

DUNCAN MACMILLAN'S SMASH HIT PLAY
PEOPLE, PLACES AND THINGS
RETURNS TO THE WEST END

DENISE GOUGH REPRISSES HER OLIVIER AWARD-WINNING ROLE
FOR A STRICTLY LIMITED 14-WEEK RUN AT THE
TRAFALGAR THEATRE FROM 3 MAY 2024

PEOPLE,
PLACES
& THINGS



The National Theatre, Mark Gordon Pictures, Gavin Kalin Productions, Seaview and Second Half Productions, announces today that the original, smash hit production of **People, Places and Things** will make a triumphant return to London's West End, this spring. **Duncan Macmillan's** intoxicating play, directed by the acclaimed, award-winning **Jeremy Herrin** and originally co-produced by the National Theatre and Headlong, will run at the **Trafalgar Theatre** from 3 May until 10 August 2024. Tickets will go on sale to the public, on Friday 15 March at 10am, from £20.

Denise Gough will reprise her Olivier Award-winning role as Emma, a struggling actress whose life is spinning recklessly out of control. **Gough** won 'Best Actress' at the 2016 Olivier Awards and at the Critics' Circle Theatre Awards for her 'career defining performance' (Evening Standard) in **People Places and Things** at the National Theatre in 2015. Critics hailed her performance as 'extraordinary' (The Observer), 'ingenious' (New York Times) and 'stunning' (Time Out). She went on to win her second Olivier Award ('Best Actress in a Supporting Role', 2018) for her performance in Tony Kushner's *Angels in America* for which she was nominated for a Tony Award® (2018) when the National Theatre production transferred to Broadway. **Gough** has also been nominated for a British Academy Television Award (2022) for her performance in Clara Salaman incendiary three-part ITV series *Too Close*. More recently she played the role of Dedra Meero in Disney+'s hugely successful *Star Wars* spin-off series, *Andor*.

Tony Award®-winner **Bunny Christie** will recreate her 'cabinet-of-curiosities' (New York Times) innovative set design with special on-stage seating bringing an element of intimacy to this vivid and transfixing portrayal of addiction.

Emma was having the time of her life. Now she's in rehab. Her first step is to admit that she has a problem. But the problem isn't with Emma, it's with everything else. She needs to tell the truth. But she's smart enough to know that there's no such thing. When intoxication feels like the only way to survive the modern world, how can she ever sober up?

Duncan Macmillan's critically acclaimed play 'mixes dark wit, intellectual ambition and emotional intelligence' (The Times). Other work includes *Every Brilliant Thing* (Paines Plough/Pentabus, Edinburgh, UK tour & New York), George Orwell's *1984* (adapted with Robert Icke, Headlong/Nottingham Playhouse/Almeida/West End), *Lungs* (Paines Plough & Sheffield Theatres, Washington DC), *Don Juan Comes Back From the War* (Finborough) and *Monster* (Royal Exchange, Manchester).

Jeremy Herrin is Co-Director of Second Half Productions. His 'endlessly inventive staging' (New York Times) of **People Places and Things** was during his tenure as Artistic Director of Headlong (2013-2020). Recent work includes *A Mirror* (Trafalgar Theatre/Almeida Theatre); *Ulster American* (Riverside Studios) and 2022 South Bank Show Award for 'Best Theatre Production', *Best of Enemies* (Young Vic/ West End). Upcoming work includes, Eugene O'Neill's *Long Day's Journey Into Night* starring Brian Cox.

Actress, **Denise Gough**, said:

"I am beyond excited and so grateful to be returning to the role of Emma in People, Places and Things. Duncan Macmillan's incredible play was a life changing experience for me and many others. It brought me pure joy, night after night, to take to the stage to share Emma's story and I can't wait to bring her back to new audiences and to give voice, and space, to people that live with or have experienced any form of addiction"

Playwright, **Duncan Macmillan**, said:

"The debut of People, Places and Things was a really special time. The play had taken me almost a decade to write and came partly out of a frustration with how addiction is typically portrayed on stage and screen. Under Jeremy Herrin's compassionate direction, the company visited treatment centres and worked closely with people in recovery. We all felt a responsibility to make the play, primarily, for those who know what it is to live with addiction, for them to feel represented and seen. We did not expect the incredible response the play received when it first opened and its momentum has only increased"

over the years, not least because of Denise Gough's now mythic central performance. She is, for me, the greatest actor of my generation and it is my great fortune that she took the role then and thrilling that she's returning to it now."

Director, **Jeremy Herrin**, said:

"When I was Artistic Director of Headlong, I read Duncan Macmillan's play, and I knew I had an opportunity to make a production with real power. With Denise Gough as Emma, it felt like we connected deeply with audiences at the National Theatre, in the West End and in New York. The show seemed to be stimulating, entertaining and deeply emotional. I am delighted to reunite with Denise, Duncan and the creative team to share People, Places and Things with new audiences, and I am grateful to all our colleagues and partners who have made it possible."

People, Places and Things garnered widespread critical acclaim when it had its world premiere at the National Theatre's Dorfman theatre in September 2015 in a co-production with Headlong. The production transferred to Wyndham's Theatre in March 2016 in London's West End before transferring to St. Ann's Warehouse in New York in October 2017.

The creative team includes director, **Jeremy Herrin**; set designer, **Bunny Christie**; costume designer, **Christina Cunningham**; lighting designer, **James Farncombe**; music, **Matthew Herbert**; sound designer, **Tom Gibbons**; video designer, **Andrzej Goulding**; movement director, **Polly Bennett**; casting by **Jessica Ronane CDG CSA**; and original casting by **Wendy Spon**. Further casting to be announced.

ENDS

For further information please contact Clare McCormack: CMcCormack@nationaltheatre.org.uk / 07989950871

FURTHER PRESS MATERIALS

- Production Images from the 2016 West End run © Johan Persson are available [here](#)
- Poster image (Photography © Matt Humphrey) is available [here](#)

LISTING INFORMATION

Dates: From 3 May 2024 – 10 August.

Press night - Tuesday 14 May

Website: PeoplePlacesAndThingsOnStage.com

Address: Trafalgar Theatre, 14 Whitehall, London, SW1A 2DY

Performance Schedule: Monday – Saturday, 7.30pm with a matinee on Wednesday and Saturday, 2.30pm*

*schedule may differ during previews and bank holidays, please see website for details

Assisted performances:

BSL Performance: Saturday 20 July, 2.30pm

Captioned Performances: Saturday 6 July, 2.30pm & Tuesday 16 July, 7.30pm

Audio Described: Saturday 13 July, 2.30pm & Thursday 25 July, 7.30pm

Ticket Pricing: From £20

Box Office: Book via trafalgartheatre.com / Telephone Booking: **0333 009 6690**
In Person: Box Office is open Mon-Sat from 10am until 7.45pm

Or book via nationaltheatre.org.uk / **020 7452 3000**
(lines open Monday to Saturday 9:30am – 8pm)

For Groups 10+ contact: **0207 206 1174**

Running Time: Approx. 2 hours 20 mins including a 20 mins interval

Recommended Age: 14+

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Bios

Denise Gough

Irish actress Denise Gough's plethora of work includes Duncan Macmillan's award-winning play, *People Places and Things*, which earned her an Olivier Award and a Critics Circle Theatre Award for 'Best Actress'. She also starred in *Angels in America* at the National Theatre where she won her second Olivier Award for 'Best Supporting Actress' before heading to Broadway with the production and receiving a Tony Nomination.

Other theatre credits include the title role in *Portia Coughlan* at The Abbey in Dublin, *The Duchess of Malfi* at the Sam Wanamaker Playhouse Theatre, *Adler and Gibb* at the Royal Court, *Desire Under the Elms* for which she won the 'Most Promising Newcomer' at the Critics Circle Theatre Awards, *Our New Girl*, *The Painter*, *The Birds*, The Royal Courts *Oh Go my Man*, RSC's *Ahasverus*, *The Plough and the Stars*, *The Birds at the Gate* in Dublin, *The Grouch* at the West Yorkshire Playhouse, *Someone Else's Shoes* at Soho Theatre, *Everything is Illuminated* at Hampstead Theatre, *The Kindness of Strangers* at the Liverpool Everyman Theatre. *Robbers* at the Tristan Bates Theatre, *Jesus Hopped the 'A' Train* at Trafalgar Studios, *Six Characters in Search of an Author* at the Chichester Festival Theatre and *As You Like It* and *By the Bog of Cats* at the Wyndham's Theatre.

Denise's film credits include *Monday*, directed by Argyris Papadimitropoulos'. She plays the lead role of 'Chloe' alongside Sebastian Stan; the film focuses on two self-destructive Americans living across Athens and the Greek Islands who plunge into a tsunami of romance.

Other credits include *The Other Lamb*, *Colette*, starring alongside Keira Knightly, *The Kid Who Would be King*, musical comedy *Juliet Naked*, Ridley Scott's *Robin Hood*, Ken Loach's *Jimmy's Hall* and the BAFTA nominated '71 from director Yann Demange.

Her television credits include Disney Plus series *Andor*, created by Tony Gilroy where she plays Dedra Meero, *Under the Banner of Heaven* starring alongside Andrew Garfield and Daisy Edgar-Jones, *Too Close* playing lead character Connie alongside Emily Watson, for which she received a BAFTA nomination for Leading Actress, the title lead in Conor McPherson's BBC2 *Thriller Paula*, John Ridley's *Guerrilla* (Sky Atlantic), *Apple Tree Yard*, series three of the hugely popular and BAFTA nominated BBC drama, *The Fall* starring Gillian Anderson and Jamie Dornan and Sky's hit comedy *Stella*. She will be returning as Dedra Meero in Disney Plus series *Andor 2*.

Jeremy Herrin

Theatre includes: *A Mirror* (Trafalgar Theatre/Almeida); *Ulster American* (Riverside Studios); *Best of Enemies* (Young Vic/ West End, South Bank Show Award for Best Theatre Production); *The Dumb Waiter*, *All My Sons* (The Old Vic); *After Life*; *The Visit*; *The Plough and the Stars*; *Statement of Regret* (National Theatre); *People, Places and Things* (National Theatre/ Headlong/ West End/ UK tour/ St Ann's Warehouse); *This House* (National Theatre/ Chichester Festival Theatre/ West End); *Labour of Love* (West End, Olivier Award for Best Comedy); *The Glass Menagerie*; *The Nether*; *That Face*; *South Downs*; *Absent Friends*; *Death and the Maiden*; (West End); *Wolf Hall*; *Bring Up the Bodies*(RSC/ West End/ Broadway, Evening Standard Award for Best Director); *Junkyard*; *The Absence of War*; (Headlong); *Observe the Sons of Ulster Marching Towards the Somme* (Headlong/Abbey Theatre/International Tour); *The Tempest*; *Much Ado About Nothing* (Shakespeare's Globe); *Noises Off* (Broadway/Lyric Hammersmith/ West End); *Haunted Child*; *The Heretic*; *Kin*; *Spur of the Moment*; *Off the Endz*; *The Priory* (Olivier Award for Best Comedy); *Tusk Tusk*; *The Vertical Hour*; *That Face* (Royal Court); *The House They Grew Up In*; *Uncle Vanya* (Chichester Festival Theatre); *The Moderate Soprano* (West End/Hampstead Theatre); *Marble* (Abbey Theatre); *The Family Reunion* (Donmar Warehouse); *Blackbird* (Market Theatre, Johannesburg).

Jeremy Herrin was previously Deputy Artistic Director of The Royal Court, Associate Director at Live Theatre Newcastle upon Tyne, and Artistic Director of Headlong. With Alan Stacey and Rob O'Rahilly, he is a Founding Director of Second Half Productions.

Duncan Macmillan is an award-winning writer and director.

His work has been performed throughout the world, including at the National Theatre, the Royal Court, Old Vic, Almeida, Barbican, St Ann's Warehouse, Melbourne Theatre Company, Berliner Ensemble, Schaubühne Berlin, Hamburg Schauspielhaus, Burgtheater Wien, Vesturport, Kansallisteatteri, Nationaltheatret Oslo, at the Salzburg Festival, in the West End and on Broadway.

His screen work has been shown at the London and Berlin film festivals, on the BBC, Netflix and HBO.

Plays include *People, Places and Things*, *Lungs*; *Every Brilliant Thing*; *Rosmersholm* (adapt. Henrik Ibsen); *1984* (adapt. George Orwell, co-written and co-directed with Robert Icke); *City of Glass* (adapt. Paul Auster) and *2071* (co-written with Chris Rapley); *The Forbidden Zone*; *Wunschloses Unglück* (adapt. Peter Handke); and *Reise durch die Nacht* (adapt. Friederike Mayröcker), which was selected for Theatertreffen and Festival d'Avignon and awarded the Nestroy Preis for Best German Language Production.

People, Places and Things, *1984* and *Rosmersholm* were all nominated for Olivier Awards.

Notes to Editors

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 Headlong

We're Headlong.

We make theatre with the power to move.

Big, exhilarating productions that use the unexpected to connect everyone we reach, right across the nation.

Whether a work is old or new, there are always different questions we can ask. So our productions are an invitation: to come and see something in a new way. Join us.

Headlong is fifty this year. Long may we learn.

Our previous include *untitled f*ck m**ss s**gon play*, *A Play for the Living in a Time of Extinction*, *Henry V*, *Jitney*, *Best of Enemies*, *People, Places & Things* and *Enron*, and major digital theatre innovations *Signal Fires* and *Unprecedented*.

Artistic Director - Holly Race Roughan, Executive Director - Lisa Maguire

Publicly supported by Arts Council England

headlong.co.uk

About Mark Gordon Pictures

Mark Gordon Pictures (Producer) is an international film, television, and theatre production company. In 2020, with an acclaimed history in film (*Saving Private Ryan*, *Speed*, *The Day After Tomorrow*, *The Messenger*, *2012*, *Murder on the Orient Express*, *Source Code*, *Molly's Game*, *The Patriot*) and television (*Grey's Anatomy*, *Criminal Minds*, *Ray Donovan*, *Designated Survivor*, *Private Practice*, *Quantico*, *Army Wives*, *The Rookie*, *The Rookie: Feds*), Mark Gordon Pictures expanded into theatre development and production in the US and the UK.

On Broadway, MGP has produced *Life of Pi*; *The Piano Lesson*, nominated for a TONY for Best Revival of a Play; and *POTUS: Or, Behind Every Great Dumbass Are Seven Women Trying to Keep Him Alive*. Off-Broadway and regional US theatre credits include *Nollywood Dreams* (MCC); *The Buddy System* (Circle in the Square Downtown); *Highway Patrol* (Chicago - The Goodman Theatre); and *TEETH* (Playwrights Horizons), a new musical by Anna K. Jacobs and Pulitzer- and TONY-winner Michael R. Jackson.

In addition to *People, Places, and Things*, UK credits include *The Old Man* and the *Pool* (West End); and Jocelyn Bioh's Lortel Award-winning *School Girls; Or, the African Mean Girls Play* (Lyric Hammersmith).

About Gavin Kalin Productions

Gavin Kalin Productions is an award-winning theatrical production company that specialise in producing theatre in the West End, on Broadway and internationally.

Recent West End credits include *Sunset Boulevard*, *Vanya*, *A Little Life*, *Streetcar Named Desire*, *Cabaret*, *Back to the Future*, *Cyrano*, *Betrayal*, *9 to 5 The Musical*, *Pretty Woman The Musical*, *Come From Away*, *Pinter at the Pinter*, *Oslo* and *The Ferryman*.

Recent Broadway credits include *A Doll's House*, *Plaza Suite*, *Betrayal*, *Leopoldstadt*, *Funny Girl*, *Sea Wall/ A Life* and *The Ferryman*.

Other entertainment: *Monopoly Lifesized*, *London* and the *Paddington Bear Experience* set to open on the Southbank, London this Spring.

For more gavinkalinproductions.com

Gavin is also the founder of Totally Theatre Productions Ltd, a TV/Video production company that specialize in producing Broadcast and online content for theatre and live entertainment. Clients are worldwide with many in the West End and on Broadway.

For more totallytheatreproductions.com

About Seaview

Seaview is a Tony and Olivier Award-winning theatre and film company.

On stage: *An Enemy of the People* starring Jeremy Strong, *Lempicka* directed by Rachel Chavkin, *Stereophonic* directed by David Adjmi with original music by Will Butler, *Illinoise* directed and choreographed by Justin Peck with music and lyrics by Sufjan Stevens and book by Jackie Sibblies Drury, *Danny and the Deep Blue Sea* starring Aubrey Plaza and Christopher Abbott, Michael Arden's Tony Award winning revival of *Parade*, *The Sign In Sidney Brustein's Window* starring Oscar Isaac and Rachel Brosnahan, Alex Edelman's *Just For Us* (streaming on Max), Mike Birbiglia's *The Old Man & The Pool* (streaming on Netflix), Selina Fillinger's *POTUS*, Jeremy O. Harris's *Slave Play*, and *Sea Wall / A Life* starring Jake Gyllenhaal and Tom Sturridge.

On screen: HBO's *Reality* starring Sydney Sweeney and NEON's *Stress Positions* starring John Early, along with projects in development at Amazon Studios, FilmNation, 2AM, Automatik, and more.

Upcoming: *The Queen of Versailles* starring Kristin Chenoweth with music by Stephen Schwartz.

About Second Half Productions

Second Half Productions is an entertainment company founded by Jeremy Herrin, Alan Stacey and Rob O'Rahilly to generate innovative productions for stage. By commissioning world-leading artists to create new work and by breathing new life into classic stories, we invigorate audiences in London, the UK and beyond. Our ambition is to produce entertainment that engages the broadest range of people and in doing so creates meaningful opportunities for those who are currently underrepresented in the sector. We're a company of creatives, producers and general managers and we're driven and inspired by the artists that we work with. Recent and upcoming productions include *The Glass Menagerie* at the Duke of York's Theatre, *Best of Enemies* at Noël Coward Theatre, *Ulster American* at Riverside Studios, *A Mirror* at Trafalgar Theatre, *Long Day's Journey Into Night* at Wyndham's Theatre, *The Spy Who Came In From The Cold* at Chichester Festival Theatre and *Little Foxes* at the Young Vic.

Our team is co-founders and directors, Jeremy Herrin, Alan Stacey and Rob O'Rahilly; Casting Director, Jessica Ronane CDG, Creative Associate, Lucie Lovatt, Associate Producer, Alecia Marshall, General Manager, Grace Nelder, Finance Manager, Sophie Wells, Production Assistant, Immie Maclean, Casting Associate, Abby Galvin and Casting Assistant, Poppy Apter.