

ALMEIDA THEATRE

Press release: Monday 13 May 2019

The Almeida Theatre today announces a new play written and directed by Robert Icke called *The Doctor*, freely adapted from Arthur Schnitzler's 1912 play *Professor Bernhardt*.

The production opens on Tuesday 20 August, with previews from Monday 12 August, and runs until Saturday 28 September. It will feature **Juliet Stevenson** and **Ria Zmitrowicz**, with further casting to be announced soon.

The production follows Icke's other acclaimed work at the Almeida including, most recently, *The Wild Duck* in 2018 as well as *Hamlet*, *Mary Stuart*, *Oresteia*, *Uncle Vanya*, *Mr Burns* and *1984*. It will be Icke's final production in his role as Associate Director of the Almeida as he departs to pursue freelance projects.

Artistic Director Rupert Goold said today, "Robert's contribution to the Almeida is immeasurable. His emergence from our time working together at Headlong to international renown through his work for this theatre has been a privilege to be part of. He has been a friend and a visionary and we wish him well on the next stage of his artistic journey and look forward to him making other Almeida productions in the future."

Robert Icke said, "*The Doctor* will be my final show in my role as Almeida Associate Director. I've had a fantastic six years here, but it's become impossible to give the building the attention it deserves alongside my other work for theatre and for the screen. I'm grateful to all my supportive and talented colleagues over that time, on stage and off, including so many wonderful actors, and to all of the wider Almeida team, some of whom I first met as an Almeida assistant director a decade ago. I look forward to returning in the future."

World Premiere

THE DOCTOR

very freely adapted from *Professor Bernhardt* by **Arthur Schnitzler**
by **Robert Icke**

Design: **Hildegard Bechtler**; Light: **Natasha Chivers**; Sound: **Tom Gibbons**

Casting: **Julia Horan**

Cast includes: **Juliet Stevenson, Ria Zmitrowicz.**

Monday 12 August – Saturday 28 September 2019

Press night: Tuesday 20 August 7pm

First, do no harm.

doctor

(noun) one who mends or repairs; in popular current use, applied to any medical practitioner. Also a traditional healer or diviner.

(verb) to treat so as to alter the appearance or character of; to falsify, tamper with, disguise.

Almeida Associate Director Robert Icke and Juliet Stevenson reunite at the Almeida for their third collaboration, following *Mary Stuart* and *Hamlet*.

Robert Icke is Associate Director at the Almeida where his work includes adapting and directing *The Wild Duck*, *Mary Stuart* (also West End), *Uncle Vanya*, *Oresteia* (also West End) and *1984* (co-created with Duncan Macmillan, also Broadway, West End, national and international tours). As director, his other Almeida productions include *Hamlet* (also West End and BBC2), *The Fever* and *Mr Burns*. Elsewhere, his recent work includes *The Crucible* (Theater Basel), *Oedipus* (Toneelgroep Amsterdam and runs at Edinburgh International Festival this summer) and *Orestie* (Schauspiel Stuttgart, awarded the Kurt-Hübner-Regiepreis). His future work includes new productions at Schauspiel Stuttgart and with Toneelgroep Amsterdam. He has won the UK Theatre Award, the Critics' Circle Award and the Evening Standard Theatre Award for Best Director, and is the youngest ever winner of the Olivier Award for Best Director.

Arthur Schnitzler (1862 – 1931) was an Austrian playwright and novelist. His plays include *La Ronde* (reworked by David Hare as *The Blue Room* at the Donmar Warehouse in 1998); *Anatol*; *Flirtation*; *Fair Game*; *Light-O-Love*; *Paracelsus*; *The Vast Domain* and *The Green Cockatoo*.

Juliet Stevenson's previous work at the Almeida includes *Mary Stuart* and *Hamlet* (both also West End). She has worked extensively for the Royal Shakespeare Company, the National Theatre and the Royal Court, winning an Olivier award for her performance as Paulina in *Death and The Maiden* in 1991. Her other most recent theatre credits include *Wings* and *Happy Days* (Young Vic). Her films include *Let Me Go*; *Truly, Madly, Deeply*; *Bend it Like Beckham*; *When Did You Last See Your Father?*; *Being Julia*; *Pierrepont*; *Mona Lisa Smile* and *Departure*. Recent television work includes *Riviera*; *One of Us*; *The Enfield Haunting*; *Atlantis* and *The Village*. Other television work includes *Place of Execution*; *The Accused*; *The Hour* and *White Heat*. She was awarded the CBE in 1999. In addition to her Olivier award, she has been nominated a further four times and is five times BAFTA nominated for her film and television work.

Ria Zmitrowicz's previous work at the Almeida includes *Three Sisters* and *Dance Nation*. Her other theatre work includes *Gundog*; *Bad Roads*; *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*.

ENDS

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

Tickets for *The Doctor* and the previously announced production of Maxim Gorky's *Vassa* (adapted by Mike Bartlett and directed by Tinuke Craig) go on sale to the public on Tuesday 28 May.

Priority Booking will open to Bronze Friends and above on Thursday 16 May and for Almeida Friends on Tuesday 21 May.

ALMEIDA LISTINGS INFORMATION

Monday 12 August – Saturday 28 September 2019

The Doctor

very freely adapted from ***Professor Bernhardt*** by **Arthur Schnitzler**

by **Robert Icke**

Press night: Tuesday 20 August 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
Instagram	@almeida_theatre
Access	Captioned performance: Thursday 19 September 7:30pm Audio Described performance: Saturday 21 September 2:30pm (Touch Tour at 12.45pm)
Talkback	Post-show discussion with members of the company Free to same day ticket holders Thursday 19 September
Almeida Questions	An eclectic programme of pre-show discussions, which consider some of the questions raised by the work on our stage Monday 2 September – The Doctor Almeida Questions

ABOUT THE ALMEIDA

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 (also Broadway), Rebecca Frecknall's production of *Summer & Smoke* (winner of Best Play Revival and Best Actress at the 2019 Olivier Awards), and *The Twilight Zone* which is currently running at Ambassadors Theatre. The Almeida was named London Theatre of the Year at The Stage Awards in both 2015 and 2018.

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.