

AWARD WINNING DIRECTOR **ROBERT ICKE's**

THE DOCTOR

STARRING THE CRITICALLY ACCLAIMED
JULIET STEVENSON

WILL BE POSTPONED UNTIL 2021

★★★★★

The Guardian, Daily Telegraph, Financial Times, Sunday Times, WhatsOnStage

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The Times, Evening Standard, The Observer, The Independent, The Stage, Metro

Due to Covid-19 related theatre closures, **Robert Icke's** (*The Wild Duck, Hamlet, Mary Stuart, Oresteia, 1984*) Almeida Theatre production, ***The Doctor***, will now be postponed until **2021**. **Juliet Stevenson**, 'delivering one of the peak performances of the theatrical year' (*The Guardian*), will reprise her role as Professor Ruth Wolff as previously announced, with further casting to be confirmed in due course.

Juliet Stevenson said, "Very occasionally in a career, maybe once a decade if you're lucky, you get the chance to perform in a play that speaks so powerfully to its time that it captures everyone's hearts and minds. *The Doctor* did that last year at the Almeida, and was set to do it again in the West End when Covid-19 brought it crashing to a halt – along with almost everything else.

Whilst accepting the inevitable, I was pretty gutted – and am missing the production, the wonderful company, the character, and above all the experience of taking the play out there nightly to new and hungry audiences.

So I am thrilled that we will be back next Spring, and that audiences emerging from their seclusion will have the chance to see it. Rob has written what I think is a great play, in every sense – and as a director he has shaped a piece of theatrical magic. It couldn't be more pertinent in its exploration of the ethical decisions doctors currently face on the front line today, and of much else besides - of things far beyond the realm of the merely newsworthy...

We will get through this strange and isolating chapter – and then theatre will play a key role in bringing people back together, to share our stories and to celebrate our capacity to roll with the punches and get back up.

When the lights come back on in London's West End, and in theatres across the UK, I'm hoping that audiences will join us. What a joy it will be to be back on stage and riding The Doctor rollercoaster every night, in dialogue with audiences who'll have so much to bring to it... as soon as it's safe to do so."

The Doctor, by **Robert Icke**, very freely adapted from *Professor Bernhardt* by **Arthur Schnitzler**, has been critically lauded since its opening at the Almeida in August 2019. Robert Icke won the Best Director award for the production, at the **65th Evening Standard Theatre Awards** in November 2019 (with Juliet also nominated for Best Actress), while Juliet jointly won the Best Actress award, at this year's **Critics' Circle Theatre Awards** for her portrayal of Dr Ruth Wolff.

The production has designs by **Hildegard Bechtler**, lighting by **Natasha Chivers**, sound and composition by **Tom Gibbons** and casting by **Julia Horan**.

This is the third West End transfer for Robert Icke and Juliet Stevenson in as many years, following the critical and commercial smash-hit productions of *Mary Stuart* and *Hamlet*.

First, do no harm.

On an ordinary day, at a private hospital, a young woman fights for her life. A priest arrives to save her soul. Her doctor refuses him entry.

In a divisive time, in a divided nation, a society takes sides.

The latest smash-hit by 'Britain's best director' (*Telegraph*) is a 'provocative, wonderfully upsetting' (*Independent*) whirlwind conversation around gender, race and identity, and a 'devastating play for today' (*Financial Times*).

Olivier Award winner, Juliet Stevenson, 'delivers one of the peak performances of the theatrical year' (*The Guardian*) in this 'spell-binding' (*Evening Standard*) production.

The Doctor is presented by **Ambassador Theatre Group** and **Almeida Theatre**, **Benjamin Lowy**, **Glass Half Full Productions**, with **Fiery Angel** and **Charles Diamond**, in association with **Scott Rudin** and **Sonia Friedman Productions**.

NOTES TO EDITORS

Juliet Stevenson's (Ruth Wolff) previous work at the Almeida includes *Mary Stuart*, *Hamlet* and *Duet for One* (all also West End). She has worked extensively for the Royal Shakespeare Company, the National Theatre and the Royal Court, winning an Olivier award for her performance as Paulina in *Death and The Maiden* in 1991. Her other most recent theatre

credits include *Wings* and *Happy Days* at the Young Vic. Her films include *Let Me Go; Truly, Madly, Deeply; Bend it Like Beckham; When Did You Last See Your Father?; Being Julia; Pierrepont; Mona Lisa Smile* and *Departure*. Recent television work includes *Riviera; One of Us; The Enfield Haunting; Atlantis* and *The Village*. Other television work includes *Place of Execution; The Accused; The Hour* and *White Heat*. She was awarded the CBE in 1999. In addition to her Olivier award, she has been nominated a further four times and is five times BAFTA nominated for her film and television work.

The Doctor was **Robert Icke's** final production as Associate Director at the Almeida Theatre. His work at the Almeida includes adapting and directing *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 tours). As director, his other Almeida productions include *Hamlet* (also West End and screened on 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) and *Children of Nora* (Toneelgroep Amsterdam). He has won the UK Theatre Award, the Critics' Circle Award and the Evening Standard Theatre Award for Best Director, and is the youngest ever winner of the Olivier Award for Best Director.

Arthur Schnitzler (1862 – 1931) was an Austrian playwright and novelist. His plays include *La Ronde* (reworked by David Hare as *The Blue Room* at the Donmar Warehouse in 1998); *Anatol; Flirtation; Fair Game; Light-O-Love; Paracelsus; The Vast Domain* and *The Green Cockatoo*.

The **Almeida Theatre** makes brave new work that asks big questions: of plays, of theatre and of the world around us. It brings together the most exciting artists to take risks; to provoke, inspire and surprise audiences; to interrogate the present, dig up the past and imagine the future. The Almeida makes argument for theatre as an essential force in an increasingly fragmented society.

Since 2013, the Almeida has been led by Artistic Director Rupert Goold. During his tenure, notable productions have included *American Psycho: a new musical thriller* (transferred to Broadway); *Ghosts* (transferred to the West End and won three Olivier Awards); *Chimerica* (transferred to the West End and won five Olivier Awards); *1984* (transferred to West End, Broadway and Australia); *King Charles III* (transferred to the West End, won the Olivier Award for Best New Play, transferred to Broadway, toured the UK and Sydney, and was adapted for BBC television) and *Oresteia* (transferred to the West End and won the Olivier Award for Best Director). Recently, there have been West End transfers for Robert Icke's productions of *Hamlet* (also screened on the BBC and transfers to Park Avenue Armory, New York in June 2020, playing in rep with *Oresteia*) and *Mary Stuart, Ink* directed by Goold (also Broadway) and Rebecca Frecknall's production of *Summer and Smoke* (winner of Best Play Revival and Best Actress at the 2019 Olivier Awards). The Almeida was named London Theatre of the Year at The Stage Awards in both 2015 and 2018.

3000 £5 tickets are available to audiences aged 25 and under each year for Almeida productions.

The Almeida Theatre is a registered charity and is dependent on the support of individuals, companies, trusts and foundations. The small auditorium, even when sold out, only provides 40% of the funding we need to operate. We therefore need to raise more than £2m each year to realise our artistic ambitions, reach new audiences, and secure the financial future of the theatre. Find out more about supporting here: almeida.co.uk/support-us.

The Almeida is grateful to its Principal Partner Aspen, in its third term as the Almeida's most significant corporate supporter. Aspen was established in 2002 and is a leading global insurance and reinsurance company. www.aspen.co

The Almeida is grateful for the support of Arts Council England.

Ambassador Theatre Group Productions is the award-winning producing and general management arm of the Ambassador Theatre Group. The company has presented high-quality musicals and plays across the West End, Broadway and UK regions.

Current and recent productions and co-productions include: *The Seagull* starring Emilia Clarke (Playhouse Theatre), *Cyrano de Bergerac* (Playhouse Theatre) starring James McAvo; *Touching the Void* (Duke of York's Theatre); *Ghost Stories* (Ambassadors Theatre and UK Tour) and *9 to 5 the Musical* (Savoy Theatre and UK Tours).

Upcoming productions include: *Plaza Suite* (Hudson Theatre, Broadway), *Caroline, Or Change* (Roundabout Theatre, Broadway), *A Doll's House* starring Jessica Chastain (Playhouse Theatre) and *Sunday in the Park with George* starring Jake Gyllenhaal and Annaleigh Ashford (Savoy Theatre).

Previous productions and co-productions in London and the West End include: *Ian McKellen On Stage with Tolkien, Shakespeare, Others and YOU* (Harold Pinter Theatre, UK Tour and Hudson Theatre, Broadway), *The Lehman Trilogy* (Piccadilly Theatre), *Betrayal* starring Tom Hiddleston (Harold Pinter Theatre), *The Curious Incident of The Dog in the Night-Time* (Piccadilly Theatre), *Pinter at the Pinter Season* (Harold Pinter Theatre), *King Lear* starring Ian McKellen (Duke of York's Theatre), *Caroline, or Change* (Playhouse Theatre), the Tony Award-winning *Oslo* (Harold Pinter Theatre), *Glengarry Glen Ross* starring Christian Slater (Playhouse Theatre), *Buried Child* featuring Ed Harris in an Olivier Award-nominated performance (Trafalgar Studios), *Big Fish* starring Kelsey Grammer (The Other Palace), *Hamlet* starring Andrew Scott (Harold Pinter Theatre), *The Maids* and *The Homecoming* (Trafalgar Studios) and *Doctor Faustus* (Duke of York's Theatre), *Oresteia* (Trafalgar Studios) and *Dirty Rotten Scoundrels* (Savoy Theatre/UK tour).

Recent Broadway productions include: *Betrayal* starring Tom Hiddleston (Bernard B Jacobs Theatre), *Sea Wall/A Life* (Hudson Theatre); *Sunday in the Park with George* (Hudson Theatre) and *Pretty Woman the Musical* (Nederlander Theatre).

ATG Productions is also committed to bringing high quality shows to the UK regions and abroad. Recent touring productions and co-productions include: *Baskerville* (Beijing and

Nanjing, China); *Abigail's Party* starring Jodie Prenger; *Glengarry Glen Ross* starring Nigel Harman and Mark Benton; *Strangers on a Train* based on Patricia Highsmith's novel; the Victorian thriller *Gaslight* starring Kara Tointon, Keith Allen and Rupert Young; Noël Coward's comedy *Private Lives*, starring Tom Chambers and Charlotte Ritchie and the multi-Olivier Award-winning musical *Sunny Afternoon*.

LISTINGS

THE DOCTOR

By Robert Icke, very freely adapted from Arthur Schnitzler's *Professor Bernhardt*

Directed by Robert Icke

Produced by Ambassador Theatre Group & Almeida Theatre, Benjamin Lowy, Glass Half Full Productions, with Fiery Angel and Charles Diamond, in association with Scott Rudin and Sonia Friedman Production

Please note that your point of sale will issue full credit vouchers and accept any refund requests for any previous ticket bookings for *The Doctor*.

Website: atgtickets.com / almeida.co.uk

Running Time: Approx. 2 hours 45 minutes including a 20-minute interval

Age Recommendation: *The Doctor* includes the discussion of suicide and the description of suicide methods. We recommend an age recommendation of 14+

Twitter/Facebook/Instagram: @doctorwestend

PRODUCTION ASSETS

Production Artwork: Available to download [HERE](#)

Past Production Images: Available to download [HERE](#)
(Almeida Theatre, August 2019 – Photos by Manuel Harlan)
