

Final cast announced to join Josie Lawrence in *Mother Courage and Her Children* at Southwark Playhouse



Final casting is announced to join multi award-winning Josie Lawrence, one of the UK's best-loved actors and comedians, in a new production of **Mother Courage and her Children**.

Mother Courage and her Children by Bertolt Brecht, translated by Pulitzer Prize-winning Tony Kushner (*Angels in America* at the National Theatre) will run 2 November - 9 December at Southwark Playhouse. **Press night is Monday 6 November at 7.30pm.**

The rest of the cast are: Laura Checkley (one half of award-winning comedy duo Checkley & Bush, her theatre credits include *Gone With The Wind*, West End); Ivy Corbin (Masha, *Three Sisters*, Union Theatre); Celeste de Veazey (*The Bureau of Lost Things*, Theatre 503); Rosalind Ford (*These Trees Are Made of Blood*, Arcola Theatre); Ben Fox (Andre, *Dirty Rotten Scoundrels* and *The Commitments*, West End); Jake Phillips Head (a recent graduate of Royal Central School of Speech & Drama, making his professional debut); Shiv Jalota (*The Grapes of Wrath*, West Yorkshire Playhouse); Julian Moore-Cook (*Rolling Stone*, Orange Tree and *Our American Cousin*, Finborough); Nuno Queimado (*Jesus Christ Superstar*, Regent's Park Open Air Theatre, *Women on the Verge of a Nervous Breakdown* and *From Here to Eternity*, West End); David Shelley (*Windows*, Finborough Theatre, *King John*, Rose Theatre); Phoebe Vigor (*Jane Eyre*, National Theatre).

Mother Courage And Her Children is directed by Hannah Chissick, returning to Southwark Playhouse after the success of the musical *Side Show*, and is produced by Danielle Tarento, whose recent successes at the same venue include the UK premiere of *Grey Gardens* (with Sheila Hancock and Jenna Russell), *Titanic*, the world premiere of *Gods and Monsters* and Chekov's *Three Sisters* reworked for the 21st century by award-winning playwright Anya Reiss.

Creative team: Director Hannah Chissick, Musical Supervisor and Arranger David Randall, Set & Costume Designer Barney George, Lighting Designer Robbie Butler, Sound Designer Patrick Ball.

In a land ravaged by war, Mother Courage pulls her cart with her three children in the wake of the army, trading with soldiers and attempting to make profit from the war. Widely considered to be one of the greatest plays of the 20th century, **Mother Courage And Her Children** has been described as the greatest anti-war play of all time. It remains a timely exploration of displacement, war weariness and invisible enemies. It mirrored then, as it does now, the growing fear at the ever-advancing threat of terror infiltrating our everyday lives and our desire to protect ourselves and what is ours at any cost.

JOSIE LAWRENCE said: "I first read *Mother Courage* when I was an 18-year-old drama student and immediately fell in love with the play. Now I feel ready to play her. It's a major tick on my theatrical bucket list."

Josie's credits include: For The Royal Shakespeare Company: Helen of Troy in *Faust*; Dunyasha in *The Cherry Orchard*; Kate in *The Taming of The Shrew* (The Dame Peggy Ashcroft Award for Best Actress). For the National Theatre: Agnetha in Bryony Lavery's *Frozen*; Dora in *Picasso's Women*; Doll Common in *The Alchemist*. West End: Mrs Anna in *The King and I* (London Palladium); Bonnie in *Acorn Antiques The Musical* (Haymarket); *Alarms and Excursions* (The Gielgud). Other roles: Beatrice in *Much Ado About Nothing*, Manchester Evening News Best Actress Award (Manchester Royal Exchange); Benedick in *Much Ado About Nothing* (Shakespeare's Globe)

Television: *Stella* (Sky 1), *Humans* (BBC1), *You Have Been Watching with Meera Syal* (GOLD), *The Kennedy's* (BBC2), *Jonathan Creek* (BBC), *Robin Hood* (BBC), *EastEnders* (BBC), *Minder* (ITV), *Skins* (E4), *Doctors* (BBC), *The Old Curiosity Shop* (ITV), *Casualty* (BBC), *Holby City* (BBC), *Wizards and Aliens* (BBC), *Common Ground* (BBC), *The Last Detective* (BBC), *Josie* (Channel 4), *A Many Splintered Thing* (BBC), *Keen Eddie* (Channel 4), three series plus Christmas special of *Outside Edge* (ITV), *Fat Friends* (ITV), *The Flint Street Nativity* (ITV), *SWALK and Lunch In The Park with Paul Merton* (BBC), Nine series of *Whose Line Is It Anyway?* (Channel 4), *Downwardly Mobile* (ITV), *Bill's New Frock* (BBC), *Absolutely Fabulous* (BBC), *The Green Man* (ITV), *Miss Marple* (BBC), *Poirot* (BBC), *Not With A Bang* (ITV), *Friday Night Live* (Channel 4), *Rachel and The Roquettes* (BBC), *Campaign* (BBC), *Norbet Smith, A Life* (BBC), *The Comic Strip Presents* (Channel 4). Film: *Finding Your Feet: Enchanted April: The American Way: The Sin Eater: Married to Malcolm: Mam: Looking for Vi: Round Ireland with a Fridge: Bonobo*.

Since 1985 Josie has been a member of The Comedy Store Players based at London's famous Comedy Store. They are in The Guinness Book of World Records as the longest running comedy group.

Hannah Chissick (Director)

Most recently Hannah directed *Down the Dock Road* by Alan Bleasdale (Liverpool Royal Court), the UK professional premiere of the musical *Side Show* (Southwark Playhouse), *Brass* for NYMT (Hackney Empire), *Rags and Amour* (Royal Academy of Music), *Marry Me a Little* (St James Studio) and *Teechers* for the John Godber Theatre Company. She was Assistant Director to Matthew Warchus on the play *Art* in London and New York and was Associate Director on Matthew's acclaimed production of *Boeing Boeing*, directing 4 casts in London, 2 on Broadway and 1 in Melbourne. In 2003, Hannah became the youngest woman to become an Artistic Director in the UK, when Harrogate Theatre appointed her at the age of 25. Other credits include the critically-acclaimed revival of *Side by Side by Sondheim* (The Venue, London), *Abigail's Party* (Northcott Theatre Exeter), *Teechers* (Haymarket Theatre, Basingstoke), a tour of *Grumpy Old Women Live*, the world premiere of *Horrid Henry – Live* (tour and West End) and the world premiere of *Pushing Up Poppies* (Theatre 503).

Danielle Tarento (Producer)

Danielle was named Best Producer at the 2012 Off West End Awards and won Best Off West End Production at the WhatsOnStage Awards for *Titanic* at Southwark Playhouse. She has also produced the world premiere of *Le Grand Mort*, starring Julian Clary and James Nelson-Joyce, currently playing at Trafalgar Studios, *Grey Gardens*, *Allegro*, *Grand Hotel*, *Gods And Monsters*, *Dogfight*, *Three Sisters*, *Victor/Victoria*, *Mack & Mabel*, *Parade* and *Company* at Southwark Playhouse; *Death Takes A Holiday*, *Ragtime* and *Titanic* (Charing Cross Theatre), *Pure Imagination: The Songs of Leslie Bricusse* (St James Theatre), *Taboo* (Brixton Clubhouse); *The Pitchfork Disney* (Arcola); *Burlesque*, *Drowning On Dry Land* (Jermyn Street); *Noël And Gertie* (Cockpit). She is co-founder of the Menier Chocolate Factory and co-produced all in-house shows 2004 - 2006, including *Sunday In The Park With George*, which received a West End transfer and 5 Olivier Awards. Forthcoming productions include a UK and Ireland tour of *Titanic*.

Danielle Tarento presents

Mother Courage And Her Children

By Bertolt Brecht

Translated by Tony Kushner

Music by Duke Special

Director Hannah Chissick
Musical Supervisor and Arranger
David Randall
Set & Costume Designer Barney George
Lighting Designer Robbie Butler
Sound Designer Patrick Ball

**THE LARGE
SOUTHWARK PLAYHOUSE**
77-85 Newington Causeway
London SE1 6BD

Dates:
2 November - 9 December

**Press night
Monday 6 November at 7.30pm**

Monday - Saturday at 7.30pm

Matinees
Tuesday & Saturday
at 3.00pm

Prices:
Previews £12
(2 - 4 November)

Full price £20
Concessions £16
(Monday-Wednesday evenings and
Tuesday and Saturday matinees)

www.southwarkplayhouse.co.uk

Social media:

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Facebook:
www.facebook.com/tarentoproductions
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Josie Lawrence as Mother Courage

Photo by Scott Rylander