

# ALMEIDA THEATRE

Press release: Friday 23 November

The Almeida Theatre today announces the full cast for the world premiere of *Shipwreck* by Anne Washburn, directed by Almeida Artistic Director Rupert Goold.

World Premiere

## SHIPWRECK

by Anne Washburn

Direction: **Rupert Goold**; Design: **Miriam Buether**; Costume Design: **Fly Davis**  
Light: **Jack Knowles**; Sound: **Paul Arditti**; Video: **Luke Halls**; Voice: **Brett Tyne**  
Casting: **Amy Ball**

Tuesday 12 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.

The cast includes **Khalid Abdalla**, **Fisayo Akinade**, **Raquel Cassidy**, **Risteárd Cooper**, **Elliot Cowan**, **Tara Fitzgerald**, **Adam James** and **Justine Mitchell**.

**Anne Washburn's** world premiere adaptation of *The Twilight Zone* ran at the Almeida in 2017/18 and transfers to the Ambassadors Theatre in March 2019 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.

**Tickets for *Shipwreck* are now on sale, alongside *Three Sisters***

**ENDS**

For all press enquiries and images, contact Alexander Milward, Press and Media Relations Manager, on 020 7288 4911 or [amilward@almeida.co.uk](mailto:amilward@almeida.co.uk)

## **ALMEIDA LISTINGS INFORMATION**

Tuesday 12 February – Saturday 30 March 2019

### ***Shipwreck***

by **Anne Washburn**

Direction: **Rupert Goold**

**Press night: Tuesday 19 February 7pm**

<b>Address</b>	Almeida Theatre, Almeida Street, London, N1 1TA
<b>Café Bar</b>	Almeida Café Bar is open from 11.00am -11.00pm, Monday to Saturday
<b>Box Office</b>	<b>Online</b> <a href="http://almeida.co.uk">almeida.co.uk</a> <b>Phone</b> 020 7359 4404 (10am – 7.30pm, Monday – Saturday) <b>In person</b> 10am – 7.30pm, Monday – Saturday <b>Nearest Tube:</b> Angel / Highbury & Islington
<b>Performance times</b>	Evenings 7pm Matinees 1:30pm
<b>Website</b>	<a href="http://almeida.co.uk">almeida.co.uk</a>
<b>Twitter</b>	@AlmeidaTheatre
<b>Facebook</b>	<a href="https://www.facebook.com/almeidatheatre">facebook.com/almeidatheatre</a>
<b>Instagram</b>	@almeida_theatre
<b>Access</b>	Captioned performance: Thursday 21 March 7pm Audio Described performance: Saturday 23 March 1:30pm (Touch Tour at 12pm)
<b>Talkback</b>	Post-show discussion with members of the company Free to same day ticket holders

Thursday 21 March 7pm

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

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

### Notes to Editors

#### **CAST BIOGRAPHIES**

**Khalid Abdalla's** theatre credits include *An Injury* (Ovalhouse); *Why It's Kicking Off Everywhere* (Young Vic); *The Suppliants* (Battersea Arts Centre) and *Tamburlaine The Great* (Rose Theatre). His television work includes *Hanna*; *Moving On*; *Electric Dreams* and *Spooks*. For film, his work includes *Underdogs*; *Assassin's Creed*; *Tigers*; *Our Kind of Traitor*; *The Square*; *The Narrow Frame of Midnight*; *Birds like Us*; *In the Last Days of the City*; *Green Zone*; *The Kite Runner* and *United 93*.

**Fisayo Akinade's** theatre credits include *Antony & Cleopatra* and *Barber Shop Chronicles* (National Theatre); *The Way of the World*, *St Joan* and *The Vote* (Donmar Warehouse); *Pigs and Dogs* and *The Crossing Plays* (Royal Court); *The Tempest* (Shakespeare's Globe) and *Barbarians* (Young Vic). His television work includes *A Very English Scandal*; *In the Dark*; *A Midsummer Night's Dream*; *Ordinary Lies*; *Cucumber*, *Banana* and *Fresh Meat*. For film, his work includes *The Girl with All the Gifts* and *The Isle*.

**Raquel Cassidy's** theatre credits include *Shoot/Get Treasure/Repeat* (Paines Plough); *Mirandolina* (Manchester Royal Exchange); *Home* (National Theatre); *Macbeth* (Arcola Theatre and tour); *Anna Karenina* (Royal Lyceum Theatre Edinburgh); *Badnuff* (Soho Theatre) and *Sunday Father* (Hampstead Theatre). Her television work includes *Strangers*; *The Worst Witch*; *W1A*; *Uncle*; *Downton Abbey*; *Mid-Morning Matters*; *A Touch of Cloth* and *Lead Balloon*. Her film work includes *Cliffs of Freedom* and *Two Is a Family*.

**Risteárd Cooper's** theatre credits include *Jacques Brel Is Alive and Well and Living in Paris* (Gate Theatre, Dublin); *The Weir* (Donmar Warehouse and West End); *Juno and the Paycock* (Abbey Theatre, Dublin and National Theatre); *Pygmalion* (Abbey Theatre, Dublin); *The Yalta Game*, *The Deep Blue Sea* and *Betrayal* (Gate Theatre, Dublin); *I, Keano* (Olympia

Theatre) and *Auntie and Me* (The Gaiety Theatre). His television work includes *Delicious*; *Houdini & Doyle*; *No Offence*; *Charlie*; *The Suspicions of Mr Whicher* and *An Crisis*.

**Elliot Cowan's** theatre credits include *Julius Caesar* (Sheffield Crucible); *Les Blancs* and *The Revenger's Tragedy* (National Theatre); *Macbeth* (Shakespeare's Globe); *A Streetcar Named Desire* (Donmar Warehouse); *Women Beware Women* (RSC); *An Ideal Husband* and *Frost/Nixon* (West End). His television work includes *The Spanish Princess*; *Krypton*; *Innocent*; *Cilla*; *Critical*; *Life in Squares*; *Luther*; *Da Vinci's Demons*. For film his credits include *All the Devils Men*; *Muse*; *Howl*; *Narcopolis*; *Happy-Go-Lucky*; *Love and Other Disasters* and *Alexander*.

**Tara Fitzgerald's** recent theatre credits include *In Praise of Love* (Ustinov Studio, Theatre Royal Bath); *Macbeth* (Shakespeare's Globe); *Gaslight* (Royal & Derngate, Northampton); *Farewell to the Theatre* (Hampstead Theatre); *Broken Glass* (PW Productions/Tricycle Theatre); *The Misanthrope* (Comedy Theatre) and *And Then There Were None* (Gielgud Theatre). Her recent television work includes *Requiem*; *Strike*; *In the Club*; *Churchill's Secret*; *Death in Paradise*; *Game of Thrones*; *The Musketeers*; *The Body Farm* and *Waking the Dead*. For film, her work includes *Una*; *Legend*; *Child 44*; *Exodus*; *I Capture the Castle* and *Brassed Off*.

**Adam James** returns to the Almeida having previously appeared in *King Charles III* (also West End). His other theatre credits include *Girl from The North Country* (Noel Coward Theatre); *Consent* and *13* (National Theatre); *An Enemy of the People* (Chichester Festival Theatre); *Bull* (Young Vic); *Now or Later* and *My Child* (Royal Court); *Rapture*, *Blister*, *Burn* and *Tiger Country* (Hampstead Theatre). His television work includes *Home from Home*; *Eric*, *Ernie and Me*; *Doctor Foster*; *King Charles III*; *Endeavour*; *Grantchester*; *The Game*; *The Crimson Field*. For film, his credits include *The Kill Team*; *Johnny English Strikes Again*; *Hunter Killer* and *A Little Chaos*.

**Justine Mitchell** returns to the Almeida having previously appeared in *Mr Burns*. Her other recent theatre credits include *The Way of the World*, *The Resistible Rise of Arturo Ui* and *King Lear* (Donmar Warehouse); *Beginning* (National Theatre and West End); *Bodies* and *Gastronauts* (Royal Court); *Wild Honey* (Hampstead Theatre); *The Plough and the Stars* and *Children of the Sun* (National Theatre); *For Services Rendered* (Chichester Festival Theatre); *Love for Love* (RSC) and *Man – Three Plays By Tennessee Williams* (Young Vic). Her television work includes *Amber*; *The Suspicions of Mr Whicher*; *Ruddy Hell! It's Harry*

and *Paul* and the forthcoming *Cheat*. For film, his work includes *The Stag* and *A Cock and Bull Story*.

## **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](http://www.aspen.co)

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