

Wednesday 1 August 2018

CASTING ANNOUNCED FOR THE NATIONAL THEATRE'S UK AND IRELAND TOUR OF **MACBETH**

Michael Nardone (BBC One's *The Night Manager* and *Rellik*, HBO's *Rome*) will play the title role in **Rufus Norris'** touring production of *Macbeth*, with **Kirsty Besterman** (*Genesis Inc.* at Hampstead Theatre, *They Drink It in The Congo* at the Almeida Theatre, and BBC One's *Father Brown*) joining the cast as Lady Macbeth.

The National Theatre's tour of Shakespeare's most intense tragedy will visit 18 venues across the UK and Ireland from September – March 2019, opening The Lowry, Salford on 29 September (press night 4 October).

The 19-strong touring ensemble is **Kirsty Besterman** (Lady Macbeth), **Joseph Brown** (Malcolm), **Elizabeth Chan** (Witch), **Nisa Cole** (Fleance), **Reuben Johnson** (Doctor), **Helen Katamba** (Murderer), **Tom Mannion** (Duncan & Siward), **Brad Morrison** (Murderer), **Michael Nardone** (Macbeth), **Hauk Pattison** (Murderer), **Evelyn Roberts** (Witch & Boy), **James Robinson** (Lennox), **Patrick Robinson** (Banquo), **Duncan Ross** (Ensemble), **Rachel Sanders** (Ross), **Olivia Sweeney** (Witch & Gentlewoman), **Deka Walmsley** (Porter), **Ross Waiton** (Macduff), and **Lisa Zahra** (Lady Macduff).

Sleep no more...The ruined aftermath of a bloody civil war. Ruthlessly fighting to survive, the Macbeths are thrust towards the crown by forces of elemental darkness.

Directed by NT Artistic Director **Rufus Norris** and designed by **Rae Smith** (*This House*, *War Horse*), this new production propels Shakespeare's classic title into a post-apocalyptic world of anarchy and uncertainty.

Michael Nardone (Macbeth) played Frisky in BBC One's Emmy Award-winning series *The Night Manager*. His work on stage includes the Duke of Cornwall in *King Lear* at the National Theatre directed

by Sam Mendes and the title role in *Peribanez* at the Young Vic directed by Rufus Norris. On television he has also appeared as Jonas in BBC One's *Rellik*; as DCI Whiteside in BBC Scotland's *River City* and as Mascius in HBO's *Rome*. Alongside appearances in *Genesis Inc.* at Hampstead Theatre, *They Drink It in the Congo* at the Almeida Theatre, and BBC One's *Father Brown*, **Kirsty Besterman's** (Lady Macbeth) credits include Diana in *Tipping the Velvet* at the Lyric Hammersmith, and Lady Croom in the UK tour of *Arcadia*.

Macbeth will tour to The Lowry, **Salford** (29 September – 6 October 2018), Theatre Royal, **Plymouth** (16 - 20 October 2018), Festival Theatre, **Edinburgh** (23 – 27 October 2018), Theatre Royal, **Norwich** (30 October - 3 November 2018), His Majesty's Theatre, **Aberdeen** (7 – 10 November 2018), Theatre Royal, **Newcastle** (13 – 17 November 2018), Lyceum, **Sheffield** (21 – 24 November 2018), Theatre Royal, **Bath** (27 November – 8 December 2018), New Theatre, **Oxford** (8 – 12 January 2019), Bord Gáis Energy Theatre, **Dublin** (15 – 19 January 2019), Theatre Royal, **Nottingham** (22 – 26 January 2019), New Theatre, **Hull** (5 – 9 February 2019), Marlowe Theatre, **Canterbury** (12 - 16 February 2019), Theatre Royal, **Glasgow** (19 – 23 February 2019), Mayflower, **Southampton** (26 February – 2 March 2019), Grand Opera House, **Belfast** (5 – 9 March 2019), Grand Theatre, **Wolverhampton** (12 – 16 March 2019), and Wales Millennium Centre, **Cardiff** (19 – 23 March 2019).

Set Design by **Rae Smith**, Costume Design by **Moritz Junge**, Tour Lighting Design by **Paul Pyant**, Music by **Orlando Gough** and **Marc Tritzschler**, Sound Design by **Paul Arditti** Tour Movement Direction by **Cydney Uffindell-Phillips**, with Original Movement Direction by **Imogen Knight**. The Associate Director is **Liz Stevenson**, Associate Set Design by **Aaron Marsden**, Associate Tour Lighting Design by **Ed Locke**, Associate Sound Design by **Mike Winship**. Fight Direction by **Kev McCurdy**, Company Voice by **Jeannette Nelson** and the Casting Director is **Sam Stevenson**.

Macbeth is produced on tour by the NT.

Macbeth on tour in partnership with Lloyds Bank Private Banking. Supported by the National Lottery through Arts Council England's cross-border touring programme, The Thompson Family Charitable Trust and The Royal National Theatre Foundation.

ENDS

For further information and images, contact **Susie Newbery**, National Theatre Productions on 020 7452 3155 / 07725 198 751 / snewbery@nationaltheatre.org.uk

Notes to Editors

- Headshots of the cast can be found [here](#)
- In 2017 – 18 the NT toured 10 productions to 52 venues in 44 towns and cities around the UK for a total of 115 playing weeks

- **About Rufus Norris, Director of the National Theatre**

For the National Theatre Rufus Norris has directed *Macbeth* (Olivier Theatre, 2018), *My Country; a work in progress* (Dorfman Theatre, 2017), Brecht and Weil's *The Threepenny Opera* (Olivier Theatre, 2016), *Everyman* in a new adaptation by Carol Ann Duffy (Olivier Theatre, 2015), *Behind the Beautiful Forevers* by David Hare based on the book by Katherine Boo (Olivier Theatre, November 2015), *The Amen Corner* by James Baldwin (Olivier Theatre, 2013), *Table* by Tanya Ronder (The Shed, 2013), *London Road* by Alecky Blythe and Adam Cork (Cottesloe Theatre 2011, Olivier Theatre 2012), *Death and the King's Horseman* by Wole Soyinka (Olivier Theatre, 2009) and *Market Boy* by David Eldridge (Olivier Theatre, 2006). His production of *wonder.land*, a new musical inspired by Lewis Carroll's *Alice in Wonderland*, which he co-created with Damon Albarn and Moira Buffini, with music by Damon Albarn and book and lyrics by Moira Buffini, opened at the National Theatre in December 2015 (having premiered at the Manchester International Festival earlier that year). Rufus was an Associate Director at the Young Vic from 2002 – 2007, where he has directed *Feast* by Yunió García Aguilera, Rotimi Babatunde, Marcos Barbosa, Tanya Barfield & Gbolahan Obisesan, *Vernon God Little* by DBC Pierre, adapted by Tanya Ronder, *Herge's Adventures of Tintin* which he adapted with David Greig (Barbican, UK tour and West End), his own adaptation of *Sleeping Beauty* (Young Vic, Barbican, UK and international tour); *Peribanez* by Lope de Vega, in a version by Tanya Ronder and *Afore Night Come* by David Rudkin (Evening Standard Best Newcomer Award). Other work has included: *Cabaret* (Lyric Theatre 2006, Savoy Theatre 2012, also on tour 2013 and 2017); Clifford Odets' *The Country Girl* (Apollo Theatre and tour); *Les Liasons Dangereuses* (Broadway: five Tony Award nominations); *Festen*, adapted by David Eldridge (Almeida, West End, on tour and on Broadway: Evening Standard and Critics' Circle Awards for Best Director) and *Blood Wedding* (Almeida). His earlier work included *Dirty Butterfly* and *Two Women* by Debbie Tucker Green (Soho Theatre), *Small Change* by Peter Gill (Sheffield Crucible), *Tall Stories* (Battersea Arts Centre and Vienna Festival), Shakespeare's *The Tempest* and *The Lizzie Play* by Deidre Strath (Arts Threshold), *Sea Tongue* (Huddersfield Contemporary Festival), *Under the Blue Sky* by David Eldridge (Royal Court), *My Dad's Cornershop* by Ray Grewal (Birmingham Rep), *Mish Alla Ruman* (Al Kasaba Theatre, Palestine) *About the Boy* by Ed Hime and *Clubbed Out* by Ezra Elia (Royal Court). He was director of Arts Threshold from 1993 – 95, and of Wink Productions from 1995 – 2000. Opera includes *Doctor Dee*, which he co-created with Damon Albarn (Manchester International Festival and ENO), and *Don Giovanni* (ENO). Rufus Norris' debut feature film *Broken* premiered at Cannes in 2012 and won Best Film at the British Independent Film Awards in 2013. His feature film adaptation of *London Road* was released in 2015.

- **Cast biographies**

Kirsty Besterman's theatre credits include *Genesis Inc* (Hampstead Theatre); *Betrayal* and *Separate Tables* (Salisbury Playhouse); *Winter Solstice* (Actors Touring Theatre); *They Drink It In The Congo* (Almeida Theatre); *Tipping the Velvet* (Lyric Hammersmith); *Arcadia* (ETT); *Tonight at 8.30* (Nuffield Theatre, Southampton); *Private Lives* (Royal Lyceum, Edinburgh); *Dickon* (Oxford Stage Company); *Playhouse Creatures* (Chichester Festival Theatre), *The Great Gatsby* (Wilton's Music Hall), *The Importance of Being Earnest* (Rose Theatre, Kingston) and *Amy's View* (Nottingham Playhouse). Television includes *Father Brown*, *Silent Witness*, and *Foyle's War*. Film includes *Chicken*, and *An American Nobody in London*.

Joseph Brown's theatre credits include *Theatre Uncut: Power Plays* (Tron Theatre), *The Tin Soldier* (Festival Theatre, Edinburgh), *Scribble* (Assembly Roxy), *Feast & Famine* and *Globophobia* (Urban Fox Theatre), *The Polio Monologues* (Birds of Paradise), *Safeword* (Traverse Theatre), *Addressed To a Friend* (Kazzum), *Carmen* (Leicester Square Theatre), *The Cherry Orchard* and *The White Devil* (The Rose Theatre).

Elizabeth Chan's theatre credits include *Light Shining in Buckinghamshire* and *Greenland* at the NT; *Into the Numbers* (Finborough Theatre); *Blirrh* (Royal Exchange, Manchester); *The Sugar-Coated Bullets of the Bourgeoisie* (HighTide); *Caught* and *Hamlet is Dead* (Arcola); *Henry IV* (Donmar Warehouse); *The Odyssey* (Almeida); *Chimerica* (Almeida and in the West End); *The Wheel* (National Theatre of Scotland); *Don't Shoot the Clowns* (Fuel); *An Argument About Sex* (Traverse and Tramway); and *Cinderella* (Lyric Hammersmith). Television includes *Foreign Skies*, *No Offence*, *Motherland*, *Carters Get Rich*, *The Last Dragonslayer*, *Last Tango in Halifax*, *Cucumber*, *Black Mirror*, *Coronation Street*, *Spirit Warriors* and *Silent Witness*.

Nisa Cole's theatre credits include *War Horse* UK and Ireland tour for the National Theatre; *Musketeers*, *Treasure Island* and *Sabbat* (Dukes, Lancaster), *Trial* (also co-writer) and *Meet The Mukherjees* (Octagon Theatre, Bolton), and *Treasure Island* (New Vic Theatre). Television credits include *The Moonstone*, *Scott & Bailey*, *Vera*, *Waterloo Road*, *Mount Pleasant*, *All the Small Things* and *The Sparticle Mystery*. Nisa is one of HOME, Manchester's JMK directors which has seen her direct a series of short plays for Take Back production's Ten Takes On Resistance 2017.

Reuben Johnson's work in theatre includes *Katie Johnstone* (Orange Tree, Richmond); *Cosmic Scallies* (Graeae and the Royal Exchange); *The Darkest Corners* (RashDash); *A Streetcar Named Desire* and *Come Closer* (Royal Exchange, Manchester); *On Corporation Street*, *The Manchester Project* and *The Love of the Fireflies* (HOME, Manchester); *The Iliad* (Royal Lyceum, Edinburgh); *Gary: A Love Story* (24:7 Theatre Festival, where he won the Best Actor Award); *The C Project* (The Lowry); *Vox Pop* (Soho Theatre); and *The Proposal*, *Wrecked*, *The Meeting* and *Territory* (Fiddy West Productions). Television includes *Loaded*, *The Aliens*, *Doctor Who*, and *Prisoners' Wives*. Film includes *Weekender*, *Postcards From London*, *Halcyon Heights* and *Territory*.

Helen Katamba's theatre credits include: *The Three Musketeers*; *One Book, One Pen*; *The Grandad Anansi* (The Dukes, Lancaster); *The Mad Hatter's Tea Party* (Bolton Octagon); *A User's Guide to Mind Control* (Acrimony, Hoax and Grody, Lancaster); *The Multiple Myrtle Mysteries* (The Milo Wladek Film and Interactive Theatre Co.). Television and film credits include: *The Feed*, *Country Music* and *Last Commanders*.

Tom Mannion's theatre credits include *The Ends of the Earth* and *Rutherford and Son* for the National Theatre; *An Inspector Calls* (National Tour); *Coriolanus*, *The Merry Wives of Windsor*, and *Julius Caesar* (RSC); *Insignificance* (Arcola Theatre); *Hamlet* (Trafalgar Studios); *The Autumn Garden* (Jermyn Street Theatre); *The Patriotic Traitor* (Park Theatre); *Hamlet Who's There?* (UK Tour), *All My Sons*, *The Two Gentlemen of Verona*, *Bartholomew Fair*, and *Much Ado about Nothing* (Regents Park Open Air Theatre); *Women, Power & Politics Season* (Tricycle Theatre); *Copenhagen* (Royal Lyceum, Edinburgh); *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Shakespeare's Globe), *Metamorphosis* (Lyric Hammersmith and on tour); *The Cherry Orchard* and *The Romans in Britain* (Sheffield Crucible); *The Brothers Karamazov*, *The Philadelphia Story* (Royal Exchange); *Hamlet* (Old Vic), *Art* (Wyndham's Theatre); *Closer* (West End); *The Threepenny Opera* (Donmar Warehouse), *Cyrano de Bergerac* (also National Tour) and *The Storm* (Almeida Theatre). Television includes: *The Victim*, *Fearless*, *Unforgotten*, *Lucky Man*, *Mr Selfridge*, *Inside Men*, *Spooks*, *Taggart*, *John Adams*, *New Tricks*, *Coup*, *Life on Mars*, *Hustle*, *Lip Service*, and *Waking the Dead*.

Brad Morrison's theatre credits include *Twelfth Night* for the National Theatre; *Romeo & Juliet* (Insane Root Theatre Company), *CRUDE* (Grid Iron Theatre Company); *King Lear* (Bristol Old Vic), *The Pillowman* (Aberdeen Performing Arts). Film credits include *Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them: The Crimes of Grindelwald*.

Michael Nardone's theatre credits include *King Lear* and *Gagarin Way* (also West End) at the National Theatre; *Plato's Symposium* (Southbank Centre); *Black Watch*, and *Men Should Weep* (National Theatre of Scotland); *Operation Phantom Fury* (Oran Mor); *Remembrance Day* (The Royal Court); and

Peribanez (Young Vic). His television credits include *Rellik*, *Will*, *Barbarians Rising*, *The Night Manager*, *This is England*, *Line of Duty*, *Shetland*, *The Crimson Field*, *Dracula*, *Field of Blood*, *The Bible*, *Privates*, *Le Grand*, *Borgen*, *Taggart*, *Ben Hur*, *Merlin*, *Army Kids*, *River City*, *Skins* and *Rome*. Film includes *Rogue One: A Star Wars Story*, *Whisky Galore*, *Child 44*, *Tulip Fever*, *Five-A-Side*, *Waylands Song*, *Mercenaries*, *Intruders*, *Dot The I*, *The Match*, *Being Human*, *Soft Top Hard Shoulder*, *I Want To Be Like You*, *Conquest*, and *Forbidden Territory*.

Hauk Pattison's theatre credits include *Macbeth* for the National Theatre; *Dunsinane* (RSC); *Depths of My Mind*, *Be-Loved*; *Playground Victories*; *Hope*; *Multistory*; *Slick*; *The Red Helicopter*; and *Psyche* (Scarabeus Aerial Theatre). Other performance includes *Festival of the Dead*; *Cirque Noir*; *Gargoyle*; *Lust*; and *Twisted Circus*. Films include *Fallen Circus* and *Notes on a Scandal*.

Evelyn Roberts' theatre credits include *Romeo and Juliet* (Girl Gang); *D'Eon* (Straight Acting Company); *There's a Fly in My Room* (Fine Comb); *The Magnificent Captain Moth* (Ultramarine); *The Trial* (People Zoo Productions); *Cinderella*, *The BFG* and *Mother Courage and her Children* (Bolton Octagon); and *The Funfair* (HOME Manchester). She is co-founder of the award-winning theatre company, People Zoo. Film includes *Lankin*.

James Robinson's theatre credits include *Wendy House* (Waterloo Vaults); *This Little Life of Mine* (Park Theatre); *Time O' Strife* (National Theatre of Scotland); *Brassed Off* (York Theatre Royal and UK tour); *A Man's a Man* (Gaiety, Ayr); *King John* (Union); *They Came to the City* (Southwark Playhouse); *I Didn't Always Live Here* and *Trilby* (Finborough Theatre); *Knives in Hens* and *Festen* (Battersea Arts Centre). Television includes *Outlander*, *Babylon*, *Casualty*, *Doctors*, *The Borgias* and *Charlatans*. Film includes *To the Boats*, *Siren*, *Dark Sense*, *The Wee Man*, *Ashes*, *A Suburban Fairytale*, *Saxon* and *Braveheart*.

Patrick Robinson's theatre credits include *War Horse* in the West End and *Mappa Mundi* for the National Theatre; *Baskerville* (Liverpool Everyman); *King Lear* (Chichester Festival Theatre); *Macbeth* (Theatre Severn); *The Rover*, *Much Ado About Nothing*, *King John*, *King Lear*, *Richard III*, *Henry VI Part 1*, *Twelfth Night*, *All God's Children Got Wings*, *The Great White Hope*, *They Shoot Horses, Don't They*, *Peace Maker*, and *Romeo and Juliet* (RSC); *The Shawshank Redemption* (UK Tour); *Waiting For Godot* (West Yorkshire Playhouse); *Rough Crossings* (Headlong); *Gem of the Ocean* (Tricycle Theatre); *The Merchant of Venice* (Chichester Festival Theatre) and *Festen*, directed by Rufus Norris (West End). Television includes *Strictly Come Dancing*, *Casualty*, *Mount Pleasant*, and *The Bill*. Film includes *Belly of the Beast*.

Duncan Ross' theatre credits include *The Last Days of Troy* (also Shakespeare's Globe) and *Scuttlers* (Royal Exchange, Manchester). Television credits include *The Secret History of My Family*.

Rachel Sanders' theatre credits include *War Horse* in the West End, *His Dark Materials*, *The Bacchae* and *Othello* at the National Theatre, *The Little Pony* (Cervantes Theatre), *The Hartlepool Monkey* (Fuel Theatre), *Lady Chatterley's Lover* (UK tour), *Jane Wenham: The Witch of Walkern* (Arcola / Out of Joint), *Absolute Beginners* (Lyric Hammersmith); *A Servant to Two Masters*, *Richard III*, *Faust*, *La Nuit de Valognes*, *Romeo & Juliet* and *The Cherry Orchard* (RSC); *Much Ado About Nothing*, *Richard III* and *The Taming Of The Shrew* (Shakespeare's Globe); *Osama The Hero*, *A Single Act*, and *Revelations* (Hampstead Theatre). Television includes *Picking Up the Pieces*, *The Wyvern Mysteries*, *Coronation Street*, *Dream Team*, *Starhunter 2300*, *Thicker Than Water*, *Double Exposure* and *The Auctioneer*.

Olivia Sweeney's theatre credits include *Electolyte* at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival 2018; *The Secret Garden* (Theatre by the Lake); *Jazz* (Hull Truck); *After Party* (The Pleasance); *The Maids* (Harrogate Theatre); *Screaming Heart – Come Closer* (Royal Exchange, Manchester); *My Brother's Country* (The Lowry); *That Dead Girl* (Arcola Theatre); *Noura* (Theatre 503). Television includes *Coronation Street*. Film includes *Aux*.

Deka Walmsley's theatre credits include *The Pitmen Painters* for Live Theatre, Newcastle, the NT, on tour and on Broadway and *Playing With Fire* at the NT; *Wonderland* (Nottingham Playhouse); *Dad* in *Billy Elliot* (West End); *Cockpit* (Royal Lyceum, Edinburgh); *Fatherland* (Manchester Royal Exchange); *Harry Martineau Dreams of Dancing, A Northern Odyssey, Geoff Dead: Disco For Sale* (Live Theatre, Newcastle); *Cyrano De Bergerac* (Bristol Old Vic); *Sing Yer Heart Out For The Lads* (York Theatre Royal and tour); *Enemies* (Almeida Theatre); and *Home Shetland* (National Theatre of Scotland). Television includes *Vera, Three Girls, Our Friends in the North, and Nature Boy*.

Ross Waiton's theatre credits include *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time* (West End), *King Lear, Timon of Athens, Antigone, The Revenger's Tragedy, Much Ado About Nothing, and Saint Joan* for the National Theatre; *Talking Heads – A Chip in the Sugar* (Gala Theatre, Dublin); *Beauty and the Beast* (Harrogate Theatre); *Twelfth Night* (Sheffield Crucible); *Henry IV* part I and II (Theatre Royal, Bath); *The Tempest* and *As You Like It* for the Bridge Project (Brooklyn Academy of Music and the Old Vic). Television includes *Maigret; Granchester; Beowulf, Vera, Identity, The Welsh in Shakespeare* and *G Force*. Film includes *Skyfall, Pride, and Film X*.

Lisa Zahra's work in theatre includes *The Kite Runner* (Wyndham's Theatre and the Playhouse, West End); *Death and the Maiden* (The Other Room, Cardiff); *Before I Leave* (National Theatre Wales); *Resurrection* (Theatre Royal Bath); *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Wales Millennium Centre); *Cymbeline* (Wales Theatre Company at the New Theatre, Cardiff); and *The Voyage* (Theatr Clwyd); Television includes *REQUIEM, 50 Ways to Kill Your Lover, Doctor Who, Myths of Ancient Greece* and *Torchwood*. Films include *Nobody Girl, Twelfth Night* and *Skellig*.

- **About the National Theatre**

At the National Theatre, we make world-class theatre that is entertaining, challenging and inspiring. And we make it for everyone.

We aim to create work for the widest possible audiences with new plays, musicals, re-imagined classics and new work for young audiences. Our productions are seen in the West End, on tour throughout the UK, on Broadway, internationally, and in collaborations and co-productions with partners around the world. Through NT Live, we broadcast some of the best of British theatre to over 2,500 venues in 65 countries.

In 2017-2018, we opened 20 productions in our three theatres on London's South Bank. On top of that, we toured more work across the UK than at any other point in our history, with 10 productions visiting 52 venues in 44 towns and cities. Worldwide, 3.3 million people bought tickets to our award-winning productions, and a further 4.7 million people engaged with us through our free work, learning and participation activity, and in-depth digital content.

Our extensive learning and participation programme opens up theatre to adults, families and young people across the UK. We support drama and creative education in schools through our performance and writing programmes like Connections, New Views and Let's Play. Over 58% of UK secondary schools have signed up to our free streaming service, On Demand In Schools since launching in 2015. Public Acts, our new initiative to create extraordinary acts of theatre and community, launched in 2017 in partnership with eight visionary community organisations and the Queen's Theatre Hornchurch.

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#Macbeth