

A National Theatre production in association with Queen's Theatre Hornchurch

Beginning

a new play by David Eldridge

CAST

Laura
Amanda Ryan
Danny
Simon Darwen

CREATIVES

Director
Joe Lichtenstein
Original Director
Polly Findlay
Designer
Fly Davis
Design Associate
Libby Todd
Lighting Designer
Jack Knowles
Sound Designer
Paul Arditti
Movement Director
Naomi Said
Movement Associate
Jess Williams
Casting Director
Ginny Schiller CDG
Executive Producer
Mathew Russell

PRODUCTION

Head of Production
Christine Piper
Technical Manager
Lee Rook
Company Stage Manager
Lauren Harvey-Dempster
Deputy Stage Manager
Sophie Johnson
Assistant Stage Manager
Kornelia Zielniewska
Lighting Programmer
Stephen Pemble
Lighting Operator
Josh Mead
Sound Engineer
Ben Collins
Costume Supervisor
Nicola Thomas
Carpenters
Hannah Smith, Flynn Clark

BIOGRAPHIES

Amanda Ryan

Laura
Most recent Theatre: *Romeo and Juliet*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Macbeth* (Shakespeare's Rose Theatre); *Shadowlands* (Birdsong Productions); *Blue Moon* (Fat Git Theatre); *The Herbal Bed* (Theatr Clwyd); *Betrayal* (Theatre Royal York); *Memory of Water* (Stephen Joseph Scarborough). Most recent TV: *Shameless* (Channel 4); *This is Going to Hurt*, *Casualty* (BBC); *Free Rein* (Netflix /Lime Pictures). Most recent Film: *Anti-Social* (JRSM Films); *Love Eternal* (Fastnet Productions); *Sparkle* (Magic Light Pictures); *Red Mercury* (Inspired Movies); *Elizabeth* (Working Title).

Simon Darwen

Danny
Most recent theatre: *Missing People* (Leeds Playhouse/New National Theatre, Tokyo); *Skellig* (Nottingham Playhouse); *The Here and This and Now* (Plymouth Drum/Southwark Playhouse); *Our Country's Good* (Out of Joint); *King Lear* (Theatre Royal Bath); *Lizzie Siddal* (Arcola); *Mad About the Boy* (Bush Theatre/Young Vic); *Catch 22* (Northern Stage); *Virgin* (Watford Palace). Most Recent TV: *Years and Years*, *Call the Midwife*, *Silent Witness*, *The Bletchley Circle*.

David Eldridge

Writer
David Eldridge is a British dramatist and screenwriter, born in Romford. His plays have been produced in the West End and on Broadway. He has written for

stage, screen, and radio. His plays have been performed at major new writing institutions in the UK, including the Royal Court Theatre, the Bush Theatre, the Finborough Theatre, and the National Theatre.

Joe Lichtenstein

Director
Directing: *A Taste of Joy!* (Site specific, Hackney); *Cornermen* (The Pleasance, New Diorama and VAULT Festival); *Smoke of Home* (Clifford's Tower York, Bloomsbury Theatre and Landesbühnen Sachsen); *A Matter of Life and Death* (Old Red Lion). Associate Directing includes; *Pinter at the Pinter Season* (West End); *Beginning* (National, West End). Lichtenstein is a director and fine artist. He is a graduate of the National Theatre Studio's Directors Course.

Polly Findlay

Original Director
Recent credits: *A Show For Normal People* (2021); *A Number* (Bridge, 2020); *Rutherford and Son* (National, 2019); *The Prime Of Miss Jean Brodie* (Donmar, 2018); *Beginning* (National, 2017, West End, 2018); *Limehouse* (Donmar, 2017); *Ghosts* (HOME, Manchester, 2016); *The Alchemist* (RSC, Barbican, 2016). She won the Olivier for Best Entertainment in 2011 for Derren Brown's *Svengali*.

Fly Davis

Designer
Fly has recently designed for: Gothenburg Opera House, Roundabout Theatre (Broadway New York), Duke of York Theatre (West End), Playhouse (West End),

Manchester International Festival, Vaudeville Theatre (West End), Almeida Theatre, National Theatre, Donmar Warehouse, Royal Lyceum Theatre, Royal Court Theatre, and the Barbican.

Libby Todd

Design Associate

Design credits include: *Vanara* (Hackney Empire); *Public Domain* (Vaudeville Theatre); *You Are Here* (Southwark Playhouse); *Bring It On* (Bernie Grant Arts Centre); *Into The Woods* (CSSD Embassy Theatre); *Stages* (Vault Festival); *On Side Awards* (Royal Albert Hall); *Alice in Wonderland* (Birmingham Old Rep); *Ann Veronica* (Watermill Theatre); *Wasted* (Southwark Playhouse).

Jack Knowles

Lighting Designer

Most recent credits: *Caroline, or Change* (Chichester Festival Theatre/Hampstead Theatre/Playhouse Theatre); *Top Girls, Cleansed* (National Theatre); *Bluebeard. Kill. Glass. Imp, The End of History, Instructions for Correct Assembly, 2071* (Royal Court); *Venice Preserved* (Royal Shakespeare Company); *Barber Shop Chronicles* (National Theatre/world tour. 2018 Knight of Illumination Award); *The Windsors: Endgame* (Prince of Wales Theatre); *The Importance of Being Earnest* (Vaudeville Theatre). jackknowles.co.uk

Paul Arditti

Sound Designer

Most recent credits: *Dick Whittington, The Visit, Rutherford and Son, Pericles, Amadeus* (Olivier nomination for Best Sound Design 2017), *Beginning, One Man Two Guvvors* (Tony nomination), *Saint Joan* (Olivier Award) (National Theatre); *A Very Expensive Poison* (Old Vic); *The Inheritance* (Broadway, Young Vic and West End (Olivier nomination for Best Sound Design 2019 with

Chris Reid)). Paul is an associate at the National Theatre.

paularditti.com

Naomi Said

Movement Director

Naomi has created movement and choreography for productions with National Theatre, RSC, Donmar Warehouse, Regents Park, the Old Vic, Chichester Festival Theatre, Nottingham Playhouse, Watermill Newbury, Stage Entertainment (Munich) and The Irish Rep (New York). She has taught at many UK drama schools and was a practitioner for Frantic Assembly. Naomi is also an actress with credits including *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time* (NT/West End).

Jess Williams

Movement Associate

Most recent credits: *I Think We Are Alone* (Frantic Assembly, UK tour); *The Unreturning* (Frantic Assembly, UK tour); *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-time* (National theatre, Piccadilly Theatre, UK tour, US tour, world tour); *Wonderland* (Nottingham Playhouse); *Praxis Makes Perfect* (National Theatre Wales, Cardiff, London, Latitude Festival). Film/VR: *Petrichor* (ThickSkin); *A Walk is not a Walk* (Lyric Belfast).

Ginny Schiller CDG

Casting Director

Ginny is an established freelance casting director with many years experience across the media, specialising in theatre. Ginny is based in London but works with producers across the country.

Mathew Russell

Executive Producer

At Queen's Theatre Hornchurch, productions Mathew has produced include regional premieres of *Love Letters, In Basildon, Once, Abi, Priscilla Queen of the Desert* and major revivals of *Beginning, As You Like*

It, The Hired Man, Abigail's Party and *Kindertransport*.

First presented by the National Theatre on 5 Oct 2017

The National Theatre's mission is to make world-class theatre, for everyone. The National Theatre creates and shares unforgettable stories with audiences across the UK and around the world. On its own stages, on tour, in schools, on cinema screens and streaming at home, it strives to be accessible, inclusive and sustainable.

After closing at Queen's Theatre Hornchurch, this production will transfer to Theatre Royal Bath (24 September - 2 October - Box Office: 01225 448844) prior to a UK tour.

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Theatre Royal Bath is one of the oldest and most beautiful theatres in Britain. Comprising three auditoria, the Main House, Ustinov Studio and the egg theatre for children and young people, a wonderfully varied programme of top-quality entertainment is on offer all year round. Built on its current site in 1805, the Theatre Royal Bath is one of the oldest working theatres in the country.



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