

ALMEIDA THEATRE

Press release: Thursday 21 February

The Almeida Theatre today announces the full cast for Associate Director Rebecca Frecknall's production of Chekhov's *Three Sisters*, in a new version by Cordelia Lynn.

THREE SISTERS

by **Anton Chekhov**

in a version by **Cordelia Lynn**

Direction: **Rebecca Frecknall**; Design: **Hildegard Bechtler**; Light: **Jack Knowles**
Sound: **George Dennis**; Composition: **Angus MacRae**; Casting: **Julia Horan CDG**

Monday 8 April – Saturday 1 June 2019

Press night: Tuesday 16 April 7pm

Almeida For Free: during week commencing 27 May

Do you ever wonder what would happen if we could live our lives all over again but be fully conscious of it the second time?

I bet we'd try to do everything differently, or at least would know to create a different world for ourselves.

In a room in a house in a provincial town, three sisters wait for their lives to begin. Olga, the eldest. Masha, the middle child. Irina, the youngest.

The clock strikes. A candle is lit.

The clock stops. Something catches fire.

The clock strikes. They wake up.

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*).

Joining the previously announced **Pearl Chanda** and **Patsy Ferran** are **Lois Chimimba**, **Alexander Elliot**, **Annie Firbank**, **Elliot Levey**, **Eric MacLennan**, **Freddie Meredith**, **Peter McDonald**, **Sonny Poon Tip**, **Shubham Saraf**, **Akshay Sharan**, **Alan Williams** and **Ria Zmitrowicz**.

Rebecca Frecknall is Associate Director at the Almeida Theatre and was previously on the Almeida's Resident Director programme. For the Almeida, she previously directed *Summer and Smoke* (transferred to the Duke of York's Theatre) 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 ran in the Sheffield Crucible Studio in 2018. 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.

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 8 April – Saturday 1 June 2019

Three Sisters

by **Anton Chekhov**

in a new version by **Cordelia Lynn**

Direction: **Rebecca Frecknall**

Press night: Tuesday 16 April 7pm

Address	Almeida Theatre, Almeida Street, London, N1 1TA
Café Bar	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
Performance times	Evenings 7.30pm Matinees 2.30pm
Website	almeida.co.uk
Twitter	@AlmeidaTheatre
Facebook	facebook.com/almeidatheatre
Instagram	@almeida_theatre
Access	Captioned performance: Friday 17 May 7.30pm Audio Described performance: Saturday 11 May 2.30pm (Touch Tour at 12.45 pm)
Talkback	Post-show discussion with members of the company Free to same day ticket holders Thursday 9 May
Almeida Questions	An eclectic programme of pre-show discussions, which consider some of the questions raised by the work on our stage Monday 13 May 6.00pm – A Woman's Place

Notes to Editors

CAST BIOGRAPHIES

Pearl Chanda plays Masha Sergeevna. She previously appeared in *Ink* at the Almeida (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 *Marionette*, *The Final Haunting* and *Mr Turner*.

Lois Chimimba plays Natasha Ivanovna. Her stage work includes *Vulcan 7* (Jonathan Church Productions and Theatre Royal Bath); *Parliament Square* (Manchester Royal Exchange and Bush Theatre); *Common*, *Peter Pan* and *wonder.land* (National Theatre); *Diary of a Madman* (Gate Theatre); *Pitcairn* (Out of Joint, Shakespeare's Globe and Chichester Festival Theatre). Her television work includes *Doctor Who*; *Trust Me*; *Care* and *There She Goes*.

Alexander Elliot plays Vasily Vasilevich Solyony. *Three Sisters* marks his professional stage debut.

Patsy Ferran plays Olga Sergeevna. She previously appeared in *Summer and Smoke* at the Almeida (also West End – Critics' Circle Theatre Award for Best Actress). 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 *How to Build a Girl*; *Darkest Hour*; *God's Own Country*; *Tulip Fever*; *The National Phobia*; *Association's Day Out*. She won the Critics' Circle Theatre Award for Most Promising Newcomer in 2014.

Annie Firbank plays Anfisa. She previously appeared in *Oresteia* at the Almeida (also West End). Her other theatre credits include *The Crucible* (Old Vic); *To Kill A Mockingbird*; *Three Sisters*; *An Ideal Husband*; *Separate Tables*; *Habitat*; *The Candidate* (Royal Exchange, Manchester); *The Golden Dragon* (Arcola Theatre / tour); *Billy Liar*; *Postcards from Rome*; *A Working Woman*; *Tess of the D'Urbervilles*; *Macbeth* (West Yorkshire Playhouse); *Only the*

Lonely (Birmingham Repertory Theatre); *Becket* (Theatre Royal Haymarket); *Dance of Death* (Lyric Hammersmith); *Les Liaisons Dangereuses* (Liverpool Playhouse); *Henry V* and *The Comedy of Errors* (RSC). Her television work includes *Kingdom*; *Elizabeth I*; *10th Kingdom*; *An Evil Streak*; *Kavanagh QC*; *Animal Ark*; *Surgical Spirit*; *Boon*; *Heart of the Country*; *Flesh and Blood*; *Lille*; *The Nearly Man*; *Crown Court*; *Persuasion*. Her film roles include *A Passage to India* and *Sunday Bloody Sunday*.

Elliot Levey plays Fyodor Ilyich Kulygin. He previously appeared in the West End transfer of the Almeida production of *Mary Stuart*. His theatre credits include *Snowflake* (The Old Fire Station); *Saint Joan* and *Coriolanus* (Donmar Warehouse); *The Mighty Walzer* (Royal Exchange, Manchester); *The Ruling Class* (Trafalgar Studios); *Much Ado About Nothing* (Wyndham's Theatre); *Danton's Death*, *The Habit of Art*, *All's Well That Ends Well*, *England People Very Nice*, *His Dark Materials* and *Henry IV Parts I & II* (National Theatre). His television work includes *Peaky Blinders*; *Press*; *Watergate*; *Da Vinci's Demons*; *A Midsummer Night's Dream*; *Ripper Street*, *Jamaica Inn* and *Silent Witness*. His film credits include *Murder on the Orient Express*; *Denial*; *Fallen*; *Florence Foster Jenkins*; *The Lady in the Van*; *Philomena* and *The Queen*.

Eric MacLennan plays Ferapont Spiridonych. He previously appeared in *Summer and Smoke* at the Almeida. His other credits include *1984* at Creation Theatre; *The Government Inspector* and *Annie 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*.

Peter McDonald plays Alexander Ignatevich Vershinin. He has previously appeared at the Almeida in *Nocturne*. His theatre credits include *The Weir* (Donmar Warehouse and West End); *The Veil*, *Greenland*, *Exiles*, *The Aristocrats* (National Theatre); *Red Bud* (Royal Court); *The Caretaker* (Liverpool Everyman/Trafalgar Studios); *Dancing at Lughnasa* and *Resurrection Blues* (The Old Vic); *Glengarry Glen Ross* (Apollo Theatre). His work for television includes *Finding Joy*, *The Last Kingdom*; *Thirteen*; *No Offence*; *Moone Boy* and *Titanic*. For film, his work includes *The Stag*; *Wreckers*; *The Damned United* and *No News from God*.

Freddie Meredith plays Andrey Sergeyevich. His theatre credits include *The Jungle* (West End) and *Fracked!* (Chichester Festival Theatre and UK tour). His television work includes

The Crown; *To Walk Invisible* and he will be in forthcoming film *The Personal History of David Copperfield*.

Sonny Poon Tip plays Vladimir. He is part of the Almeida's Young Company and is currently appearing in the Young Company production of *Cacophony*. This is his professional stage debut.

Shubham Saraf plays Nikolay Lvovich Tuzenbach. His theatre credits include *An Adventure* (Bush Theatre); *Hamlet* and *As You Like It* (Shakespeare's Globe) and *Lions and Tigers* (Sam Wanamaker Playhouse). His television work includes *Criminal*; *Bodyguard*; *Grey Mates* and *Fresh Meat*. For film, his credits include *Overlord*; *Honour* and *Suspension of Disbelief* and the forthcoming *6 Underground*.

Akshay Sharan plays Alexey. His credits include *The Reluctant Fundamentalist* (National Youth Theatre – Best Actor in a Play at the Stage Debut Awards); *A Tale of Two Cities* (Darlington Civic Theatre); *Daughter of the Forest* (Komola Collective) and *Sara Pascoe's Christmas Assembly* (Battersea Arts Centre).

Alan Williams plays Ivan Romanovich Chebutykin. He previously appeared in *Mary Stuart* and *The Jew of Malta* at the Almeida. His theatre other credits include *Gundog*, *The Ritual Slaughter of George Mastromas*, *The President Has Come To See You*, *President*, *Mint*, *Stoning Mary*, *Lucky Dog*, *Under The Whaleback* and *Crave* (Royal Court Theatre); *As You Like It*, *Here We Go*, *Light Shining in Buckinghamshire*, *Every Good Boy Deserves Favour* and *Warhorse* (National Theatre); *The Crucible* (West Yorkshire Playhouse); *Krapp's Last Tape* (Hull Truck Theatre); *A Thousand Stars Explode In The Sky* and *The Birthday Party* (Lyric Hammersmith). His recent television work includes *Father Brown*; *The Crown*; *SunTrap*; *The Guilty*; *Starlings*; *Utopia*; *Luther* and *The Crimson Petal and the White*. For film, his work includes *Heartlands*; *All or Nothing* and *Elizabeth I*.

Ria Zmitrowicz plays Irina Sergeyevna. She previously appeared at the Almeida in *Dance Nation*. Her theatre work includes *Gundog*; *Bad Roads and X* (Royal Court); *Plastic* (Ustinov Studio); *The Crucible* (Manchester Royal Exchange); *Arcadia* (English Touring Theatre); *Four Minutes Twelve Seconds* (Hampstead Theatre and Trafalgar Studios); *Chapel Street* (Bush Theatre, Edinburgh Fringe, Liverpool Everyman); *God's Property* (Soho Theatre) and *Skanky* (Arcola Theatre). Her television credits include *Through the Gates*; *Three Girls*; *Mr Selfridge*; *Youngers* and *The Midnight Beast*. For film, her work includes *Teen Spirit*; *Entebbe*; *Jellyfish*; *Kill Your Friends* and the forthcoming *Misbehaviour*.

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, Ink* directed by Goold, Rebecca Frecknall's production *Summer & Smoke* and *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.