

ALMEIDA THEATRE

Press release: Thursday 2 January

The Almeida Theatre announces the full cast for its revival of Mike Bartlett's *Albion*, directed by Rupert Goold, following the play's acclaimed run in 2017.

ALBION

by Mike Bartlett

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

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

Monday 3 February – Saturday 29 February 2020

Press night: Wednesday 5 February 7pm

★★★★★

“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.

Joining the previously announced **Victoria Hamilton** (awarded Best Actress at 2018 Critics' Circle Awards for this role) and reprising their roles are **Nigel Betts**, **Edyta Budnik**, **Wil Coban**, **Margot Leicester**, **Nicholas Rowe** and **Helen Schlesinger**. They will be joined by **Angel Coulby**, **Daisy Edgar-Jones**, **Dónal Finn** and **Geoffrey Freshwater**.

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 Kiln Theatre); *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 *Sticks and Stones*; *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.

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 3 February – Saturday 29 February 2020

Albion

by **Mike Bartlett**

Directed by **Rupert Goold**

Press night: Wednesday 5 February 2020

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: Tuesday 18 February 7:30pm Audio Described performance: Saturday 22 February 2:30pm (Touch Tour at 12.45pm)
Talkback	Post-show discussion with members of the company Free to same performance ticket holders Monday 17 February

Notes to Editors

CAST BIOGRAPHIES

Nigel Betts plays Edward. His theatre credits include *The Box of Delights* (Wilton's Music Hall); *Steel* (Sheffield Theatres); *Aladdin* (Oxford Playhouse); *Three Days in the Country* (National Theatre); *War Horse* and *One Man Two Guv'nors* (National Theatre and West End); *Wonderland* (Hampstead Theatre); *Pastoral* (Soho Theatre); *Aladdin* (Lyric Hammersmith), *The 39 Steps*, *Up'n'Under*, *Henry IV* and *As You Like It* (West End). His television work includes *Harlots*; *Killing Eve*; *Little Boy Blue*; *Vera*; *Death in Paradise*; *The Coroner*; *Class*; *Boy Meets Girl*; *You, Me and Them*; *The Wrong Mans*; *Doctor Who* and *Our Zoo*.

Edyta Budnik plays Krystyna. Her theatre credits include *This Kind of Air* (The Bunker); *Death of Ophelia* (Sam Wanamaker Playhouse); *Us Against Whatever* (Liverpool Everyman); *Under the Lid* (Jermyn Theatre) and *Tense/Nine* (Nabokov at the Southwark Playhouse). Her television work includes *Killing Eve*; *The Tunnel*; *Suspects*; *The Bletchley Circle*; *The Sarah Jane Adventures*. For film, her credits include *Byzantium* and *The Comedian*.

Wil Coban plays James/Stanley. His theatre credits include *Gate* (Cockpit Theatre); *Romeo and Juliet* (HOME Manchester) and *Your Last Breath* (Curious Directive). His television work includes *Origin*; *Cuffs* and the forthcoming *Cursed* and *The Liberator*. His film credits include *Waiting for the Barbarians*; *King Arthur: Legend of the Sword* and *Obey*.

Angel Coulby plays Anna. Her theatre credits include *Good People* (Hampstead Theatre/West End); *Lavender Blue* (Edinburgh Lyceum) and *A Statement of Regret* (National Theatre). Her television work includes *Innocent*; *The Tunnel*; *Undercover*; *Merlin*; *Dancing on the Edge*; *The Visit*; *Talk to Me*; *Vincent*. For film, her work includes *Magicians*; *Imagine Me and You* and *The League of Gentlemen's Apocalypse*.

Daisy Edgar-Jones plays Zara. This is her professional stage debut. Her television work includes playing Marianne in the forthcoming television adaptation of *Normal People*; *War of the Worlds*; *Gentleman Jack*; *Cold Feet* and *Outnumbered*. Her film work includes *Pond Life*.

Dónal Finn plays Gabriel. His theatre credits include *Sing Street* (Mark Rubinstein Ltd); *Chasing Bono* (Soho Theatre). His television work includes *The Witcher* and, for film his work includes *How to Build a Girl*.

Geoffrey Freshwater plays Matthew. He previously appeared in *Ink* and *Filumena* at the Almeida. For the RSC, where he is an Associate Artist, he has appeared in *Jew of Malta*; *The Witch of Edmonton*; *Arden of Faversham*; *The Roaring Girl*; *Love's Sacrifice*; *Volpone*; *As You Like It*; *King Lear*; *The Taming of the Shrew*; *Julius Caesar*; *The Merchant of Venice*; *The Changeling*; *Softcops*; *Coriolanus*; *Happy End*; *The Odyssey*; *Much Ado About Nothing* (RSC USA / European tour); *Richard III* (RSC Australian tour); *Travesties* (RSC / Savoy Theatre); *The Winter's Tale*; *The Lion The Witch And The Wardrobe*; *King John*; *The Malcontent*; *Eastwood Ho!* (RSC/Gielgud). His other theatre work includes *Noises Off*; *Old Money*; *The Tempest*; *The Way of the World*; *Dracula*; and *Arsenic And Old Lace* (Chichester Festival Theatre); *The Churchill Play* and *The Alchemist* (National Theatre); *Once In A Lifetime* and *Piaf* (West End); *The Real Inspector Hound* (Donmar Warehouse in the West End). His television credits include *Will*; *Foyle's War*; *The Commander* and *The Government Inspector*. His film work includes *The Program*; *The Invisible Woman*; *Sabotage*; *The Leading Man*; *A Bridge Too Far*.

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*.

Margot Leicester plays Cheryl. She previously appeared at the Almeida in *King Charles III* (also West End and Broadway) and *Knot of the Heart*. Her other theatre credits include

Admissions (Trafalgar Studios); *Stories* (National Theatre); *Seventeen* (Lyric Hammersmith); *Long Day's Journey Into Night*, *An Inspector Calls*, *The Glass Menagerie*, *Habeas Corpus*, *Who's Afraid of Virginal Woolf*, *The Enemies Within*, *All My Sons* and *Ghosts* (Bolton Octagon); *A Conversation* (Royal Exchange, Manchester) and *Coriolanus* (Shakespeare's Globe). Her television work includes *King Charles III*; *Frankie*; *Margot*; *The Take* and *Five Days*. For film, her credits include the forthcoming *Night of the Lotus* and *1408*.

Nicholas Rowe plays Paul Walters. His previous work for the Almeida includes *King Charles III* (also West End). His other theatre credits include *Donkey's Years* (Rose Theatre Kingston); *Raving* (Hampstead Theatre); *The Madness of George III* (Theatre Royal Bath and on tour); *Victory* (Arcola Theatre); *Whipping It Up* (Bush Theatre/West End) and *Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead* (English Touring Theatre). His television work includes *Riviera*; *Genius*; *The Crown*; *Doctor Thorne*; *The Last Kingdom*; *Da Vinci's Demons*; *The Borgias*; *Doctor Who: Dreamland* and *Margaret*. For film, his work includes *Mr Holmes*; *Eat Locals*; *Delicious*; *A United Kingdom*; *Snowden*; *Shanghai* and *Young Sherlock Holmes*.

Helen Schlesinger plays Katherine Sanchez. Her theatre credits include *Hamlet* and *As You Like It* (Shakespeare's Globe); *Boys Will Be Boys* and *Whipping It Up* (Bush Theatre); *Frozen* (Park Theatre); *Single Spies* (Rose Theatre Kingston); *Coriolanus* (Donmar Warehouse); *Bracken Moor* (Tricycle Theatre); *Fireface* (Young Vic Theatre); *Skåne* and *Comfort with Apples* (Hampstead Theatre); *Blue/Orange* (Tiata Fahodzi and the Arcola Theatre); *The God's Weep*, *The Crucible* (WhatsOnStage Award for Best Supporting Actress), *The Merchant of Venice*, *Twelfth Night* (RSC); *Wild East*, *Bear Hug*, *The Weather (The Mother)* (Royal Court); *The Oresteia*, *War and Peace*, *An Inspector Calls* (also West End), *Inadmissible Evidence* (also West End) at the National Theatre. Her television work includes *Lewis*, *The Hour*, *Nativity* and *Trial and Retribution*. For film, her credits include *24 Hour Party People* and *Dirty War*.

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 Goold (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.