



THE
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PRESS RELEASE
14 May 2014

The Crucible

Arthur Miller

Directed by Yaël Farber
Starring Richard Armitage

Full Cast Announced

Previews from 21 June 2014
Press night 3 July 2014

Jack Ellis, William Gaunt, Christopher Godwin, Adrian Schiller and Michael Thomas join Richard Armitage, Samantha Colley and Anna Madeley in Yaël Farber's new production of Arthur Miller's *The Crucible* at The Old Vic, with previews from Saturday 21 June.

Yaël Farber directs Arthur Miller's modern American masterpiece about the Salem witch trials drawing parallels with his experience of McCarthy's anti-communist investigations in the 1950s. ***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 third 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.

Jack Ellis plays Deputy Governor Danforth. This role marks his return to The Old Vic stage, having last appeared in The Bridge Project (Sam Mendes' *Richard III*, which also toured globally). Other stage work includes the West End production of *Great Expectations* (Vaudeville), *Hamlet*, *Cymbeline* and *Twelfth Night* (RSC) and *A Few Good Men* (Theatre Royal Haymarket), opposite Rob Lowe, John Barrowman and Suranne Jones. Jack is well known to television audiences for playing villainous prison officer Jim Fenner in *Bad Girls* for seven years (ITV), and has appeared in *Coronation Street* as bookmaker Harry Mason, and *Prime Suspect*, playing Detective Inspector Muddyman. Other screen roles include *New Tricks*, *Lewis* and HBO's *Rome*.

William Gaunt plays Giles Corey. William's most recent stage role was as Dogsborough in *The Resistible Rise of Arturo Ui* which transferred from Chichester Festival Theatre to the West End in 2013. Other stage work includes *The Cherry Orchard* (Chichester Festival Theatre), *Sixty Six Books - Concerning Faith* (Bush), *Henry IV Parts I & II* (Shakespeare's Globe), *King Lear* and *The Seagull* (RSC), *Humble Boy*, *Albert Speer*, *Look Back in Anger*, *The Mysteries* and *An Inspector Calls* (National), and West End productions of *The Miracle Worker*, *Travels With My Aunt*, *Boys in the Band* and *Flip Side*. Between 1983 and 1987 William starred as harassed father Arthur Crabtree in the sitcom *No Place Like Home*. Other notable television roles include *Next of Kin* opposite Penelope Keith, *Doctor Who*, *Cast Offs* and *Juliet Bravo*.

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*.

Adrian Schiller plays Reverend John Hales. Adrian most recently starred as Dali in the acclaimed *Hysteria* at the Hampstead Theatre. His other theatre productions include *The Captain of Kopenick*, *The Veil*, *Every Good Boy Deserves Favour* and *The Hour We Knew Nothing of Each Other* (National), *The Three Sisters* (Young Vic), *Our Private Life* (Royal Court), *Twisted* (Southwark Playhouse), Cassius in *Julius Ceasar* for the Lyric and the RSC and numerous other productions for the RSC including *Two Gentlemen of Verona*, *Henry V*, *As You Like It*, *Romeo & Juliet*, *The Tempest*, *Measure for Measure*, *Macbeth*, *The White Devil* and *Troilus & Cressida*. On television Adrian has appeared in *The Musketeers*, *Endeavour*, as Caiaphas in *The Bible*, *Silk* and *Being Human*. Adrian played the same role of Caiaphas in the film *Son of God*; his other film credits include *Brighton Rock*, *Wild Target*, *Bright Star* and forthcoming films *Suffragette*, *Frankenstein*, *Residue* and *A Little Chaos*.

Michael Thomas plays Reverend Parris. Michael was also involved in The Bridge Project, with roles in *As You Like It* and *The Tempest* (BAM, New York/The Old Vic). His extensive list of theatre credits includes *People* (tour), *All's Well That Ends Well*, *St Joan*, *Pillars of the Community*, *The Orestia* and *The Life of Galileo* (National), *Before The Party* and *Waste* (Almeida), *Under the Curse* (Gate Theatre) and many productions for the RSC including *Women Beware Women*, *Edward III*, *The Roman Actor*, *The*

Malcontent, The Comedy of Errors, Henry V, Henry IV Part 2, Romeo & Juliet and *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. Michael's recent television credits include *Endeavour, Trial and Retribution* and *Doctors*, while his film work includes Richard Curtis' *Pirate Radio, Twelfth Night* and *Paper Mask*.

The full cast are Richard Armitage, Harry Attwell, Samantha Colley, Marama Corlett, Jack Ellis, Ann Firbank, William Gaunt, Natalie Gavin, Christopher Godwin, Hannah Hutch, Lauren Lyle, Anna Madeley, Paddy Navin, Sarah Niles, Tom Peters, Rebecca Saire, Neil Salvage, Adrian Schiller, Michael Thomas, Alan Vicary, Daisy Waterstone, Matt Weyland and Zara White.

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 Aljur 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
Lighting: Tim Lutkin
Music and Sound: Richard Hammarton
Movement: Imogen Knight
Casting: Maggie Lunn & Camilla Evans

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

The Crucible

Arthur Miller

Sat 21 June – Sat 13 Sept

Preview pricing: Sat 21 June – Tue 8 July
Mon–Sat 7.30pm; Wed & Sat 2.30pm

[Please note there are no matinee performances on Sat 21 June & Wed 25 June].

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 matinees.

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

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

Preview Pricing: [Sat 21 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.