

HEADLONG ANNOUNCES PLANS FOR 2017



- Sam Pritchard directs **PYGMALION**; a radical new co-production with West Yorkshire Playhouse and Nuffield and featuring an innovative sound score by the award-winning sound designers Ben and Max Ringham
- Headlong's Artistic Director Jeremy Herrin directs **JUNKYARD**, a new musical by Jack Thorne with music by Stephen Warbeck
- Headlong and leading writers from across the UK respond to Brexit with a series of short films in association with The Guardian
- **HEADLONG FUTURES** – an ambitious new outreach project in partnership with communities in Bristol, Kent, Durham and London; producing urgent new work about our increasingly fragmented world, who we are and where we will see ourselves in the future
- **HEADLONG IN THE WEST END** – 1984 continues at the Playhouse until 29 October and James Graham's *This House* opens at the Garrick in November
- Chloe Mashiter wins Headlong's Digital Artist Award
- **HEADLONG AHEAD** – The company is committed to working with artists at the cutting edge. Leading voices in theatre under commission include Jennifer Hayley, Diana Nneka Atuouna, James Graham and John Donnelly

Headlong's Artistic Director Jeremy Herrin announces the company's plans for the future with an exceptional season of world premieres, re-workings, short films and country wide participation work.

The season features provocative, constantly surprising theatre which addresses urgent questions about the way we live today with vitality, wit and theatrical intelligence. Uniting an eclectic group of theatre-makers with a common aim to challenge the limits of what theatre can achieve, this programme develops Headlong's commitment to touring the most ambitious theatre to audiences around the UK and across the world.

Headlong's season will be presented in collaboration with leading UK theatres where the plays receive their premieres.

Jeremy Herrin, Artistic Director of Headlong said *'I'm delighted that Headlong can foster so many national conversations. Whether it's through the new work we produce or the radical reinterpretations of classics we take to our audiences; or through working with The Guardian to support an urgent artistic response to Brexit on a nationwide scale. We hope that our new Headlong Futures pilot project will be a way of creatively empowering under-served communities and encouraging them to share their voices and is in keeping with our mission to make the best theatre we can, theatre that addresses what's important in a surprising and inspiring way.'*

Headlong, Nuffield and West Yorkshire Playhouse present

PYGMALION

By Bernard Shaw

Directed by Sam Pritchard

Designed by Alex Lowde

Sound Design by Ben and Max Ringham

Friday 3 to Saturday 25 February 2016

PRESS NIGHT: WEDS 8 FEBRUARY AT 7.45PM AT WEST YORKSHIRE PLAYHOUSE

Tour dates overleaf

'The science of speech. That's my profession. I can place any man within six miles. I can place him within two miles in London. Sometimes within two streets.'

How far do accents define us? Is status still dictated by our mother tongue?

Sam Pritchard directs a radical new staging of Bernard Shaw's acute comedy *Pygmalion*, in a co-production between Headlong, West Yorkshire Playhouse and Nuffield, Southampton. The play will open to press in Leeds and then travel to Warwick, Leicester, Cheltenham, Bath, Keswick, Oxford, finishing at the Nuffield, Southampton. More dates to be announced.

Shaw's celebrated play was first staged over 100 years ago and is recognised as one of the most enduring and perceptive of English comedies. In this audacious new staging, Sam Pritchard playfully carves a contemporary world on stage using sound and video technology which examines class identity and questions how far accents and speech can define us in Britain today.

Sam Pritchard is the Associate Director (International) at the Royal Court and was winner of the JMK Award for Directors in 2012. His credits include *Anna* (Aix Opera Festival/ENOA Workshop), *There Has Possibly Been An Incident* (Royal Exchange and Edinburgh St Stephens/Soho Theatre/Berlin Theatertreffen), *Buy Nothing Day* (Company of Angels), *Fireface* (Young Vic) and *Galka Motalka* (Royal Exchange)

Pygmalion continues Headlong's emerging director's scheme, this hugely successful model now in its seventh year, allows a director in the early stages of their career the opportunity to present work on main stages across the country. This programme has previously supported work from Simon Godwin, Natalie Abrahami, Robert Icke, Blanche McIntyre, Ben Kidd and Ellen McDougall.

Full tour and casting will be announced shortly.

Headlong, Bristol Old Vic, Rose Theatre Kingston, Theatr Clwyd present

JUNKYARD

Book and Lyrics by Jack Thorne

Music by Stephen Warbeck

Directed by Jeremy Herrin

Designed by Chiara Stephenson

Friday 24 February to Saturday 18 March at Bristol Old Vic

PRESS NIGHT: THURSDAY 2 MARCH AT 7PM

Tour dates overleaf

*"Who'd want to join in building a f***ing playground. We're 13 years old"*

Jeremy Herrin directs Jack Thorne's visceral new work, *Junkyard*, a funny and vivid musical with original score from Academy Award-winning composer Stephen Warbeck, about a miscreant group of teenagers who come together to build an adventure playground.

Junkyard is a co-production with Headlong, Bristol Old Vic, Rose Theatre Kingston and Theatr Clwyd. It will open to press at Bristol Old Vic before travelling to North Wales (29 March to 15 April) and Kingston (Wed 19 – Sun 30 Apr).

It's 1979, and a motley crew of teenagers grudgingly agree to create a junk playground in Bristol under the guidance of the well-meaning Rick. As the playground starts to come to life – it turns from something that means nothing to something that means a lot. And kids that care about nothing, start to care a lot. But darkness has a way of coming back and biting you when you least expect it.

Inspired by the true story behind the Lockleaze playground known as 'The Vench', established over 30 years ago and still operating today, *Junkyard* is a story about Bristol, for Bristol, from BAFTA award-winning writer and Bristolian Jack Thorne.

Jack Thorne writes for theatre, film, television and radio. His theatre credits include *Harry Potter and the Cursed Child*, *Hope* and *Let The Right One In* directed by John Tiffany, *The Solid Life of Sugarwater* for the Graeae Theatre Company,

Bunny for the Edinburgh Fringe Festival, *Stacy* for the Trafalgar Studios, *2nd May 1997* and *When You Cure Me* for the Bush. His adaptations include *The Physicists* for the Donmar Warehouse and *Stuart: A Life Backwards* for Hightide. On film his credits include *War Book*, *A Long Way Down* and *The Scouting Book for Boys*. For television his credits include *The Last Panthers*, *Don't Take My Baby*, *This Is England*, *The Fades*, *Glue* and *Cast-Offs* and the upcoming *National Treasure*. In 2012 he won BAFTAs for best series (*The Fades*) and best serial (*This Is England 88*).

Full casting to be announced.

HEADLONG AND THE GUARDIAN PRODUCE SERIES OF SHORT FILMS ON BREXIT

Headlong and the Guardian newspaper have joined forces to interrogate the Brexit vote. In a series of short films to be broadcast on the Guardian website, leading theatre voices from across the UK will look at both sides of the argument to find out what happened, why and what the consequences could be?

The Brexit vote was the single most significant event in UK politics since WW2. In a deeply divided nation how does such disparity of views affect ideas of community, values and aspirations. How will this political revolution reshape politics in Britain?

Headlong has gathered leading voices from theatre to reflect and examine the political and cultural landscape of leave and remain voters of Britain post Brexit and what happened in the run up to this momentous decision.

The short films will be produced by Headlong and the Guardian and released through the Guardian website.

HEADLONG FUTURES

Our nation is divided. The North the South. The haves the have nots. The city and rural settings. Are we so different? What can we learn from each other's experiences? What do we want to tell the world about where we are from?

Headlong Futures is a bold new pilot initiative which aims to start a national conversation. As the country's leading touring company Headlong always strives to ask urgent and vital questions about who we are, where we live and what sort of world we want. Headlong Futures will seek to open a dialogue with targeted communities, many of whom do not engage with the arts and often their voices are not heard.

Over an eighteen month period Headlong will embed a theatre practitioner in four locations across the country and work with communities in Lockleaze Bristol, Margate in Kent, County Durham and Croydon in London. Through a series of workshops, each group will develop and exchange ideas culminating in a new piece of theatre.

For further information on Headlong Futures please go to www.headlong.co.uk

HEADLONG IN THE WEST END

Nica Burns, Caro Newling for Neal Street Productions, Headlong, in association with Jonathan Church Productions and Gavin Kalin Productions and TC Beech Ltd, present the National Theatre and Chichester Festival Theatre production of

THIS HOUSE

By James Graham

Directed by Jeremy Herrin

Designed by Rae Smith with Lighting by Paule Constable and Sound by Ian Dickinson.

Music by Stephen Warbeck

19 November to 25 February at the Garrick Theatre

PRESS NIGHT: WEDNESDAY 30 NOVEMBER AT 7PM

James Graham's critically acclaimed political drama *This House* transfers to the Garrick Theatre, following its upcoming run at Chichester's Minerva Theatre. Having originally played two sell-out seasons at the National Theatre, and again directed by Headlong Artistic Director **Jeremy Herrin**, *This House* opens for previews on 19 November, with a press night on Wednesday 30 November 2016.

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*Sonia Friedman Productions and Eleanor Lloyd Productions
present the Headlong, Nottingham Playhouse and Almeida Theatre production Of*

1984

By George Orwell

A new adaptation created by Robert Icke and Duncan Macmillan

Audiences have seven weeks left to see the critically acclaimed production of *1984*, currently playing at the Playhouse Theatre in the West End. Robert Icke and Duncan Macmillan's adaptation of George Orwell's dystopian masterpiece has enjoyed three West End runs, with this limited summer season concluding on 29th October.

Now seen by over a quarter of a million people, this Headlong, Nottingham Playhouse and Almeida Theatre production premiered at Nottingham Playhouse in September 2013. Since opening, *1984* has played to packed houses at the Almeida Theatre, as well as throughout its two West End runs and in performances across the globe during national and international tours.

1984 is directed by Robert Icke and Duncan Macmillan with Daniel Raggett, set and costume is designed by Chloe Lamford, with lighting designed by Natasha Chivers, sound designed by Tom Gibbons and video designed by Tim Reid.

CHLOE MASHITER WINS HEADLONG'S DIGITAL ARTIST AWARD

Headlong is delighted to announce that Chloe Mashiter has won Headlong's Digital Artist Award. Chloe will be working alongside the company's creatives to design an audio game that explores our personal responsibility towards victims of conflict.

Chloe Mashiter is a writer and director and is currently the Laboratory Associate Director for the Nuffield Theatre. Her work on stage includes *Inheritance* (Plymouth Fringe Festival), *A Doll's House* (Dissolve Theatre) and *Mummuration* (Camden's Peoples Theatre).

Since 2014, Headlong has been working with ground-breaking artists to imagine the future of digital theatre. Running alongside Jeremy Herrin's acclaimed production of *The Nether*, the visual artist Michael Takeo Magruder created an interactive world, *The Nether Realm*, which explored the fine line between reality and virtual reality in the modern world. The artwork was installed as a physical installation in the foyer of the Royal Court Theatre throughout the run of the play.

During 2015, interactive theatre maker Tassos Stevens (Coney) created an interactive story about smartphone addiction that is played on a smartphone, *What's She Like*. *What's She Like* was inspired by *People, Places and Things*.

In recognising the potential for technological innovation - through creative partnerships and the development of innovative online content - Headlong has continued to establish itself as a company for the digital age.

WHAT'S SHE LIKE

A game for you to play on a smartphone, made by [Coney](#) and Headlong, living in the world of *People Places & Things* by Duncan Macmillan.

What is your relationship with your smartphone like? Are you constantly checking it? Do you feel like your left arm is missing when you're without it? Are you concerned that you might have become addicted?

Never fear. Help is at hand. The rehab centre that Emma checks into in *People, Places & Things* has just released a handy free online service that helps you manage your relationship with your smartphone more successfully.

Chat to an AI therapist who can quickly diagnose your problems. Learn more about both yourself and your behaviour through taking part in a number of personalised role plays. Discover what you're like, what she's like, what your relationship with your smartphone is actually like.

<https://headlong.co.uk/work/whats-she-like/>

LISTING AND TOUR INFORMATION

Pygmalion

Directed by Sam Pritchard

Full Tour and Casting Information will be announced shortly

Junkyard

Book and Lyrics by Jack Thorne

Music by Stephen Warbeck

Directed by Jeremy Herrin

24 February to 18 March 2017

Bristol Old Vic

Tickets: 0117 987 7877

www.bristololdvic.org.uk

29 March to 15 April 2017

Theatr Clwyd, Wales

Tickets: 01352 701521

www.theatrclwyd.com

19 to 30 April 2017

Rose Theatre, Kingston

Tickets: 020 8174 0090

www.rosetheatrekingston.org

For press information and reviewing tickets please contact Clíona Roberts on

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For images please go to cliona.smugmug.com password is: download