

ALMEIDA THEATRE

Press release: Thursday 12 September

The Almeida Theatre announces Associate Director Rebecca Frecknall's new production of John Webster's revenge tragedy *The Duchess of Malfi*, with Lydia Wilson in the title role.

The production opens on Tuesday 10 December 2019, with previews from Monday 2 December, and runs until Saturday 18 January 2020.

It follows Frecknall's previously acclaimed Almeida productions of *Three Sisters* and the Olivier Award-winning *Summer and Smoke*.

THE DUCHESS OF MALFI

by John Webster

Direction: **Rebecca Frecknall**; Design: **Chloe Lamford**;

Costume: **Nicky Gillibrand**; Light: **Jack Knowles**; Sound: **George Dennis**

Cast includes: **Lydia Wilson**.

Monday 2 December 2019 – Saturday 18 January 2020

Press night: Tuesday 10 December 7pm

"Whether we fall by ambition, blood or lust
Like diamonds, we are cut with our own dust"

You fall in love.

You get married.

You have children.

~~You live happily ever after.~~

Almeida Associate Director Rebecca Frecknall follows her Olivier Award-winning production of *Summer and Smoke* and *Three Sisters* with *The Duchess of Malfi*, John Webster's electrifying revenge tragedy about rage, resistance and a deadly lust for power.

John Webster (1580 – 1634) was an English dramatist and contemporary of William Shakespeare, best known for his tragedies *The White Devil* and *The Duchess of Malfi*.

Rebecca Frecknall is Associate Director at the Almeida Theatre. For the Almeida, she has directed *Three Sisters*, *Summer and Smoke* (also West End and winner of two Olivier Awards including Best Revival) and worked as Associate Director on *Ink* at the Almeida/Duke of York's Theatre and Movement Director on *Albion*. She was previously on the Almeida's Resident Director programme. 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?* 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.

Lydia Wilson plays the Duchess. She previously appeared at the Almeida in *King Charles III* (also West End and Broadway – nominated for Best Actress at 2015 Olivier Awards). Her other theatre credits include *Fool for Love* (Found 111); *Hysteria* (Hampstead Theatre); *'Tis Pity She's A Whore* (Cheek By Jowl); *The Acid Test* and *The Heretic* (Royal Court Theatre); *Blasted* (Lyric Hammersmith); *Pains of Youth* (National Theatre) and *The House of Special Purpose* (Chichester Festival Theatre). For television, her work includes *Flack*; *Requiem*; *Ripper Street*; *Misfits*; *Black Mirror*; *The Crimson Petal and the White*; *South Riding*; *Any Human Heart* and *Peter Versus Life*. Her film work includes, *Star Trek Beyond*; *Love Is Thicker than Water*; *About Time* and *Never Let Me Go*.

ENDS

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

On sale dates:

Patrons, Bronze, Silver and Gold Friends - Monday 16

September, 12pm

Almeida Friends - Thursday 19 September, 10am

General sale - Thursday 26 September, 10am

ALMEIDA LISTINGS INFORMATION

Monday 2 December 2019 – Saturday 18 January 2020

The Duchess of Malfi

by **John Webster**

Directed by **Rebecca Frecknall**

Press night: Tuesday 10 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

Instagram @almeida_theatre

Access Captioned performance:
Friday 20 December 7:30pm
Audio Described performance:
Saturday 4 January 2:30pm (Touch Tour at 12.45pm)

Talkback Post-show discussion with members of the company
Free to same performance ticket holders
Thursday 2 January 7:30pm

Almeida Questions An eclectic programme of pre-show discussions, which consider some of the questions raised by the work on our stage
Saturday 11 January 6pm – Does power corrupt?

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) and Rebecca Frecknall's production of *Summer and Smoke* (winner of Best Play Revival and Best Actress at the 2019 Olivier Awards). 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. We therefore need to raise more than £2m each

year to realise our artistic ambitions, reach new audiences, and secure the financial future of the theatre. Find out more about supporting here: almeida.co.uk/support-us.

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.