

ALMEIDA THEATRE

Press release: Thursday 24 October

Artistic director Rupert Goold announces the Almeida Theatre's new season for spring 2020:

- The return of **Mike Bartlett's** acclaimed ***Albion*** for a four week run, with **Victoria Hamilton** reprising her award-winning performance.
- The UK Premiere of "***Daddy***", by **Jeremy O. Harris** (*Slave Play*), directed by **Danya Taymor**.
- The World Premiere of **Beth Steel's** new play ***The House of Shades***, directed by **Blanche McIntyre**.

Also announced today:

- The launch of the **Genesis Almeida New Playwrights, Big Plays Programme**, a new annual scheme that supports emerging and mid-career writers to develop new plays for larger stages. The first cohort of seven writers is **Kendall Feaver, Sami Ibrahim, Charley Miles, Amy Ng, Iman Qureshi, Sam Steiner** and **Ross Willis**.
- A new **Resident Designers** scheme to run alongside the **Resident Directors** programme, now in its fourth year.

Rupert Goold said, "When we first produced *Albion* a year after the EU referendum, it caught a moment fraught with uncertainty about the future direction of the country. Now, two years later, we face a new moment of juncture, with our country and national identity fracturing along the fault lines of that fateful vote in new ways every week. Returning to the garden of *Albion*, I find Mike Bartlett's play resonates with an entirely different tone and, with Victoria Hamilton, whose performance as Audrey is one of the finest in my tenure at the Almeida, agreeing to return, it feels important to bring it back, the first production we have revived.

“Alongside *Albion*, we present two new voices to Almeida audiences – Jeremy O. Harris has been generating major waves on Broadway with *Slave Play* and now makes his UK debut with “*Daddy*”, his brave and brilliant exploration of intimacy and power, mentorship and identity in the glamorous retreats of the LA art world. And Beth Steel, already recognised as one of the country’s most ambitious political writers, gives us her new play *The House of Shades*, whose ghost-filled story charts the journey of a single family over half a century of social and economic change, as the Labour movement they inherited crumbles and reforms around them.

“As we announce these two new plays, it feels fitting to also announce the brand new Genesis Almeida New Playwrights, Big Plays Programme, featuring seven writers who have all demonstrated their ability to think big, engaging with unusual, imaginative and formally innovative ideas. We can’t wait to guide them over the next year and to see what they produce and are hugely grateful to the Genesis Foundation for giving us this opportunity.”

John Studzinski, Founder and Chairman of the Genesis Foundation said, “One of the great gifts of life is to be challenged continually and never to stop learning. The Genesis Foundation works with its partners to identify areas in arts philanthropy that aren’t being fulfilled. Experienced artists wishing to develop their creative work are too often overlooked for support and commissions and don’t get the mentoring they need. It’s important that we support the creation of the Genesis Almeida Writers Programme. By identifying and supporting writers who will benefit most from working with the team at the Almeida we are helping to ensure that they continue to develop their work in new and exciting ways.”

ALBION

by **Mike Bartlett**

Direction: **Rupert Goold**; Design: **Miriam Buether**; Light: **Neil Austin**;

Sound: **Gregory Clarke**; Movement Director: **Rebecca Frecknall**

Monday 3 February – Friday 28 February 2020

Press night: Wednesday 5 February 7pm

Cast includes: **Victoria Hamilton**.

★★★★★

“The play that Britain needs right now”

The Telegraph

This is our little piece of the world, and we're allowed to do with it, exactly as we like. Yes?

In the ruins of a garden in rural England.

In a house which was once a home.

A woman searches for seeds of hope.

Following a sell-out run in 2017, **Albion** returns to the Almeida for four weeks only.

Mike Bartlett's plays for the Almeida include his adaptation of Maxim Gorky's *Vassa, Game* and the multi-award winning *King Charles III* (Olivier Award for Best New Play) which premiered at the Almeida before West End and Broadway transfers, a UK and international tour. His television adaptation of the play was broadcast on BBC Two in 2017. Other plays include *Snowflake* (Old Fire Station and running at the Kiln Theatre this Christmas); *Wild*; *An Intervention*; *Bull* (won the Olivier Award for Outstanding Achievement in an Affiliate Theatre); an adaptation of *Medea*; *Chariots of Fire*; *13*; *Decade* (co-writer); *Earthquakes in London*; *Love, Love, Love*; *Cock* (Olivier Award for Outstanding Achievement in an Affiliate Theatre); *Contractions* and *My Child Artefacts*. His writing for television includes *Press*; *Trauma*; *Doctor Foster*; *King Charles III* and the forthcoming *Life*.

Rupert Goold is the Almeida's Artistic Director where he has previously directed *The Hunt*, *Shipwreck*, *Albion*, *Ink* (also West End and Broadway), *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 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. His feature film *Judy* is currently in cinemas and his other work on film includes the BAFTA nominated *Richard II*, part of *The Hollow Crown*; *Macbeth* for the BBC; *True Story* starring James Franco and Jonah Hill and a television adaptation of his production of Mike Bartlett's *King Charles III* for BBC Two. He was awarded a CBE for services to drama in 2017.

Victoria Hamilton plays Audrey Walters. She previously appeared in *The Doctor's Dilemma* at the Almeida. Her other theatre credits include *Love, Love, Love* (Royal Court); *Twelfth Night* (Donmar Warehouse at Wyndham's Theatre); *Once in a Lifetime*, *Summerfolk* and *Money* (National Theatre); *Suddenly Last Summer* (Donmar Warehouse and UK Tour); *Sweet Panic*, *Home & Beauty* and *The Master Builder* (West End); *A Day in the Death of Joe Egg* (Roundabout Theatre, New York and in the West End); *The Country Wife* and *As You Like It* at (Crucible Theatre, Sheffield); *King Lear*, *The Provoked Wife* and *The Seagull* (The Old Vic) and *Troilus And Cressida* and *As You Like It* (RSC). Her television work includes the forthcoming Mike Bartlett series *Life*; *Deep State*; *The Crown*; *Doctor Foster*; *Our Ex-Wife*; *The Circuit*; *Call the Midwife Christmas Special*; *The Game*; *What Remains*; *Toast*; *Larkrise to Candleford*; *Time of Your Life*; *Trial and Retribution*; *Wide Sargasso Sea*; *The Shell Seekers*; *A Very Social Secretary*; *Jericho*; *Spine Chillers*; *To the Ends of the Earth*; *The Brontes*; *Goodbye Mr Chips*; *Baby Father - I & II*; *Victoria & Albert*; *The Savages*; *King Lear*; *The Merchant of Venice*; *Persuasion* and *Pride and Prejudice*. Films include *French*; *Scoop*; *Before You Go* and *Mansfield Park*.

UK Premiere

“DADDY”

A Melodrama

by **Jeremy O. Harris**

Direction: **Danya Taymor**; Design: **Matt Saunders**

Monday 30 March – Saturday 9 May 2020

Press night: Thursday 9 April 7pm

I will be your father figure. Put your tiny hand in mine.

I will be your preacher teacher. Anything you have in mind.

A young black artist meets an older white art collector.

A gospel choir emerges from an infinity pool.

A mother stops at nothing to save her son's soul.

When it's summer every day...when even is it?

In this Bel Air tale of love and family, intimacy is a commodity and the surreal gets real.

Danya Taymor directs the UK premiere of “*Daddy*”, an explosive and blistering melodrama from Jeremy O. Harris (*Slave Play*) – “one of the most exciting new voices of his generation” GQ.

Jeremy O. Harris' plays include *Slave Play* (Golden Theatre, New York Theatre Workshop, Winner of the 2018 Kennedy Center Rosa Parks Playwriting Award, the Lorraine Hansberry Playwriting Award, and The Lotos Foundation Prize in the Arts and Sciences); *Xander Xyst; Dragon: 1* and *WATER SPORTS; or insignificant white boys*. In 2018, he co-wrote A24's upcoming film *Zola* with director Janicza Bravo. He is the eleventh recipient of the Vineyard Theatre's Paula Vogel Playwriting Award, a 2016 MacDowell Colony Fellow, an Orchard Project Greenhouse artist, a resident playwright with Colt Coeur, and is under commission from Lincoln Center Theater and Playwrights Horizons. He is a graduate of the Yale MFA Playwriting Programme.

Danya Taymor's previous directing work includes *Heroes of the Fourth Turning* (Playwrights Horizon); *Daddy* (New Group/Vineyard); *Pass Over* (Lincoln Center/Steppenwolf); *Familiar* (Steppenwolf); *queens* (Lincoln Center Theater); *Esai's Table* (Cherry Lane Mentor Project); *The Sensuality Party* (The New Group); *Christina Martinez* (Juilliard); *Cygnus* (Women's Project); *Wyoming* (Lesser America); *My Daughter Keeps Our Hammer* and *The Place We Built* (The Flea). Her translations include Alejandro Ricaño's *We Are Getting Better at Saying Goodbye*, Luis Enrique Guitierrez Ortiz Monasterio's *I Hate Fucking Mexicans* and Ettore Scola's *Working on a Special Day*. She is a 2014-2016 Time Warner Directing Fellow at Women's Project, a 2050 fellow at New York Theatre Workshop, an Artist in Residence at Theatre for a New Audience, a member of Ensemble Studio Theater, an Associate Artist at The Flea Theater, New Georges Affiliated Artist and a semi-finalist for the Lange-Taylor prize with Dominic Bracco.

World Premiere

THE HOUSE OF SHADES

by **Beth Steel**

Direction: **Blanche McIntyre**; Design: **Anna Fleischle**

Monday 18 May – Saturday 27 June 2020

Press night: Tuesday 26 May 7pm

Nothing cuts into us like the family knife.

The Webster House.

1965. 1979. 1985. 1990. 2016.

Death silences no one, least of all the dead.

Blanche McIntyre (*The Writer*) directs the world premiere of Beth Steel's (*Wonderland*) revelatory new play which spans five decades of the lives, and deaths, of the Webster family.

Inside their home, set against the ever-changing industrial landscape of working-class Britain, some chase dreams of a brighter future and others are haunted by the nightmares of the past.

Beth Steel's plays include *Labyrinth*, *Wonderland* and *Ditch*. She was awarded the Charles Wintour Award for Most Promising Playwright at the Evening Standard Theatre Awards 2014.

Blanche McIntyre directs. She returns to the Almeida having previously directed *The Writer*. Her other credits include *Botticelli in the Fire* (Hampstead Theatre); *Bartholomew Fair*, *A Winter's Tale*, *As You Like It* and *The Comedy of Errors* (Shakespeare's Globe); *The Norman Conquests* (Chichester Festival Theatre); *Titus Andronicus* and *The Two Noble Kinsmen* (RSC); *Noises Off* (Nottingham Playhouse); *Welcome Home, Captain Fox!* (Donmar Warehouse); *The Oresteia* (HOME, Manchester); *Arcadia* (English Touring Theatre and Ambassador Theatre Group); *Accolade* (Finborough Theatre); *Tonight at 8:30* and *The Nutcracker* (Nuffield Southampton Theatres); *Ciphers* (Out of Joint, Bush Theatre and Exeter Northcott); *The Birthday Party* (Royal Exchange Theatre) and *The Seagull* (Headlong Theatre, Nuffield Southampton Theatres and Derby Theatre – winter of Best Director at 2013 UK Theatre Awards); *Foxfinder* and *Accolade* (Finborough Theatre). She was the winner of the 2011 Critics' Circle Most Promising Newcomer Award.

GENESIS ALMEIDA NEW PLAYWRIGHTS, BIG PLAYS PROGRAMME

The **Genesis Almeida New Playwrights, Big Plays Programme** is an annual programme that supports emerging and mid-career writers to develop new plays for larger stages giving them the space and time to experiment with form and scale. Each writer on the programme is commissioned to develop one new play and will be given dramaturgical support from the Almeida's Literary Manager and artistic team. During the year the writers will also attend twelve masterclasses led by established British and international playwrights and be given a five day R&D workshop to develop their commission.

The Genesis Almeida Writers Programme is made possible by the support of the **Genesis Foundation**.

The Genesis Almeida Writers for 2019/20 are:

Kendall Feaver

Sami Ibrahim

Charley Miles

Amy Ng

Iman Qureshi

Sam Steiner

Ross Willis

Established by John Studzinski, the Genesis Foundation works in partnership with leaders of prestigious UK arts organisations such as the Almeida Theatre, LAMDA, the National Theatre, The Sixteen and the Young Vic. Its largest funding commitment is to programmes that support directors, playwrights, actors and musicians in their career development.



ALMEIDA RESIDENT DESIGNERS AND DIRECTORS

Running alongside the Almeida's Resident Director scheme, which is now in its fourth year, is a new **Resident Designer** programme offering a group of designers in the early stage of their careers an opportunity to develop their skills and their craft for a year with the support of our Artistic and Production teams. The scheme will offer workshops and mentorship, as well as an opportunity to work as an Assistant Designer on one of our main-stage productions.

The Almeida's Resident Designers programme is generously supported by Universal Music and an anonymous individual.

The Resident Designers for 2019/20 are:

Set/Costume:

Charley Ipsen

Finlay Forbes Gower

Amy Hayden-Wason

Sound:

Beth Duke

Catherine Hawthorn

Fizz Margereson

(From 2020-21, the programme will be expanded to include Lighting Designers)

The **Resident Director** programme is now into its fourth year. This year's directors are:

Jamie Armitage

Robert Awosusi

Atri Banerjee

Ebenezer Bamgboye

Jack Bradfield

TD Moyo

Sammy J Glover

Emily Ling Williams

Lucy Grace McCann

Tamar Saphra

The Almeida is grateful to **The Eranda Rothschild Foundation**, **The Garrick Charitable Trust**, **Idlewild Trust**, **Gregory Nasmyth** and **Samantha Rowe-Beddoe** for their support of the Resident Director programme.

ENDS

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

For images click [here](#).

BOOKING DATES:

Bronze, Silver and Gold Friends - Tuesday 29 October, 10am

Almeida Friends - Thursday 31 October, 10am

General sale - Thursday 7 November, 10am

ALMEIDA LISTINGS INFORMATION

Address	Almeida Theatre, Almeida Street, London, N1 1TA
Café Bar	The Almeida Café Bar is open from 11.30am – 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

Evening performances at 7.30pm
Wednesday and Saturday Matinees at 2.30pm
All press night performances at 7.00pm

Website	almeida.co.uk
Twitter	@AlmeidaTheatre
Facebook	facebook.com/almeidatheatre
Instagram	@almeida_theatre

PRODUCTIONS **ALBION**
Monday 3 February – Friday 28 February 2020
Press night: Wednesday 5 February 7pm

“DADDY”
Monday 30 March – Saturday 9 May
Press night: Thursday 9 April 7pm

THE HOUSE OF SHADES
Monday 18 May – Saturday 27 June
Press night: Tuesday 26 May 7pm

Access **Albion** Audio Described performance:
Saturday 22 February 2:30pm (Touch Tour at 12.45pm)

Albion Captioned performance:

Tuesday 18 February 7:30pm

“Daddy” Audio Described performance:

Saturday 2 May 2:30pm (Touch Tour at 12:45pm)

“Daddy” Captioned performance:

Thursday 30 April 7:30pm

The House of Shades Audio Described performance:

Saturday 20 June 2.30pm (Touch Tour at 12.45pm)

The House of Shades Captioned performance:

Thursday 18 June 7.30pm

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

“Daddy” – Monday 20 April 6pm

The House of Shades – Monday 15 June 6pm

Watch past events at almeida.co.uk/explore

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); *Oresteia* (transferred to the West End and won the Olivier Award for Best Director) and *The Hunt*. Recently, there have been West End transfers for *Ink* directed by Goad (also Broadway), Associate Director Rebecca Frecknall's production of *Summer & Smoke* (winner of Best Play Revival and Best Actress at the 2019 Olivier Awards) and Robert Icke's productions of *Hamlet* (also screened on the BBC) and *Mary Stuart* and his production of *The Doctor* transfers to the Duke of York's Theatre in April 2020. 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.