

# PRESS

PRESS RELEASE  
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# AT THE OLD VIC

## CASTING ANNOUNCED FOR *THE GREATEST WEALTH*

In celebration of the NHS

*One Voice*: Monologues funded by the TS Eliot Estate

Curated by Lolita Chakrabarti  
Directed by Adrian Lester

**The NHS from the 1940s-1970s: Monday 25 June, 8.30pm**  
**The NHS from the 1980s-present: Tuesday 26 June, 8.30pm**  
**The NHS from the 1940s-present (double bill): Friday 29 June, 8pm**

*'No society can legitimately call itself civilised if a sick person is denied medical aid because of lack of means.'*  
**Aneurin Bevan**

The Old Vic is pleased to announce casting for *The Greatest Wealth*, curated by Lolita Chakrabarti and directed by Adrian Lester to celebrate 70 years of the National Health Service.

**Jade Anouka, Louise English, Dervla Kirwan, Ruth Madeley, Art Malik, Meera Syal, Sophie Stone and David Threlfall** will perform monologues written by **Moira Buffini, Lolita Chakrabarti, Seiriol Davies, Matilda Ibini, Courttia Newland, Meera Syal, Jack Thorne and Paul Unwin** in response to each decade since Aneurin Bevan launched the NHS at Park Hospital, Manchester, on 5 July 1948. Each evening will also include music performed by **Gloria Obianyo**.

Lolita Chakrabarti said:

*'I am thrilled to be curating this One Voice for The Old Vic and delighted that so many talented and accomplished actors will be a part of it. To see how inventive but truthful each writer has been and then to realise their work with this calibre of actor is fantastic. This is going to be a very special event.'*

The full line up is as follows:

**1940s: *Boo*, by Jack Thorne, performed by Sophie Stone**  
**1950s: *At The Point of Need*, by Paul Unwin, performed by David Threlfall**  
**1960s: *Rivers*, written and performed by Meera Syal**  
**1970s: *Sister Susan* by Moira Buffini, performed by Dervla Kirwan**  
**1980s: *Speedy Gonzales* by Lolita Chakrabarti, performed by Art Malik**  
**1990s: *Family Room*, by Courttia Newland, performed by Jade Anouka**  
**2000s: *Choice & Control*, by Matilda Ibini, performed by Ruth Madeley**  
**2010s: *The Nuchess*, by Seiriol Davies, performed by Louise English**

This Old Vic commissioned set of world premiere monologues will salute and discuss the past, present and future of our NHS, an extraordinary institution that supports every single one of us. An absolute jewel in our crown.

In celebration of 70 years of the NHS The Old Vic is offering 70 tickets per performance priced at £5 for NHS workers to *The Greatest Wealth* (£10 for the Friday double bill).

The performances will be live sign language interpreted in British Sign Language (BSL).

*The Greatest Wealth* is part of our Bicentennial *One Voice* season, celebrating other important anniversaries in The Old Vic's 200th year. This began with *One Hand Tied Behind Us*, curated by Maxine Peake to mark 100 years since The Representation of the People Act 1918 gave the first women in Britain the right to vote. Later this year, there will be one final special anniversary performance to mark 100 years since the end of the First World War. Dates, writers and casting to be announced.

## NOTES TO EDITORS

*One Voice* is a series of monologues, funded by the TS Eliot Estate, celebrating the rawest of theatre forms – a single voice on a stage without scenery and with nothing to rely on but words.

**Jade Anouka** will perform in *Family Room* by Courttia Newland. Her theatre credits include *The Phlebotomist* (Hampstead Downstairs); *Cover My Tracks* (The Old Vic); *Shakespeare Trilogy* (Donmar Warehouse / St Ann's Warehouse, New York); *The Vote* (Donmar Warehouse); *SLUG*, (nabokov); *Doctor Faustus* (West End); *So Here We Are* (Royal Exchange); *Chef* (Soho Theatre/Edinburgh Festival); *Omeros* (Sam Wanamaker); *Clean* (Traverse / 59E59, New York); *Romeo and Juliet* (Shakespeare's Globe / UAE tour), *Moon on a Rainbow Shawl* (National Theatre), *Hamlet* (Shakespeare's Globe / European tour); *Romeo and Juliet* (Bolton Octagon); *Wild Horses* (Theatre503); *Love's Labour's Lost* (Shakespeare's Globe / US tour); *Blood Wedding* (Southwark Playhouse); *Twelfth Night* (York Theatre Royal); *The Merchant of Venice*, *The Taming of the Shrew*, *The Penelopiad* (Royal Shakespeare Company); *UnStoned* and *Outright Terror Bold & Brilliant* (Soho). Television work includes *Trauma*, *Chewing Gum*, *Lucky Man*, *The Vote*, regular appearances in the BBC's *Shakespeare Uncovered*, *Doctor Who* and *Law & Order*. Film includes *A Running Jump* (dir. Mike Leigh), *A Summer Hamlet* and *The Dark Channel*. Jade is in the upcoming television programme *Cleaning Up* and feature film *Fisherman's Friends*.

**Moira Buffini** is a writer, director and actor. Her writing credits for theatre include *Wonder.Land*, *Welcome to Thebes*, *A Vampire Story* (National Theatre); *Handbagged* (West End / Tricycle); *Dying For It*, *Marianne Dreams* (Almeida); *Dinner* (The RNT Loft / West End/UK tour); *Loveplay* (The Pit, Barbican); *The Games Room* (Soho); *Silence* (Birmingham Rep) and *Gabriel* (Soho Theatre Company). Her television credits include *Harlots* and film credits include *Viceroy's House*, *The Dig*, *Byzantium*, *Jane Eyre*, *Northern Soul* and *Tamara Drewe*.

**Lolita Chakrabarti** is an actress and writer. Her writing credits include *Last Seen: Joy* (Slung Low Theatre Company at the Almeida); *The Goddess* (BBC Radio 4) and *Red Velvet* (Tricycle/St Ann's Warehouse New York/West End). *Red Velvet* was nominated for nine awards. Lolita won the Charles Wintour Evening Standard Award for Most Promising Playwright 2012, the Critics' Circle Most Promising Playwright Award 2012 and the AWA Award for Arts and Culture in 2013. Lolita runs Lesata Productions with Rosa Maggiora. Their short film *Of Mary*, directed by Adrian Lester, was screened internationally and won the PAFF Best Short Film Award in Los Angeles in 2012.

**Seiriol Davies** is a writer, creates comedy, acts, composes and songwrites. He trained at the London International School of Performing Arts. He has made shows with companies including Punchdrunk, You Need Me, Gideon Reeling and Beady Eye. His first full-length play *Moon River*, an unsettling comedy about the social lives of the over 70s, was developed by the Soho Theatre and produced at the Pleasance and he later devised, composed and performed *Mess* with Caroline Horton, which won The Stage Award for Best Ensemble, 2012, and toured internationally. Seiriol's first musical *How To Win Against History*, about Henry Cyril Paget, the cross-dressing black sheep Marquis of Anglesey, opened at the 2016 Edinburgh Fringe to critical acclaim, and played two consecutive total sell-out runs there in 2016 and 2017. It then toured the UK before transferring to a sell-out run at the Young Vic in December 2017. It has won several awards, including The Stage Award and the Wales Theatre Award.

**Louise English** will perform *The Nuchess*, by Seiriol Davies. Her theatre credits include *All the Fun of the Fair* (Garrick Theatre / UK Tour); *Annie* (UK Tour); *Hello Dolly!* (National Tour); *An Ideal Husband* (UK Tour); *Gaslight*

(Devonshire Park Theatre); *Tommy Boy* (Malvern Festival Theatre); *Private Lives* (Haymarket Theatre); *Absent Friends* (Theatre Royal Windsor); *Me and My Girl* (Adelphi Theatre); *Tom Foolery* (UK Tour) and *My Dearest Ivor* (UK Tour). Her television credits include *Brush Strokes*, *Fresh Fields* and *Lytton's Diary* and her film credits include *Bugsy Malone*, *The Wicked Lady* and *House of the Long Shadows*.

**Matilda Ibini** is a playwright and screenwriter. Matilda was awarded a BAFTA and Warner Bros scholarship to do a Masters in Playwriting and Screenwriting at City University, was part of the Royal Court Writer's Programme 2012/13, Soho Theatre's writer-in-residence for the BBC Writersroom 10 scheme 2014/15, and Soho Theatre's Writer's Alumni Group. Currently, she is Graeae Theatre's Artist-in-Residence for 2017/18. Her debut play, *Muscovado* (Theatre 503 / UK tour), about slavery and the sugar trade, was produced by BurntOut Theatre and co-won the Alfred Fagon Audience Award in 2015. Her other theatre credits include *If & When* (Soho); *Glaze* (Bunker Theatre); *Play 28* (Vaults Fest); *She Didn't Jump, She Was Pushed* (Sphinx Theatre); *Single* (Hampstead Downstairs); *Buccaneers Final Frontiers* (Graeae Theatre); *R.A.W.W* (Royal Exchange Manchester); *Kill Switch* (Birmingham Rep) and *Welcome Home Lottery* (National Theatre).

**Dervla Kirwan** will perform *Sister Susan* by Moira Buffini. Her theatre credits include *King Lear* (Chichester Festival Theatre), *Mr Foote's Other Leg* (Hampstead Theatre); *Frankie and Johnny* (Minerva Theatre); *The Weir* and *Betrayal* (Donmar Warehouse); *Uncle Vanya* (Chichester Festival Theatre); *Aristocrats* (National Theatre); *Hush* (Royal Court Theatre). Television credits include *Strangers*, *Strike Back*, *Krypton*, *Safe House*, *Martin*, *The Fuse*, *The Silence*, *Agatha Christie's Marple*, *Material Girl*, *Moving On*, *Law and Order*, *True Dare Kiss*, *Doctor Who*, *Casanova*, *55 Degrees North*, *Hearts and Bones*, *Happy Birthday Shakespeare*, *Randall & Hopkirk*, *Dalziel & Pascoe*, *BallykissAngel* and *Goodnight Sweetheart*. Film credits include *Trautmann*, *Interlude In Prague*, *Luna*, *Silent Hours*, *Entity*, *Ondine*, *Dangerous Parking*, *School for Seduction*, *December Brides*, *With or Without You* and *Peter's Meteor*.

**Adrian Lester** OBE is an award-winning actor and director. His career started with a string of successful West End productions including *Company*, for which he received an Olivier Award, *Six Degrees of Separation* and *Sweeny Todd*, before taking the lead role in Mike Nichol's film *Primary Colors*. Other film roles include *Day After Tomorrow*, *As You Like It*, *Loves Labour's Lost*, *Grey Lady*, *Dust* and *Case 39*. Adrian is also well known for his TV work including the long running BBC1 series *Hustle*, Sky Atlantic's *Riviera*, US sitcom *Girlfriends*, *Undercover* and the recent drama *Trauma*. Directing credits include *Hustle*, *Riviera* and short *Of Mary*. Adrian has played the title roles in *Henry V* and *Othello* (National Theatre); Rosalind in *As You Like It* (Declan Donnellan & Cheek By Jowl); Ira Aldridge in *Red Velvet* (Tricycle Theatre / St Ann's Warehouse New York / Garrick Theatre) and Hamlet in Peter Brook's *The Tragedy Of Hamlet* (London, Paris, Japan and New York). Recent/current filming projects include the films *Mary*, *Queen of Scots* and *Euphoria*, *Sky's Curfew*, *The Rook* and directing his first feature, *Lottery Boy*, which he also adapted.

**Ruth Madeley** will perform *Choice & Control* by Matilda Ibini. Ruth's television credits include *The Rook*, *Pure*, *Katy*, *Cold Feet*, *5 x 5*, *Outnumbered*, *The Level*, *Don't Take My Baby* (for which she was nominated for a BAFTA), *Fresh Meat*, *Scrims* and *Half Moon Investigations*.

**Art Malik** will perform *Speedy Gonzales* by Lolita Chakrabarti. His theatre credits include *A Man For All Seasons* and *Equus* (Liverpool Playhouse); *Aliens* (Soho Theatre); *Art* (Wyndham's Theatre); *Cymbeline* (Royal Exchange); *Destiny and Timon of Athens* (Bristol Old Vic); *Great Expectations* (Royal Exchange, Manchester); *Heroes* (UK Tour); *Indian Ink* (Aldwych Theatre); *Othello* (Royal Shakespeare Company); *Romeo and Juliet*, *The 88 Prospect* and *The Government Inspector* (The Old Vic); *The Seagull* (Royal Court Theatre / Broadway) and *Trial Run* (Young Vic / Oxford Playhouse). Recent television credits include *The Woman in White*, *Bancroft*, *Sherlock IV*, *Coldfeet*, *Goodness Gracious Me* special, *Indian Summers* series 2, *Arthur and George*, *Undercover*, *Homeland* series 4, *Borgia*, *New Tricks*, *Upstairs Downstairs*, *Masterpiece Mystery*, *Poirot*, *The Nativity*, *Ben Hur* and *Lewis*. Recent film credits include *Halal Daddy*, *The Escape*, *The Infiltrator*, *Diana*, *Bhaag Mikha Bhaag*, *John Carter*, *Ghosted*, *Mirzya*, *Sex and the City 2*, *Wolfman*, *Hotel* and *Franklyn*.

**Courtia Newland** has written numerous plays, including *Manifesto* (Bush); *Trim Palace* (shortlisted for the Theatre 503 Award and longlisted for the Alfred Fagon Award); *Look to the Sky* (Half Moon Theatre); *Mother's Day* (Lyric Hammersmith) and *The Far Side* (Tricycle). As a novelist, he's written seven works of fiction. His latest novel, *The Gospel According to Cane*, was published in 2013. He also writes for television and film.

**Meera Syal** has written and will perform in *Rivers*. She is a writer and actress. As a writer her screenplays include *Bhaji On The Beach*; *Anita And Me* and *My Sister Wife*. Her first novel *Anita And Me* won the Betty Trask Award and is on the national school's curriculum. She was awarded the CBE for Services to Drama and

Literature in 2015. As a writer and performer her Television credits include *Goodness Gracious Me* and *The Kumars At Number 42*. Her other theatre credits include *Much Ado About Nothing* (Royal Shakespeare Company); *Behind The Beautiful Forevers* and *Rafta Rafta* (National Theatre); *Romeo and Juliet* (Garrick Theatre); *Shirley Valentine* (Menier / Trafalgar Studios, for which she won a WhatsOnStage Award for Best Solo Performance) and *Annie* (Piccadilly Theatre). Her recent most television appearance was on BBC One drama *The Split* and her recent film credits include *The Nutcracker and the Four Realms*, *Patrick*, *Dr Strange* and *Paddington 2*.

**Sophie Stone** will perform *Boo* by Jack Thorne. Sophie trained at RADA and is Co-Founder of Deaf & Hearing Ensemble Theatre Company. Her theatre credits include *A Midsummer Night's Dream* and *Multiplex, Fen* and *You Make Me Happy When Skies are Grey* (Watermill Theatre); *Jubilee* (Lyric Hammersmith / Royal Exchange, Manchester); *The Government Inspector* (Birmingham Rep / UK Tour); *Hérons* (Lyric Hammersmith); *Mother Courage and Her Children* (National Theatre); *Mine* (Shared Experience); *Frozen* (Birmingham Rep); *Two* (Southwark Playhouse); *The Bloody Great Border Ballad Project* (Northern Stage); *In Water I'm Weightless* (National Theatre of Wales); *Pandora* (Arcola) and *Woman Of Flowers* (Forest Forge / UK Tour). TV credits include *Shetland*, *The Crown*, *Doctor Who*, *Mapp and Lucia*, *Moonstone*, *Marchlands*, *Midsomer Murders*, *Small World*, *Holby City*, *Casualty* and *FM*. Film includes *Retreat* (for which she was awarded Best Actress Award, Clin d'Oeil Festival), *My Christmas Angel*, *Confessions* and *Coming Home*.

**Jack Thorne's** recent work includes *Woyzeck*, *A Christmas Carol* (The Old Vic); *Junkyard* (Headlong/Rose Theatre Kingston / Bristol Old Vic / Theatr Clwyd); *Harry Potter and the Cursed Child* (West End / Broadway); *The Solid Life of Sugarwater* (Graeae / National Theatre); *Hope* (Royal Court); *Let the Right One In* (West End / Dundee Rep / Royal Court); *Bunny* (Nabokov / UK tour); *Stacy* (Tron / Arcola / Trafalgar Studios). Adaptations include *The Physicists* (Donmar) and *Stuart: A Life Backwards* (HighTide). Film credits include *Wonder*, *War Book*, *A Long Way Down* and *The Scouting Book for Boys*. Television credits include *Kiri*, an episode of *Electric Dreams*, *National Treasure*, *The Last Panthers*, *Don't Take My Baby*, *This Is England*, *The Fades*, *Glue*, *Cast-Offs*. Jack's work for television has won him 5 BAFTAs and an RTS Television Award.

**David Threlfall** will perform *At The Point of Need* by Paul Unwin. His recent theatre credits are *Don Quixote* (Royal Shakespeare Company); *Someone Who'll Watch Over Me* (Ambassadors Theatre); *Skellig* (Young Vic); *The Entertainer* (Derby Playhouse); *Tartuffe*, *Richard II* (National Theatre); *Blue/Orange* (Duchess Theatre); *Peer Gynt* (Manchester Royal Exchange); *Odysseus Thump* (West Yorkshire Playhouse) and *Hedda Gabler* (Chichester Festival Theatre). His recent television credits include *Troy*, *Waiting for Andrew*, *Ripper Street*, *Midwinter of the Spirit*, *Code of A Killer*, *The Ark*, *Tommy*, *What Remains*, *Shameless*, *The Whistleblowers* and *House Wife*, 49. His recent film credits include *Black Sea*, *Nowhere Boy*, *Elizabeth: The Golden Age*, *Hot Fuzz*, *Like Minds*, *Alien Autopsy*, *Master and Commander: The Far Side of the World* and *Chunky Monkey*.

**Paul Unwin** is a writer and director who works in TV and theatre. As a playwright his plays include *This Much Is True* and *The Promise*. As a writer for TV he co-created *Casualty*, *Holby City*, and *Breathless*. As a theatre director his work includes being Artistic Director of Bristol Old Vic; directing European premieres of the work of Arthur Miller; *The Misanthrope* (National Theatre); and *Uncle Vanya* (The Gate, Dublin). In TV he has directed extensively including *Messiah*, *The American* and the multi award winning *Elijah*. His short *Syrup* won the Cannes Jury Prize and was nominated for an Oscar. He is currently adapting John Sutherland's memoir *Blue* for the BBC and co-writing *Poison* with Peter Straughan for Sugar Films and Sky Vision.

**Gloria Obianyo's** theatre credits include *Fanny and Alexander* (The Old Vic), *The Resistible Rise of Arturo Ui* (Donmar Warehouse), *The Wild Party* (St James's Theatre), *The Grinning Man* (Bristol Old Vic), *Jesus Christ Superstar* (Regent's Park Open Air Theatre) and *The Happy Warrior* (Bromley Churchill Theatre). Her television and film credits include *Good Omens* and *High Life*.

## PRESS CONTACTS

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## BOX OFFICE INFORMATION

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The Old Vic, The Cut, London SE1 8NB

## THE GREATEST WEALTH

**ONE VOICE: Monologues funded by the TS Eliot Estate**

**The NHS from the 1940s–1970s: Monday 25 June**, 8.30pm £10 - £15

**The NHS from the 1980s–present: Tuesday 26 June**, 8.30pm £10 - £15

**The NHS from the 1940s–present (double bill): Friday 29 June**, 8pm £20 - £30

Auditorium

In celebration of 70 years of the NHS we are offering 70 tickets per performance priced at £5 for NHS workers (£10 for the Friday double bill). Please show your NHS card to redeem.

### Access Information

The performances will be live sign language interpreted in British Sign Language (BSL).

## SEASON LISTINGS

### MOOD MUSIC

By Joe Penhall

Directed by Roger Michell

Until Sat 16 Jun 2018

Mon–Sat: 7.30pm; Wed & Sat 2.30pm

Recommended age 14+

TICKETS: From £12

### A MONSTER CALLS

Based on the novel by Patrick Ness

Inspired by an idea from Siobhan Dowd

Devised by the company

Directed by Sally Cookson

Sat 7 Jul–Sat 25 Aug 2018

Mon–Sat: 7:30pm; Wed & Sat: 2:30pm

Additional matinee performance: Thu 19 Jul, 2.30pm

Press night: Tue 17 Jul, 7pm

Audio Described Performance: Tue 14 Aug, 7.30pm

Captioned Performance: Thu 16 Aug, 7.30pm

Recommended age 10+

TICKETS: £12, £16, £20, £25, £40, £50

Under 16s tickets half price on price bands A and B Mon–Thu including Wed mats

For information regarding Premium Seats please call the box office

### SYLVIA

ZooNation: The Kate Prince Company

Written by Kate Prince & Priya Parmar

Music by Josh Cohen & DJ Walde

Lyrics by Kate Prince, Josh Cohen & DJ Walde  
Directed & Choreographed by Kate Prince

Mon 3 Sep–Sat 22 Sep 2018  
Mon–Sat: 7.30pm, Wed & Sat 2.30pm  
Press night: Tues 11 Sep 7pm  
Audio Described Performance: Tue 18 Sep, 7.30pm  
Captioned Performance: Sat 22 Sep, 2.30pm  
Recommended age 10+

TICKETS: £12, £15, £25, £35, £45

### **17c**

Wed 26 Sep–Sat 29 Sep 2018  
Wed–Sat: 7pm; Sat 2.30pm  
Press night: Thu 27 Sep 7pm  
Recommended age 11+  
Running time: 80 minutes (no interval)

TICKETS: £12, £15, £25, £35, £45

### **WISE CHILDREN**

Mon 8 Oct–Sat 10 Nov 2018  
Mon–Sat: 7.30pm; Wed & Sat 2.30pm; Wed 17 Oct 2pm  
Press night: Wed 17 Oct 7pm  
Audio Described Performance: Sat 10 Nov 2.30pm (touch tour at 1pm)  
Captioned Performance: Mon 5 Nov 7.30pm  
Recommended age 14+

TICKETS: £12, £16, £21, £30, £55, £65

### **A CHRISTMAS CAROL**

Tue 27 Nov 2018–Sat 19 Jan 2019  
Mon–Sat: 7:30pm; Sat: 2:30pm  
7pm – 5, 6, 11, 12, 18 & 19 Dec; 1pm – 12 & 19 Dec  
Additional matinee performances 2.30pm 7, 16, 23, 27, 28, 30, 31 Dec & 2, 8, 9 Jan (No mat Sat 29 Dec)  
See our website for the full performance schedule.  
Press night: Wed 5 Dec 7pm  
Audio Described Performance: Tue 8 Jan 7.30pm (touch tour at 6pm)  
Captioned Performance: Thu 10 Jan 7.30pm  
Recommended age 8+  
Running time: Approximately 2 hours 5 minutes including 20min interval

TICKETS: £12, £16, £21, £30/£35, £55/£57.50 £65/£67.50

For more information regarding PwC previews please see our website, for information regarding Premium Seats please call the box office

### **CONCESSIONS**

PwC £10 PREVIEWS: Available to everyone with half of the house priced at £10 for selected previews.

SENIOR CITIZENS: Best available seats for £30 for all matinee performances. For *Sylvia*, £26 for all matinee performances.

SCHOOL GROUPS: 10+ £12.50 for Mon–Wed perfs.

STUDENTS: £12.50 for Mon–Thu perfs for *Sylvia*.

UNDER 16s: 50% off Band A and B Mon–Thu for *A Monster Calls*.

GROUPS: Group rates available, please see our website for more details.

DISABLED PATRONS: Top three price bands reduced to £21 for all performances. Please call 0344 871 7628 for access bookings.

All concessions are limited and subject to availability.

All 2017/18 ticket prices correct at time of issue.