**THE UK PREMIERE OF

****

**WRITTEN BY CRAIG WRIGHT
DIRECTED BY IYA PATARKATSISHVILI**

**RUNNING AT RIVERSIDE STUDIOS
FROM 15 NOVEMBER – 14 DECEMBER 2024**

***The Unseen*** is an intense and thought-provoking play that delves into the human spirit's resilience under oppressive regimes. Written by **Craig Wright,** directed by **Iya Patarkatsishvili,** with set and costume design by **Simon Kenny** and score by **Danny Short,** itis set to make its London debut at **Riverside Studios** on 15 November 2024. It will be accompanied by a series of high-profile post-performance discussions and the UK premiere of international exhibition **Faces of Russian Resistance**.

Craig Wright’s play, first seen at the Humana Festival in 2007 and subsequently at New York’s Cherry Lane Theatre is a powerful exploration of the human spirit's capacity for connection, even in the direst of circumstances. It challenges audiences to confront the realities of power, cruelty, and the often-hidden costs of survival.

*In a brutal totalitarian regime, two strangers are imprisoned for reasons unknown. Wallace and Valdez communicate only through their cell walls, navigating waves of hope and disillusionment whilst seeking an escape route.*

*Finding solace in one another they create their own philosophies in an attempt to assign meaning to their state of confinement. Meanwhile, their torturer finds himself torn between his duty and his own self-revulsion and plans a showdown that will change everything.*

**Craig Wright** (Writer) has said, “*While The Unseen obviously has arguments to make about grim political and social issues, arguments which are, unfortunately, even more pertinent today than when the play was written, it’s also a fable about what can and can’t ever be known by individuals and, by extension, what can and can’t ever be agreed about. When it comes to life’s deepest mysteries, sometimes the only solid answer is: “Someone seems to be asking a question.” The Unseen, a tale about the horrors that often accompany interrogation, begins and ends there. It affirms all those who wonder why.*”

**Iya Patarkatsishvili** (Director) has said, “*Our aim is to capture the raw, visceral emotions of these characters as they navigate the treacherous waters of hope and despair, pushing the audience to reflect on the disturbing realities of political imprisonment and moral degradation.*

*“Our production seeks to create a thought-provoking theatrical experience that resonates with contemporary issues of political repression, particularly drawing parallels to the plight of political prisoners in Russia and around the world.”*

*The Unseen* is an eye-opening look at human isolation, guilt, and the dehumanising effects of totalitarian repression. It is a gripping drama that will leave audiences questioning the boundaries of hope and despair, and the moral compromises made in the face of absolute power.

**GUEST SPEAKERS**

A series of post-performance events will be programmed in conjunction with the production, focusing on the play’s themes and contemporary human rights issues. Special guests to be announced who have been sourced with help from the Russian Democratic Society.

**FACES OF RUSSIAN RESISTANCE**

Acclaimed exhibition, **Faces of Russian Resistance**, will make its UK premier at Riverside Studios to coincide with the production of *The Unseen*. The exhibition focuses on Russians who oppose the Putin regime and paid for it with their freedom. Its heroes are not only politicians who led an open struggle for the freedom of Russia. These are ordinary citizens who did not believe false propaganda and did not accept the invasion to a neighbouring country. There are men and women, young and old, political activists, artists, scientists, students, fathers and mothers. They were all jailed for years, some of them — for decades.

***The Unseen*** is written by **Craig Wright**, directed by **Iya Patarkatsishvili,** has set and costume design by **Simon Kenny**, lighting design by **Anna Watson**, sound design by **Mike Walker** with **James Robert Moore** as associate director. The composer is **Danny Short,** who also executive produces alongside**, Peter Huntley** and **Callum Runciman** for **Smart Entertainment**. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**NOTES TO EDITORS**

**CRAIG WRIGHT – PLAYWRIGHT**

Craig Wright is an acclaimed American playwright and screenwriter recognised for his impactful contributions to both theatre and television. In television, he earned an Emmy nomination for his work on *Six Feet Under* and made significant contributions to series such as *Lost* and *Brothers & Sisters*. He also created the acclaimed series *Dirty Sexy Money* for ABC. Wright gained acclaim in theatre with his play *The Pavilion*, which was nominated for the American Theatre Critics Association's Best New Play award. His notable plays also include *Recent Tragic Events* and *Lady*. Wright's writing is celebrated for its profound exploration of human emotions and relationships across both mediums.

**IYA PATARKATSISHVILI – DIRECTOR**Iya Patarkatsishvili is a dedicated political activist who advocates for human rights, with a particular focus on political prisoners in Russia. Leveraging her extensive knowledge of the arts and her firsthand experience in politics, she aims to use her platform to explore the nuances of human nature and societal dynamics.

Through her work, Iya encourages others to delve into the complexities of the modern political landscape, employing the arts as a powerful tool to convey stories of passionate human activism.

**SIMON KENNY - SET & COSTUME DESIGNER**
Plays include: *Brassed Off* (Theatre By The Lake, Bolton Octagon and Stephen Joseph Theatre); *Murder In The Dark* (UK Tour); *The Real & Imagined History of the Elephant Man* (Nottingham Playhouse); *Family Tree* (UK Tour); *Duet For One* (Orange Tree); *Blue/Orange* (Royal & Derngate); *Nothello* (Belgrade, Coventry); *The Art of Illusion and The Death of a Black Man* (Hampstead); *Footfalls & Rockaby* (Jermyn Street); *Antigone* (Mercury, Colchester); *The Gift* (Stratford East); *Black Men Walking* (Royal Exchange); *Crongton Knights* and *Noughts & Crosses* (UK Tour); *Red Dust Road* (National Theatre of Scotland); *Giraffes Can’t Dance* (Curve); *The Children* (English Theatre Frankfurt); *Holes* (Nottingham Playhouse and UK Tour); *Twelfth Night* and *The Merchant of Venice* (Shakespeare’s Globe); *Sleeping Beauty, The Ladykillers* and *Sleuth* (Watermill); *Ghosts* (Theatr Clwyd) and *Island* (National).

Musical theatre includes: *The Lord Of The Rings* (Watermill and Chicago Shakespeare Theatre); *Whistle Down The Wind* (Watermill); *The Lion* (Southwark); *The Light in the Piazza* (Royal Academy of Music); *The Wiz* (Hope Mill); *Ghost Quartet* (Boulevard); *Assassins* (Watermill and Nottingham Playhouse); *Sweeney Todd* (Shaftesbury Avenue and Off-Broadway, Drama Desk nomination for Outstanding Set Design of a Musical); *The Selfish* *Giant* (Vaudeville); *Cabaret* (English Theatre Frankfurt); *The World Goes Round* (Stephen Joseph) and *Saturday Night Fever* (Theatre Royal Bath and UK Tour).

**ANNA WATSON – LIGHTING DESIGNER**Theatre credits includes: *Giant*, *Imposter 22*, *Hope has a Happy Meal*,*That Is Not Who I Am*, and *Poet in da Corner* (and UK tour) (Royal Court); *Paranormal Activity* (Leeds Playhouse); *Between Riverside* and *Crazy*(Hampstead); *The Band’s Visit*, *Appropriate*, *Becoming: Part One*, and *Salt Root & Roe* (Donmar); *All of Us* (Dorfman); *Othello*, *A Winters Tale*, *Hamlet*, *Henry VI*, *Richard III* [as candlelight designer] (Sam Wanamaker); *The Bolds* (Unicorn); *Gaslight*(Watford Palace); *The Nut Cracker* and *A Christmas Carol* (Bristol Old Vic); *Leave to Remain*, *The Seagull*, and *Shopping & Fucking* (Lyric, Hammersmith); *The Fantastic Follies of Mrs Rich*, *Snow in Midsummer*, and *The Roaring Girl* (RSC); *Twilight: Los Angeles 1992*, and *The Chronicles of Kalki* (Gate); *Box of Delights* (Wilton’s Music Hall); *King Lear* (Shakespeare’s Globe); *Dutchman*, *The Secret Agent*, *Fireface*, *Disco Pigs*, and *Sus*(Young Vic); *Bank on it* (Theatre-Rites/Barbican); *On the Record*, and *it felt empty when the heart went at first but it is alright now* (Arcola); *Paradise* and *Salt* (Ruhr Triennale, Germany); *Gambling* and *This Wide Night* (Soho); *Rutherford & Son* and *Ruby Moon* (Northern Stage) and *…Sisters* (Headlong).

Dance credits includes: *Merlin*(Northern Ballet); *Mothers* and *Soul Play* (The Place); *Refugees of a Septic Heart* (The Garage); *View from the Shore* and *Animule Dance* (Royal Opera House).

Opera credits includes: *Don Carlo* (Grange Park); *Orlando* (Welsh National Opera/Scottish Opera/San Francisco); *Cendrillon* (Gyndebourne); *Ruddigore*(Barbican/Opera North/UK Tour); *Critical Mass* (Almeida); *Songs from a Hotel Bedroom* and *Tongue Tied* (Royal Opera House); *The Bartered Bride* (Royal College of Music) and *Against Oblivion*(Toynbee Hall).

**MIKE WALKER – SOUND DESIGNER**Recent theatre credits include: *Jerry’s Girls* (Menier Chocolate Factory); *Operation Mincemeat* (Fortune); *Miss Saigon, She Loves Me* and *Guys & Dolls* (Crucible, Sheffield); *Charlie & The Chocolate Factory* (UK Tour); *Allelujah!*(Bridge); *Flowers for Mrs Harris*(Sheffield & Chichester); *Forbidden City* (Esplanade, Singapore); *Our Ladies of Perpetual Succour*(Duke of Yorks); *Rent (*St James & Tour); *Enemy of the People*, *For Services Rendered* and *Taken at Midnight*(Chichester); *Temple* (Donmar); *Three Winters*, *Chewing Gum Dreams*,*Home*,*Hymn*, *St Matthew Passion* and *Caroline or Change* (National Theatre) and *Jerry Springer – The Opera* (Lyttelton & Cambridge Theatre) for which he won the Olivier Award for Best Sound Design.

He recently co-produced and engineered the album recording of*Flowers For Mrs Harris.*

With his company, Loh Humm Audio, Mike provides audio engineering services for theatres.

**DANNY SHORT – COMPOSER & EXECUTIVE PRODUCER**

Danny Short is a graduate of the Royal Academy of Music with numerous performing, recording and compositional credits, including: *Dunsinane* (National Theatre of Scotland, Musical Director); *The Now Show* (BBC radio); Supporting *Elton John* (Royal Albert Hall); *I Remember When*(Sheila Atim); *This Morning* (ITV); *Don’t Take My Baby* (Bafta Award winning BBC drama);  *U.Me The Musical*, with Stephen Fry (BBC radio); *Wicked* (Apollo Victoria); *Speechless* Video (from Aladdin with Will Smith, Disney); Book of Mormon (Prince of Wales); *Cinderella* (Gillian Lynne); *Moulin Rouge* (Piccadilly); *Dear Evan Hansen* (Nöel Coward); *Dreamgirls* (Savoy); *Matilda the* *Musical* (Cambridge); *Jersey Boys* (Prince Edward); *The Wind in the* *Willows* (Palladium); *9 to 5 the musical* (Savoy); *The Bodyguard* (Dominion); *Show Boat* (New London); *High Society* (Old Vic); *Top Hat* (Aldwych); *Sweet* *Charity* (Theatre Royal Haymarket); *Made in Dagenham* (Adelphi); *The Stone of Destiny* - starring Robert Carlyle (Mob Film Company); *Ultimate Broadway* (Shanghai Culture Square); *3* *Phantoms* (Parisian Macao) and *Future Conditional* (Old Vic).

**SMART ENTERTAINMENT – EXECUTIVE PRODUCER & GENERAL MANAGER**

Smart provides world-class general management, executive producing, production accounting and consultancy services for theatre and live entertainment.

Productions include: *Grenfell: System Failure* (Playground, Tabernacle and Marylebone); *Grenfell: Value Engineering* (Tabernacle and Birmingham Rep and televised as *Grenfell* on Channel 4); *The Most Precious of Goods* (Marylebone); *Feykom Tarab? Sukkar Ziyada* (The Arena, Kuwait); *The Magic Flute* (Nevill Holt Festival); *Ali Cook: Principles of Deception* (Royal & Derngate, Northampton); *Feykom Tarab? An* *Evening with Miami* (The Arena, Kuwait and Maraya, Al Ula, KSA); *Rehab the* *Musical* (Neon 194 and Playground); *Nutcracker* (The Tuff Nut Jazz Club); *Glory Ride* (Charing Cross and The Other Palace); *At Last, It’s Summer* (London Palladium); *Cinderella* (Oxford Playhouse); *Peaky Blinders: The Rise* (Vanguard, London); *Making a Murderer The Musical* (Edinburgh); *Mog*, *Playtime*, *The* *Wellspring* (also tour), *An* *Improbable Musical*, *Our Lady of Kibeho* (Olivier Award-nominee) and *The Selfish Giant* (Royal & Derngate, Northampton); *Doctor Who: Time Fracture* and *The Great Gatsby* (Immersive | LDN); *Amélie* (Criterion); *A* *Christmas Carol* (Dominion and Lyceum); *A Night at* *the Musicals* (Royal & Derngate, Northampton); *The Gift* and *Black Men Walking* (UK Tour).

**LISTINGS**

***THE UNSEEN***

**RIVERSIDE STUDIOS
15 NOVEMBER – 14 DECEMBER 2024**[**riversidestudios.co.uk**](http://riversidestudios.co.uk)

Writer:**Craig Wright**

Director: **Iya Patarkatsishvili**

Set and Costume Design: **Simon Kenny
Lighting Designer: Anna Watson
Composer: Danny Short**

**Sound Designer: Mike Walker
Associate Director: James Robert Moore**

**Associate Design: Ruth Hall**

**Costume Supervisor: Maybelle Laye**

**Executive Producer: Peter Huntley and Callum Runciman for Smart Entertainment and Danny Short**

**General Manager: Smart Entertainment**

**Press Night:** Wednesday 20 November

**Performance schedule:** Monday to Saturday at 7.30pm
 with Thursday and Saturday at 2.30pm\*
*\*matinees from W/C 18 November*

**Ticket Prices:** From £15
*\*with booking fee*

**Running time:**85 minutes (no interval)

**Age recommendation:**14+

**Address:** 101 Queen Caroline St, London W6 9BN

**Box Office:** 020 8237 1010

**Website:** www.theunseenplay.com

 **Artwork:** Available to download [**HERE**](https://we.tl/t-fNYkimGLED)

**Socials:**

**Instagram/Facebook:**  @theunseenplay
**TikTok:** @theunseenplay

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