



PRESS RELEASE

THURSDAY 30 MAY 2019

4,000 £15 TICKETS FOR PLAYS BY ARINZÉ KENE AND BERNARD SHAW, PLUS A UK PREMIERE BY MAYA ARAD YASUR FEATURE IN THE NEW SEASON AT THE ORANGE TREE THEATRE

Today Artistic Director **Paul Miller** and Executive Director **Hanna Streeter** announce September 2019 – January 2020 at the Orange Tree Theatre Season with over 4,000 tickets at £15.

- The UK premiere of *AMSTERDAM* (press night: 11 September) by award-winning Israeli playwright **Maya Arad Yasur** is a strikingly audacious thriller which awakens unsettling feelings of collective identity, foreignness and alienation. The play won the Jury Prize at Stueckemarkt 2018, held as part of Berliner Festspiele's Theater Treffen. **Matthew Xia** (*Blood Knot*) returns to the OT to direct, in his first production as Artistic Director of ATC, in a co-production between them, the OT and Theatre Royal Plymouth. It will also tour in Spring 2020.
- The **JMK Award 2019 Award** winner **Tristan Fynn-Aiduenu** directs a major revival of two-time Olivier Award nominee **Arinzé Kene's** *LITTLE BABY JESUS* (press night: 22 October).
- Artistic Director **Paul Miller** directs a rare revival of **Bernard Shaw's** early comedy *CANDIDA* (press night: 26 November), following his acclaimed productions of Shaw's *Misalliance*, *The Philanderer* and *Widowers' Houses* at the OT.
- Following a hugely successful run last year, ***CAN'T WAIT FOR CHRISTMAS!*** created by Imogen Bond & Tarek Merchant returns – a festive show for ages 3+, which also play at Lighthouse, Poole.
- There will be **over 4,000 Tickets at £15 for all plus £15.00 Under 30s tickets** available for all performances, continuing the OT's commitment to make theatre affordable and accessible at any time.
- Our prolific **Education & Participation Programme**, which has been a vital part of our community for over 30 years, works with 10,000 people of all ages; making

Shakespeare accessible for everyone, creating engaging productions linked to lively curriculum enriching workshops, for Primary, Secondary and SEN schools; six youth theatre groups developing their communication and teamworking skills; and an over 60s group create their own performances inspired by what they see on our stage.

- OT Extras – a popular series of performances of the best music, comedy and spoken word includes the return of **Jonny and the Baptists** with their new show *Love Richmond Hate Bastards* and **Barb Jungr** singing Bob Dylan and Jacques Brel; plus *Life Is for Living*, a celebration of Noël Coward’s remarkable impact on British and American culture from performer **Simon Green** and pianist **David Shrubsole**. The **Allegri Quartet** also return with a new series of classical Sunday morning concerts.

Paul Miller, Artistic Director, says: “We have four extraordinary plays by writers Maya Arad Yasur, Arinzé Kene, Bernard Shaw, Imogen Bond and Tarek Merchant that will challenge, inspire and entertain us this autumn at the OT. I’m prouder than ever of this rich mix of work, that’s at the heart of our community and speaking to the world, and of the support we receive from so many different people: from individual patrons, Richmond Council and of course our audiences.”

In the five years since Paul Miller took over in 2014, the Orange Tree has won 27 industry awards, including three times winning London’s Most Welcoming Theatre at the UK Theatre Awards. During that time **Alice Birch**, **Deborah Bruce**, **Elinor Cook**, **Zoe Cooper**, **Branden Jacobs-Jenkins**, **Alistair McDowall**, **Sarah McDonald-Hughes**, **Rose Lewenstein** and **Joe White** have all had London premieres at the Theatre, and major revivals from contemporary playwrights including **Caryl Churchill**, **Jo Clifford**, **Martin Crimp**, **Doris Lessing**, **Mustafa Matura**, **Clare McIntyre** and **Sharman Macdonald**.

The Theatre’s work has toured to 42 UK venues plus two transfers to the National Theatre with *Pomona* and *An Octoroon*. In the 2017-18 Season the OT achieved a record audience in Richmond and across the UK of nearly 90,000 people plus 10,000 taking part in the OT’s Education & Participation Programme.

OT Patrons and Members get priority booking from today (30 May)

Public Booking opens Tuesday 11 June at 10.00am

Full details of all productions and projects below.

[Images can be downloaded here](#)

PRESS CONTACT Ben Clare 020 8940 0141 ext 217

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We are grateful for the support of



RPLC, Hampton Fuel Allotment Charity, OT Angels, our Members and Patrons,
:DISCOVER and individual donors, Trusts and Foundations, and business supporters.

THE SEASON IN FULL

UK PREMIERE

6 September – 12 October 2019

PRESS NIGHT: Wed 11 September 7.00pm

An Orange Tree Theatre, Actors Touring Company and Theatre Royal Plymouth production

AMSTERDAM

by Maya Arad Yasur

Translated by Eran Edry

Direction **Matthew Xia**
Design **Naomi Kuyck-Cohen**
Movement **Jennifer Jackson**
Lighting **Ciarán Cunningham**
Sound **Max Pappenheim**
Casting Consultant **Sophie Parrott CDG**

*Everyone knows, all of them ... that when all's said and done, she is no more than a fig leaf
hiding the thing everyone else would be much happier never having to look at.*

An Israeli violinist. Living in her trendy canal-side Amsterdam apartment. Nine months pregnant.

One day a mysterious unpaid gas bill from 1944 arrives.

Slid her an envelope right under the door and then just walked away.

It awakens unsettling feelings of collective identity, foreignness and alienation. Stories of a devastating past are compellingly reconstructed to try and make sense of the present.

The UK premiere of a strikingly audacious thriller.

Maya Arad Yasur is a prize-winning Israeli playwright, whose work has been produced worldwide. *Amsterdam* won the Jury Prize at Stueckemarkt 2018, held as part of Berliner Festspiele's Theater Treffen. In 2014, she received the Habima Award for emerging artists, her play *Suspended* won the first prize of the international playwriting competition of ITI-UNESCO in 2014, and *Ten Minutes from Home* was commissioned to commemorate the 20th anniversary of Yitzhak Rabin's assassination. Her play *God Waits at the Station* was commissioned by Union de Theatres de l'Europe (an EU initiative), premiering at Vienna's Volkstheater in 2015.

This is **Matthew Xia's** first production as Artistic Director of ATC, co-producers of *Winter Solstice* at the OT. He recently directed *Blood Knot* at the Orange Tree Theatre, and his production of *One Night in Miami* is about to open at Nottingham Playhouse. Xia won the Genesis Future Director award with his production of Fugard's *Sizwe Banzi is Dead* at the Young Vic, where he also directed *Blue/Orange*. He was previously Associate Artistic Director at the Royal Exchange Theatre, where he directed *Brink*, *Into the Woods* and *Wish List*, which transferred to the Royal Court Theatre. In 2018 Matthew directed Conor McPherson's *Dublin Carol* at the Sherman Theatre in Cardiff, a new adaptation of *Frankenstein* by April de Angelis at the Royal Exchange, and *Shebeen*: Mufaro Makubika's Alfred Fagon Award-winning play at Nottingham Playhouse and Theatre Royal Stratford East, and *Sleeping Beauty* at Theatre Royal Stratford East. He is a co-founder of Act for Change.

OT ELSEWHERE

Following performances at the OT, the production embarks on a national tour in Spring 2020 to venues including The Drum at Theatre Royal Plymouth.

18 October – 16 November 2019

PRESS NIGHT: Tue 22 October 7.00pm

An Orange Tree Theatre production

LITTLE BABY JESUS

by Arinzé Kene

Direction **Tristan Fynn-Aiduenu** Winner of the JMK Award 2019
Design **Tara Usher**

*Okay listen up, you have seventy-five years
to be all you can be!*

Joanne is dipped in rudeness, rolled in attitude and is fighting to keep her life afloat. Sensitive and mature he may be, yet Kehinde struggles with an obsession for mixed race girls as he eyes his place on the social ladder. Rugrat, class clown and playground loudmouth, just wants to make it past GCSEs and keep their name on the tip of your tongue.

As their lives collide and intertwine, three extraordinary young people relay the moments they 'grew up'. **Three remarkable stories. Three incredible journeys.**

Arinzé Kene is a writer and performer. His most recent one man play, *Misty*, ran at the Bush Theatre and Trafalgar Studios, and was nominated two Olivier nominations for Best New Play and Best Actor. *Little Baby Jesus* was first performed at Oval House Theatre in 2011 and saw Kene win the Most Promising Playwright Award at the Off-West End Theatre Awards. His acting credits include *Death of a Salesman* (Young Vic), and *Girl from the North Country* (The Old Vic/West End)

This production marks a new partnership between the **OT** and **The JMK Award**. The Award provides Fynn-Aiduenu with the opportunity to direct a full-scale Orange Tree show with the production values and nurturing guidance the building is famous for.

James Menzies-Kitchin was a theatre director of thrilling promise. The **JMK Trust** was founded in his memory to give practical learning opportunities to theatre directors of similar ability and vision. The JMK Award allows one such director a year to stage their own production of a classic text. www.jmktrust

As a director, 24 year old **Tristan Fynn-Aiduenu's credits include** *Sweet Like Chocolate* (Jack Theatre Studio), *Melanin Box Festival* (Theatre Peckham), *Fresh Direction* as part of the Young

Vic's *My England*, *Timbuktu* (Theatre Royal Stratford East), and *Black Attack* (Bush Theatre). As an Assistant Director, his work includes *The Brothers Size* (Young Vic), *Soapbox* (Central School of Speech and Drama/Embassy Theatre/Talawa Theatre), and *D and Suffocation* (Ovalhouse). Tristan is an Associate Creative of Initiative.dkf.

22 November 2019 – 11 January 2020

PRESS NIGHT: Tue 26 November 7.00pm

An Orange Tree Theatre production

CANDIDA

by Bernard Shaw

Direction **Paul Miller**

We have no more right to consume happiness without producing it than to consume wealth without producing it.

Eugene believes in love, free-thinking and liberation: James in social justice for all and conventional married life for himself. Candida believes in her own strength and her right to run her life as she wants.

A young man with the soul of a poet clashes with a popular Socialist preacher and threatens his domestic happiness. Only Candida can decide who is the stronger – **and who's to be the winner.**

A passionate power struggle **is played out in one of Shaw's most enduring and witty plays.**

Do you think that the things people make fools of themselves about are any less real and true than the things they behave sensibly about? They are more true: they are the only things that are true.

Bernard Shaw (1856 – 1950) is an Irish playwright, critic and political activist. His numerous plays include *Pygmalion*, *Major Barbara*, *Mrs Warren's Profession*, *Arms and the Man*, *Saint Joan*, and *Man and Superman*. In 1925 he was awarded the Nobel Prize in Literature.

Artistic Director **Paul Miller** follows his phenomenally successful Orange Tree productions of **Shaw's early plays** *Misalliance*, *The Philanderer* and *Widowers' Houses*. He is currently directing **Terence Rattigan's** *While the Sun Shines*, opening 7 June, and his other Orange Tree productions include *Losing Venice* by Jo Clifford, *Humble Boy* by Charlotte Jones, *Misalliance*, *The Philanderer* and *Widowers' Houses* by Bernard Shaw, *Poison* by Lot Vekemans, *The Lottery of Love* by Marivaux, translated by John Fowles, *Sheppey* by Somerset Maugham, *French Without Tears* by Terence Rattigan (two sold out runs and national tour with ETT), *Each His Own Wilderness* by Doris Lessing, and *The Widowing of Mrs Holroyd* by DH Lawrence. He is directing John Simm and Dervla Kirwan in *Macbeth* at Chichester Festival Theatre in September. He was previously Associate Director at Sheffield Theatres and has directed major productions at the National Theatre, Royal Court, The Old Vic and in the West End.

14 – 29 December 2019

PRESS PERFORMANCES: Tue 17 December 11am & 2pm

An Orange Tree Theatre production

CAN'T WAIT FOR CHRISTMAS!

created by Imogen Bond & Tarek Merchant

Direction **Imogen Bond**
 Music **Tarek Merchant**
 Design **Sasha Tanvi Mani**
 Lighting **Chris McDonnell**
 Sound **Dominic Kennedy**

Festive fun for everyone aged 3–10 and their families.

Jessie's dad has got her a lovely little present. It's all wrapped up, and tied with a beautiful bow. She can't wait to open it, but she isn't allowed to until Christmas day.

Jessie shakes it and sniffs it and tries to sneak a peek, but Dad puts it just out of her reach and keeps a close eye on it. To keep her amused, he has laid a secret advent trail for her to follow. Jessie discovers a fun-filled journey filled with magical surprises that capture her imagination.

With gorgeous original live music, some gentle audience participation, and maybe a Brussel sprout or two, this charming Christmas treat returns following popular demand.

Imogen Bond is Education Director of the Orange Tree. She directed Mac Barnett and Jon Klassen's *Extra Yarn* at the Orange Tree in 2016.

Tarek Merchant is a composer, arranger, musical director and actor musician. He has worked with the RSC, Bristol Old Vic, Manchester Royal Exchange, BBC Radio 4, Northern Stage, Birmingham Rep and in the West End.

OT ELSEWHERE

Lighthouse, Poole 10 – 24 December 2019

EDUCATION & PARTICIPATION

Every year around 10,000 people take part in the OT's extensive range of Education & Participation projects, enabling everyone to learn, grow and challenge themselves; to discover more about themselves and the world around them.

The OT aim to make Shakespeare accessible for everyone, creating engaging productions linked to lively curriculum enriching workshops, for Primary, Secondary and SEN schools; plus six youth theatre groups, who develop their communication and teamworking skills; and our over 60s group create their own performances inspired by what they see on our stage.

For more information visit [orangetreetheatre.co.uk/take-part](https://www.orangetreetheatre.co.uk/take-part)

@OT_TakePart takepart@orangetreetheatre.co.uk

OT EXTRAS

A series of performances of the best music, spoken word and comedy

Sun 22 September 7pm

JONNY & THE BAPTISTS LOVE RICHMOND AND HATE BASTARDS

It's a divided world. We want to cross that divide. But how can we be popular now 'populist' means 'I'm a shit'? Answer: WE LOVE EVERYONE. Except bastards.

The OT welcome back musical-activist-comedians Jonny & The Baptists, following their previous shows here *The End is Nigh* and *Eat the Poor*. **Jonny Donahoe** is the star of worldwide hit *Every Brilliant Thing*, which played its only full London season at the Orange Tree in 2017.

Tickets £16

Sun 27 October 7pm

LIFE IS FOR LIVING – CONVERSATIONS WITH COWARD

A celebration of Noël Coward's remarkable impact on British and American culture from performer Simon Green and pianist David Shrubsole.

A critically-acclaimed, award-winning evening of conversations real and imagined, featuring original songs married with classics from *The Master*, and new settings of rediscovered lyrics and poetry.

Winner of the 2017 Drama Desk Award for outstanding revue.

Tickets £20

Sun 10 November 7pm

BARB JUNGR: BOB, BREL AND ME

Singer Barb Jungr makes a welcome return to the Orange Tree this winter. In this brand new collection for 2019, Barb will turn her acclaimed ability at reinvention and reinterpretation to exploring her relationship with a set of Dylan and Brel songs she has never tackled before on stage or on disc, all in original arrangements.

Tickets £20

Sun 6 Oct, Sun 10 Nov, Sun 5 Jan 11am

ALLEGRI QUARTET

Hugely popular Sunday morning classical concerts **with Britain's oldest chamber** group. Founded in 1953, it has played a key role in the British musical scene.

Tickets £20

NOTES TO EDITORS

ABOUT THE ORANGE TREE THEATRE

The Orange Tree (OT) is an **award-winning, independent** theatre. Recognised as a **powerhouse** that creates high-quality productions of new and rediscovered plays, we entertain 70,000 people across the UK every year.

The OT's home in Richmond, South West London, is an **intimate theatre** with the audience seated all around the stage: watching a performance here is truly a unique experience.

We believe in the power of dramatic stories to entertain, thrill and challenge us; plays that enrich our lives by enhancing our understanding of ourselves and each other.

As a registered charity (266128) sitting **at the heart of its community**, we work with 10,000 people in Richmond and beyond through participatory theatre projects for people of all ages and abilities.

The Orange Tree Theatre's mission is to enable audiences to experience the **next generation** of theatre talent, experiment with **ground-breaking new drama** and explore the plays from the past that inspire the **theatre-makers of the present**. To find out how you can help us to do that you can visit www.orangetreetheatre.co.uk/discover

Artistic Director **Paul Miller**
Executive Director **Hanna Streeter**

Website www.orangetreetheatre.co.uk | Email box.office@orangetreetheatre.co.uk
Twitter [@OrangeTreeThtr](https://twitter.com/OrangeTreeThtr) | Facebook/Instagram [OrangeTreeTheatre](https://www.facebook.com/OrangeTreeTheatre)

ABOUT ACTORS TOURING COMPANY

Actors Touring Company makes international, contemporary theatre that travels. We create shows which activate and entertain the audience whilst asking questions of the world around us. We seek out new ideas, artists and perspectives and question what theatre is and can be through openness, invention and curiosity. Placing the actor at the heart of our work, and employing a lean aesthetic which promotes environmental sustainability, we have toured the UK and Internationally since we were founded in 1980, reaching audiences far and wide, using theatre to encourage them to examine the world around us. www.atctheatre.com [@atctheatre](https://twitter.com/atctheatre)

ABOUT THEATRE ROYAL PLYMOUTH

Theatre Royal Plymouth is the South West's home of new writing, specialising in the production of new plays, both as producer and co-producer, alongside the presentation of a broad range of theatre - including classic and contemporary drama, musicals, opera, ballet and dance. They have three performance spaces – The Lyric, The Drum and The Lab. Their work with young people and communities is extensive and radical, taking place across all three venues and beyond.

Recent productions and co-productions include *God Of Chaos*, by Phil Porter, *The Kneebone Cadillac* by Carl Grose, *You Stupid Darkness!* by Sam Steiner (with Paines Plough) and *The Unreturning* by Anna Jordan (with Frantic Assembly).

www.theatreroyal.com [@TRPlymouth](https://twitter.com/TRPlymouth)

ABOUT THE JMK AWARD

The JMK Trust was founded in memory of **James Menzies-Kitchin**, a young director of great promise who died suddenly and unexpectedly at the age of 28, to give opportunities to theatre directors of similar ability and vision. Each year it gives one prestigious award to enable an outstanding applicant

aged 35 or under to create their own production of their choice of classic text. Its intensive development and selection process has itself given powerful impetus to the best theatre practitioners of the future. Previous winners have become major players in British theatre, including Thea Sharrock, Orla O'Loughlin, Bijan Sheibani, Joe Hill-Gibbins, Natalie Abrahami, Roy Alexander Weise and Polly Findlay.

The expanding National Directors Programme, working in partnership with 12 regional theatres, is an essential network seeking talent from across the UK which feeds into the JMK Award and enables a truly national reach. The programme at each partner venue is run by the JMK's five Director Practitioners who are established, locally-based directors. They curate the programme for their region, working with their nearest partner venues to tailor the work to the needs of local directors providing year-round training, mentoring, bursaries and support for directors of all ages. The current partner theatres are Bristol Old Vic, Tobacco Factory Theatres, HOME in Manchester, Royal and Derngate Northampton, Salisbury Playhouse, Traverse Edinburgh, Birmingham Rep, Northern Stage, Nuffield Theatres Southampton, Reading Rep, Sherman Cymru and Leeds Playhouse.

www.jmktrust.org @JMKTrust1

LISTINGS INFORMATION

ORANGE TREE THEATRE

Orange Tree Theatre, 1 Clarence Street, Richmond, Surrey, TW9 2SA

Box Office orangetreetheatre.co.uk | 020 8940 3633 (open 10am to 6.30pm Mon-Sat).

TRANSPORT

Trains Richmond Station (District Line, London Overground and South West Trains to/from Waterloo).

Buses 65, 190, 371, 391, 419, 490, 493, R68, R70, H22, H37, and N22 (night bus) all stop at Richmond Station. 33 and 337 also stop in central Richmond.

Cycling Bike storage facilities near the Theatre at the corner of Church Road and Kew Road, and at Richmond Station.

Parking Pay and display parking is also available nearby. Old Deer Park car park (off the A316) is about a 5-minute walk to the theatre. Free parking after 6.30pm.

AMSTERDAM by Maya Arad Yasur

6 September – 12 October 2019

Mon – Sat eves 7.30pm (except 11 Sep 7.00pm)

Thu & Sat mats 2.30pm (not 7 & 12 Sep)

POST SHOW TALK Thu 26 Sep 2.30pm

STAGETEXT CAPTIONED PERFORMANCE Tue 8 Oct 7.30pm

AUDIO-DESCRIBED PERFORMANCES Tue 1 Oct 7.30 & Sat 5 Oct 2.30pm

LITTLE BABY JESUS by Arinzé Kene

18 October – 16 November 2019

Mon – Sat eves 7.30pm (except 22 Oct 7.00pm)

Thu & Sat mats 2.30pm (not 19 Oct)

POST SHOW TALK Thu 7 Nov 2.30pm

STAGETEXT CAPTIONED PERFORMANCE Tue 12 Nov 7.30pm

AUDIO-DESCRIBED PERFORMANCES Wed 13 Nov 7.30pm & Sat 16 Nov 2.30pm

CANDIDA by Bernard Shaw
22 November 2019 – 11 January 2020

Mon – Sat eves 7.30pm (except 26 Nov 7.00pm, not 24 Dec)
Thu & Sat mats 2.30pm (not 23 Nov)
Tue 24 Dec 2.30pm
No performances 25, 26 Dec, 1 Jan

POST SHOW TALK Thu 9 Jan 2.30pm

STAGETEXT CAPTIONED PERFORMANCE Tue 7 Jan 7.30pm

AUDIO-DESCRIBED PERFORMANCE Wed 8 Jan 7.30pm & Sat 11 Jan 2.30pm

CAN'T WAIT FOR CHRISTMAS! created by Imogen Bond & Tarek Merchant
14 – 29 December 2019

Sat 14 Dec 11am
Sun 15 Dec 2pm
Tue 17 Dec 11am & 2pm
Wed 18 Dec 11am & 2pm
Thu 19 Dec 11am
Fri 20 Dec 11am & 2pm
Sat 21 Dec 11am
Mon 23 Dec 11am & 2pm
Tue 24 Dec 11am
Fri 27 Dec 11am & 2pm
Sat 28 Dec 11am
Sun 29 Dec 11am & 2pm

RELAXED PERFORMANCES

All are Relaxed Performances, designed to reduce anxiety and create a supportive atmosphere for people with autism spectrum conditions, learning disabilities and other sensory and communication requirements.

Running time 45 minutes

TICKET PRICES (NO BOOKING FEES)

Amsterdam, Little Baby Jesus and *Candida*

Ticket prices start at: £15, £25, £32
Prices increase based on demand.

Under 30s £15 tickets on all seats for all performances – subject to availability.

Can't Wait for Christmas!

All tickets £15

Concessionary ticket prices

£15 tickets are available for any performance (subject to availability) for disabled, blind or partially sighted, and deaf or hard of hearing audience members, plus a companion. These are only available by calling the Box Office on 020 8940 3633 or by emailing box.office@orangetreetheatre.co.uk

Groups

Groups of 12 or more can save on tickets. Call the box office on 020 8940 3633 or email at box.office@orangetreetheatre.co.uk to find out more.

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