydell**, **Saskia Reeves** and **Robin Weaver**.

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.

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 10 December 2018 – Saturday 2 February 2019

The Tragedy of King Richard the Second

by **William Shakespeare**

Direction: **Joe Hill-Gibbins**

Press night: Tuesday 18 December 7pm

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

Café Bar The Almeida Café Bar is open from 11.00am -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](https://www.facebook.com/almeidatheatre)

Instagram @almeida_theatre

Access Captioned performance:
Thursday 24 January 7:30pm
Audio Described performance:

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

Talkback Post-show discussion with members of the company
Free to same day ticket holders
Thursday 3 January

Almeida Questions An eclectic programme of pre-show discussions, which consider some of the questions raised by the work on our stage
Monday 21 January 6pm – *Me, My Selfie and I*

Notes to Editors

CAST BIOGRAPHIES

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*.

Leo Bill's theatre credits include *Curtains* (Rose Theatre Kingston); *A Midsummer Night's Dream* and *The Glass Menagerie* (Young Vic); *Hamlet* and *School for Scandal* (Barbican); *Light Shining in Buckinghamshire* and *A Woman Killed with Kindness* (National Theatre); *Secret Theatre* (Lyric Hammersmith); *The Silence of the Sea* (Donmar Warehouse) and *Posh* (Royal Court and West End). His recent television work includes *Strike*; *Taboo*; *The White Queen*; *The Borgias* and *Pramface*. His film credits include the forthcoming *Peterloo*; *In Fabric*; *Alice through the Looking Glass*; *Mr Turner*; *A Long Way Down*; *The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo*; *Kinky Boots*; *Vera Drake*; *28 Days Later* and *Gosford Park*.

Martins Imhangbe's theatre credits include *Absolute Hell* and *The Barbershop Chronicles* (National Theatre); *The Royale* (Bush Theatre); *Luce* (Southwark Playhouse); *Octagon*

(Arcola Theatre); *The Skriker* (Manchester Royal Exchange); *Lionboy* (Complicite); *Romeo and Juliet* (Orange Tree Theatre) and *Cinderella* (Unicorn Theatre).

Natalie Klamar's theatre credits include *Cleansed* and *I Want My Hat Back* (National Theatre); *Future Conditional* (Old Vic Theatre); *The Cherry Orchard* (Young Vic); *This May Hurt A Bit* (Out of Joint); *All's Well That Ends Well*, *As You Like It*, *Hamlet*, *A Soldier in Every Son*, *King John*, *Richard III* (RSC) and *Breakfast at Tiffany's* (Theatre Royal Haymarket). Her television credits include *Patrick Melrose*; *Grantchester*; *Vera* and *Misfits*.

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

Joseph Mydell returns to the Almeida having appeared in *Richard III* and *Evening at the Talkhouse*. His recent theatre credits include *Hamlet*, *The Tempest* and *Julius Caesar* (RSC); *Mother Christmas* (Hampstead Theatre); *William Wordsworth* (Theatre by the Lake); *The Crucible* (Leeds Playhouse); *A Season in the Congo* and *Elektra* (Young Vic); *The Comedy of Errors* (National Theatre) and *Hamlet* (Sheffield Crucible). His recent television credits include *Homeland*; *The Missing* and *Death in Paradise* and his film work includes *Woman in Gold*; *You Instead* and *Mammoth*.

Saskia Reeves's theatre credits include *Curtains* (Rose Theatre Kingston); *King Lear* (Shakespeare's Globe); *The Mistress Contract* and *The Woman Before* (Royal Court); *Hello and Goodbye* (Trafalgar Studios); *A Disappearing Number* (Complicite); *Orpheus Descending* (Donmar Warehouse); *Darker Face of the Earth* (National Theatre); *Much Ado About Nothing* (Cheek By Jowl); *Playhouse Creatures* (Old Vic Theatre); *Sweet Panic* (Hampstead Theatre); *A Woman Killed By Kindness*, *Tis Pity She's A Whore*, *Two Gentlemen of Verona* and *The Virtuoso* (RSC). Her television work includes *Collateral*; *The Child in Time*; *Shetland*; *Wolf Hall*; *From There to Here*; *Salting the Battlefield*; *Wallander*; *The Minor Character* and *Luther*. Her film work includes *The Program*; *Our Kind of Traitor*; *Nymphomaniac*; *Mindscape* and *Me and Orson Welles*.

Robin Weaver returns to the Almeida having previously appeared in *Enemies*. Her other theatre credits include *The Country Wife* (Chichester Festival Theatre); *Beached* (Soho

Theatre/Marlowe Theatre); *The Captain of Kopenick* (National Theatre); *Excuses* (Soho Theatre and tour); *A Day in the Death of Joe Egg* (Comedy Theatre and tour); *Sea Life* (Bristol Old Vic) and *King Lear* (RSC). Her recent television work includes *Sally4Ever*; *Wanderlust*; *Endeavour*; *Hard Sun*; *Maigret – Night at the Crossroads*; *Count Arthur Strong*; *Black Mirror*; *Trollied* and *The Inbetweeners*. Her film credits include *The Inbetweeners Movie*; *Magicians* and *The Muppet Christmas Carol*.

ABOUT THE ALMEIDA

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* and *Ink* directed by Goold. Rebecca Frecknall's production *Summer & Smoke* transfers to the Duke of York's Theatre in November and Richard Jones' production of *The Twilight Zone* transfers to the Ambassadors Theatre in March 2019. 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.