**THE CHILDREN’S THEATRE PARTNERSHIP** PRESENTS

A BRAND-NEW PRODUCTION OF **GEORGE ORWELL**’S SATIRICAL MASTERPIECE

***ANIMAL FARM***

DIRECTED BY THE CRITICALLY ACCLAIMED & MULTI-AWARD WINNING

**ROBERT ICKE**

WITH DESIGNS BY **BUNNY CHRISTIE** & PUPPETRY BY **TOBY OLIÉ**

ON AN EXTENSIVE UK TOUR FROM 2022

The critically lauded writer and director **Robert Icke** (*The Doctor*/*Hamlet*/*Mary Stuart*/*Oresteia*/*1984*), will direct **The Children’s Theatre Partnership**’s(CTP) upcoming production of **George Orwell**’s classic satirical fable, ***Animal Farm***.

The production, which will tour the UK from 2022, will also combine the forces of some of UK theatre’s most talented creatives, including designs by the multi-award winning **Bunny Christie** (*A Midsummer Night’s Dream*/*Company*/*Ink*/*The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time*), and puppetry by **Toby Olié** (*Running Wild*/*The Grinning Man*/*War Horse*).

**Robert Icke**, said, *“I’m thrilled to be working on another of Orwell’s seminal classics, and collaborating again with Fiery Angel. I could not be more excited to bring this important and timely story to a broad and diverse audience across the UK, and work alongside two of the industry’s most talented artists, Bunny and Toby.”*

 ***‘Four legs good, two legs bad’***

Orwell’s biting political novelwas first published in 1945 and tells the story of the uprising of the animals of Manor Farm against their human, Farmer Jones, in the hope of creating a society where animals can be equal, free, and happy.

Icke previously worked on another of Orwell’s classics, *1984*, which he co-adapted/directed alongside Duncan Macmillan, garnering him his first Olivier Award nomination for Best New Play in 2014. *Animal Farm* also reunites Icke and Christie following their celebrated 2016 collaboration on *The Red Barn* at the National Theatre.

Further information about the production and the full 2022 tour schedule will be announced in due course.

**NOTES TO EDITORS**

**Robert Icke** is an award-winning director. His numerous awards include the UK Theatre Award, the Critics’ Circle Award and the Evening Standard Theatre Award for Best Director. He is also the youngest ever winner of the Olivier Award for Best Director.

Robert has adapted and directed several plays during his time as Associate Director for the Almeida Theatre including *The Doctor* (also West End, Adelaide Festival and national tour), *The Wild Duck, Mary Stuart* (also West End), *Uncle Vanya, Oresteia* (also West End) and *1984* (co-created with Duncan Macmillan, also Broadway, West End, national and international.

As director, his other Almeida productions include *Hamlet* (also West End and BBC2), *The Fever* and *Mr Burns*. Elsewhere, his recent work includes *The Crucible* (Theater Basel), *Oedipus* (Toneelgroep Amsterdam and Edinburgh International Festival) and *Orestie* (Schauspiel Stuttgart, awarded the Kurt-Hübner-Regiepreis). His future work includes *Ivanov* (Schauspiel Stuttgart), *Children of Nora* (Toneelgroep Amsterdam) and *Oedipus* (West End).

**Bunny Christie** is a multi-award winning Production Designer, and has previously worked alongside Robert Icke on *The Red Barn* (National Theatre). In 2019 she won her fourth Olivier Award and a Critics Circle Award for her Production Design of *Company* directed by Marianne Elliott (Gielgud Theatre), as well as an Evening Standard Theatre Award for *A Midsummer Night’s Dream* (Bridge Theatre).

She has a long relationship with the National Theatre designing in all of their theatre spaces and devising shows at the NT Studio. Her work at the NT covers Production and Costume Design for many of the classics and a huge number of new plays.

*The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time* began life at the National Theatre, transferred to the West End to huge acclaim, and subsequently completed a UK, US and Far East Tour. She won her third Olivier Award and a Tony Award for designing this record-breaking production. She also designed a small scale touring version of the play which has been visiting British schools, giving many students their first experience of live theatre and supporting the teaching of drama in schools.

Other work for the National Theatre includes *The Cherry Orchard, Men Should Weep, Our Class, Emil and the Detectives*, *Philistines, Women of Troy,* *Husbands and Sons, Comedy of Errors, People Places and Things*, *A Streetcar Named Desire* and *The White Guard* for which she won an Olivier Award and a Critics Circle Award.

Her creative collaborations with Nicholas Hytner continued at The Bridge Theatre with the immersive productions of *A Midsummer Nights Dream* and *Julius Caesar.* Other credits include *Ink (Almeida Theatre, West End* and *Broadway),* *Julius Caeser, The Tempest* and *Henry IV* (Donmar Warehouse and Kings Cross Theatre) and *The Vagina Monologues* (Kings Head, Royal Albert Hall and UK Tour).

Bunny’s opera work includes *Medea* (ENO and Geneva Grand Opera), *Tosca* (Houston Grand Opera, Chicago Opera and LA Opera) and *Brief Encounter* (Houston Grand Opera), and her screen work includes *Swan Song* starring John Gielgud which was nominated for an Oscar for Best Short Film.

Many of her productions have been filmed for the NT Live and by the BBC.

**Toby Olié** is a director, designer and puppeteer. He is also co-artistic director of Gyre & Gimble, a theatre company specialising in puppetry.

Work as director includes: *The Wolves in the Walls* (Little Angel Theatre & Bristol Old Vic), *Vivaldi’s The Four Seasons: A Reimagining* (Shakespeare’s Globe), *The Hartlepool Monkey* (Gyre & Gimble, UK tour), *The Elephantom* (National Theatre & West End) and associate puppetry director of *War Horse*(West End).

Work as puppetry designer/director includes: *Pinocchio, Peter Pan, The Light Princess, My Brilliant Friend*and*Hansel & Gretel*(National Theatre),*Don Quixote*(Royal Shakespeare Company & West End),*Alice’s Adventures in Wonderland*(Royal Ballet),*The Wind in the Willows*(Royal Opera House & West End), Disney’s new staging of *The Little Mermaid* (in Holland, Moscow & Tokyo), *The Grinning Man* (Bristol Old Vic & West End), *Running Wild* (Chichester Festival Theatre, Regent’s Park Open Air Theatre & UK tour), *A Christmas Carol, The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe, The Firework-Maker’s Daughter*and *Peter Pan*(Chichester Festival Theatre)*,* *Little Shop of Horrors* (Manchester Royal Exchange), *The Secret Garden* (Sarasota Ballet) and*Goodnight Mister Tom* (West End & UK tour).

Work as a puppeteer includes: Hind of Joey in the original production of *War Horse*(National Theatre) before moving to Joey’s head for the subsequent West End transfer, *Venus and Adonis* (Royal Shakespeare Company), *National Theatre: 50 Years on Stage* (BBC One), *The Homeless Polar Bear* (Greenpeace campaign film), *Mongrels* (BBC Three), *Hospitalworks* (Theatre-Rites) and *Angelo* (Little Angel Theatre).

**George Orwell** (1903 - 1950) was a novelist, essayist and critic best known for his novels Animal Farm and Nineteen Eighty-Four. Orwell’s work notoriously addressed major political movements of his times, including imperialism, fascism and communism.

Orwell’s other novels include *Burmese Days, A Clergyman’s Daughter, Keep the Aspidistra Flying* and *Coming Up for Air.* His nonfiction includes *Down and Out in Paris and London, The Road to Wigan Pier* and *Homage to Catalonia.*

**The Children's Theatre Partnership (CTP)** was established in 2010 to produce and tour bold, ambitious and imaginative theatre for young people, families and schools. Their aim is to excite and engage new and diverse audiences, often introducing them to the theatre for the first time, bringing communities to their local theatres, inspiring a life-long love of theatre and supporting the UK’s most talented artists.

CTP has successfully produced and toured five shows and brought two to the West End. CTP has developed a network of supportive large-scale venues, reaching over 500,000 people. Previous CTP productions include the Olivier Award winning *Goodnight Mr Tom* which enjoyed a successful West End run and three UK tours, a West End and UK tour production of *Swallows and Amazons*, a UK tour of *The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas*, a UK tour of Michael Morpurgo’s *Running Wild*, followed by a UK tour of *The Jungle Book*.

Thanks to Arts Council England, CTP has funding for three new shows, *Holes (currently on tour),* *Unexpected Twist* and *Animal Farm*.

CTP also run a full education programme led by Blackpool Grand Theatre, leaders in this field who will particularly be focussing on encouraging young people’s individual resilience. With Get Into Theatre CTP will nurture new talent by showcasing the hundreds of rewarding careers in theatre.

The Children’s Theatre Partnership is supported using public funding by the National Lottery through Arts Council England and is managed by Fiery Angel.

***ANIMAL FARM***

UK Tour – 2022

By George Orwell

Directed by Robert Icke

Designs by Bunny Christie

Puppetry by Toby Olié

Produced by Children’s Theatre Partnership

**Website:** childrenstheatrepartnership.co.uk

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