

Press Release 22 October 2018

Hampstead Theatre announces casting for *Uncle Vanya and Paradise*

- **Alan Cox** will take the title role of Vanya in **Terry Johnson's** new version of **Anton Chekhov's** classic tragicomedy *Uncle Vanya* which runs from 30 November 2018 – 12 January 2019.
- **Sara Kestelman** returns to Hampstead Theatre to star in the world premiere of **Dusty Hughes's** new comedy *Paradise*, which runs Downstairs from 7 December 2018 – 19 January 2019.

UNCLE VANYA

Scenes from Country Life

By Anton Chekhov

A new version written and directed by Terry Johnson

Designed by Tim Shortall

Lighting by Ben Omerod

Composed by Colin Towns

Sound by Emma Laxton

30 November – 12 January

Press Night Thursday 6 December 7pm

'Don't be miserable, you wonderful woman; be a mermaid. There's the ocean; throw yourself in. Fall in love with some poor mortal and drag him down with you. Astonish us!'

Hampstead Theatre presents **Terry Johnson's** new version of **Anton Chekhov's** *Uncle Vanya*. This classic tragicomedy is charged with the Russian master's wit and his acute observation of the comic absurdity of human life. **Alan Cox** will take the title role of as Vanya and is joined by **Alice Bailey Johnson, Abbey Lee, Kika Markham, Alec Newman, David Shaw-Parker, Robin Soans** and **June Watson**.

On an estate deep in provincial Russia time seems frozen: managing its affairs on behalf of her father, Sonia and her uncle Vanya have consigned themselves to a life of loveless drudgery, enlivened solely by the odd pamphlet from Moscow and the occasional visits of their neighbour, the doctor.

But when Sonia's father and his stunning second wife Yeliena burst onto the scene, everything is thrown into confusion. As beauty stirs repressed desires and youth teases maturity, years of perilously suppressed regrets, longings and unrequited loves threaten to explode into farcical life...

Olivier and Tony Award-winner **Terry Johnson** returns to Hampstead following his critically acclaimed hit *Prism* starring Robert Lindsay and *Hysteria* starring Antony Sher as well as *Race; Old Money; Seminar* and *The Memory of*

Water. Playwright includes *Dead Funny*, *Prism* and *Ken* (all Hampstead Theatre); *Insignificance*; *Cries from the Mammal House*; *Hysteria*; *Piano/Forte* and *Hitchcock Blonde* (all Royal Court); *The Graduate* and *Mrs Henderson Presents* (both West End); *Cleo*, *Camping*, *Emmanuelle* and *Dick* and *The London Cuckolds* (both National Theatre). Other credits as Director include *Oh What a Lovely War* and *Fings Ain't What They Used T'Be* (both Theatre Royal Stratford East; marking the 50th Anniversary of Joan Littlewood's Theatre Workshop); *Lost Land* and *The Libertine* (both Steppenwolf Theatre, Chicago); *Dumb Show* (Royal Court). West End and Broadway directing credits include *The Duck House*; *End of the Rainbow*; *The Prisoner of Second Avenue*; *The Rise and Fall of Little Voice*; *La Cage aux Folles*; *Rain Man*; *Whipping It Up*; *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest*; *Entertaining Mr Sloane* and *Elton John's Glasses*. His work for television includes *Not Only But Always* (Channel 4, which won five International Award nominations, Best Film at Banff and the Best Actor Bafta for Rhys Ifans); *The Man Who Lost His Head* (ITV); *Cor, Blimey!* (ITV) and *The Bite* for the BBC and ABC Australia. Nicholas Roeg's film of *Insignificance* was the official British Entry at Cannes in 1985. His plays have won him the Olivier Award for Best Comedy in both 1994 and 1999, Playwright of the Year Award 1995, Critics' Circle Best New Play Award 1995, The League of American Theatres and Producers Best Touring Play Awards 2001, plus two Evening Standard Theatre Awards, two Writers Guild Best Play Awards, Time Out Best Play Award, the Mayer-Whitworth Award and the John Whiting Award. As a director he has been the recipient of a dozen major theatre awards including the Tony Award for Best Director of a Musical 2010, Olivier Award for Best Musical Revival and Critics' Circle Best Musical Award 2009 all for *La Cage aux Folles*.

Alice Bailey Johnson plays Sonia. Her theatre work includes *Insignificance* (Arcola); *The Libertine* (Theatre Royal, Bath/Haymarket); *Oh What A Lovely War!* (Theatre Royal Stratford East/UK tour); *Desdemona* (Park Theatre); *Solid Air* (Plymouth Theatre Royal); *The Three Lions* (Pleasance Beyond, Edinburgh); *Stepping Out* (Salisbury Playhouse); *Noises Off* (Gielgud); *A Gloriously Mucky Business* (Lyric Hammersmith) and *Cabaret* (Wilton's Music Hall). Film work includes *Rare Beasts*; *The Little Stranger*; *King of Thieves*; *Me Before You* and *Mr Turner*. Television work includes *Black Mirror*; *The Halcyon*; *Granchester* and *Doctors*.

Alan Cox plays Vanya. His theatre work includes *But it Still Goes On* (Finborough); *Forty Years On* (Chichester Festival Theatre); *Kingmaker* (Edinburgh Festival/St James'); *Playing with Grown Ups* and *Cornelius* (59E59 Theatre, NY); *Longing* and *The Rubenstein Kiss* (Hampstead Theatre); *Betrayal* (Huntington Theatre); *The Caretaker* (Adelaide Festival/BAM); *The Tempest* (Jericho House); *Much Ado About Nothing* (Grosvenor Park Theatre); *Frost/Nixon* (Ahmanson Theatre, LA); *Passion Play* (Goodman Theatre, Chicago); *Translations* (MTC); *The Creeper* (Playhouse); *The Earthly Paradise* (Almeida); *John Bull's Other Island* (Belfast Lyric); *The Flue Season* (Gate); *The Lady Is Not For Burning* (Chichester Festival Theatre); *The Daughter in Law* (Orange Tree); *Strangers on a Train* (UK tour); *Barefoot in the Park* (Jermyn Street); *The Importance of Being Earnest* (Chichester Festival Theatre/West End); *Three Sisters* (Birmingham Rep); *The Seagull*; *An Enemy of the People*; *Wild Oats* and *Absolute Hell* (National Theatre); *The Beggar's Opera*; *A Winter's Tale* and *Anthony and Cleopatra* (RSC) and *Strange Interlude* (Duke of York's). Film work includes *The Dictator*; *Contagion*; *August*; *Cor Blimey*; *The Auteur Theory*; *Mrs Dalloway*; *An Awfully Big Adventure* and *Young Sherlock Holmes*. His television work includes *The Good Wife*; *Lucan*; *John Adams*; *Housewife 49*; *Not Only But Always*; *Midsomer Murders*; *The Odyssey*; *The Thin Blue Line*; *Young Indiana Jones* and *A Voyage Round My Father*.

Abbey Lee plays Yeliena. *Uncle Vanya* is Abbey's stage debut. Her film work includes *Mad Max: Thunder Road*, *The Neon Demon* and *Gods of Egypt*; *Elizabeth Harvest*; *To the Night*; *1%*; *The Dark Tower*; *Ruben Guthrie*; *Welcome the Stranger*; *Office Christmas Party* and *Caprice*. Her short film work includes *Maverick* and *Snowbird*.

Kika Markam plays Maryia. Her theatre work includes *Not Talking* (Arcola); *Escaped Alone* (Royal Court/Bam, New York/UK tour); *The Crucible* (Bristol Old Vic); *The Last Yankee* (Print Room); *On the Record* (Arcola); *Women, Power and Politics* (Tricycle short plays cycle); *Tribes* (Royal Court); *The Permanent Way* (Out Of Joint, National Theatre); *Homebody/Kabul* (Young Vic); *A Wedding Story* (Soho/UK tour); *Song at Twilight* (King's Head/Gielgud – Olivier Award nomination for Best Supporting Actress and winner of Clarence Derwent Award) and *Homebody/Kabul* (written as a monologue for Kika, it received its world premiered at the Chelsea Theatre Centre). Her film work includes *High Strung: Free Dance* (forthcoming); *The Blood of Hussein* (re-release); *The Fever*; *Wonderland*; *Noroît* (by Jacques Rivette) and *Les Deux Anglaises et le Continent* (by François Truffaut). Her television work includes *Holby City*; *Fearless*; *Mr Selfridge*; *Call the Midwife*; *Midsomer Murders*; *Spooks*; *Tom Hurdall*; *Lord Longford*; *Party Animals*; *Taking Over the Asylum*; *The Line of Beauty*; *Dirty Filthy Love*; *Poirot*; *The Forsythe Saga*; *A Very British*

Coup; Sherlock Holmes; The Basement; Double Dare and The Feather on the Blade (both Dennis Potter television plays) and *The Woman in White*. Kika is also the author of a memoir of her life with Corin Redgrave entitled *Our Time of Day*.

Alec Newman plays Astrov. He trained at LAMDA and NYT. His theatre work includes *Bug* (Found111); *Hapgood* (Hampstead Theatre) and *Alligators* (Hampstead Downstairs); *The Motherf**ker with the Hat* and *Danton's Death* (both National Theatre); *King Lear* (Donmar/BAM); *These Shining lives* (Park Theatre); *Certain Young Men* (Almeida); *Plenty* (Noel Coward); *Andorra* (Young Vic); *The Recruiting Officer* (Chichester Festival Theatre); *The Glass Menagerie* and *Translations* (Lyceum). His film work includes *Eullenia; Where Hands Touch; The Snowman; Greyhawk; A Lonely Place to Die; Moonlight Serenade; The Fifth Patient; The Gene Generation; Constellation; Four Corners of Suburbia; Bright Young Things; The Principles of Lust; The Death of Klinghoffer; Long Time Dead* and *G:MT*. His television work includes *Strikeback; Outlander; Fearless; Him; The Bastard Executioner; The Last Kingdom; Lewis; 24; Rogue; Dracula; Waterloo Road; Hope Springs; Spooks; Angel; Star Trek: Enterprise; Frankenstein; Tru Calling; Dark Shadows; Dune; Children of Dune; Night Flight; Murder Rooms; Silent Witness; Rag Nymph; Judge John Deed; Heroes and Villains; Peak Practice; The Blonde Bombshell* and *Reichenbach Falls*. His radio work includes *The Corrupted; Something Understood* and *The Fly*.

David Shaw-Parker plays Telyeghin. David trained at RADA in 1975 and began his career at the Royal Shakespeare Company in 1977, appearing in over twenty-five productions between then and 1991 at Stratford Upon Avon and London including *Much Ado About Nothing, Cyrano de Bergerac* (Broadway, NY) and *The Taming of the Shrew* (Tokyo). His theatre work for the National Theatre includes *Oedipus Rex, The False Servant* and *My Fair Lady*. Other theatre work includes *Grand Hotel* (Dominion); *The Country Wife, Cyrano de Bergerac* and *Acorn Antiques* (Haymarket); *Heavenly Ivy* (The Ivy); *Up n' Under* (Fortune); *A Dead Secret; The Importance of Being Earnest* and *Arsenic and Old Lace* (all Richmond Theatre); *Milkwood Blues* (Lyric Studio, Hammersmith); *Uncle Vanya* (Print Room); *Titus Andronicus* (Shakespeare's Globe); *McQueen* (St. James') and *Hobson's Choice* (Vaudeville). His film work includes Steven Soderbergh's *Kafka*; Pasolini's *Still Life; The Man Who Knew Infinity* and *The Muppets' Christmas Carol*. His television work includes *Endeavour; Victoria; The Crown; Inspector Morse; The Famous Five, Space Precinct* and *The Commander*.

Robin Soans plays Serebriakov. His theatre credits include *Echo's End* (Salisbury Playhouse); *Visitors* (Bush/UK tour); *Hamlet* and *As You Like It* (RSC); *The Stock Da'wa'* (Hampstead Theatre); *On the Beach* and *Resilience* (Bush); *Coriolanus* and *Under the Black Flag* (Shakespeare's Globe); *The Holy Terror* (Duke of York's); *Anything Goes, Love's Labour's Lost, A Prayer For Owen Meany, The Invention of Love, The London Cuckolds* and *Volpone* (National Theatre); *Push Up, Waiting Room Germany* and *Star-Gazing Pie & Sauerkraut, Three Birds Alighting On A Field* and *Etta Jenks* (Royal Court); *Another Country* (Arts); *Ghosts* (Comedy); *The Positive Hour* (Hampstead/Out of Joint); *Shopping and Fucking* (Royal Court/Out of Joint); *The Country Wife, Venetian Twins* and *Murder in the Cathedral* (RSC). His film work includes *Christmas Princess Switch; Red Joan; Victoria and Abdul; Viceroy's House; Pierpoint* and *The Queen*. His television work includes *Victoria; Endeavour; Silk; Midsomer Murders; Miss Marple; Dalziel & Pascoe; The Russian Bride; Kavanagh; Jonathon Creek; Rebecca; Inspector Morse; The Marshall & The Mad Woman* and *This Land of England*.

June Watson plays Marina. Her theatre work includes *John* (National Theatre); *Road* (Royal Court); *Escaped Alone* (Royal Court/BAM); *Good People* (Hampstead Theatre); *Mrs Lowry & Son* (Trafalgar Studios); *The Cripple of Inishmaan* (Broadway - Clarence Derwent Award 2014/Noël Coward); *Before the Party* (Almeida - Clarence Derwent Award 2014); *Calendar Girls* (tour); *The Children's Hour* (Royal Exchange, Manchester); *Smaller* (Lyric); *Mary Stuart* (Apollo); *Talking to Terrorists* (Out of Joint/Royal Court); *Romeo and Juliet* (RSC); *Scenes From the Big Picture; Our Lady of Sligo; Cardiff East; Le Cid; Rutherford and Son; As I Lay Dying; The Beggar's Opera; State of Revolution; Lark Rise to Candleford* and *Machinal* (all National Theatre); *Kosher Harry; Beside Herself; Saved; Small Change; Glasshouses* and *Sliding With Suzanne* (all Royal Court); *Blue Heart* (Out of Joint); *The War of the Roses; Coriolanus* and *The Winter's Tale* (all ESC world tours). Her film work includes *The Lady in the Van; Wreckers; Ghost Hunter; 102 Dalmatians; Highlander IV: Endgame; The Last Yellow; The Knowledge* and *Bloody Kids*. Her television work includes *The Midnight Gang; Call the Midwife; Chernobyl; To Walk Invisible. A Song for Jenny; Agatha Raisin; The Café; Holby City; Wallander; Hancock and Joan; The Street; William and Mary; Clapham Junction* and *The Key*.

Hampstead Downstairs / Celia Atkin present

PARADISE

By Dusty Hughes

Directed by Alice Hamilton

7 December – 19 January

Press Night 7 January 7.45pm

'Live every day like your last, and garden as if you're going to live forever'

Hampstead Theatre presents the world premiere of **Dusty Hughes'** new comedy **Paradise**, which looks at the cost of growing old and the joys of ageing disgracefully.

Elite Homes: offering the Platinum Package in luxury retirement living. Old friends Amanda Goose and Roddy Meakin are enjoying their twilight years on their own terms – outrageous pranks and clandestine gins in the garden, adult magazines at the dinner table and a healthy disregard for the other residents. All is idyllic – until, that is, new management is brought in to restore order...

Sara Kestelman plays Amanda. Her theatre credits include *Filthy Business* and *The Intelligent Homosexual's Guide to Capitalism and Socialism with a Key to the Scriptures* (Hampstead Theatre); *Cabaret* (Donmar); *Girls* (UK Tour); *4000 Miles* (Bath Theatre Royal); *Torchsong Trilogy* (Menier Chocolate Factory); *Making Noise Quietly, Nine, Hamlet, Love for Love, As You Like It, The Double Dealer, The Threepenny Opera* and *The American Clock, Copenhagen* (National Theatre); *Macbeth, Custom of the Country* (RSC); *King Lear* (RSC/Barbican); *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (RSC/New York); *Lettice & Lovage* (Gielgud) and *Fiddler on the Roof* (Palladium). Her television and film credits include *Zardoz*; *Lisztomania*; *Lady Jane*; *Anna Karenina*; *The Last Spark of Sundown*; *Rome*; *The Rivals of Sherlock Holmes*; *The Last Romantics* and *In the Flesh*.

Dusty Hughes returns to Hampstead Theatre following *Bad Language* in 1983. He was *Theatre Editor* of Time Out and helped to establish that magazine's theatre coverage as an alternative voice. He then joined the Bush Theatre as Artistic Director. In 1980 his first play "Commitments" won him the London Theatre Critics Most Promising Playwright Award. His subsequent plays have been seen at the National Theatre, The Royal Shakespeare Company in Stratford and London, The Royal Court, Hampstead Theatre, The Traverse Theatre, Edinburgh, The Bush, the Donmar and in the West End as well as in Europe and America. He has worked extensively in television. He was joint winner of the Writer's Guild Award for Best Drama Series for *Between The Lines* and created *The Brief* for ITV as well as adapting Joseph Conrad's *The Secret Agent* for BBC1. He has also written for many other series including *Silent Witness* and *Lewis* and most recently the BBC's *The Musketeers* (2015).

Alice Hamilton returns to Hampstead Downstairs following *Every Day I Make Greatness Happen*. Her directing credits include *While We're Here* (Bush); *Echo's End* (Salisbury Playhouse); *Orca* (Papatango); *Thirty Christmases* (Supporting Wall); *German Skerries* (Orange Tree/tour); *Eventide* (Arcola/tour); *Visitors* (Bush/Arcola/tour); *Orson's Shadow* (Southwark Playhouse); *Fear of Music* (Up in Arms/Out of Joint tour) and *At First Sight* (Latitude Festival/tour). She worked as Staff Director on *Man and Superman* at the National Theatre, and has directed development workshops and rehearsed readings with the Royal Court, National Theatre, Salisbury Playhouse and High Tide. Alice is co-artistic director of Up in Arms.

Full cast to be announced soon.

Under 30? Join The Downstairs Club, our free membership scheme which allows under 30s to access all Hampstead Priority Booking periods for free, allowing young people the chance to purchase the more cost effective seats. Email thedownstairsclub@hampsteadtheatre.com with your full name and date of birth to register.

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I AND YOU

By Lauren Gunderson

Directed by Edward Hall

Until 24 November

#HTIandYou

UNCLE VANYA

By Anton Chekov

A new version written and directed by Terry Johnson

30 November – 12 January

#HTUncleVanya

Previews, Mondays and matinees

Full Price: £30/£27/£18

Under 30s/Students: £15/£10*

Seniors (matinees only): £22/20

Groups For every 9 tickets get the 10th free

Access: £16

Tuesday – Saturday evenings

Full price: £37/£32/£25

Under 30s/Students: £15/£10*

Groups For every 9 tickets get the 10th free

Access: £16

*Under 30s and Student concession seats are available in row A (£15) & Band C (£10).

Prices subject to change. Please book early for the best prices.

DOWNSTAIRS

THE HOES

By Ifeyinwa Frederick

Directed by Lakesha Arie-Angelo

26 October – 1 December

#HTTheHoes

PARADISE

By Dusty Hughes

Directed by Alice Hamilton

7 December - 19 January

#HTParadise

Mon-Sat 7.45pm; Wed Mats 2.45pm; Sat Mats 3.15pm

First Five Previews: All tickets £5

First twelve performance thereafter: £12

Remaining performances: £14

U30/students: £10