

Press Release  
Tuesday 11 June 2024, 10am



## Barbican announces Theatre & Dance productions for autumn/winter 2024

International and homegrown programme includes visionary South Korean opera adaptation of Shakespeare's *King Lear*

RSC returns for annual seasonal treat with two London premieres

### Barbican Theatre

- **Clod Ensemble** and **Nu Civilisation Orchestra's** *The Black Saint and The Sinner Lady* (UK, 19-21 Sep)
- UK premiere of **La Colline - théâtre national's** *House*, written and directed by **Amos Gitai** (France - Israel, 26-28 Sep)
- UK premiere of *Lear* by **National Changgeuk Company of Korea** (South Korea, 3-6 Oct)
- UK premiere of **Mamela Nyamza's** *HATCHED ENSEMBLE*, in association with **Dance Umbrella** (South Africa, 9-12 Oct)
- London premiere of the **Royal Shakespeare Company** and **Wise Children's** *The Buddha of Suburbia*, adapted by **Emma Rice** with **Hanif Kureishi** (UK, 22 Oct-16 Nov)
- London premiere of the **Royal Shakespeare Company's** *A Midsummer Night's Dream* starring **Mathew Baynton** as Bottom (UK, 3 Dec-18 Jan)

### The Pit

- **Hetaim Patel's** *Mathroo Basha* in association with **Dance Umbrella** (UK, 11-12 Oct)
- World premiere of **Quiet Songs** by **Finn Beames & Company**, winner of Oxford Samuel Beckett Theatre Trust award 2024 (UK, 22 Oct-2 Nov)
- *The Acts* by **CRIPtic Arts** (UK, 8-9 Nov)
- **Daniel Naddafy** and **Marty Langthorne's** *First Light* returns (UK, 5-19 Dec)

The Barbican today announces its upcoming programme of Theatre and Dance productions from 19 September 2024 to 18 January 2025, including the London premieres of the **Royal Shakespeare Company's** *The Buddha of Suburbia* (co-produced with Wise Children) and *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. Known for its spectacular and experimental programme of contemporary live performance, the Barbican's line-up features international and UK-based artists and includes UK premieres from South Korea and France; in association with longtime collaborators Dance Umbrella festival, a UK premiere from South Africa and a new work in The Pit; a curated takeover in The Pit celebrating new work by disabled artists; and the world premiere for this year's winner of the Oxford Samuel Beckett Theatre Trust Award.

Tickets for the Barbican season go on sale to [Barbican Patrons](#) today, Tue 11 June; to Barbican Members Plus on Wed 12 June; Barbican Members on Thu 13 June; and on general sale on Fri 14 June via [barbican.org.uk](#). Tickets for *The Buddha of Suburbia* and *A Midsummer Night's Dream* go on sale to Barbican Patrons on Mon 24 June, Barbican Members plus on Thu 27 June, Barbican Members on Wed 3 July and on general sale on Tue 9 July via [barbican.org.uk](#).

The season begins on the main stage in the Barbican Theatre, as **Clod Ensemble** and **Nu Civilisation Orchestra** transform the venue into a vibrant cabaret bar. In their acclaimed production ***The Black Saint and The Sinner Lady***, audiences will join the award-winning dancers and musicians onstage as they bring to life Charles Mingus' 1963 big band masterpiece.

Next up is another multi-disciplinary work featuring live music, film, and a multi-lingual cast of international actors and musicians. From one of France's most prestigious national organisations, **La Colline - théâtre national**, comes the UK premiere of ***House***, a new, large-scale stage adaptation of **Amos Gitai's** groundbreaking documentary trilogy which creates a dialogue between an ensemble of actors and musicians from France, Iran, Israel, Palestine, and the UK. Complementing the production, Barbican Cinema will screen the original documentary films made by Gitai in 1980, 1998 and 2006. Presented alongside the verbatim stage adaptation, these works enable insights into some of the complexities of the narratives of Palestinians and Israelis, voicing multiple experiences and perspectives.

**National Changgeuk Company of Korea** makes their Barbican debut with the UK premiere of ***Lear***, following their acclaimed adaptation of *Trojan Women* with a major restaging of Shakespeare's greatest tragedy, explored through Changgeuk. The prestigious company has been leading a great resurgence of this traditional Korean opera style for contemporary audiences in recent years, personified in *Lear* which incorporates classic stories, ancient philosophy, Korean language and spectacular staging to explore the nature of our existence.

Opening this year's **Dance Umbrella Festival** is the UK premiere of choreographer and director **Mamela Nyamza's *HATCHED ENSEMBLE***, an urgent and subtly spectacular work that challenges ballet's traditions. Accompanied by a live multi-instrumentalist, ten ballet dancers from across South Africa subvert gender roles and interrogate accepted norms of the classical form. This piece is an extension of the acclaimed autobiographical solo work, *HATCHED*, which featured in Dance Umbrella's 2011 festival and first introduced UK audiences to her socio-political work. The festival continues in The Pit, with a first look at visual artist **Hetain Patel's** new show, ***Mathroo Basha***. Translated here as Mother Tongue, Patel will explore generational change across his British-Gujarati heritage through movement and audio interviews.

Also in The Pit will be a world premiere by this year's winner of the **Oxford Samuel Beckett Theatre Trust Award, Finn Beames & Company. *Quiet Songs*** is a semi-autobiographical, coming-of-age tale which explores the limits of a breaking voice for an actor, string quartet and an armoury of swords. Then **CRIPtic Arts** returns with ***The Acts***, a searingly honest piece of meta-theatre bringing together performances from five of the UK's most exciting disabled theatre makers and companies, directed by **Jamie Hale**. And leading us into festive season, ***First Light*** returns after 2021's sold out run to delight Barbican's youngest audiences and their families. The experience introduces babies to an interactive sensory environment and was co-created by theatre-maker **Daniel Naddafy** and artist & lighting designer **Marty Langthorne**.

**Toni Racklin, Head of Theatre & Dance at the Barbican, said:**

*"We are delighted to contribute to the Barbican's extensive offer as an international multi-arts centre with our upcoming season, as we fill our glorious main stage with transformative and epic productions and celebrate the work of daring theatremakers in The Pit.*

*Continuing our mission to craft a programme of experiences that connect our audiences with life beyond our shores, once again we welcome the most exciting artists who are creating breathtaking live performances from all over the world; through awe-inspiring opera and a bustling jazz club; with verbatim theatre and at the cutting edge of contemporary dance. This year we have filled our eclectic programme with shows that revisit familiar stories from new perspectives through adaptations of classics, films, a seminal album, and a best-selling novel. A strong pulse of evocative live music will also flow throughout the season, beginning with a full jazz orchestra and featuring instruments and song from Korea, Middle East and South Africa.*

*In our experimental studio, The Pit, Hetain Patel and Finn Beames & Company will make their Barbican debuts with brand new work, and we welcome the return of CRIPtic Arts. Closing the year,*

First Light's wonderful sensory experience for babies who are making their very first visit to the Barbican."

**Throughout the Barbican Centre, further programme highlights taking place this year include:**

In June, the Barbican will host a number of events during [SAFAR Film Festival \(21–30 June\)](#), the UK's largest Arab film festival, including a ScreenTalk preview of *Bye Bye Tiberias*, attended by award-winning filmmaker Lina Soualem, who celebrates her Palestinian family history. The festival closes at the Barbican with Amr Gamal's *The Burdened*, which offers a rare glimpse into the everyday realities of Yemeni families, dealing with the fallout of economic collapse and war.

In the unique Sculpture Court, Barbican's inimitable [Outdoor Cinema](#) programme returns (**21 Aug-1 Sep**). Barbican cinema curators have created an outdoor programme like no other, inspired by the sweeping vision of some of cinema's most original storytellers, among them Wes Anderson (*The Grand Budapest Hotel*), Sofia Coppola (*Marie Antoinette*), Vincente Minnelli (*An American In Paris*), Kamal Amrohi (*Pakeesah*), Michel Gondry (*Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind*), Dee Rees (*Pariah*), Hayao Miyazaki (*The Boy and the Heron*), Yoshimitsu Banno (*Godzilla Vs. Hedorah*) and Ingmar Bergman (*Wild Strawberries*), alongside the work of two of music's most inventive artists, Prince (*Sign O' the Times*) and Björk (*Björk, Biophilia*).

This autumn, the Barbican will present a trio of new music theatre pieces in the Concert Hall variously combining Sufi, Ghanaian, Chinese, Indian and Western classical traditions while challenging hierarchical structures and examining where power imbalances can affect change. Presented by UK company Mahogany Opera, [Sky in a Small Cage \(8 Sep\)](#), explores the extraordinary life of the Sufi poet Rumi through music by Rolf Hind, words by Dante Micheaux, and translations of Rumi's own poetry. Composer Gorges Ocloo's acclaimed 'Afropera' project, [The Golden Stool, or the story of Nana Yaa Asantewaa \(14 Oct\)](#), pays homage to the heroic woman who confronted colonial injustice in 1900 Ghana, reimagining western classical works through a Ghanaian lens. Presented alongside the BBC Symphony Orchestra, [M. Butterfly \(25 Oct\)](#), is a semi-staged version of Huang Ruo's opera of David Henry Hwang's smash-hit play. This gripping production reveals the blurred lines between fantasy and reality at the heart of this true story of ambiguity, illusion, fluidity and metaphor.

From October, the Barbican Art Gallery presents the world's first major exhibition of Indian art. [The Imaginary Institution of India: Art 1975 – 1998 \(5 Oct – 5 Jan\)](#) will explore and chart a period of significant cultural and political change in the country. This groundbreaking group show will feature over 25 artists and nearly 150 works from across a range of media, including many that will be shown in the UK for the first time. There will also be a dedicated cinema programme, specially curated to accompany the exhibition.

## Full programme information

[barbican.org.uk/whats-on/2024/series/theatre-dance-autumnwinter-2024](http://barbican.org.uk/whats-on/2024/series/theatre-dance-autumnwinter-2024)

### Clod Ensemble and Nu Civilisation Orchestra: *The Black Saint and the Sinner Lady*

Thu 19 – Sat 21 Sep 2024

Barbican Theatre

Press performance: Thu 19 Sep, 7.45pm

BSL interpreted performance on Fri 20 Sep

Celebrate the sensuality and power of jazz as **Clod Ensemble** and **Nu Civilisation Orchestra** present a new perspective on American bassist and composer Charles Mingus' iconic 1963 recording of *The Black Saint and the Sinner Lady*, widely considered to be one of the greatest

albums of all time. Following the acclaimed 2023 performances at Shoreditch Town Hall as part of EFG London Jazz Festival, the award-winning companies will now transform the Barbican Theatre's stage into a vibrant jazz club for the first time.

Clod Ensemble's dancers will bring Mingus' music to life, delivering dense-knit choreography and passages of improvisation which honour his vision for dance to accompany his provocative masterpiece. Shows will feature new compositions from Clod Ensemble's Artistic Director Paul Clark, Nu Civilisation Orchestra musical director Peter Edwards, and drummer/composer Romarna Campbell. The live orchestra and dynamic dancers perform amongst audiences, who can join them on the dancefloor or take a backseat while soaking up the atmosphere.

Since 1995, Clod Ensemble's Suzy Wilson and Paul Clark have developed a highly original performance language, blending movement, dance, music and theatre. Their ambitious and finely crafted performance and participation projects have been delivered at renowned venues across the world (Tate Modern, Southbank Centre, Public Theater New York, Venice Architecture Biennale, Serralves Museum Porto) to critical acclaim; including the iconic *Red Ladies* and the visually stunning *Under Glass* (Total Theatre Award Winner).

Formed in 2008 by Artistic Director, and Co-Founder of Tomorrow's Warriors, Gary Crosby OBE and led by musical director Peter Edwards, Nu Civilisation Orchestra is a shapeshifting, cutting edge ensemble. NCO has toured and performed extensively across the UK and highlights include their BBC Proms debut (2019), and a 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary national tour of Marvin Gaye's masterpiece, *What's Going On* (2021). The Orchestra returns to the Barbican Centre following a performance with Brazilian legend Arthur Verocai in the Barbican Hall, 28 June 2024.

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### **La Colline - théâtre national: *House***

Thu 26 – Sat 28 Sep 2024

Barbican Theatre

Press performance: Thu 26 Sep, 7.45pm

**La Colline – théâtre national** in Paris, one of Europe's most important cultural institutions, revisits a groundbreaking documentary trilogy by filmmaker **Amos Gitai** with a new, large-scale, international theatre production.

**House** tells the story of a West Jerusalem home through autobiographical accounts of its successive inhabitants, Palestinians and Israelis. This new production is based on Gitai's *House* trilogy, documentaries filmed over a span of more than 25 years (1980, 1998, 2006). The first film, *House* (1980), was originally commissioned by Israeli television and subsequently banned. The Barbican will present the UK premiere of the stage adaptation alongside screenings of the original trilogy in the [Barbican Cinemas](#) (25-28 Sep).

This new production of *House* is a dialogue between an ensemble of actors and musicians from France, Iran, Israel, Palestine, and the UK (cast to be announced). They speak and sing in Arabic, Armenian, English, French, Hebrew, Turkish and Yiddish. *House* is an attempt to discuss the present and future whilst paying mind to the past.

Amos Gitai is an award-winning director, visual artist and theatremaker, based in Haifa and Paris, internationally known for his documentaries and feature films which have focused on Israel-Palestine Israeli society past and present, and the lives of the different communities in the Middle Eastern region. He has adapted several of his films for the stage, including *A Letter to a Friend in Gaza* and *Yitzhak Rabin: Chronicle of an Assassination* (Coronet Theatre).

### **Cinema Screenings**

Complementing the staging of *House* in the Barbican Theatre, the Barbican Cinema presents Amos Gitai's [House trilogy](#) - an archaeological excavation of the multiple narratives which cross ways under the same roof of a West Jerusalem house - in a three-part programme of the documentaries made in 1980, 1998 and 2006.

Personal stories of displacement, occupation, migration and the longing for home make Gitai's ground-breaking trilogy a fascinating and poignant account of memory, identity and the long-lasting impact of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict on people's lives and livelihoods.

**House + ScreenTalk with Film Director Amos Gitai (12A\*)**

Israel 1980, Amos Gitai, 60 min

**Wed 25 Sep, 6:30pm**

**Cinema 2**

*House*, the director's debut full-length documentary, made over 40 years ago and originally commissioned by Israeli television and subsequently banned, chronicles the story of a house in West-Jerusalem: firstly owned by a Palestinian Doctor who was forced to leave during the 1948 war; appropriated by the Israeli government as "vacant"; rented to Jewish Algerian immigrants in 1956; and then purchased by an Israeli university professor who turned it into an affluent multi story property.

*House* is both a literal and a metaphorical manifestation of the multiple narratives at the heart of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, existing under the same "roof" and a depiction of the way they have been embodied in the life of the multiple residents of a single Jerusalem house.

**House in Jerusalem + Intro by Amos Gitai (12A\*)**

France / Israel 1998, Amos Gitai, 87 min

**Thur 26 Sep, 6:30pm**

**Cinema 2**

Fifteen years after filming *House*, Amos Gitai returns to the setting of his first film to observe the changes in the new residents as well as in the neighbourhood. ***A House in Jerusalem*** is a portrait not just of a street, but of a city and a country. Here, Gitai works like an archaeologist, revealing, under multiple layers, a complex labyrinth of destinies through interviews with the current residents of a well-to-do neighbourhood in West Jerusalem, the Palestinian family who lived there in the past, an archaeologist and more.

**News from Home, News from House + Intro by Amos Gitai (12A\*)**

France / Israel 2006, Amos Gitai, 97min

**Sat 28 Sep 3.30pm**

**Cinema 2**

The West Jerusalem building, the main "character" of the previous documentaries in Gitai's trilogy, is no longer the microcosm it once was 25 years ago. While its inhabitants dispersed and this common space has disintegrated, it remains both an emotional and physical centre at heart of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. With ***News from Home, News from House***, Amos Gitai completes the trilogy which began with 1980's *House* and continued in 1998's *A House in Jerusalem*. Forming a sort of human archaeology, exploring the relationships between the house's inhabitants, past and present, between Israelis and Palestinians.

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**National Changgeuk Company of Korea: Lear**

Thu 3 – Sun 6 Oct 2024

Barbican Theatre

Press performance: Thu 3 Oct, 7pm

UK premiere

**National Changgeuk Company of Korea** make their Barbican debut with the UK premiere of ***Lear***, a visionary restaging of one of Shakespeare's greatest tragedies into a spellbinding traditional Korean opera. This major new production, critically acclaimed at its premiere in Korea's National Theater in 2022, retells a familiar story of in the form of Changgeuk. The culturally significant and artistically rich theatrical form in Korea blends music, dance, and drama to create immersive storytelling experiences rooted in Korean tradition and heritage combined with creative contemporary influences. *Lear* will open the 2024 K-Music Festival.

*Lear* is helmed by some of the country's leading creatives, performers and musicians including one of the greatest playwrights of Korea, **Pai Sam-shik** (*Trojan Women*), direction and choreography by **Jung Young-doo**, Pansori (traditional Korean folk opera) scores composed by **Han Seung-seok**, with additional music written by K-Pop producer **Jung Jae-il** (*Parasite*, *Squid Game*). The stunning set design by **Lee Tae-sup** brings a quiet but vibrant world of water on stage, drawing us to the deep, bottomless abyss of the human mind.

National Changgeuk Company of Korea is one of the resident companies of the National Theater of Korea and it has been presenting traditional Korean opera for the past six decades. Since 2012, the company has explored wider possibilities within the genre, adopting contemporary themes, collaborating with international artists and reaching a global audience for the first time. The company made their UK premiere with their acclaimed restaging of Euripides' *Trojan Women* (LIFT 2018; Edinburgh International Festival 2023). *Lear* is part of the UK-wide K-Music Festival 2024, showcasing contemporary Korean music based on traditions.

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### Dance Umbrella

**Mamela Nyamza: *HATCHED ENSEMBLE***

Wed 9 – Sat 12 Oct 2024

Barbican Theatre

Press performance: Wed 9 Oct, 8.15pm

UK premiere

Audio-Described performance on Fri 11 Oct, 8.15pm with Touch Tour at 6.45pm

In association with Dance Umbrella, the Barbican presents the UK premiere of choreographer **Mamela Nyamza's *HATCHED ENSEMBLE***, a subtly spectacular work featuring ten dancers, an opera singer and an African traditional multi-instrumentalist.

Clad in stunning costume creations, the dancers challenge gender norms whilst juxtaposing references to Western classical dance and music with South African vocals. *HATCHED ENSEMBLE* is the extension of Nyamza's original and highly acclaimed solo work *HATCHED*, created in 2007, an autobiographical work where the choreographer reflected on her life as a mother, lesbian and artist.

Mamela Nyamza is a dancer, choreographer, director, and performing artist who has been trained in ballet, modern and African dance styles. She has won many accolades for her activism-focused creations. *HATCHED ENSEMBLE* continues her work which unapologetically demystifies and deconstructs the history of dance, interrogating the accepted norms of the classics.

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### Dance Umbrella

**Hetai Patel: *Mathroo Basha***

Fri 11 – Sat 12 Oct 2024

The Pit

BSL interpreted performance on Sat 12 Oct, 7pm

The Barbican in association with Dance Umbrella present two performances of acclaimed visual artist and award-winning filmmaker **Hetai Patel's** latest commissioned work. This will be the first opportunity to see ***Mathroo Basha*** (Mother Tongue in Gujarati), which uses movement and audio interviews with family to explore generational change across his Brit-Gujarati heritage.

Following the passing of a number of first-generation immigrants in his family, British born Patel reflects on what is lost and what is transformed, revisiting rituals rooted in his family's working-class Brit-Gujarati experience.

Responding physically to audio interviews of women from his family speaking in Gujarati and English about inheritance, loss and the future, *Mathroo Basha* delves into the emotional realities of generational change through personal movement explorations where his body becomes the conduit.

London-based artist Hetai Patel has shown films, paintings, sculptures, photographs and performance work across the world, in galleries, theatres and iconic outdoor spaces. Patel's stage

work explores identity and freedom, blending choreography, text, and popular culture in acclaimed solo works including *American Boy* and *American Man*, and *Let's Talk About Dis* (commissioned by Candoco Dance Company). Patel was awarded the prestigious Film London Jarman prize in 2019 for his video art (including works such as *Don't Look at the Finger* and *The Jump*), while his video and performance works online have been watched over 50 million times, including his 2013 TED talk *Who Am I? Think Again*.

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### **Finn Beames & Company: *Quiet Songs***

Tue 22 Oct – Sat 2 Nov 2024

The Pit

Press performance: Thu 24 Oct, 7.45pm

World premiere

***Quiet Songs***, a piece of music theatre for a single actor, a string quartet and an armoury of swords, receives its world premiere in The Pit this autumn. Sounding out the hidden depths of a human voice, the new show creates a beautifully unsettling world where string instruments are played with swords. The debut work by **Finn Beames & Company** is the winner of the 2024 Oxford Samuel Theatre Trust Award.

A bullied teenager feels their voice breaking. Can it ever be fixed? In this coming-of-age tale about a young gay person seeking identity in an unkind world, musicians and their instruments become the storytellers.

Written, composed and directed by Finn Beames, in close collaboration with an actor and string quartet, *Quiet Songs* is a semi-autobiographical, unflinching portrait of adolescence. Told through a transfixing fusion of words, live music and meticulous staging, it follows what happens to a voice when it is cruelly pushed to breaking point, and how self-expression can be found beyond that.

Finn Beames & Company is a changing group of collaborators making music-led work for live performance. Founder Finn Beames is a theatre maker whose practice combines text, music and staging. His stage work includes current project *Heavenly Bodies* (commissioned by Audrey Productions, supported by Bristol Old Vic) and *Man: 3 Plays by Tennessee Williams* (Genesis Future Directors Award, Young Vic). He is also founder and leader of the Aphasia New Music Group, a co-creative music project delivered with UCL's Communication Clinic which has mounted two London performances and a national tour to date.

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### **CRIPtic Arts: *The Acts***

Fri 8 – Sat 9 Nov 2024

The Pit

Press night: Fri 8 Nov, 7.30pm

All performances are relaxed and have integrated audio description, BSL-interpretation and captioning

**CRIPtic Arts** returns to the Barbican by popular demand, following sold-out Pit Party takeovers in 2019 and 2021. ***The Acts***, directed by CRIPtic's Artistic Director **Jamie Hale**, is a searingly honest, bold, and gripping piece of meta-theatre, bringing together performances from five of the UK's most exciting disabled theatre makers and companies.

Inside the walls of a bustling but dysfunctional theatre, four acts are hard at work on their latest productions: **A.C. Smith** writes a letter to her daughter in ***To Rose On Her 18<sup>th</sup> Birthday***, a solo show about love, joy and cancer; **Stephen Bailey** and **ASYLUM Arts'** dark comedy ***Autistic as Fuck*** explores the ways neurodivergent people are expected to sell their stories for the stage; **Peyvand Sadeghian** and **Matthew Robinson** use immersive projections & material from the NASA archives to create a multisensory meditation on isolation and moon landings; **Hugh Maylon** and **Steve Sowden** intertwine Greek mythology and the seaside pier in the liminal play ***Humetheus and the Quest for the Bronze Cloak***.



In a landscape of intense time pressures and shoestring budgets, the performers are overstretched and under-supported. The fifth act – an absurdly inappropriate workplace wellness seminar hosted by **Marcella Rick** and **Ro Lewis** – proposes to solve all these problems. But can it, or is what we need an artistic revolution?

CRIPtic Arts is creating an artistic landscape where disabled people flourish. CRIPtic brings the most exciting disabled creatives to stages around the UK, producing work that is urgent: bold, feisty, vulnerable and darkly comedic. Founded in 2019 as a disabled-led organisation by award-winning performer and director Jamie Hale, CRIPtic is at the forefront of the disability arts sector, developing emerging and established creatives and staging exceptional work.

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**Daniel Naddafy / Marty Langthorne: *First Light***

Thu 5 – Thu 19 Dec 2024

The Pit

Press performances: Fri 6 May, various performance times available on request

Barbican co-commission

Co-created by theatre-maker **Daniel Naddafy**, and artist & lighting designer **Marty Langthorne**, *First Light* returns to the Barbican following the success of its debut sold-out run in 2021. The immersive, intimate experience explores the wonders of our sensory development in early childhood and has been specially produced to be an engaging, calming and relaxing first theatre visit for babies.

Inspired by the University of Sussex's 'baby lab' research, this 15-minute installation for one or two babies at a time, distils the world of awakening perception into a captivating show. Babies up to 18 months-old, along with their grown-ups, are invited to sit, lie-down or stand-up as they bathe in sound and light. The specially created soundscape of domestic and everyday sounds harmonise with and echo the progression of a newborn's hearing.

Daniel Naddafy is a theatre maker and performer based in London who creates work for young audiences including *Glisten*, his acclaimed solo performance for babies. Naddafy has developed work with the National Theatre, Royal Shakespeare Company, National Theatre of Korea, Stratford Circus and Kali Theatre, and has performed in venues across the UK and internationally in Japan, South Korea, Hong Kong and Singapore. Since 2021 he has been an active member of Polka Theatres Artistic Working Group. He is a lead artist with Playground, a Kent-based participatory arts project.

Marty Langthorne is a London-based artist and lighting designer. His work encompasses live art, theatre, performance, dance and fine art and has extensively toured the UK and internationally. He has worked with companies including National Theatre Wales, Candoco, Scottee, Bryony Kimmings, and Figs in Wigs. Numerous collaborations at the Barbican include Duckie's *Copyright Christmas*, Dickie Beau's *Camera Lucida* and Lauren Barri Holstein's *Notorious*. Previous work for children includes *The Iron Man* and *Laika* (Unicorn Theatre) and *The Adventures of Curious Ganz* (Silent Tide/Little Angel Theatre), and *The Assembly of Animals* (Tim Spooner).

**From the RSC...**

**The RSC co-production with Wise Children: *The Buddha of Suburbia***

Tue 22 Oct – Sat 16 Nov

Barbican Theatre

Press Night: Tuesday 29 October at 7pm

Captioned, BSL-integrated, Relaxed and Audio Described performances available throughout the run

The RSC and Wise Children's 'intoxicating, five-star' (Times) production of *The Buddha of Suburbia* transfers to the Barbican from 22 October for a limited 4-week season only.

Director **Emma Rice** brings her unique and joyful style to **Hanif Kureishi's** award-winning 1990 novel, exploring family, friends, sex, theatre and, ultimately, belonging, in a production that will you



leave you 'on a rare high' (Telegraph).

The full creative team includes; Set Designer: **Rachana Jadhav**; Costume Designer: **Vicki Mortimer**; Sound and Video Designer: **Simon Baker**; Lighting Designer: **Jai Morjaria**; Composer: **Niraj Chag**; Choreographer and Intimacy Co-ordinator: **Etta Murfitt**; Fight Director: **Kev McCurdy**; and Casting Director: **Matthew Dewsbury CDG**.

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### **The RSC: *A Midsummer Night's Dream***

Tue 3 Dec – Sat 18 Jan 2025

Barbican Theatre

Press Night: Tuesday 10 December at 7pm

This production features creative audio description on all performances from Wed 11 Dec onwards  
Captioned and Relaxed performances and Touch Tours available throughout the run

Director **Eleanor Rhode** returns to the RSC with a 'joyous' (Times) *Dream* that is magical, mischievous and full of wonder.

With **Mathew Baynton** (*Ghosts, Horrible Histories*) as Bottom, this hilarious production of Shakespeare's captivating comedy will transport audiences from deepest midwinter to the most magical of midsummer nights.

The full creative team includes; Set and Costume Designer: **Lucy Osborne**; Illusion Director and Designer: **John Bulleid**; Lighting Designer: **Matt Daw**; Composer: **Will Gregory**; Sound Designer: **Pete Malkin**; Movement Director: **Annie-Lunnette Deakin-Foster**; Fight and Intimacy Directors: **Rachel Bown-Williams** and **Ruth Cooper-Brown**; and Casting Director: **Matthew Dewsbury CDG**.

### **ENDS**

#### **Press Information**

For further information, images or to arrange interviews please contact:

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#### **Images**

Images can be downloaded here:

<https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fo/j3t8tkroof316eiyqal1r/APo-AzliPEt9Sb1Mw9rPX5Y?rlkey=z0apcjp2e4pmvhdz16vxy8p9d&e=1&st=2j97v31q&dl=0>

#### **LISTINGS**

Full programme here: [barbican.org.uk/whats-on/2024/series/theatre-dance-autumnwinter-2024](https://www.barbican.org.uk/whats-on/2024/series/theatre-dance-autumnwinter-2024)

#### **Clod Ensemble and Nu Civilisation Orchestra: *The Black Saint and the Sinner Lady***

Thu 19 – Sat 21 Sep 2024 (3 performances)

Press performance: Thu 19 Sep 2024, 7.45pm

Barbican Theatre

7:45pm on Thu 19 - Sat 21 Sep

105mins (inc interval)

Age guidance: 14+

£35 plus booking fee; £10 Young Barbican tickets available

BSL interpreted performance on Fri 20 Sep

<https://www.barbican.org.uk/whats-on/2024/event/the-black-saint-and-the-sinner-lady>

Romarna Campbell, Peter Edwards, Paul Clark, Charles Mingus: Composers

Suzy Willson: Direction & Choreography  
Peter Edwards: Musical Director Nu Civilisation Orchestra  
Gary Crosby: Artistic Director Nu Civilisation Orchestra  
Hansjörg Schmidt: Lighting  
Marianthi Hatzikidi: Costume  
Sarah Blenkinsop: Set

Presented by the Barbican

Clod Ensemble and Nu Civilisation Orchestra are supported by Arts Council England

### **La Colline – Théâtre National: *House***

UK premiere

Thu 26 – Sat 28 Sep 2024 (3 performances)

Press performance: Thu 26 Sep 2024, 7.45pm

Barbican Theatre

7.45pm on Thu 26 – Sat 28 Sep

Running time: TBC

Age guidance: 15+

From £16 plus booking fee; £15 Young Barbican tickets available

<https://www.barbican.org.uk/whats-on/2024/event/house-la-colline-theatre-national-paris>

Performed in Arabic, Armenian, English, French, Hebrew, Turkish and Yiddish with English surtitles

#### **Creative Team**

Written and directed by Amos Gitai

Staging assistant: Talia de Vries

Text adaptation: Marie-José Sanselme and Rivka Gitai

Scenography: Amos Gitai assisted by Philippine Ordinaire

Costumes: Marie La Rocca assisted by Isabelle Flosi

Lighting: Jean Kalman

Sound: Éric Neveux

Musical direction: Richard Wilberforce

Video collaboration: Laurent Truchot

Make-up and hairdressing: Cécile Kretschmar

General tech manager: Laurent Mathias

Light tech: Jacques Grislin

Sound tech: Michael Schaller

Video tech: Alexis Cohen

Dresser: Lise Crétiaux

Make-up and hairdressing on tour: Jean Ritz

Preparation and direction of surtitles: Katharina Bader

Construction of the set: atelier de La Colline – théâtre national

Production of the international tour: Sorcières&Cie

Head of production: Véronique Felenbok

International tour booking: Christelle Fleury

Tour management: Ondine Buvat

Produced by La Colline - Théâtre National and Sorcières et compagnie and presented by Barbican, London

#### **House trilogy screenings**

Wed 25 – Sat 28 Sep

Barbican Cinema 2

<https://www.barbican.org.uk/whats-on/2024/series/amos-gitai-house-film-season>

Enjoy a 20% discount if you purchase tickets for 2 or more screenings in this season at the same time. Bookers to the theatrical production of *House* can also enjoy a 20% discount on tickets to the Amos Gitai *House* trilogy.

#### **House (12A\*)**

ScreenTalk with Film Director Amos Gitai

Israel 1980, Amos Gitai, 60 min

Wed 25 Sep, 6:30pm

Cinema 2

<https://www.barbican.org.uk/whats-on/event/house-screentalk-with-film-director-amos-gitai>

**House in Jerusalem + Intro by Amos Gitai (12A\*)**

France / Israel 1998, Amos Gitai, 87 min

Thur 26 Sep, 6:30pm

Cinema 2

<https://www.barbican.org.uk/whats-on/event/house-a-house-in-jerusalem-intro>

**News from Home, News from House + Intro by Amos Gitai (12A\*)**

France / Israel 2006, Amos Gitai, 97min

Sat 28 Sep 3.30pm

Cinema 2

Tickets on sale to Barbican Members on 12 June

Tickets on sale to general public including Young Barbican on 13 June

Standard: £13

[Barbican Members](#): £10.40

\* These films have been locally classified by the City of London Corporation

**National Changgeuk Company of Korea: Lear**

UK premiere

Thu 3 – Sun 6 Oct 2024 (4 performances)

Press performance: Thu 3 Oct, 7pm

Barbican Theatre

7pm on Thu 3 – Sat 5 Oct; 2pm on Sun 6 Oct

3 hours 10 mins (inc interval)

Age guidance: 12+

Content guidance: This production includes swearing, some violence and fake blood.

From £16 plus booking fee; £15 Young Barbican tickets available

<https://www.barbican.org.uk/whats-on/2024/event/changgeuk-company-of-korea-lear>

Performed in Korean with English surtitles

Creative Team:

Jung Young-doo: Director & Choreographer

Pai Sam-shik: Playwright after Shakespeare

Han Seung-seok: Pansori Composer & Music Director

Jung Jae-il: Composer

Lee Tae-sup: Set Designer

Ma Sun-young: Lighting Designer

Ji Young Sound: Designer

Jung Min-sun: Costume Designer

Park Hyun-yi: Prop Designer

Jung Ji-ho: Hair & Make-up Designer

Presented by the Barbican

National Changgeuk Company of Korea's presentation of *Lear* is supported by the Korean Cultural Centre UK.

Part of K-Music Festival 2024

**Dance Umbrella**

**Mamela Nyamza: HATCHED ENSEMBLE**

UK premiere

Wed 9 – Sat 12 Oct 2024 (4 performances)

Press performance: Wed 9 Oct, 8.15pm

Barbican Theatre

8.15pm on Wed 9 – Sat 12 Oct

70 mins (no interval)

Age guidance: 13+

From £16 plus booking fee; £15 Young Barbican tickets available

Post-show talk (BSL-interpreted) on Thu 10 Oct

Audio-Described performance on Fri 11 Oct, 8.15pm

Touch Tour on Fri 11 Oct, 6.45pm

<https://www.barbican.org.uk/whats-on/2024/event/dance-umbrella-hatched-ensemble>

Creative Team:

Mamela Nyamza: Concept, Choreographer & Director

Wilhelm Disbergen: Lighting Designer/Technical Manager:  
Mamela Nyamza & Bhungane Mehlomakulu: Costume Co-designers  
Kirsty Ndawo: Rehearsal Manager

Presented by Dance Umbrella and Barbican. Dance Umbrella's presentation of *HATCHED ENSEMBLE* is supported by British Council, Cockayne Foundation and The Edwin Fox Foundation.

### **Dance Umbrella**

#### **Hetai Patel: *Mathroo Basha***

Fri 11 – Sat 12 Oct 2024 (2 performances)

The Pit

7pm on Fri 11-Sat 12 Oct

45mins (no interval)

Age guidance: 7+

From £18 plus booking fee; £5 Young Barbican tickets available

BSL interpreted performance on Sat 12 Oct, 7pm

Post-show talk (BSL interpreted) on Sat 12 Oct

<https://www.barbican.org.uk/whats-on/2024/event/hetai-patel-mathroo-basha>

Performed in English and Gujarati

Presented by Dance Umbrella and Barbican. Dance Umbrella's presentation of *Mathroo Basha* is made possible with the support of the Cockayne Foundation and Fabric International.

### **The RSC co-production with Wise Children: *The Buddha of Suburbia***

London premiere

Tue 22 Oct – Sat 16 Nov 2024

Press night: Tue 29 Oct, 7pm

Barbican Theatre

Performances Mon – Sat, please check website for performance timings

Approx. 2hrs 50mins (inc 20min interval)

Age guidance: 13+

Content guidance: Contains scenes of an adult nature, including depictions of nudity and sexual acts, and swearing throughout. For more information about themes and contents of this play, please see our [content advisory](#) page

Captioned performance: Sat 2 Nov, 1.30pm

BSL-integrated performance: Wed 6 Nov, 7.15pm

Relaxed performance: Sat 9 Nov, 1.30pm

Audio described performance: Sat 16 Nov, 1.30pm

Touch Tour: Sat 16 Nov, 11.30am – 12noon

From £25 plus booking fee; concessions available including RSC £10 tickets for 14-25yrs supported by TikTok

<https://www.barbican.org.uk/whats-on/2024/event/rscwise-children-the-buddha-of-suburbia>

#### **Creative team**

Hanif Kureishi: Writer/Co-Adaptor

Emma Rice: Director/Co-Adaptor

Rachana Jadhav: Set Designer

Vicki Mortimer: Costume Designer

Simon Baker: Sound and Video Designer

Jai Morjaria: Lighting Designer

Niraj Chag: Composer

Etta Murfitt: Choreographer & Intimacy Coordinator

Fight Director: Kev McCurdy

Matthew Dewsbury: CDG Casting Director

New Work at the RSC is generously supported by Hawthornden Foundation and The Drue and H.J. Heinz II Charitable Trust

### **Finn Beames & Company: *Quiet Songs***

World premiere

Tue 22 Oct – Sat 2 Nov 2024 (12 performances)

Press night: Thu 24 Oct, 7.45pm

The Pit

7.45pm on Tue 22 Oct – Sat 2 Nov; 2.30pm on Sat 2 Nov

Running time: TBC

Age guidance : 14+

Content guidance: Violence, self-harm, homophobia  
£18 plus booking fee; £5 Young Barbican tickets available  
<https://www.barbican.org.uk/whats-on/2024/event/finn-beames-company-quiet-songs>

Creative Team:  
Finn Beames: Writer/Composer/Director  
*Further cast & creative team to be announced*

Funded by The Oxford Samuel Beckett Theatre Trust and co-produced by Barbican, London and Oedipa

### **CRIPtic Arts: *The Acts***

Fri 8 – Sat 9 Nov 2024 (2 performances)

Press night: Fri 8 Nov, 7.30pm

The Pit

7.30pm on Fri 8 – Sat 9 Nov

2 hours (inc interval)

Age guidance: 16+

£18 plus booking fee; £5 Young Barbican tickets available

All performances are relaxed and have integrated audio description, BSL-interpretation and captioning. Take a look at our [Accessible Events](#) page to find out more about the accessibility of our venues.

<https://www.barbican.org.uk/whats-on/2024/event/cruptic-arts>

Creative team:  
Jamie Hale: Director  
Caitlin Richards: Producer  
Jack Wakely: Development Producer

Presented by the Barbican. *The Acts* has been made possible with the support of Arts Council England and the Barbican Centre.

### **The RSC: *A Midsummer Night's Dream***

London premiere

Tue 3 Dec – Sat 18 Jan 2025

Press performance: Tue 10 Dec, 7pm

Barbican Theatre

Please check website for performance times & dates

2hrs 30mins (inc 20min interval)

This production includes [creative audio description](#), which is performed live and in character by the cast, at every performance from press night. Audiences can access audio description and an additional soundscape through headsets.

For more information about the themes and content of this play see our [content advisory](#) page.

Audio description: This production features creative audio description on all performances from Wed 11 Dec onwards

Touch Tours: Sat 21 Dec, Sat 28 Dec, Sat 4 Jan, Sat 11 Jan (11.30am – 12noon) and Fri 17 Jan (5.15-5.45pm)

Captioned performances: Sat 21 Dec, 1.30pm and Sat 18 Jan, 1.30pm

Relaxed performance: Sat 11 Jan, 1.30pm

#### Cast

Matthew Baynton as Bottom  
(further cast TBA)

#### Creative Team

Eleanor Rhode: Director

Lucy Osborne: Set & Costume Designer

John Bulleid: Illusion Director and Designer

Matt Daw: Lighting Designer

Will Gregory: Composer

Pete Malkin: Sound Designer

Annie-Lunnette Deakin-Foster: Movement Director

Rachel Bown-Williams and Ruth Cooper-Brown: Fights and Intimacy

Matthew Dewsbury CDG: Casting Director

Benjamin Wilson: Audio Description Director

Reuben Cohen, Oli Quintrell and Jon Ryan: Video Design

Bruce O'Neil: Music Director

Kate Godfrey: Voice and Text

Nina Dunn: Video Design Consultant

Anisha Fields: Associate Designer  
Alex Lee: Music Associate  
Sarah Stacey: Assistant Director  
Flora Wilson Brown: Dramaturg

**Daniel Naddafy / Marty Langthorne: *First Light***

Thu 5 – Thu 19 Dec 2024 (18 performances/ day)

Press performances: Fri 6 May, various performance times available on request

The Pit

Various timeslots available, please visit the website for more details

15mins

Age guidance: This performance is designed for a baby between 0 – 18 months to experience with their adult. There are single ticket slots (for one baby) and group slots (for 2 babies).

From £8 plus booking fee

<https://www.barbican.org.uk/whats-on/2024/event/first-light>

Presented and co-commissioned by the Barbican. Developed with support from Attenborough Centre for the Creative Arts and Half Moon Theatre.

## NOTES TO EDITORS

### About the Barbican

The Barbican is a catalyst for creativity, sparking possibilities for artists, audiences, and communities. We showcase the most exciting art from around the world, pushing traditional artistic boundaries to entertain and inspire millions of people, create connections, provoke debate, and reflect the world we live in.

We are an international arts and events centre rooted firmly in our own neighbourhood, collaborating with local communities and putting the City of London on the map as a destination for everybody. Central to our purpose is supporting emerging talent and shaping opportunities that will accelerate the next generation of creatives.

As a not-for-profit, we rely on the generosity of individuals and organisations, including our principal funder the City of London Corporation. Every ticket purchased, donation made, and pound earned supports our arts and learning programme and enables the widest possible range of people to experience the joy of the arts.

Opened in 1982, the Barbican is a unique and audacious building, recognised globally as an architectural icon. As well as our theatres, galleries, concert halls and cinemas, we have a large conservatory with over 1,500 species of plants and trees, a library, conference facilities, public and community spaces, restaurants, bars, and a picturesque lakeside oasis.

We're proud to be the home of the [London Symphony Orchestra](#), and a London base of the [Royal Shakespeare Company](#). We regularly co-commission, produce and showcase the work of our other associates and partners including the [Academy of Ancient Music](#), [the BBC Symphony Orchestra](#), [Boy Blue](#), [Britten Sinfonia](#), [Cheek by Jowl](#), [Darbar Festival](#), [Doc'n Roll Film Festival](#), [Drum Works](#), [EFG London Jazz Festival](#), [London Palestine Film Festival](#), [Serious](#), and [Trafalgar Entertainment](#).

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