

Anthony Calf and Jonathan Hyde join Haydn Gwynne in

HEDDA TESMAN

By **Cordelia Lynn**

After **Henrik Ibsen**

Directed by **Holly Race Roughan**

A co-production with **Headlong** and **The Lowry**

30 August – 28 September, Minerva Theatre

Anthony Calf and **Jonathan Hyde** return to Chichester to join **Haydn Gwynne** in *Hedda Tesman*, a play by **Cordelia Lynn**, after **Henrik Ibsen**, which premieres at the Minerva Theatre in a co-production with **Headlong** and **The Lowry**. Directed by **Holly Race Roughan**, the company is completed by **Jacqueline Clarke, Rebecca Oldfield, Irfan Shamji** and **Natalie Simpson**. Following its Chichester run from 30 August – 28 September (press night: 5 September), *Hedda Tesman* will play at The Lowry, Salford Quays from 3 – 19 October.

A doting husband. A troubled writer. A loaded gun. It's 2019 and Hedda Tesman returns to a life she can't seem to escape.

After thirty years of playing wife, Hedda is bitter and bored. When her estranged daughter, Thea, suddenly reappears asking for help, the present begins to echo the past and Hedda embarks on a path of destruction.

Cordelia Lynn's *Hedda Tesman* breathes new life into Ibsen's *Hedda Gabler*, asking what we inherit, what we endure and how we carry our history. Holly Race Roughan directs this vital exploration of motherhood, power and sabotage.

Cordelia Lynn was the recipient of the 2017 Harold Pinter Commission. Her works includes *One for Sorrow* and *Lela and Co* for the Royal Court and the libretto for *Miranda* at the Opéra Comique, Paris. Her plays *Best Served Cold* (Vaults Festival) and *Believers Anonymous* (Rosemary Branch) were both directed by **Holly Race Roughan**.

Haydn Gwynne plays Hedda Tesman; her many notable roles include Mrs Wilkinson in *Billy Elliot* (West End and Broadway), Margaret Thatcher in *The Audience* (West End), Mrs Peachum in *The Threepenny Opera* (National Theatre), Volumnia in *Coriolanus* (RSC) and Lady Wishfort in *The Way of the World* (Donmar Warehouse), while her innumerable TV series include *Peak Practice*, *Mersey Beat*, *Dalziel and Pasco*, *Rome*, *Drop the Dead Donkey* and *The Windsors*.

Anthony Calf (George Tesman) played Sir Leonard Darwin in *Plenty* earlier in the Festival 2019 season; his previous appearances at Chichester also include *For Services Rendered* and *Private Lives*. His many television appearances include *New Tricks* and *Poldark*.

Jonathan Hyde (Brack) last appeared at Chichester in *Rattigan's Nijinsky* (Festival 2011); his recent theatre work includes *The King's Speech* (West End & UK tour), the title role in *Julius Caesar* (Sheffield Crucible), and on screen, *A Very English Scandal*.

They are joined by **Jacqueline Clarke** as Julie Tesman, **Rebecca Oldfield** as Bertha, **Irfan Shamji** as Elijah and **Natalie Simpson** (2017 Ian Charleson Award winner for *The Cardinal* at Southwark Playhouse) as Thea Tesman.

Hedda Tesman will be designed by **Anna Fleischle**, with lighting by **Zoe Spurr**, music by **Ruth Chan** and sound by **George Dennis**.

At Chichester, *Hedda Tesman* is sponsored by Wiley.

EVENTS

Pre-Show Talk with Holly Race Roughan Wednesday 4 September, 6pm

Free but booking essential.

Post-Show Talk Tuesday 24 September

Stay after the performance to ask questions, meet company members and discover more.

Free.

BOOKING INFORMATION

Box Office **01243 781312**

Online **cft.org.uk**

Tickets from £20. Prologue tickets for 16 – 25 year olds for £5.

Press night: Thursday 5 September

Images can be downloaded from cft.org.uk/pressimages, password: festivalpress

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