



THE
OLD
VIC

PRESS RELEASE
15 April 2014

The Crucible

Arthur Miller

Directed by Yaël Farber

Previews from 24 June 2014

Richard Armitage to lead the cast in The Crucible

Initial casting for Arthur Miller's *The Crucible* is announced. **Richard Armitage**, **Anna Madeley** and **Samantha Colley** are to play John Proctor, Elizabeth Proctor and Abigail Williams in **Yaël Farber's** new production at The Old Vic, with previews from Tuesday 24 June. The cast also includes **Sarah Niles**, **Rebecca Saire** and **Zara White**, with further cast to be announced.

Yaël Farber directs a visceral re-imagining of Arthur Miller's modern American masterpiece about the Salem witch trials drawing parallels with his experience of McCarthy's anti-communist investigations in the 1950's. *The Crucible* tells the story of one man's fight to save his identity in a repressive Puritan community where intolerance collides with lust and superstition, fuelling widespread hysteria with tragic results.

The Crucible is the second play in a new season of productions which are presented in-the-round at The Old Vic. Reprising the transformation of The Old Vic's auditorium into the round, first seen for the award-winning 2008 production of *The Norman Conquests*, this ambitious project is once more made possible by the generous support of CQS. The season of productions is supported for the fourth consecutive year by Bank of America Merrill Lynch.

Richard Armitage plays John Proctor. This summer Richard can be seen in New Line Cinema's tornado disaster film *Into the Storm*, directed by Steven Quale and opposite Sarah Wayne Callies. Later this year he will reprise his starring role of Thorin Oakenshield, leader of the Dwarves, in Peter Jackson's last instalment of the highly successful *Hobbit* trilogy alongside Martin Freeman, Ian McKellen, Andy Serkis and Cate Blanchett. He is also well known to cinema audiences for playing villain Heinz Kruger in *Captain America: The First Avenger*. Richard has appeared in many high profile television shows such as *North and South*, *Spooks*, *Robin Hood*, *Strike Back*, *The Vicar of Dibley* and the BBC's *Macbeth* opposite James McAvoy and Keeley Hawes. A respected theatre actor, his previous stage work includes *The Duchess of Malfi* and *Macbeth* for the Royal Shakespeare Company, and *Hamlet* at the Birmingham Rep.

Samantha Colley plays Abigail Williams. Samantha is to graduate from The Oxford School of Drama in 2014. Whilst training, she played the title role in *Anna Karenina*, Katherina in *The Taming of the Shrew* and Elizabeth Bennett in *Pride and Prejudice*. *The Crucible* is to be Samantha's professional stage debut.

Anna Madeley plays Elizabeth Proctor. Anna's previous stage credits include Richard Eyre's Broadway production of *Private Lives* (Music Box Theater), *Earthquakes in London* (National), *The Turn of the Screw* (Almeida) and *The Philanthropist* (Donmar and Broadway). She has also appeared in three seasons with the Royal Shakespeare Company. On film she has starred in *In Bruges*, *Guest House Paradiso* and *A Fantastic Fear of Everything*. Most recently, she played Miss Ravillious in *Mr Selfridge* and has had roles in *Utopia*, *Hustle*, and the controversial Channel 4 drama *Consent*.

Yaël Farber is a multiple award-winning director and playwright of international acclaim. Her productions have toured the world extensively - earning her a reputation for hard-hitting, controversial works of the highest artistic standard. Her most recent work *Nirbhaya* (directed and written by Farber in India) earned rave reviews and three international awards at the 2013 Edinburgh Festival and has just completed a sold out run at The Southbank Centre. *Mies Julie* (written and directed by Farber) won a string of international awards at the 2012 Edinburgh Festival, was named one of the Top Ten Productions of 2012 by The New York Times, and Top five Productions of 2012 by The Guardian. Yaël is the recipient of four Best Director Awards (1991, 2002, 2008, 2012) in her native South Africa, where she was named Artist of the Year (2003). She has won the Scotsman Fringe First Award (Edinburgh 2000, 2012, 2013), The Sony Gold Award (London 2001), Best of Edinburgh Award (Edinburgh 2012) and The Amnesty Freedom of Expression Award 2013. She has been nominated for a Drama Desk Award (New York, 2007) and a TMA Best Director Award (UK 2008). Her productions have toured across the major cities of the USA, the UK (including the West End and the Barbican), Canada, Australia, Japan, Europe and Africa, The United Arab Emirates and Bermuda. She created a work in residence at The Joseph Papp Public Theatre, and was Head of the Directing Program at the National Theatre School of Canada for three years (2009 – 2012).

Arthur Miller (1915-2005) was born in New York City and studied at the University of Michigan. His plays include *The Man Who Had All the Luck* (1944), *All My Sons* (1947), *Death of a Salesman* (1949), *The Crucible* (1953), *A View from the Bridge* and *A Memory of Two Mondays* (1955), *After the Fall* (1964), *Incident at Vichy* (1964), *The Price* (1968), *The Creation of the World and Other Business* (1972), *The Archbishop's Ceiling* (1977), *The American Clock* (1980) and *Playing for Time*. Later plays include *The Ride Down Mt. Morgan* (1991), *The Last Yankee* (1993), *Broken Glass* (1994), *Mr. Peters' Connections* (1998), *Resurrection Blues* (2002), and *Finishing the Picture* (2004). Other works include *Focus*, a novel (1945), *The Misfits*, a screenplay (1960), and the texts for *In Russia* (1969), *In the Country* (1977), and *Chinese Encounters* (1979), three books in collaboration with his wife, photographer Inge Morath. Memoirs include *Salesman in Beijing* (1984), and *Timebends*, an autobiography (1988). Short fiction includes the collection *I Don't Need You Anymore* (1967), the novella, *Homely Girl, a Life* (1995) and *Presence: Stories* (2007). He was awarded the Avery Hopwood Award for Playwriting at University of Michigan in 1936. He twice won the New York Drama Critics Circle Award, received two Emmy awards and three Tony Awards for his plays, as well as a Tony Award for Lifetime Achievement. He also won an Obie award, a BBC Best Play Award, the George Foster Peabody Award, a Gold Medal for Drama from the National Institute of Arts and Letters, the Literary Lion Award from the New York Public Library, the John F. Kennedy Lifetime Achievement Award, and the Algur Meadows Award. He was named Jefferson Lecturer for the National Endowment for the Humanities in 2001. He was awarded the 2002 Prince of Asturias Award for Letters and the 2003 Jerusalem Prize. He received honorary degrees from Oxford University and Harvard University and was awarded the Prix Moliere of the French theatre, the Dorothy and Lillian Gish Lifetime Achievement Award and the Pulitzer Prize.

Director: **Yaël Farber**
Designer: **Soutra Gilmour**

Press Contacts

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NOTES TO EDITORS

NOW PLAYING

Other Desert Cities

Jon Robin Baitz

Until Sat 24 May

Lindsay Posner directs **Jon Robin Baitz**'s award-winning play, an acidly witty and deeply affecting tour de force that took Broadway by storm.

Starring **Sinéad Cusack**, **Peter Egan**, **Clare Higgins**, **Daniel Lapaine** and **Martha Plimpton**.

Kevin Spacey

Clarence Darrow

David W. Rintels

Wed 28 May – Sun 15 June

Kevin Spacey returns to the role of pioneering lawyer Clarence Darrow after the critically acclaimed Old Vic production of *Inherit the Wind* and the PBS film *Darrow*. **Thea Sharrock** directs him in **Rintels**' compelling one man tour-de-force in which the larger than life Darrow with his legendary wit relives some of his pivotal experiences, including the infamous Scopes 'Monkey' and 'Thrill Killers' trials which established his reputation as a courtroom giant and civil rights hero.

Kristin Scott Thomas

Electra

Sophocles

In a version by Frank McGuinness

Sat 20 Sept – Sat 20 Dec

Director **Ian Rickson** and **Kristin Scott Thomas** reunite to bring **Sophocles**' tragedy to The Old Vic in the round. **Frank McGuinness** delivers a taut adaptation of the classic tale of Electra and Orestes' revenge on their father's murderers. Electra's fury has been stoked to a crescendo by her impotence to act, until her brother arrives and then it explodes without mercy.

A co-production with Sonia Friedman Productions

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The Old Vic gratefully acknowledges an award of £5 million in 2012 from the Catalyst Arts Endowment Fund, conditional on our raising £15 million match funding by 2015.



BOX OFFICE INFORMATION

Box Office 0844 871 7628 | oldvictheatre.com
The Old Vic, The Cut, London SE1 8NB

THE CRUCIBLE

Arthur Miller

Tue 24 June – Sat 13 Sept

Preview pricing: Tue 24 June – Tue 8 July

Mon–Sat 7.30pm; Wed & Sat 2.30pm

[Please note there are no matinee performances on Wed 25 June & Wed 9 July].

Captioned Performances: Sat 26 July at 2.30pm & Tue 12 Aug at 7.30pm

Audio Described Performance: Thu 14 Aug at 7.30pm

TICKETS £10, £16, £21, £30, £45, £55

For information regarding Premium Seats please call the box office.

Concessions

PwC tickets for Under 25s: 100 £12 tickets for all performances. Bookable in advance but tickets must be collected in person from the Box Office with proof of age

Senior Citizens: Best available seats for £30 for all matinee performances only.

Groups 10+: £10 off top 3 prices for Mon - Wed eves & Wed & Tue matinees.

School Groups 10+: £12 for Mon - Wed eves & Wed & Tue matinees.

Disabled Patrons: Top 3 prices reduced to £21 for all performances

Preview Pricing: [Tue 24 June – Tue 8 July]

£5 off top 3 prices (Old Vic Friends £7.50 off)

All concessions are limited and subject to availability. All 2014 ticket prices (apart from the PwC tickets for Under 25s, community & schools tickets) include a £1 restoration levy.