

National Theatre

Monday 2 October 2023

FULL CASTING ANNOUNCED FOR ALICE BIRCH'S ADAPTATION OF THE HOUSE OF BERNARDA ALBA, DIRECTED BY REBECCA FRECKNALL, AT THE NATIONAL THEATRE FROM 16 NOVEMBER



The National Theatre today announced the full cast for ***The House of Bernarda Alba***, in a co-production with **Playful Productions**.

Following Olivier Award-winning revivals of *Cabaret* and *A Streetcar Named Desire*, **Rebecca Frecknall** makes her directorial debut at the National Theatre with **Alice Birch's** (*Normal People*) radical version of **Federico García Lorca's** modern masterpiece.

In the domain of Bernarda Alba, a daughter who disobeys is no longer a daughter.

Forced to live under their mother's tight grip as they mourn their father's death, can five sisters survive when young Adela dares for passion and freedom?

Olivier Award-winner **Harriet Walter** (*Succession*) plays the formidable matriarch, guarding her reputation against the rising tide of her family's desires in this devastatingly dark and comic drama exploring the consequences of oppressing women. **Isis Hainsworth** (*Romeo & Juliet*) plays Adela the youngest, most rebellious of Bernarda's five daughters. Playing Bernarda's

eldest daughter Angustias is **Rosalind Eleazar** (*Slow Horses*) and **Thusitha Jayasundera** (*The Lord of the Rings: The Rings of Power*) will play the role of Poncia.

Joining them is **Lizzie Annis** as Martirio, **Pearl Chanda** as Magdalena, **Bryony Hannah** as Maid, **Marcia Lecky** as Prudencia, **Eileen Nicholas** as Maria Josefa and **Eliot Salt** as Ameila.

Catharine Humphrys, **Asha Kingsley**, **Celia Nelson**, **Ellouise Shakespeare-Hart**, **Georgia Silver**, **Imogen Mackie Walker**, **Charlotte Workman**, **James McHugh** and **Michael Naylor** complete the adult cast. **Esma Akar**, **Livia Court** and **Sicily Rose De Bernardini** will share the role of Young Girl.

Composer **Isobel Waller-Bridge** (*The Boy, the Mole, the Fox and the Horse*) writes an original score for the production.

Directed by **Rebecca Frecknall** with set and costume designer **Merle Hensel**, lighting designer **Lee Curran**, composer **Isobel Waller-Bridge**, sound designer **Peter Rice**, casting by **Alastair Coomer** CDG and **Naomi Downham**, and staff director **Lilac Yosiphon**.

Playing in the Lyttelton theatre from 16 November 2023 until 6 January 2024 with press night on 28 November. Tickets are available from £20 and are on sale now via the National Theatre website. For further information, including details about assisted performances, please visit nationaltheatre.org.uk.

ENDS

Notes to Editor

For further press information contact Camilla Dervan: CDervan@nationaltheatre.org.uk

For images, click [here](#).

Assisted performances:

Captioned: Wednesday 20 December – 7.30pm, Saturday 6 January – 2.15pm

BSL Interpreted: Wednesday 6 December – 7.30pm

Audio Described: Saturday 2 December – 2.15pm, Friday 5 January – 7.30pm

Chilled Performance: Saturday 30 December – 2.15pm

With Thanks

This production is supported by the Red Butterfly Foundation.

About the National Theatre

The National Theatre makes theatre that entertains and inspires using its creativity, expertise and unique reach. The National Theatre shares unforgettable stories with millions of audience

members across the UK and around the world – on its own stages, on tour, in schools, on cinema screens and streaming at home.

World-leading artists make their best work at the National Theatre with the widest possible audience and impact. The National Theatre invests in talent and innovation on stage and off, taking seriously its role as the nation's theatre. Of the new productions developed each year with a wide range of theatre companies, a third of that research and development resource is dedicated to shows staged at theatres outside London.

Through touring our work to local theatres and schools and nationwide education and community programmes, we are active in 71 of the 109 levelling up priority areas in the UK. A registered charity with deeply embedded social purpose, the National Theatre works with hundreds of schools and communities across the UK to fire imagination and inspire creativity, and to develop skills and pathways for careers in theatre.

For more information, please visit nationaltheatre.org.uk
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About Playful Productions

Playful Productions is one of the most eminent independent theatre producers and full-service general management companies in the West End.

Founded in 2010 by Matthew Byam Shaw, Nia Janis and Nick Salmon, our team is driven by a love for the creative process and a passion for working with the hundreds of people we collaborate with to produce great theatre.

By proudly combining artistry with business expertise, we strive to deliver the highest quality entertainment for audiences around the world.

As Producer and General Manager productions include *Dr Strangelove* (West End, Autumn 2024); *The Unfriend* (Criterion, and Wyndham's, Dec 2023); *The House of Bernarda Alba* (as Producer – National Theatre, Nov 2023); *Accidental Death of an Anarchist* (Sheffield, Lyric Hammersmith and Theatre Royal Haymarket); *A Little Life* (as Producer – Richmond, Harold Pinter and Savoy); *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory* (UK & Ireland Tour); *Good* (Harold Pinter); *Get Up, Stand Up! The Bob Marley Musical* (Lyric); *My Fair Lady* (Coliseum and UK & Ireland Tour); *The Mirror and the Light* (Gielgud); *Noises Off* (Garrick); *Kinky Boots* (UK & Ireland Tour); *Imperium* (Gielgud); *Quiz* (Noël Coward); *The Moderate Soprano* (Duke of York's); *Shrek The Musical* (UK & Ireland Tours); *Edward Albee's The Goat, or Who is Sylvia?* (Theatre Royal Haymarket); *Don Juan in Soho* (Wyndham's); *No Man's Land* (UK Tour & Wyndham's); *Kinky Boots* (Adelphi); *Hangmen* (Wyndham's); *American Buffalo* (Wyndham's); *The Audience* (Gielgud, Gerald Schoenfeld Theatre, Broadway and Apollo); Executive Producer on the Netflix TV series *The Crown* (based on *The Audience*); *Wolf Hall: Parts 1 & 2* (Winter Garden Theatre, Broadway), *Wolf Hall* and *Bring Up The Bodies* (Aldwych); *The Weir* (Wyndham's); *South Downs/The Browning Version* (Harold Pinter); *Sweeney Todd* (Adelphi); *Hay Fever* (Noël Coward); *Flare Path* (Theatre Royal Haymarket); *Yes, Prime Minister* (Gielgud, Apollo, Trafalgar Studios and three UK Tours); *Krapp's Last Tape* (Duchess); *Red* (Golden Theatre, Broadway); *Enron* (Noël Coward); *Frost/Nixon* (Donmar Warehouse, Gielgud and Bernard B. Jacobs Theatre, Broadway).

As General Manager productions include *Wicked* (Apollo Victoria, UK & Ireland Tours and International Tour); *Moulin Rouge! The Musical* (Piccadilly); *MJ* (Prince Edward, 2024); *Come From Away* (Abbey Theatre, Dublin and Phoenix); *Lady Day at Emerson's Bar & Grill* (Wyndham's); *An American in Paris* (Dominion); *Groundhog Day* (The Old Vic); *Blithe Spirit* (Gielgud); *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory* (Theatre Royal, Drury Lane); *Dirty Dancing* (Aldwych, UK Tours and Piccadilly); *Shrek The Musical* (Theatre Royal, Drury Lane); *Million Dollar Quartet* (Noël Coward) and *Clybourne Park* (Wyndham's).

As Executive Producer productions include *Moulin Rouge! The Musical* (Piccadilly); *MJ* (Prince Edward, 2024) and *Wild Rose* (in development).

www.playfuluk.com