

**PRESS RELEASE**  
20 April 2016



**NATIONAL YOUTH THEATRE**  
**LAUNCHES 60<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY SEASON**



- [ **NYT LAUNCHES 2016 SEASON INCLUDING WORK ACROSS THE UK AND IN THE WEST END, FIVE NEW COMMISSIONS, TWO WEST END PREMIERES, A REGIONAL TOUR, FILM AND PHOTOGRAPHY PROJECTS AND AN ALUMNI GALA, ALL CELEBRATING THEIR 60<sup>TH</sup> YEAR**
- [ **TWO NEW PLAYS BY AISHA ZIA AND MONSAY WHITNEY PERFORMED BY SOCIAL INCLUSION COURSE, 'PLAYING UP' MEMBERS AT THE ARCOLA, 30 JUNE - 2 JULY**
- [ **A SEASON OF NEW WRITING AT THE FINBOROUGH THEATRE TO INCLUDE PLAYS BY OLIVIER AWARD WINNING PLAYWRIGHTS JAMES FRITZ AND BOLA AGBAJE AND THE FIRST EVER STAGE ADAPTATION OF MOHSIN HAMID'S MAN BOOKER SHORTLISTED *THE RELUCTANT FUNDAMENTALIST*, 9 - 27 AUG**
- [ **A ONE-OFF ANNIVERSARY GALA IN THE WEST END'S SHAFTESBURY THEATRE STARRING 40 RENOWNED ALUMNI AND 60 MEMBERS CELEBRATING 60 YEARS OF NYT**
- [ **FOR THE FOURTH CONSECUTIVE YEAR A COMPANY OF SIXTEEN 18-25 YEAR-OLDS WILL PERFORM IN REPERTORY IN LONDON'S WEST END, 23 SEP - 25 NOV 2016**
  - **STEPHEN KELMAN'S MAN BOOKER PRIZE NOMINATED *PIGEON ENGLISH* EXPLORING KNIFE CRIME IN LONDON, ADAPTED FOR**

STAGE BY YOUNG VIC NEW GENESIS FELLOW WINNER GBOLAHAN  
OBISESAN

- A TEDDY GIRL TAKE ON WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE'S *ROMEO & JULIET* SET IN NYT'S FOUNDING YEAR - 1956, ADAPTED BY CHEEK BY JOWL'S OWEN HORSLEY
- [ FORMER NYT MEMBERS ZAWE ASHTON, ROSAMUND PIKE AND SARAH SOLEMANI BECOME PATRONS OF THE COMPANY
- [ PRODUCTIONS ACROSS THE COUNTRY INCLUDING *THE TEMPEST* AT THE ROYAL AND DERNGATE THEATRE, CAROL ANN DUFFY'S *THE WORLD'S WIFE* AT HAY FESTIVAL AND A FREE REGIONAL TOUR OF LUKE BARNES' *YOU CAN* AND KARLA CROME'S *IF CHLOE CAN*
- [ TICKETS FOR THE WEST END SEASON GO ON SALE ON 22 APRIL, TICKETS FOR THE FINBOROUGH GO ON SALE ON 2 MAY MORE INFORMATION AT [WWW.NYT.ORG.UK](http://WWW.NYT.ORG.UK)

Paul Roseby, Artistic Director and Chief Executive of the National Youth Theatre of Great Britain (NYT) has today announced a new season of work for the company in celebration of their 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary year. Founded in 1956 the NYT is the pioneering force for youth theatre around the world and is recognised as the leading provider of free alternatives to formal theatre training, with alumni including Dame Helen Mirren, Daniel Craig, Chiwetel Ejiofor CBE and Sir Daniel Day Lewis. Since being founded the world's leading youth arts charity has nurtured the talent of over 100,000 young people.

To mark the diamond season announcement NYT held the first of a series of alumni play readings of 'Hidden Gems' from the NYT Archive at the Hatton Garden vault, the site of the biggest heist in British legal history. The reading of *Blue Moon Over Poplar* by Rebecca Lenkiewicz featured Ashley Jensen, Sarah Solemani, *Downton Abbey*'s Daisy Lewis, Rachael Stirling, Grantchester's Sam Frenchum and 2016 NYT REP member Shalisha James-Davis. You can watch the reading [here](#).

The anniversary programme for 2016 includes adaptations of two Man Booker shortlisted novels *Pigeon English* by Stephen Kelman and the world premiere stage adaptation of *The Reluctant Fundamentalist* by Moshin Hamid. *Pigeon English*, inspired by the tragic killing of Damilola Taylor, looks at the harsh reality of adulthood in modern Britain and *The Reluctant Fundamentalist* pulls apart the ironies of prejudice and representation in a post 9/11 New York and Pakistan. The company will present their first ever season at London's Finborough Theatre comprising of three brand new commissions - two from Olivier Award-winning playwrights - as well as two new plays at the Arcola with the company's social inclusion course 'Playing Up'. Following the huge success of three previous REP seasons, the NYT is to return to the Ambassadors Theatre in September and alongside the West End premiere of *Pigeon English* will present William Shakespeare's *Romeo & Juliet* in post war London with Teddy girls and Teddy boys running amok. Outside of London, NYT will perform a newly adapted music-theatre version of *The Tempest* at Royal & Derngate in Northampton, make their premiere appearance at Hay Festival in Wales with Poet Laureate Carol Ann Duffy's *The World's Wife* and nationally tour free productions of *If Chloe Can* and *You Can*.

Roseby also announced that 2016 will see former members Zawe Ashton,

**Rosamund Pike** and **Sarah Solemani** become patrons of NYT and the company's plans for a one-off anniversary gala '**The Story of our Youth at 60**' in the West End's Shaftesbury Theatre on 18 September 2016. The performance, which will celebrate 60 years of the NYT, will star 60 members of the company alongside 40 renowned alumni. Other plans to mark the anniversary include two new commissions outside of theatre. Award-winning filmmaker **Martin Stirling**, known for his socially committed TV advertising such as Greenpeace's *LEGO: Everything is NOT Awesome*, will create a filmed portrait of NYT which will be released later in the year. Alongside Stirling current NYT member and celebrated artist **Conor Collins** has been commissioned to create a series of portraits of NYT alumni. Collins exhibits primarily through social media and is renowned for his 2014 portrait of Tom Daley and 2016 portrait of Donald Trump, both of which were reprinted across the globe.

*Roseby said: "Over the past 60 years NYT has been championing talent and opportunity for thousands of young people and is not just nationally but internationally renowned as a result. In this gem of a diamond year we are continuing to engage the most talented and most in need with our unique passion for being a force for good, a force for positive change and a tour de force on stage. Despite the Diamond year there is nothing 'precious' about our programming, with a bold taste for stories that shape our future and a team that will invent and inspire the next generation of excellence across all mediums of entertainment. Thank you to all that have gone before us to enable all who venture forward in our increasingly volatile but thrilling world."*

New Patron **Rosamund Pike** said: *"Being part of the National Youth Theatre was life-changing. The most fun I had during my teenage years was doing my NYT course, collaborating on productions and with the friends I made there. I am honoured to become a Patron in their 60<sup>th</sup> year. I played Juliet at the National Youth Theatre in 1997 and I'm looking forward very much to seeing another NYT production of that play in the West End later this year. Now, more than ever, free opportunities like the National Youth Theatre provides for young people from all walks of life and right across the country are vital for cultivating the future of this country's acting talent."*

*The Reluctant Fundamentalist* author **Mohsin Hamid** said: *"I'm delighted that NYT are adapting this story for the stage. It's wonderful to have such talented young people working on it, and it says something about our world that they were drawn to this story and found relevance in it now, nine years on from the book first being published."*

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The National Youth Theatre and Royal & Derngate present  
**THE TEMPEST**

in a new version by Rebecca Lenkiewicz  
directed by Caroline Steinbeis

23 June - 2 July 2016

Royal & Derngate, Northampton NN1 1DP

Press Night: 28 June 2016

In June the National Youth Theatre and Royal & Derngate will present **The Tempest** in a new music-theatre version by Oscar-winning writer **Rebecca Lenkiewicz** (*The Invisible, Ida*), directed by **Caroline Steinbeis** who has directed for the Royal Court, National Theatre and Manchester Royal Exchange.

Shakespeare's magical story of growing up and growing old is performed by an ensemble of 18 - 25 year olds.

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**'PLAYING UP' DOUBLE-BILL**

Arcola Theatre

30 June - 02 July 2016

*Besieged*

by Aisha Zia

directed by Toby Clarke

*Ripple*

by Monsay Whitney

directed by Carolina Giammetta

Outside of the West End, NYT will stage two new plays starring social inclusion participants at the Arcola Theatre as part of 'Playing Up'. The double-bill continues the work of the NYT's 'Playing Up' course, now in its seventh year. The course, for 19 -25 year olds not in full time education, employment or training, creates productions and commissions new work. It has an 85% success rate of moving young people into higher education, further training or employment. The productions for 2016 will be *Besieged* by Aisha Zia (*No Guts, No Heart, No Glory*), directed by Playing Up Manager Toby Clarke and *Ripple* by Monsay Whitney (*Hand to Mouth*), directed by Carolina Giammetta (*Swipe*). They will explore mental health & isolation in contemporary society.

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# FINBOROUGH | THEATRE

**NYT AT THE FINBOROUGH THEATRE**

7 - 27 August 2016

Finborough Theatre

Press Nights: 10, 17, 24 August 2016

*The Fall*

by James Fritz

directed by Matthew Harrison

*Bitches* by Bola Agbaje

directed by Valentina Ceschi

*The Reluctant Fundamentalist*

by Mohsin Hamid

adapted for stage by Stephanie Street

directed by Prasanna Puwanarajah

For the first time in its history, the NYT will present a season of new writing at London's Finborough Theatre in August. The season is to include world premiere productions from two Olivier Award-winning playwrights and the first ever stage production of Mohsin Hamid's *The Reluctant Fundamentalist*.

Written by Olivier Award-nominated playwright **James Fritz** (*Four Minutes Twelve Seconds*, *Ross & Rachel*) ***The Fall*** will be directed by Bryan Forbes Director Bursary Recipient **Matthew Harrison** (NYT REP Bryan Forbes Bursary Director 2014). A satire about the property ladder from the perspective of 16-year-olds and 60-year-olds, the production follows a young person considering murdering their grandparents to inherit their property.

***Bitches***, is a two hander about running a YouTube channel by Olivier Award winning playwright **Bola Agbaje** (*Gone Too Far!*) directed by NYT REP 2013 Assistant Director **Valentina Ceschi**. *Bitches* follows teenage friends Funke and Cleo as they set up 'Sons of Bitches' with the hopes of getting rich quick but everything starts to fall apart when a meme of Funke's mum goes viral.

***The Reluctant Fundamentalist*** will be the first ever stage production of **Mohsin Hamid's** Man Booker Prize shortlisted novel and Hollywood blockbuster film. The production looks at the ironies of prejudice and representation in a post 9/11 New York and Pakistan. It follows Pakistani native Changez's disenchantment with the West and his journey back to Lahore. The production has been adapted for stage by **Stephanie Street** (*Sisters*) and will be directed by **Prasanna Puwanarajah** (*Moth*).

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#### **2016 REP SEASON**

23 September - 25 November 2016

Ambassadors Theatre

Press Nights: 27 & 28 September 2016

#### ***Romeo & Juliet***

by William Shakespeare

abridged by Owen Horsley

directed by Kate Hewitt

#### ***Pigeon English***

by Stephen Kelman

adapted by Gbolahan Obisesan

directed by Anna Niland

#### ***DNA***

by Dennis Kelly

September will see the return of the NYT REP to the West End for an 9-week season. The NYT REP is a completely unique, free talent development initiative allowing the best young talent to work for nine months with leading institutions culminating in three months of performances in the West End. Inspired by traditional repertory training, it was set up by Artistic Director Paul Roseby in 2012 to provide a much needed free alternative to expensive formal training. Over 30,000 audience members, including over 300 school groups from around the UK, have attended since 2013 and this year the REP returns with a 55% BAME cast. REP company alumni include Sope Dirisu who is currently starring in BBC1's *Undercover*, Kate Kennedy who will appear as Helena in the BBC's *Midsummer Night's Dream* later this year, Stuart Wilde currently playing Romeo at the Watermill Theatre, Zainab Hasan currently appearing in *Boy* at the Almeida and Luke Pierre and Conor Neaves from the 2015 REP who are both about to make their professional debuts at the National Theatre.



Cheek by Jowl's **Owen Horsley** has abridged William Shakespeare's *Romeo & Juliet* for the NYT's brand new production. Set in 1950s post war London, Teddy girls mix with teddy boys and as immigration booms, so does brutality, prejudice and a ruthless gang culture. The adaption is directed by Kate Hewitt (*Far Away* and associate director, *Charlie and The Chocolate Factory the Musical*).

The West End premiere of *Pigeon English*, Stephen Kelman's moving 2011 Man Booker prize shortlisted novel has been adapted for stage for by award-winning playwright and Young VicGenesis Fellow **Gbolahan Obisesan** (*Off the Page* microplay, *How Nigeria Became*). The production follows 11-year-old Ghanaian school boy Harri who lives on an inner city London council estate. Inspired by one of the most powerful events in modern history, the tragic killing of Damilola Taylor, the production will look at the sometimes harsh reality of adulthood in modern day Britain. Directed by NYT Associate Director **Anna Niland**, *Pigeon English* was co-commissioned by NYT and Bristol Old Vic in 2013 and premiered at Bristol Old Vic before a sell-out run at the Edinburgh Festival.

The 2016 REP season will also include a one week run of **Dennis Kelly's DNA**. The play follows a group of teenagers after a practical joke goes tragically wrong, pushing them towards the edges of society. The piece explores violence, guilt and solidarity.

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#### **IF CHLOE CAN & YOU CAN UK TOURS**

*If Chloe Can*  
by Karla Crome

*You Can*  
by Luke Barnes

The NYT are to tour their free productions of *You Can* and *If Chloe Can* for school groups. The shows mark another strand of the National Youth Theatre's work to improve education and opportunity in the arts and their commitment to nurturing young and diverse talent.

*If Chloe Can* was conceived by **Esther McVey**, former MP and Minister of State for Employment, who interviewed some of the world's most successful women, many of whom have got to the top in the face of huge adversity. She published their life stories in a magazine to inspire young girls to achieve their potential. After the huge success of the project McVey launched *You Can*, a male version of the magazine. The NYT commissioned award winning-writer, star of *Game of Thrones* and NYT alumnus **Luke Barnes** and **Karla Crome**, of E4's BAFTA winning *Misfits* to write plays in response. *If Chloe Can* fosters active debate through a live voting system, encouraging the young audience to consider what choices the characters make throughout the piece. The event has now inspired over 10,000 young females in the UK.

The productions will tour to the Wirral, Dewsbury, Stockport, King's Lynn and Norwich, dates are still to be announced.

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More information at [www.nyt.org.uk](http://www.nyt.org.uk)  
[@NYTofGB](#) / [@NYTREPcompany](#)

Images for the new season and the anniversary are available to download [here](#)

Username xxxx

Password xxx

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**-ENDS-**

**LISTINGS**

**The World's Wife**

Hay Festival

28<sup>th</sup> May

**The Tempest**

Royal & Derngate, NN1 1DP

23 June - 02 July 2016

Press performance 28 June, 7pm

Evening performances 7.45pm (except Tuesday 28 June at 7pm)

Matinee performances 2.30pm on Thursdays and Saturdays (excluding Thursday 23 June)

**Playing Up Season**

Besiged & Ripple

Arcola Theatre, E8 3DL

30<sup>th</sup> June - 2 July

**NYT AT THE FINBOROUGH THEATRE**

7 - 27 August 2016

Finborough Theatre, SW10 9ED

**The Fall**

Press Performance: 10 August, 7.30pm

9 - 13 August 2016

Evening performances 7.30pm

Matinee performances 3.00pm on Thursdays and Saturdays

**Bitches**

Press Performance: 17 August, 7.30pm

16 - 20 August 2016

Evening performances 7.30pm

Matinee performances 3pm on Thursdays and Saturdays

**The Reluctant Fundamentalist**

Press Performance: 24 August, 7.30pm

23 - 27 August 2016

Evening performances 7.30pm

Matinee performances 3pm on Thursdays and Saturdays

**Tuesdays (previews) £14 all seats**

**Adult Tickets £16**

**Concessions £14**

**NYT Members £10**

**REP SEASON**

Ambassadors Theatre, WC2H 9ND

23 September - 25 November 2016

### **Romeo & Juliet**

Press Performances 27 & 28 September

Matinee performances (2:30pm): 23, 27, 30 September, 4, 7, 11, 14, 25, 28 October, 1, 4, 16, 23 November

Evening performances (7:30pm): 28 September, 5, 11, 18 October, 2, 16, 23 November

### **Pigeon English**

Press Performances 27 & 28 September

Matinee performances (2:30pm): 26, 28 September, 5, 12, 18, 21 October, 2, 18, 22 November

Evening performances (7:30pm): 27 September, 4, 12, 25 October, 1, 22 November

### **DNA**

No Press Performance

Matinee performances (2:30pm): 11, 14, 15, 21, 25 November

Evening performances (7:30pm): 9, 15 November

### **National Youth Theatre Anniversary Gala: 'The Story of our Youth at 60'**

Shaftesbury Theatre, WC2h 8DP

7pm Sunday 18 September. Tickets details will be release in due course.

### **Box Office**

[www.theambassadorstheatre.co.uk](http://www.theambassadorstheatre.co.uk)

08448 112 334

or

[www.nationaltheatre.org.uk](http://www.nationaltheatre.org.uk)

020 7452 3000

## **NOTES TO EDITORS**

### **Biographies**

**Bola Agbaje** graduated from the young writers programme at the Royal Court in 2007 and her first play *Gone Too Far!* was performed there in the same year. It won the Laurence Olivier Award for Outstanding Achievement in an Affiliated Theatre and her screenplay adaptation was released in 2014. Other theatre Credits include: *Mouthful* (Trafalgar Studios); *Soap Opera* (Open Court -Royal Court); *Take a Deep Breath and Breathe* (Oval House); *Climate Week Play in a Day* (Arcola); *Off The Endz* (Royal Court) and *Reap What You Sow* (Young Vic).

**Luke Barnes** studied at the National Youth Theatre and the Oxford School of Drama and was the Leverhulme Playwright on attachment to Liverpool Everyman and Playhouse theatres. As an actor he has starred as Rast in HBO's *Game of Thrones*. His critically acclaimed play *Bottleneck* had a successful run at Soho and HighTide Festival and his first play *Chapel Street* won the Old Vic New Voices award. In 2012 he was shortlisted for an Off West End Theatre Award for Most Promising Playwright.

**Valentina Ceschi** was the Assistant Director for the NYT REP in 2013. Her directing credits include: *We Can Make You Happy* (VAULT Festival) and OperaUpClose's *L'Elisir D'amore* (UK tour).

**Toby Clarke** Toby trained at the Central School of Speech and Drama and with the National Theatre Studio as a Writer and Director. Before joining the National Youth Theatre as Playing Up Manager, he worked as Head of Performing Arts at Ovalhouse for three years. As a Freelance Director, he currently works for the Donmar Warehouse, the Lyric Hammersmith and is Head Acting Coach with Identity School of Acting. Toby is also a Playwright, was shortlisted for the Bruntwood Playwriting Prize 2014 and his fourth show, *Result*, will be touring Nationally in the Autumn with his own Production Company, Sketty Theatre. He works



in film and TV as an Acting Coach and has recently collaborated on two BAFTA-nominated BBC Dramas.

**Conor Collins** is a visual artist who exhibits primarily through social media. He has exhibited at Pallant House Gallery, been shortlisted for the Saatchi Showdown Drawing Prize and the Outside In National Art Prize, as well as had a painting unveiled in The House of Commons. Owners of his work include golden globe winners, Cultural Attachés, a gold medal Olympian, Sir Ian McKellen, Stephen Fry and Giorgio Armani. Conor's 2014 portrait of Tom Daley was featured in the national media and went viral online and his 2016 portrait of Donald Trump (2016) was featured on the front covers of Newspapers both in the US and across Europe.

**Karla Crome** trained at the National Youth Theatre and Italia Conti. As an actress her credits include Sky Atlantic's *Hit & Miss*, series regular Jess on E4's *Misfits*, BBC's *Prisoner's Wives* and the award-winning *Murder*. In 2012, Screen International named Crome as one of the 'UK Stars of Tomorrow'. Crome recently made her US debut in the second season of CBS's *Under the Dome*. As a writer her credits include: NYT's *Our Days of Rage* (Old Vic Tunnel); NYT's *If Chloe Can* (Lyric Theatre) and Winner of the Ideas Tap Underbelly Edinburgh Award and Holden Street Adelaide Fringe Award, *Mush and Me* (also Bush Theatre, Australian tour).

**Carolina Giammetta** is an award winning writer and director and a co director of NYT's Playing Up Course. She has written and directed several acclaimed short films including *Papa, Not Coming In*, *Door Open* and *Ornamental* that have been nominated for awards across the world. She worked as a director for BBC Comedy on *Funny Plus One* and *Comedy Snacks* and was short-listed for the BAFTA/ Rocliffe New York TV Festival competition for her TV-series *Glamping*. She has recently worked on films *I Don't Care* and *Night Armour*. Her theatre work includes: *Swipe* (Arcola Theatre) and *Electricity* (Arcola Theatre).

**James Fritz's** first full-length play, *Four Minutes Twelve Seconds* was runner-up of the Soho Theatre's 2013 Verity Bargate Award. *Four Minutes* premiered at Hampstead Theatre downstairs and was nominated for an Olivier Award for Outstanding Achievement in an Affiliate Theatre before transferring to Trafalgar Studios. *Four Minutes* also won James the "Most Promising Playwright" award at the Critics Circle Theatre Awards 2015. Other credits include *Ross & Rachel* and *Parliament Square*. He will be on attachment to the National Theatre in 2016.

**Matthew Harrison** is a director, deviser and theatre maker. His directorial credits include: *Snowbird* (Tristan Bates Theatre); *Tales from the Bad Years* (Landor Theatre); *Futures* (Lost Theatre); *Please Wait Patiently* (National Theatre Temporary Theatre) and *Pirates of Penzance* (Tabard Theatre). He has worked as the assistant director on productions such as *+Sum* (New Wolsey Theatre), *Table 23* (Gilded Balloon) and on devised projects for the National Youth Theatre.

**Kate Hewitt** won the JMK Directors Award for *Far Away* (Young Vic) in 2014. As an associate director her credits include: *Medea* directed by Mike Bartlett (Headlong Theatre Company UK tour) and *Electra* directed by Carrie Cracknell (Gate and Latitude Festival). Credits as an assistant director include: *Wild Swans* directed by Sacha Wares (Young Vic and ART Boston); *Clybourne Park* directed by Dominic Cooke (Wyndham's Theatre and Royal Court); *Through a Glass Darkly* directed by Michael Attenborough (Almeida Theatre) and *Breathing Irregular* directed by Carrie Cracknell (Gate Theatre). Kate is also co-founder and co-creator with *You Need Me* international theatre company of *How It Ended* (Arcola Theatre) and *Certain Dark Things* (Tobacco Factory and Underbelly).

**Owen Horsley** is an Associate Director for Cheek by Jowl. He was Assistant Director to Declan Donnellan on: *The Changeling*; *Cymbeline*; *Troilus and Cressida*; *Macbeth* and *'Tis Pity She's a Whore*, becoming Associate Director in 2010. He also Co-Directed the Tour of *Tis Pity*. Owen assisted RSC Artistic Director Gregory Doran on: *Richard II*; *Henry IV Part 2* and *Henry V*. Independently, Owen directed *Outside on the Street* (Edinburgh Fringe and Arcola) and formed Eyestrings Theatre Company with his production of *Edward II* at St

Andrew's Crypt in Holborn. Further work with Eyestrings includes: *In Bed With Messalina* (Courtyard Theatre); *See What I See* (St Clements Mental Hospital) and *The Duchess of Malfi* (Southwark Playhouse and UK Tour).

**Dennis Kelly's** writing credits for theatre include: *Osama the Hero*, *The Gods Weep* (both Hampstead Theatre) and *The Ritual Slaughter of Gorge Mastromas* (Royal Court). For television he co-wrote and co-created *Pulling* and wrote and created *Utopia*. Dennis Kelly also wrote the book for the Olivier and Tony winning *Matilda the Musical* (Cambridge Theatre).

Rebecca Lenkiewicz is an award-winning writer who, in 2008, was the first living female playwright to have her work produced on the Olivier Stage at the National Theatre, London (*Naked Skin*). Rebecca has worked under commission to Out of Joint Theatre Company, Manhattan Theatre Club, New York, and the National Theatre. Rebecca's screenplay *Ida*, co-written with Pawel Pawlikowski, won Best Film at various festivals including the London Film Festival as well as the Oscar for best foreign language film at last year's awards. She recently directed *The Invisible* (Bush Theatre).

**Anna Niland** is the Associate Director of National Youth Theatre and oversees their courses, NYT REP Company and flagship social inclusion course Playing Up. She trained with the National Youth Theatre and at Rose Bruford College and worked extensively as an actor on stage, screen and radio. Recent directing credits include: William Shakespeare's *The Merchant of Venice* abridged by Tom Stoppard (Ambassadors Theatre); *You Can* by Luke Barnes (Ambassadors Theatre); *Red Riding Hood* (Latitude Festival); NYT's *2013 Season Highlights* (Buckingham Palace); *SLICK* (Sheffield Park Hill Estate) and *Tits Teeth* by Michael Wynne (Soho Theatre).

**Gbolahan Obisesan** is Genesis Fellow of the Young Vic Theatre. His directing credits include: a short film for the Royal Court's Guardian micro plays series 'Off the Page'; *Mad About The Boy* (Young Vic) and *How Nigeria became: A Story, and A Spear that Didn't Work* (Unicorn Theatre) which he also wrote.

**Prasanna Puwanarajah** is a writer and director for film, TV and theatre. Prasanna's debut play *Nightwatchman* premiered at the National Theatre. His directing credits include *Moth* (HighTide Festival, Bush Theatre). His short film *The Half-Light*, which he both wrote and directed also received critical acclaim and awards in film festivals around the world.

**Caroline Steinbeis** was the recipient of the 2009 JMK Award for *Mad Forest* (BAC). Her theatre credits include: *The Crucible* (Manchester Royal Exchange); *We Want You To Watch* (National Theatre Temporary); *The Broken Heart* (Globe Theatre); *Show 6* (Lyric Hammersmith); *Talk Show*; *Mint*; *A Time to Reap*, *Earthquakes in London* (all Royal Court). Caroline also directed Fringe First Award Winner *Mile End* and 'Pick of the Fringe 2005' *Photo Story*.

**Martin Stirling** is best known for his contributions to socially committed TV advertising, he directed Save The Children's *Most Shocking Second Day* video and Greenpeace's *LEGO: Everything is NOT Awesome*. A multiple award-winning filmmaker, he also acted as Creative Director on the Mos-Def force-feeding viral directed by Asif Kapadia.

**Stephanie Street** is an actor, writer, Literary Associate of HighTide festival and founder member of The Act for Change Project. Street recently appeared in Rufus Norris' production *Behind the Beautiful Forevers* (National Theatre). Other theatre credits include: *King James Bible*, *Nightwatchman* (National Theatre); *Rough Cuts*, *Shades* (both Royal Court Theatre), *Sweet Cider* (Arcola), *Not the End of the World* (Bristol Old Vic) *Too Close to Home* (Lyric Theatre) and *The Vagina Monologues* (UK Tour). Her TV credits include: *Silk*, *Lewis*, *Apparitions* and *Primeval*. Her writing credits include an adaptation of *Wuthering Heights* (NYT REP season 2015) and *Sisters*, a verbatim piece which re-opened the Sheffield Crucible Studio in March 2010.

**Monsay Whitney** has worked as an actor and a playwright. Her writing credits include: *Wild Gene* (Royal Court) and *Hand To Mouth* (Lyric Hammersmith). *Hand to Mouth* was chosen by Simon Stephens as part of Theatre 503's 'Playwright Presents' scheme.

**Aisha Zia** has worked on large scale productions commissioned by Common Wealth such as *The Deal Vs the People* and wrote text for *Our Glass House*, which was awarded a special commendation from Amnesty International at the Edinburgh Fringe in 2013. She wrote Fringe First Award Winner *No Guts, No Heart, No Glory* (Fringe and Southwark Playhouse). Aisha is under commission from Contact Theatre in Manchester.