

EDWARD ALBEE'S WHO'S AFRAID OF VIRGINIA WOOLF?

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

I spent the first half of my career working on new plays so I was always focused on meeting writers and telling new stories. It was only a few years ago that I started working on more of the classics. I thought about the plays that first made me fall in love with theatre and was led back to *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?* When first reading it, I couldn't believe words could be so exciting.

Although written and originally staged in 1962 the script remains edgy with a wicked sense of humour. If it was written tomorrow you'd still think it was revolutionary. I believe a masterpiece of this calibre will always be relevant, with its profound insights and observations about human behaviour and relationships. People love watching conflict and this play, about two people outdoing each other in front of an audience, is the ultimate conflict. The visceral, raw nature of the story will be palpable in this intimate in-the-round setting. The actors are going to be so close that it will feel even more like an arena. And it will feel exhilarating!

I hope this production leaves you as excited, but ultimately as moved as I've found myself.

David Mercatali

Director

CAST

Martha Pooky Quesnel
George Mark Meadows
Nick Joseph Tweedale
Honey Francesca Henry

CREATIVES

Director David Mercatali
Designer Anisha Fields
Lighting Designer Chris Swain
Sound Designer Dinah Mullen
Assistant Director Jay Crutchley
Fight Director Kev McCurdy
Dialect Coach Nick Trumble
Producer: Kerrie Burke-Avery
Production Manager Nic Prior
Casting Director Lucy Casson
Costume Supervisor Jane Curnow
Stage Manager Cassie Harrison
Assistant Stage Manager Kay Hudson
Wardrobe Assistant Alix Abram
Assistant Stage Manager (props) Matt Miles
Bristol University Producer Placement
Caitlyn Eacott

WITH THANKS TO

Inns Court Community Centre, Anthony at the spearfishingstore.co.uk, Chris at Extreme Marine Diving Bristol, Braces Shooting & Country Supplies, Top Welds.

CREATIVES

DAVID MERCATALI – DIRECTOR

David is an award-winning theatre director. This is David's third production to play at Tobacco Factory Theatres having previously directed *Blue Heart* by Caryl Churchill (Tobacco Factory Theatres/Orange Tree Theatre) and *Radiant Vermin* (Tobacco Factory Theatres/Soho Theatre/59E59 Theater, NY).

Other directing credits include: *Much Ado About Nothing* (Cardiff Open Air Theatre Festival), *God of Chaos* (Plymouth Theatre Royal), *Tremor* (Sherman Theatre, 59E59 Theater NY), *The Story* (TOR/Theatre 503), *Radieuse Vermine* (Théâtre Montparnasse/Festival de Avignon), *Insignificance* (Arcola Theatre), *Tonight With Donny Stixx* (The Bunker/Pleasance Theatre), *Cargo* (Arcola Theatre), *Every You Every Me* (Salisbury Playhouse), *Little Light* (Orange Tree Theatre), *Coolatully*, *Black Jesus* (Finborough Theatre), *Johnny Got His Gun*, *Our Ajax* (Southwark Playhouse), *Dark Vanilla Jungle* (Royal Exchange/Soho Theatre & National Tour) and *Someone to Blame* (Kings Head).

ANISHA FIELDS – DESIGNER

Recent and upcoming Theatre credits include: *Squirrel* (The Egg), *First Encounters: Merchant of Venice* (RSC), *Owl at Home* (Theatre Iolo), *Acis and Galatea* (Early Opera Company), *I Wish I Was A Mountain* (The Egg/Travelling Light) and *Beautiful Thing, A View From the Bridge* and *Macbeth* (Tobacco Factory Theatres).

As associate: *Everybody's Talking About Jamie* (Nica Burns/Sheffield Theatres). She was the recipient of the Leverhulme Arts Scholarship, and was resident Assistant Designer at RSC 2018-2019. She was named as one of the Guardian's 12 theatre stars to watch for 2020, and was a finalist for the Naomi Wilkinson Award 2019.

CHRIS SWAIN – LIGHTING DESIGNER

Chris is a lighting designer based in Bristol. He has worked extensively with Gecko - lighting design for the company includes *A Little Space*, *The Dreamer*, *Time of Your life*, *Institute* and *Missing*.

Other lighting designs include: *Our Country's Good*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Beautiful Thing*, and *Blue Heart* (Tobacco Factory Theatres), *We Can Time Travel* (Dom Coyote), *Flies* and *The Scarlet Pimpernel* (Pins and Needles), *Paper Architect* (The McGuires), and designs for dance companies New Movement Collective, Renaud Wisser Dance and TrashDollies.

DINAH MULLEN – SOUND DESIGNER

Dinah is a sound and theatre maker, specialising in movement and collaborative projects.

At the Brakke Grond in Amsterdam, and The Dome in Brighton she designed sound for *Stella* (Neil Bartlett). She is a returning designer at the Arcola theatre, credits include: *The Plague* (Neil Bartlett), *The Daughter In Law* (Jack Gamble), *Insignificance* (David Mercatali), *Richard III* (Mehmet Ergen).

Other designs include: Rachel Mars – *Forge, Roller, Your Sexts are Shit* (Baribican Pit/Summerhall), *Homing Birds* and *Sundowning* (The Drum, Theatre Royal Plymouth), *Squirrel* (The Egg), *Theseus Beefcake* and *G.O.A.T.* (Theatre Royal York).

JAY CRUTCHLEY – ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

Jay is Resident Assistant Director at Tobacco Factory Theatres as part of an 18 month residency supported by the Regional Theatre Young Directors Scheme. He is currently directing *Navajos* by Joe White with Tobacco Factory Theatres' YTM Perform and most recently worked as Assistant Director for *Snow White* (Tobacco Factory Theatres/ New International Encounter/Cambridge Junction).

Jay is alumni of Birmingham Repertory Theatre's *Foundry Programme* for emerging directors. He has worked as a facilitator/director with Free Radical, Beatfreeks Collective, Women and Theatre/HMP Birmingham, Worcester Arts Partnership/Warwickshire & West Mercia Probation Trust, Birmingham Hippodrome, Midlands Arts Centre, Birmingham REP and Mashirika Arts/Kigali Genocide Memorial.

SUPPORT TOBACCO FACTORY THEATRES

The Directors' Circle is a group of close friends to the theatre who believe in our vision and want to play a vital role in securing our future. They generously support us in developing and producing more of our own work, including productions such as Edward Albee's *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?* We are grateful to our Directors' Circle members: Ken & Karen Edis, Mary & John Prior, Chris & Amanda Trembath and Simon Inch.

For more information about the Directors' Circle please contact Jen Warner, Development Manager on 0117 963 0949 or jen@tobaccofactorytheatres.com.

"Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?" is presented by special arrangement with SAMUEL FRENCH LTD, a Concord Theatricals Company.

The video and/or audio recording of this performance by any means whatsoever are strictly prohibited.



Supported using public funding by
**ARTS COUNCIL
ENGLAND**

CAST

POOKY QUESNEL

Theatre credits include: *Raleigh: The Treason Trial* (Sam Wanamaker Playhouse), *The Suicide* (National Theatre), *Romeo & Juliet* (Royal Exchange Theatre, Manchester), *Sitting Pretty* (Watford Palace Theatre), *Loot* (Bristol Old Vic), *Present Laughter* (Oxford Stage/Theatre Royal, Bath), *Jane Eyre* (Shared Experience), *1953* (Almedia), *The Blue Ball* (National Theatre), *Don't Fool With Love* (Cheek By Jowl), *Anna Karenina* (Shared Experience).



Television credits include: *Two Weeks to Live* (Kudos), *The A Word* (Fifty Fathoms), *Ransom* (CBS), *The Victim* (STV for BBC1), *W1A* (BBC Television), *Class* (BBC Television), *The Living and The Dead* (BBC Television), *Father Brown* (BBC Television), *Waterloo Road* (Shed Productions & Headstrong), *Not Going Out* (Avalon), *Just Henry* (ITV), *The Body Farm* (BBC Television), *Silent Witness* (BBC Television), *Casualty* (BBC Television), *Scott & Bailey* (Red Productions), *Shameless* (Company), *Dr Who Christmas Special* (BBC Television), *Doctors* (BBC Television), *Law & Order: UK* (Kudos).

Film credits include: *Pride and Prejudice and Zombies* (2016), *Paradox* (2009) and *Great Expectations* (2012).

MARK MEADOWS

Mark trained at Bristol Old Vic Theatre School.

Theatre credits include: *A Woman of No Importance* (UK Tour), *Orpheus Descending* (Menier Chocolate Factory), *Flowers for Mrs Harris* (Sheffield Crucible/Chichester Festival Theatre), *Quiz* (Chichester Festival Theatre/Noel Coward Theatre), *Tartuffe* (Shakespeare at the Tobacco Factory), *The Magna Carta Plays* (Salisbury Playhouse), *King John* (Shakespeare's Globe), *Urinetown* (St James/Apollo Theatre), *Look Back in Anger* (Bristol Old Vic), *Betty Blue Eyes* (Novello Theatre), *Macbeth* and *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Regent's Park Open Air Theatre), *5/11* (Chichester Festival Theatre), *King Lear* and *Six Pictures of Lee Miller* (Minerva Theatre, Chichester).



Television and film credits include: *Kiri* (Channel 4), *Eastenders* (BBC), *Casualty* (BBC), *Letters From Baghdad*; *Doctors* (BBC), *Nicholas Nickleby* (United Artists), *High Heels & Lowlifes* (Fragile Films).

Mark was Musical Director of *The Swingle Singers* and has various theatre and recording credits as composer and arranger.

JOSEPH TWEEDALE

Theatre credits include: *Rapunzel* (Theatre Royal, Bath), *Babe The Sheep Pig* (Mercury Theatre), *A View from the Bridge*, *Macbeth*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream* and *Our Country's Good* (Tobacco Factory Theatres), *A Christmas Carol* (Hull Truck Theatre), *The Rise and Fall of Little Voice* (Clwyd Theatre), *Northanger Abbey* (Theatre Royal Bury St Edmunds), *Alice In Wonderland*, *The Borrowers*, *The Lion, The Witch & The Wardrobe* (Sherman Theatre), *Barnbow Canaries* (West Yorkshire Playhouse), *UKIP! The Musical* (Hell Bent Theatre), *Brief Encounter* (Torch Theatre), *The Girl Who Cannot Die* (Certain Dark Things), *Either/Or* (Theatre 503), *The Tempest*, *Alice Through the Looking Glass* (Quantum Theatre).

Film credits include: *Dirt Ash Meat*, *Outdoors is Safer*, *Deadly Dinner Date*, *Exit*.

FRANCESCA HENRY

Francesca trained at The Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama.

Theatre credits include: *Germ Free Adolescent* (The Bunker Theatre), *Our Town* (Regent's Park Theatre), *Dear Elizabeth* and *Sonya R&D* (Gate Theatre), *The Wolves* (Theatre Royal Stratford) and *Stormzy X Adidas Originals - Immersive Theatre Event* (Adidas & Jukebox Collective).



Roles whilst training include: *Candide*, and *Intimate Apparel* (Richard Burton Company) and *Split* for (Richard Burton Company & The Royal Court).

Television and film credits include: *Doctors* (BBC) and *2.0 Lucy* (Shopfloor Films).

TOBACCO FACTORY THEATRES

Tobacco Factory Theatres produces and presents excellent theatre in its home in Bristol, as well as in venues across the country. Its mission is to provide a welcoming home for creative adventures and human connection; an inclusive creative community where it offers incredible theatre and life-changing opportunities to learn and exchange ideas. The programme of work and activities is diverse and exciting, including classic and contemporary drama, theatre for families, comedy, dance, music, opera and puppetry. Get Involved is its vibrant and expanding engagement, learning and participation programme with opportunities for its community including audiences, young people and artists.

tobaccofactorytheatres.com

WILTSHIRE CREATIVE

Wiltshire Creative brings together Salisbury Arts Centre, Salisbury International Arts Festival and Salisbury Playhouse.

Salisbury Playhouse is one of Britain's leading producing theatres, with a national reputation for home-grown work of the highest quality that attracts audiences from across Wiltshire, Hampshire, Dorset and beyond. Recent productions include the world premiere of *Blood Wedding* by Barney Norris, *Breaking the Code* by Hugh Whitmore, a new adaptation of *The Mirror Crack'd* by Rachel Wagstaff and new musical *Moonfleet*.

Salisbury International Arts Festival 2020 runs from 22 May to 7 June 2020.

wiltshirecreative.co.uk

A TOBACCO FACTORY THEATRES,
NEW INTERNATIONAL ENCOUNTER AND
CAMBRIDGE JUNCTION CO-PRODUCTION

BEAUTY AND THE BEAST

WED 15 JULY -
SUN 02 AUGUST 2020

★★★★★

"A REAL TREAT OF A FAMILY SHOW... WONDERFULLY
THEATRICAL AND ENTIRELY IRRESISTABLE"

The Times

BOX OFFICE 0117 902 0344

Tickets from £12 (subject to availability)

TOBACCOFACTORYTHEATRES.COM

TOBACCO
FACTORY
THEATRES



CAMBRIDGE
JUNCTION

