



## CATE BLANCHETT AND TOM BURKE TO STAR IN CHEKHOV'S *THE SEAGULL* IN A NEW VERSION BY DUNCAN MACMILLAN AND THOMAS OSTERMEIER, DIRECTED BY OSTERMEIER AT THE BARBICAN THEATRE

**Wessex Grove** and **Gavin Kalin Productions** today announce that **Cate Blanchett** and **Tom Burke** will star in **Duncan Macmillan** and **Thomas Ostermeier's** new version of **Chekhov's** masterpiece ***The Seagull***. Also directed by Ostermeier, the production will play a limited 6 week run at the **Barbican Theatre** from February 2025.

Tickets starts at £20, and for every performance there are over 100 tickets at that price.

*The Seagull* marks a return to the Barbican stage for Cate Blanchett following her performance in Botho Strauss' *Big and Small (Gross und Klein)*, in 2012, adapted by Martin Crimp and directed by Benedict Andrews for Sydney Theatre Company (STC), where Blanchett was co-Artistic Director alongside Andrew Upton. Early in their tenure at STC they welcomed Thomas Ostermeier to the company with his acclaimed production of *Hamlet* as part of Sydney Festival.

The production reunites Blanchett and Burke who have recently completed filming on Steven Soderbergh's *Black Bag*; and also reunites Ostermeier with Wessex Grove, who collaborated earlier this year on the director's West End debut – *An Enemy of the People* with Matt Smith.

**Thomas Ostermeier** said today, "I have known and admired Cate for many years, and to see her on stage is always a privilege. I am thrilled that we will make our first artistic collaboration with this production of *The Seagull* at the Barbican, and that London will experience this once in a generation actress in one of the greatest theatrical roles of Arkadina. I'm also very pleased to be forging a new artistic relationship with Tom Burke, who will play the role of Trigorin."

### ON SALE DATES:

<b>7 October</b>	10am-1pm <a href="#">Barbican Premier Patrons, Principal Patrons and Directors' Circle Patrons</a> Priority
	1-4pm <a href="#">Barbican Patrons</a> Priority
	4pm <a href="#">Barbican Members Plus</a> Priority
<b>8 October</b>	10am <a href="#">Barbican Members</a> Priority
	4pm Wessex Grove Priority
<b>9 October</b>	10am Public booking opens

Audiences are invited to sign up for more information about *The Seagull* at [www.theseagullplay.co.uk](http://www.theseagullplay.co.uk)

Full cast and creative team will be announced shortly.

**Wessex Grove and Gavin Kalin Productions**

**in association with the Barbican**

**present**

## **THE SEAGULL**

**By Anton Chekhov**

**A new version by Duncan Macmillan & Thomas Ostermeier**

Conceived & Directed by **Thomas Ostermeier**

Cast includes: **Cate Blanchett, Tom Burke**

Cate Blanchett and Tom Burke make their return to the stage in Thomas Ostermeier's new production of Chekhov's *The Seagull*.

Blanchett stars as Arkadina, a celebrated actress whose larger-than-life presence dominates both the stage and her personal relationships. Arriving at her family's country estate for the weekend, she finds herself caught up in a storm of conflicting desires. Her playwright son, Konstantin, struggles to step out of her shadow as he pursues his own artistic ambitions and her lover Trigorin, played by Tom Burke, becomes the object of affection for the aspiring young actress Nina.

As their lives entwine and they each grapple with their desires, ambitions, and disappointments, Chekhov's timeless story unfolds in a gripping tale of vanity, power, and the sacrifices made in the name of art.

**Cate Blanchett** plays Arkadina. She served alongside Andrew Upton as co-Artistic Director and co-CEO of Sydney Theatre Company (STC) between 2008-2013, producing 16 shows a year across 4 stages, many of which toured nationally and internationally. Notable productions include Tennessee Williams' *A Streetcar Named Desire* directed by Liv Ullman; Anton Chekhov's *Uncle Vanya* directed by Tamás Ascher, Steven Soderbergh's *Tot Mom*; Benedict Andrews' productions of *The War Of The Roses*, Genet's *The Maids* and Botho Strauss' *Gross Und Klein*; the seminal adaptation of *The Secret River* by Neil Armfield; numerous productions by director Kip Williams; and Andrew Upton's *The Present* directed by John Crowley for which Blanchett earned a Tony Award nomination for its Broadway run. Blanchett's most recent performance in London was at the National Theatre in Martin Crimp's *When We Have Sufficiently Tortured Each Other* directed by Katie Mitchell. Her screen credits include *Tár*, *Nightmare Alley*, *Don't Look Up*, *Ocean's 8*, *Thor: Ragnarok*, *Carol*, *Blue Jasmine*, *I'm Not There*, *The Curious Case of Benjamin Button*, *Notes on a Scandal*, *The Life Aquatic*, *Indiana Jones and The Kingdom Of The Crystal Skull*, *The Lord of The Rings Trilogy* and *The Hobbit*, *The Good German*, *The Aviator*, *The Talented Mr Ripley* and *Elizabeth*. Blanchett has won numerous awards including two Academy Awards, four BAFTAs, three Golden Globes and four Screen Actors Guild awards. Blanchett is co-Founder and Principal of production company Dirty Films for which she has produced and acted, alongside partners Andrew Upton and Coco Francini, which recently launched PROOF OF CONCEPT, providing support and opportunities to women, trans and non-binary filmmakers. She created and produced the award-winning Audible Original podcast CLIMATE OF CHANGE, and produced EVOLVER, a VR interactive experience which was selected for the first ever Immersive Competition at the Cannes Film Festival. She has presided over festival juries in Cannes and Venice, and The Venice Film Festival has twice awarded her The Volpi Cup for Best Performance. Blanchett

holds a BFI Fellowship from the BFI London Film Festival, has received the Stanley Kubrick Award for Excellence in Film and has a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame. Numerous other accolades include the Honorary Cesar, International Goya and Chaplin Awards.

**Tom Burke** plays Trigorin. His theatre work includes *Rosmersholm* (Duke of York's Theatre), *Don Carlos* (UK tour), *The Deep Blue Sea*, *The Doctor's Dilemma* (National Theatre), *Reasons to be Happy* (Hampstead Theatre), *Reasons to be Pretty*, *Macbeth* (Almeida Theatre), *Design for Living* (The Old Vic), for the Donmar Warehouse, *Creditors* (also New York, winner of the Ian Charleson Award) and *The Cut*, and *Romeo and Juliet* (Shakespeare's Globe). His television work includes *Extinction*, *The Crown*, *Strike*, *The Musketeers*, *War and Peace*, *Utopia*, *The Hour*, *Great Expectations*, *Casanova*, and *State of Play*; and for film, *Furiosa*, *The Wonder*, *Klokkenuider*, *True Things About Me*, *Mank*, *The Souvenir*, *The Invisible Woman*, *The Libertine*, *Telstar*, *Chéri*, *An Enemy to Die For*, *Cleanskin*, *Only God Forgives*, *The Invisible Woman* and *The Hooligan Factory*.

Since September 1999 **Thomas Ostermeier** has been resident director and member of the Artistic Direction of the Schaubühne Berlin. His productions for the company include *An Enemy of the People*, *Death in Venice*, *The Little Foxes* - audience award of the Theatergemeinde Berlin, *Richard III* - Premio della Critica Teatrale, *Bella Figura*, *Professor Bernhardt*, *Returning to Reims*, *History of Violence*, *Italian Night*, *Abgrund* – co-production with Salzburger Festspiele, *Youth Without God*, *Vernon Subutex*, *Ödipus*, *Qui a tué mon Père* and *The Seagull*. His other theatre work includes *Der starke Stamm*, *Vor Sonnenaufgang*, *Die Ehe der Maria Braun*, and *Susn* (Münchener Kammerspiele), *The Girl on the Sofa* (Edinburgh Festival – Herald Angel Award), *The Master Builder* (Burgtheater in Vienna), *The Seagull* (Théâtre-Vidy, Lausanne), *Knives in Hens*, *Nora* – Nestroy Prize and Politika Prize, *Hedda Gabler* - audience award of the Theatergemeinde Berlin, *Die Ehe der Maria Braun*, *Returning to Reims* (Theatertreffen Berlin), *John Gabriel Borkman* - Grand Prix de la Critique of France, *Hamlet* - Barcelona Critics Prize and critic's prize as Best International Production 2011 in Chile, *The Cut* - critic's prize at the international theatre festival KONTAKT in Torun, *Measure for Measure* - Friedrich-Luft-Prize for the Best Theatre Performance in Berlin, *La Nuit des rois ou Tout ce que vous voulez* (Comédie-Française Paris) – Prix Molière for the best Production in France 2022 - as well as productions across the globe. In November 2004 Ostermeier was appointed Artiste Associé for the Festival d'Avignon by the artistic director of the festival, Vincent Baudriller, and has been presenting shows at the Festival regularly since then. In 2023 he opened the Festival d'Aix-en-Provence with his version of Brecht's/ Weill's *The Threepenny Opera*. He has been appointed Officier des Arts et des Lettres by the French ministry of Culture, was German president of the Deutsch-Französischer Kulturrat (DKFR) - German-French Council of Culture, was the recipient of the Golden Lion of the Venice Biennale, Order of Merit of the Federal Republic of Germany and the KYTHERA-Prize for Culture, and is a member of the Deutsche Akademie der Künste, of the Académie de Berlin and of the Deutsch-Französischer Kulturrat, as well as receiving honorary doctorates from the Universities of Kent and Gothenberg.

**Duncan Macmillan** is an award-winning writer and director. His work has been performed throughout the world, including at the National Theatre, the Royal Court, Old Vic, Almeida, Barbican, St Ann's Warehouse, Melbourne Theatre Company, Berliner Ensemble, Schaubühne Berlin, Hamburg Schauspielhaus, Burgtheater Wien, Vesturport, Kansallisteatteri, Nationaltheatret Oslo, at the Salzburg Festival, in the West End and on Broadway. His screen work has been shown at the London and Berlin film festivals, on the BBC, Netflix and HBO. Plays include *People, Places and Things*, *Lungs*; *Every Brilliant Thing*; *Rosmersholm* (adapt. Henrik Ibsen); *1984* (adapt. George Orwell, co-written and co-directed with Robert Icke); *City of Glass* (adapt. Paul Auster) and *2071* (co-written with Chris Rapley); *The Forbidden Zone*; *Wunschloses Unglück* (adapt. Peter Handke); and *Reise durch die Nacht* (adapt. Friederike Mayröcker), which was selected for Theatertreffen and Festival d'Avignon and

awarded the Nestroy Preis for Best German Language Production. *People, Places and Things, 1984* and *Rosmersholm* were all nominated for Olivier Awards.

#### **NOTES TO EDITORS:**

##### **WESSEX GROVE**

Wessex Grove is a theatrical production company set up by Benjamin Lowy and Emily Vaughan-Barratt in 2020.

Current and upcoming productions include: *Macbeth* with David Tennant and Cush Jumbo at the Harold Pinter Theatre; *Dylan Mulvaney: Faghag* at the Edinburgh Festival; *Kathy and Stella Solve a Murder!* at the Ambassadors Theatre; *Cabaret* at the Kit Kat Club, Playhouse Theatre and Broadway.

Recent productions include: *Opening Night* with Sherian Smith at the Gielgud Theatre; a site-specific touring production of *Macbeth* with Ralph Fiennes and Indira Varma (Liverpool, Edinburgh, London & Washington D.C.); *An Enemy of the People* with Matt Smith at the Duke of York's Theatre; *Quiz* (UK tour); Simon Stephen's *VANYA* starring Andrew Scott at The Duke of York's Theatre, and also filmed for NT Live; Hanya Yanagihara's *A Little Life* directed by Ivo van Hove at the Harold Pinter Theatre & Savoy Theatre; *The Old Man & The Pool* at Wyndham's Theatre; *One Woman Show* at Greenwich House Theater, New York & Ambassadors Theatre, West End; *Lemons Lemons Lemons Lemons* at the Harold Pinter Theatre & UK Tour; *Best of Enemies* at the Noël Coward Theatre; *Constellations* at the Vaudeville Theatre, winner of the Olivier Award for Best Revival; *A Strange Loop* at the Barbican Theatre; *A Doll's House* at the Hudson Theatre, New York; *A Streetcar Named Desire* at the Phoenix Theatre; *Mother Goose* at the Duke of York's Theatre & UK Tour; *The Doctor* at the Duke of York's Theatre; *Mad House* at the Ambassadors Theatre; *Cyrano de Bergerac* at the Harold Pinter Theatre, Glasgow Theatre Royal & Brooklyn Academy of Music.

**GAVIN KALIN PRODUCTIONS** is an award-winning theatrical production company that specialise in producing theatre in the West End, on Broadway and internationally.

Recent West End credits include *Sunset Boulevard*, *Vanya*, *A Little Life*, *Streetcar Named Desire*, *Cabaret* at the Kit Kat Club, *Back to the Future*, *Cyrano*, *Betrayal*, *9 to 5 The Musical*, *Pretty Woman The Musical*, *Come From Away*, *Pinter at the Pinter*, *Oslo* and *The Ferryman*.

Recent Broadway credits include *Cabaret* at the Kit Kat Club, *A Doll's House*, *Plaza Suite*, *Betrayal*, *Leopoldstadt*, *Funny Girl*, *Sea Wall/ A Life* and *The Ferryman*.

Other entertainment: Monopoly Lifesized, London and the Paddington Bear Experience, London

For more [gavinkalinproductions.com](http://gavinkalinproductions.com)

Gavin is also the founder of Totally Theatre Productions Ltd, a TV/Video production company that specialize in producing Broadcast and online content for theatre and live entertainment. Clients are worldwide with many in the West End and on Broadway.

For more [totallytheatreproductions.com](http://totallytheatreproductions.com)

##### **BARBICAN CENTRE**

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 Theatre Productions.

For more information, visit our [website](#) or connect with us on [Instagram](#) | [Twitter](#) | [Facebook](#) | [YouTube](#) | [Spotify](#) | [LinkedIn](#)

## **Listings Information**

**THE SEAGULL**

### **Barbican Centre**

Silk St London EC2Y 8DS

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

<https://www.barbican.org.uk/whats-on/event/the-seagull>

**Instagram and X: @TheSeagullLDN**

### **TICKETS**

From £20

For further information contact:

**Kate Morley** Tel: **07970 465 648** / [kate@katemorleypr.com](mailto:kate@katemorleypr.com)

**Katie McDonagh** Tel: **07375 660 957** / [katiemd@katemorleypr.com](mailto:katiemd@katemorleypr.com)