

EMMA HOLLAND PR

FULL CAST ANNOUNCED

A POWERHOUSE OF TALENT INCLUDING
RON COOK, KATHRYN DRYSDALE,
JOSHUA MCGUIRE & ANTHONY O'DONNELL

JOIN JAMES MCAVOY IN

THE RULING CLASS

WRITTEN BY PETER BARNES
AND DIRECTED IN ITS FIRST EVER REVIVAL
BY TRAFALGAR TRANSFORMED'S ARTISTIC DIRECTOR JAMIE LLOYD

16 JANUARY – 11 APRIL 2015

Ron Cook (*Mr Selfridge, Henry V, King Lear, Hot Fuzz*) as Sir Charles Gurney, **Kathryn Drysdale** (*Suspects, Love's Labour's Lost, Tripping Over, Two Pints of Lager and a Packet of Crisps*) as Grace Shelley, **Joshua McGuire** (*Privacy, Posh, About Time, Mr Turner*) as Dinsdale Gurney and **Anthony O'Donnell** (*The Captain of Kopenick, Skyfall, Matchpoint*) as Daniel Tucker, join BAFTA winning **James McAvooy**, as Jack, the 14th Earl of Gurney, in the first West End revival of Peter Barnes' satirical comedy, *The Ruling Class*, directed by **Jamie Lloyd**, Artistic Director of Trafalgar Transformed.

Further confirmed casting includes **Michael Cronin** (Bishop Bertie Lampton), **Serena Evans** (Lady Claire Gurney), **Paul Leonard** (Ralph Gurney), **Elliot Levey** (Dr Herder), **Forbes Masson** (McKyle) and ensemble cast; **Rosy Benjamin**, **Andrew Bloomer** and **Oliver Lavery**.

The production runs from **16 January to 11 April 2015**, with **press night on 27 January**. Design is by **Soutra Gilmour**, with lighting by **Jon Clark**, sound by **Ben** and **Max Ringham**, choreography by **Darren Carnall** and musical direction by **Huw Evans**.

Jack, a possible paranoid schizophrenic with a Messiah complex, inherits the title of the 14th Earl of Gurney after his father passes away in a bizarre accident. Singularly unsuited to a life in the upper echelons of elite society, Jack finds himself at the centre of a ruthless power struggle as his scheming family strives to uphold their reputation.

Bubbling with acerbic wit and feverish energy, Olivier Award-winning and Oscar-nominated writer Peter Barnes' razor-sharp satire combines a ferocious mix of hilarity and horror whilst mercilessly exposing the foibles of the English nobility.

The Ruling Class premiered in 1968 at Nottingham Playhouse and promptly transferred to the Piccadilly Theatre in the West End where it won the Evening Standard Award for Best Drama in 1969. This black and caustic class comedy was then made into a movie in 1972 starring Peter O'Toole.

Ron Cook's stage credits include *Henry V* at the Noel Coward Theatre for which he received an Olivier Award nomination, *King Lear*, *Trelawny of the Wells* and *Juno and the Paycock* (for which he also received an Olivier Award nomination) all at the Donmar Warehouse, *Twelfth Night & Hamlet* at the Wyndham's Theatre and *The Seafarer* at the National Theatre and *Our Country's Good* at The Royal Court. Screen credits include *Mr Selfridge*, *Bergerac*, *Sharpe*, *Doctor Who*, *The Singing Detective*, *The Lost Prince*, *The Hound of the Baskervilles*, *The Other Boleyn Girl*, *He Knew He Was Right*, *Casanova*, *Silent Witness*, *The Diary of Anne Frank*, *The Mystery of Edwin Drood*, *Vera*, *Garrow's Law*, *Red Riding 1980*, *Blackadder*, *Hot Fuzz*, *The Merchant of Venice*, *Charlotte Gray* and *Chocolat*.

Serena Evans' stage credits include *Inadmissible Evidence* at the Donmar Warehouse, *The School For Scandal* at the Theatre Royal, Bath, *The Merry Wives of Windsor* at Shakespeare's Globe, UK tour & New York, *Present Laughter* on UK tour, *A Midsummer Night's Dream* at the Open Air Theatre, Regent's Park, *God of Carnage* on UK tour, *Once In A Lifetime*, *Remember This* and *The Recruiting Officer* all at the National Theatre, *Blue Eyes & Heels* at the Soho Theatre, *The Constant Wife* at the Apollo Theatre, *Life x 3* and *Noises Off* both at the Savoy Theatre, *Things We Do For Love* at the Gielgud Theatre, *Lysistrata* at the Old Vic, *The Comedy Of Errors* at the Barbican, *Henceforward* at the Stephen Joseph Theatre, Scarborough and Vaudeville Theatre, for which she received an Olivier Award Nomination, *Getting On* and *Candlelight* both at the Palace Theatre, *Candida* for the Oxford Stage Co., *A Small Family Business* and *Love For Love* both at Chichester Festival Theatre and *The Killing Of Sister George* at the Ambassador's Theatre. Screen credits include *Trial And Retribution*, *Every Woman Knows A Secret*, *Ruth Rendell Mystery – You Can't Be Too Careful*, *The Thin Blue Line*, *Pie In The Sky*, *The Piglet Files – 3 series*, *Came Out*, *It Rained*, *Went Back In Again*, *Never Come Back*, *Mr Majeika*, *The Management*, *The Comic Strip Presents*.

Joshua McGuire's stage credits include *Amadeus* at Chichester Festival Theatre, *Privacy* at the Donmar Warehouse, *The Magistrate* at the National Theatre, *Posh* at The Royal Court and Duke of York's Theatre and *Hamlet* at Shakespeare's Globe. Josh will be starring in the festive comedy film, *Get Santa*, which premieres on 5 December. Other screen credits include *Mr Turner*, *About Time*, *The Hour* and *The Bleak Old Shop of Stuff*.

Kathryn Drysdale's stage credits include *The Recruiting Officer* at the Donmar Warehouse, *Love's Labour's Lost* and *A Midsummer Night's Dream* at the Royal Shakespeare Company, *Catch* at The Royal Court, *23:59* and *Fen* and *Far Away* at the Sheffield Crucible, *Eliza's House* at The Royal Exchange and *Billy and the Crab Lady* at Soho Theatre. Screen credits include *Suspects*, *The Psychopath Next Door*, *Any Human Heart*, *Two Pints of Lager and a Packet of Crisps (8 series)*, *Tripping Over*, *Urban & The Shed Crewe*, *Vanity Fair*, *St Trinian's* and *One Chance*.

Anthony O'Donnell's stage credits include *The Captain of Kopenick*, *President of an Empty Room*, *The London Cuckolds*, *Under Milk Wood*, *The Way of the World*, *The Miser*, *The Resistible Rise of Arturo Ui*, *Ghetto*, *The Shaughraun* and *Bartholomew Fair* all at the National Theatre, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *The Witch of Edmonton*, *The Winter's Tale*, *Our Friends in the North*, *Measure for Measure*, *A New Way to Pay Old Debts*, *As You Like It*, *All's Well That Ends Well*, *The Beggar's Opera*, *Henry VIII & Kiss Me Kate* all for the

Royal Shakespeare Company, *Our Private Life* and *The Weir* at the Royal Court, *Glengarry Glen Ross* at the Donmar Warehouse, *Twelfth Night* and *Uncle Vanya* at the Donmar Warehouse and New York, *King Lear*, *Galileo*, *Dance of Death*, *Ivanov* and *The Homecoming* all at the Almeida and *The Tempest* for The Bridge Project, New York, on a World Tour, and at the Old Vic. Screen credits include *The Suspicions of Mr Wicher*, *Stella (Series 1 to 4 and Christmas Special 2013)*, *Skyfall*, *Being Human*, *Doc Martin*, *The Sarah Jane Adventures*, *Gavin and Stacey*, *Caught in the Act*, *The Death Defying Acts*, *The Baker*, *Sweeney Todd*, *Match Point*, *Vera Drake*, *Much Ado About Nothing*, *Charles II*, *Moll Flanders*, *Nuts in May*, *Knock for Knock*, *Love's Labour's Lost*, *Secret and Lies*, *Robin Hood* and *Santa Claus*.

Elliot Levey's stage credits include *Danton's Death*, *The Habit of Art*, *All's Well that Ends Well*, *England People Very Nice*, *Henry IV Parts 1 and 2* and *His Dark Materials* all for the National Theatre, *Kafka's Dick* at the Theatre Royal Bath, *Coriolanus* at the Donmar Warehouse, *Canvas* at the Chichester Festival Theatre, *Much Ado About Nothing* at the Wyndham's Theatre, *Three Sisters* at the Hampstead Theatre & Liverpool Everyman, *Take Flight* at the Menier Chocolate Factory, *How Much Is Your Iron* at the Young Vic, *On Religion/Grace* at the Soho Theatre, *OnEgo* at the Soho Theatre, *Beats And Beauties* at the Bristol Old Vic, *Tonight We Fly* at the Trestle, *Monkey!* at the Young Vic, *The Tempest* on British Council World Tour, *Love's Work* at the Gate & National Theatre studio, *Pidgin Macbeth* at the Piccadilly Theatre, *The Comedy Of Errors* at the Royal Shakespeare Company, *The Reckless Are Dying Out* at the Lyric Theatre Hammersmith and *Passion* on UK Tour. Screen credits include *Ripper Street*, *The Wrong Mans 2*, *New Tricks*, *Jamaica Inn*, *Da Vinci's Demons*, *Silent Witness*, *Philomena*, *Parade's End*, *Touch of Cloth*, *Hotel Babylon*, *Robin Hood*, *Casualty*, *Monday Monday*, *Truckers*, *Sex, the City and Me*, *Beau Brummell*, *Casualty 1906*, *EastEnders*, *The Queen*, *Holby City*, *Amnesia*, *A Lump In My Throat*, *Sirens*, *Fat Friends*, *Lovejoy*, *The Lady In The Van*, *Fallen*, *Spooks: The Greater Good*, *The Wall*, *Filth And Wisdom*, *Song of Songs*, *Supertex*, *The Book Of John*, *Judas And Jesus*, *Jason And The Argonauts* and *The Bible*.

Michael Cronin's stage credits include *The Last Confession* at the Chichester Festival Theatre and Theatre Royal Haymarket, *Mother Courage*, *Hamlet*, *Twelfth Night*, *King Lear*, *Ghosts*, *The Cherry Orchard*, *The Master Builder*, *Don Juan* and *The Taming Of The Shrew*, all for the English Touring Theatre, *Richard II* at Ludlow Festival, *Mary Stuart* at Derby Playhouse, *The Merchant Of Venice* at Salisbury Playhouse, *Northanger Abbey*, *The Prisoner Of Zenda*, *Caesar & Cleopatra* and *The Corn Is Green*, all at Greenwich Theatre, *Hamlet* at the Belgrade Theatre Coventry and *All My Sons* for the Oxford Stage Company. Michael's screen credits include *Merlin*, *Foyles War*, *Doctors*, *Mayer Of Casterbridge*, *The Grimleys*, *Goodnight Mr Tom*, *Jeremiah*, *Midsommer Murders*, *Shakespeare Shorts*, *Our Mutual Friend*, *Tom Jones*, *Heart of Darkness*, *MacGyver*, *Between The Lines*, *The Bill*, *Fake Identity*, *The Wolfman*, *Discovery Of Heaven*, *RKO 281*, *For My Baby*, *The Hour Of The Pig* and *The Grotesque*.

Paul Leonard was last on stage in *Richard III* starring Martin Freeman, the first production in season two for Trafalgar Transformed. His other stage credits include *Richard III* at the Savoy Theatre and RSC Stratford, *Alice in Wonderland* at the Barbican and RSC Stratford, *Les Misérables* original cast at the Barbican and Palace Theatre, *The Merchant of Venice* and *The Water Babies* at the Chichester Festival Theatre, *The Original Chinese Conjuror* at the Almeida Theatre, *Chicago* at the Adelphi Theatre, *It's a Wonderful Life*, *A Chorus of*

Disapproval, The Day of the Triffids, A Mad World My Masters and Sweeney Todd all at the Wolsey Theatre, Ipswich, *Relatively Speaking, Twelfth Night, The Tempest, Neville's Island, Around the World in 80 Days, Titfield Thunderbolt, Perfect Pitch, The 39 Steps, A Chorus of Disapproval, Don't Dress for Dinner, The Beggar's Opera, Dick Barton* and *Lust*, all at the Queens Theatre, Hornchurch, *A Christmas Carol* at the West Yorkshire Playhouse, *The Browning Version, A Voyage Round My Father, Flarepath, Cowardy Custard, The Lady Vanishes, Dick Barton, Climbing the Wall, Green for Danger* and *Holiday Snap* at the Southwold Theatre. Paul's screen credits include *Gambit, Christmas Candle, Les Misérables, Ninja Assassins, Piercing Brightness, Coronation Street, Sherlock, Mr. Selfridge, Episodes, Dark Matters, The Bill, Perfect Strangers* and *Oliver Twist*.

Forbes Masson was also last on stage in *Richard III*, for *Trafalgar Transformed* and was part of Jamie Lloyd's first season, playing Banquo in *Macbeth*. His other stage credits include *The Taming of the Shrew* at the RSC Courtyard Theatre/RSC First Encounters/UK Tour, and Ohio State University USA, *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe* at the 360 Theatre Kensington Gardens, *Romeo & Juliet*, and *As You Like It* for the RSC and RST, Roundhouse and New York, *Morte D'Arthur, A Tender Thing, The Histories Cycle, Twelfth Night, The Comedy of Errors, Hamlet*, and *Macbeth* all at the RSC, *King Lear* at the Headlong, *Everyman* and *Young Vic, The Breathing House, Art, Much Ado About Nothing*, and *STIFF* at the Royal Lyceum, Edinburgh, *The Life of Stuff* at the Donmar Warehouse, *Endgame, The Trick is to Keep Breathing, Laurel and Hardy, Dumbstruck, The Real World, Cinzano*, and *Cinderella* at the Tron Theatre, Glasgow, and *Lady in the Dark* at the Scottish Opera. Forbes' screen credits include *Gypsy Woman, The Green Man of Knowledge, Shetland, Dead Boss, EastEnders, Monarch of the Glen, Hamish Macbeth, No Holds Bard, The Creatives, Red Dwarf, Rab C Nesbitt, 49,000 Steps, The High Life, Young Person's Guide to Becoming a Rock Star, Paris, My Dead Dad, Taggart, Victor and Barry* and *Take the High Road*.

This production concludes the second season of work at Trafalgar Studios, produced by **Jamie Lloyd Productions**, a partnership between acclaimed director Jamie Lloyd and **Ambassador Theatre Group**. *Richard III*, starring Martin Freeman, *East is East* starring Jane Horrocks (currently running at Trafalgar Studios), and *The Ruling Class* comprise the full second season for *Trafalgar Transformed*. These productions follow on from the dynamic first *Trafalgar Transformed* season, which launched with *Macbeth* also starring James McAvoy, followed by *The Hothouse*, starring John Simm and Simon Russell Beale and *The Pride*, with Hayley Atwell, Mathew Horne, Harry Hadden-Paton and Al Weaver.

Once again, the *Trafalgar Transformed* season will offer £15 Monday tickets for all productions, applicable on all seating, further encouraging first-time theatregoers to experience the exciting programming at the venue.

Notes to Editors

James McAvoy was last on stage in *Macbeth*, directed by Jamie Lloyd, which launched the first *Trafalgar Transformed* season and earned him an Olivier award nomination for Best Actor, and for the production a nomination for Best Revival. Previous to this, he was on stage in *Three Days of Rain* (Olivier Award nomination) at the Apollo Theatre, also directed

by Lloyd. Other stage credits include *Breathing Corpses* at the Royal Court, *Privates on Parade* at the Donmar Warehouse and *Out in the Open* at Hampstead Theatre.

On screen, McAvoy was recently seen as corrupt cop Bruce Robertson in *Filth*, for which he received a BIFA Best Actor award, London Critics Circle Best British Actor award and an Empire Award for Best Actor. He also recently reprised his role as Professor Charles Xavier in Fox's highly anticipated *X-Men: Days of Future Past*. He can next be seen in *The Disappearance of Eleanor Rigby* opposite Jessica Chastain. McAvoy most recently completed production on Paul McGuigan's *Frankenstein* with Daniel Radcliffe and in Spring 2015 will begin production on *X Men: Apocalypse*. Other film credits include *The Last King of Scotland* (BAFTA, European Film Award, BIFA and London Film Critics Circle award nominations), *Inside I'm Dancing* (US title: *Rory O'Shea Was Here*) (London Film Critics Circle award for Best British Actor), *Atonement* (Golden Globe and BAFTA nominations for Best Actor as well as the London Film Critics Circle Award, the Santa Barbara Film Festival Award and the UK Regional Critics Award), *The Chronicles of Narnia: The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe* (BAFTA Rising Star Award and the London Film Critics Award nomination for British Actor in a Supporting role), *Becoming Jane*, *Penelope*, *Wanted*, *X-Men: First Class*, *The Conspirator*, *Gnomeo and Juliet*, *Arthur Christmas*, *Welcome to the Punch*, and *Trance*.

On television, McAvoy first came to prominence with the role of Josh in the Channel Four adaptation of Zadie Smith's popular novel, *White Teeth*, with Geraldine James, John Simm and Naomie Harris. In 2003, McAvoy played Dan Foster in the BAFTA-winning BBC political drama series, *State of Play*, with Bill Nighy, John Simm and Kelly Macdonald. The series ran in the UK, debuted on BBC America and became one of the most successful UK exports of the last decade. This led onto his portrayal of the car thief, Steve, in the BAFTA-winning Channel 4 series *Shameless*. He was nominated in the Best Comedy Newcomer category at the 2004 British Comedy Awards for his performance.

Jamie Lloyd's theatre credits include *Richard III*, *The Pride*, *The Hothouse* and *Macbeth* (Olivier nomination for Best Revival), all for Jamie Lloyd Productions at Trafalgar Transformed, Trafalgar Studios. Other credits include *Assassins* (Menier Chocolate Factory), *Urinetown The Musical* (St. James Theatre & Apollo Theatre), *The Commitments* (Palace Theatre), *Cyrano de Bergerac* (Roundabout Theatre Company; American Airlines Theatre, Broadway); *The Duchess of Malfi* (Old Vic); *She Stoops to Conquer* (National, Olivier; Whatsonstage nomination for Best Revival); *The Faith Machine*, *The Pride* (Royal Court; Olivier Award for Outstanding Achievement in an Affiliate Theatre for *The Pride*), *Inadmissible Evidence*, *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*, *Passion*, *Polar Bears* (Donmar; Evening Standard Award for Best Musical for *Passion*), *Piaf* (Donmar, also Vaudeville/Teatro Liceo, Buenos Aires/Nuevo Teatro Alcala, Madrid; Olivier nomination for Best Musical Revival, Hugo Award for Best Director, Clarin Award for Best Musical Production, ADEET Award for Best Production); *The Little Dog Laughed* (Garrick), *Three Days of Rain* (Apollo; Olivier nomination for Best Revival, Whatsonstage nomination for Best Revival), *The Lover* and *The Collection* (Comedy) and *Elegies: a Song Cycle* (Arts) in the West End; *The School for Scandal* (Theatre Royal, Bath); *Salome* (Headlong); *Eric's* (Liverpool Everyman) and *The Caretaker* (Sheffield Crucible and Tricycle). He has also directed plays as a part of the Old Vic 24 Hour Plays and the Royal Court International Residencies. Jamie was Associate Director of the Donmar from 2008 to 2011 and Associate Artist of Headlong.

Co-founded by **Sir Howard Panter** and **Rosemary Squire OBE** in 1992, the **Ambassador Theatre Group Ltd (ATG)** has grown to be the world's number one live-theatre company with a total of 39 venues in Britain and on Broadway and an internationally recognised award-winning theatre producer with co-productions in New York, across North America, Europe, Asia and Australia. It is also a leader in theatre ticketing services through ATG Tickets and the Ticket Machine Group (TMG). ATG Production output is at its highest ever, demonstrating the unique quality and range of ATG Productions in a diverse number of theatres and markets worldwide. ATG has been behind some of the most successful and innovative productions in Britain and internationally. Current and recent ATG co-productions include ***Women on the Verge of a Nervous Breakdown*** starring Tamsin Greig (London), ***East is East*** starring Jane Horrocks (London), ***Richard III*** starring Martin Freeman (London), ***Arcadia*** (UK Tour), ***Dirty Rotten Scoundrels*** starring Robert Lindsay, Alex Gaumond, Bonnie Langford and Katherine Kingsley (London and UK Tour); ***Jersey Boys*** (London and UK Tour); ***Rock of Ages*** (UK Tour); ***Macbeth*** starring James McAvoy (London); ***The Hothouse*** starring Simon Russell Beale and John Simm (London); ***The Pride*** starring Hayley Atwell and Mathew Horne (London); ***Passion Play*** starring Zoë Wanamaker (London); ***Posh, Jumpy*** and ***Constellations*** (Royal Court at the Duke of York's); Dolly Parton's ***9 to 5 The Musical*** (UK tour and London); ***Priscilla Queen of the Desert*** starring Jason Donovan (UK tour); ***Legally Blonde the Musical*** (Sydney, London and UK tour); ***Monty Python's Spamalot*** by Eric Idle, starring Marcus Brigstocke, Jon Culshaw, Stephen Tompkinson, Joe Pasquale and most recently Warwick Davis and Les Dennis (London and UK tour); ***The Rocky Horror Show*** (Worldwide); ***Goodnight Mister Tom*** (London and UK tour); ***The Mystery of Charles Dickens*** starring Simon Callow (London); ***South Pacific*** starring Samantha Womack and Paulo Szot (London and UK tour); ***All New People*** starring Zach Braff (UK Regions and London); ***Dandy Dick*** starring Patricia Hodge and Nicholas Le Prevost and ***Blue/Orange*** starring Robert Bathurst (Brighton, UK tour and London); ***Ghost the Musical*** (Manchester and London); Matthew Bourne's ***Nutcracker!*** (Sadler's Wells and UK tour); ***Being Shakespeare*** starring Simon Callow (London, UK tour, New York and Chicago); ***The Misanthrope*** starring Damian Lewis and Keira Knightley (London); the critically acclaimed award-winning musical ***West Side Story*** (Sadler's Wells and UK tour); ***Elling*** starring John Simm (London) and ***Guys and Dolls*** starring Ewan McGregor (London).

TRAFALGAR TRANSFORMED SEASON TWO LISTINGS

EAST IS EAST

**TRAFALGAR TRANSFORMED SEASON TWO
PRODUCTION TWO
4 OCTOBER 2014 – 3 JANUARY 2015**

EAST IS EAST

**LIMITED UK TOUR
BIRMINGHAM – 13-17 JANUARY 2015
RICHMOND – 19-24 JANUARY 2015
MANCHESTER – 26-31 JANUARY 2015**

THE RULING CLASS

TRAFALGAR TRANSFORMED SEASON TWO

PRODUCTION THREE
16 JANUARY – 11 APRIL 2015

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**ON SALE TO ATG THEATRECARD HOLDERS ON MONDAY 27 OCTOBER FROM 10AM
AND GENERAL ONSALE ON WEDNESDAY 29 OCTOBER FROM 10AM**

Performances: Monday – Saturday at 7.30pm
Thursday & Saturday at 2.30pm

THE RULING CLASS

Press Night on 27 January at 7.00pm

Gala Night on 28 January at 7.00pm

ALL REVIEWS EMBARGOED UNTIL 29 JANUARY

Ticket prices: £15 - £52.50
Premium Seats Available

All tickets will be £15 on Mondays. Half of these will be made available through a special outreach scheme, targeted towards schools and first-time theatregoers. The other half will be released monthly to the public on the first day of each month for *East is East* and the second day of each month for *The Ruling Class*. These will be available online or at Trafalgar Studios box office.

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