

Wednesday 7 December 2016 – FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



Arcola Theatre announces **REVOLUTION** season, marking centenary of the Russian Revolution

arcola
theatre

100 years ago, a neglected majority shook the world order with socialist revolution, disempowering the rich and demanding equality.

100 years on, a neglected majority have chosen Brexit and Donald Trump. To empower the rich? To demand supremacy?

- **THE LOWER DEPTHS** by **Maxim Gorky**, translated by **Jeremy Brooks & Kitty Hunter-Blair**, directed by **Helena Kaut-Howson**
- **THE NEW NIGERIANS** by **Oladipo Agboluaje** (world premiere), directed by **Rosamunde Hutt**
- **THE CHERRY ORCHARD** by **Anton Chekhov**, in an English version by **Trevor Griffiths** (London premiere) from a translation by **Helen Rappaport**, directed by Arcola Artistic Director **Mehmet Ergen**
- Plus readings, talks, screenings and special events throughout the season

Arcola's new season, **REVOLUTION**, investigates a world on the brink of profound change. It explores the causes and the colossal impact of the Russian Revolution 100 years on, and considers the people and ideas which could shape the next century.

Change is in the air in Gorky's ***The Lower Depths***, directed by internationally-acclaimed **Helena Kaut-Howson**, and Chekhov's ***The Cherry Orchard***, directed by Artistic Director **Mehmet Ergen**. An ensemble of 20 actors perform these two great plays from the years leading up to Russia's revolutionary moment.

The New Nigerians, a new play by award-winning playwright **Oladipo Agboluaje** commissioned by Arcola Theatre, will receive its world premiere in a production directed by **Rosamunde Hutt**. A gripping tale of conflict and compromise, it sets the scene for a political revolution in 21st century Nigeria.

Students from East 15 Acting School will perform short runs of two plays set in the aftermath of the Bolshevik revolution (***Futurists*** by Dusty Hughes and ***Heart of a Dog*** by Mikhaíl Bulgakov).

Plus there'll be readings, talks, screenings and special events throughout the season.

Artistic Director Mehmet Ergen said: "Arcola Theatre's vision is of a genuinely radical theatre, constantly reinventing itself to respond to, interpret and have relevance to an ever-changing world. We look forward to sharing our **REVOLUTION** season with audiences old and new."

For more information and to book tickets, visit www.arcolatheatre.com/revolution
#ArcolaRevolution

11 January – 11 February 2017

Arcola Theatre presents

THE LOWER DEPTHS

by **Maxim Gorky**, translated by **Jeremy Brooks** and **Kitty Hunter-Blair**

Directed by **Helena Kaut-Howson**

PRESS NIGHT: **Monday 16 January 2017, 7.30pm**

“The truth is a blade that can turn.”

Out of sight and out of mind, Russia’s lost souls spend their days in squalor. Hope can be found in a drink or a dream. But when reality is ignored, how can it be changed?

Visceral, fierce, stark and often funny, ***The Lower Depths*** pushes at the limits of the human spirit and reveals a society at breaking point.

After shocking audiences right across Europe, **Maxim Gorky**’s masterful portrait of the disenfranchised and left-behind became one of the most celebrated and influential plays of the 20th century.

For this major and timely new production, internationally-acclaimed director **Helena Kaut-Howson** returns following *Platonov: Sons Without Fathers*, *Uncle Vanya* and *Yerma* at Arcola, *King Lear* at the Young Vic and *A Tender Thing* at the RSC.

Praise for director Helena Kaut-Howson’s *Platonov* at Arcola:

★★★★★ “Electrifying” – *The Independent*

★★★★★ “The performances are nothing short of captivating. Not to be missed.” – *WhatsOnStage*

★★★★★ “Hits you like a steam train with no warning light ... Miss it at your peril” – *One Stop Arts*

★★★★★ “An extraordinary production.” – *The Guardian*

“Only decades of learned behaviour stopped me leaping up, punching the air and yelling “Yowza!” at some aspect of the acting, the lighting, the sound, music, design – the whole damn thing.” – *The Observer*

Design	Iona McLeish
Lighting Design	David Howe
Sound Design	Neil McKeown

Monday-Saturday at 7.30pm, Saturday matinees at 3pm
Tickets £10-19 (previews £12)

Public booking opens Friday 9 December 2016, 12.30pm
www.arcolatheatre.com/the-lower-depths/ #LowerDepths

Press contact: **Liz Hyder PR** (+44(0)7939 372 865 / liz@lizhyder.co.uk)

14 February – 11 March 2017

Arcola Theatre presents

THE NEW NIGERIANS

by **Oladipo Agboluaje**

Directed by **Rosamunde Hutt**

PRESS NIGHT: **Friday 17 February 2017, 8pm**

"You have to destroy the old monolith to create something new."

Nigeria: 'the Giant of Africa'. Conservatives rule over the biggest economy on the continent, and one of the largest and youngest populations in the world. What if the people wanted something different? What if they got it?

Hackney-born writer **Oladipo Agboluaje** (winner of the Alfred Fagon award for *Iya Ile/The First Wife*) and director **Rosamunde Hutt** (*Love, Bombs and Apples*) weave a gripping tale of conflict and compromise, setting the scene for a political revolution in 21st century Nigeria.

As time runs out to build a coalition which can challenge the ruling party, can Nigeria's progressive forces overcome their personal and political differences, or will their troubled pasts define an even more troubling future?

World premiere

Monday-Saturday at 8pm, Saturday matinees at 3.30pm

Tickets £17 / £14 concessions (previews £12)

Public booking opens Friday 9 December 2016, 12.30pm

www.arcolatheatre.com/the-new-nigerians/ #NewNigerians

Press contact: **Liz Hyder PR** (+44(0)7939 372 865 / liz@lizhyder.co.uk)

15 February – 25 March 2017

Arcola Theatre presents

THE CHERRY ORCHARD

by **Anton Chekhov**, in a new version by **Trevor Griffiths**

Directed by **Mehmet Ergen**

PRESS NIGHT: **Tuesday 21 February 2017, 7.30pm**

“Something will happen, you see; if not today, then tomorrow.”

Madame Ranevsky has come home to her family estate, and the cherry orchard is just as glorious as ever. But debts are beginning to pile up, and a momentous change is brewing...

Anton Chekhov's final masterpiece is a gleaming and shattering drama about a family on the edge of ruin, and a nation on the brink of revolution.

The acclaimed English version by **Trevor Griffiths**, author of *Comedians* and *Party*, comes to London for the very first time in a major new production from Artistic Director **Mehmet Ergen**.

Praise for director Mehmet Ergen's *Clarion* at Arcola:

★★★★★ “Hugely recommended.” – *Morning Star*

★★★★★ “Sparkling performances by the cast under Mehmet Ergen's taut direction” – *Daily Telegraph*

★★★★★ “Fabulous central performances ... highly recommended” – *The Times*

★★★★★ “Mehmet Ergen's energetic production is full of faithfully drawn figures ... highly effective” – *The Guardian*

Design	Iona McLeish
Lighting Design	David Howe
Sound Design	Neil McKeown

Monday-Saturday at 7.30pm, Saturday matinees at 3pm

Tickets £10-19 (previews £12)

Public booking opens Friday 9 December 2016, 12.30pm

www.arcolatheatre.com/the-cherry-orchard/ #CherryOrchard

Press contact: **Liz Hyder PR** (+44(0)7939 372 865 / liz@lizhyder.co.uk)

About Arcola Theatre

Arcola Theatre is one of London's leading off-West End theatres. Locally engaged and internationally minded, Arcola stages a diverse programme of plays, operas and musicals. World-class productions from major artists appear alongside cutting-edge work from the most exciting emerging companies. Arcola delivers one of London's most extensive community engagement programmes, creating over 5000 opportunities every year. By providing research and development space to diverse artists, Arcola champions theatre that's more engaging and representative. Its pioneering environmental initiatives are internationally renowned, and aim to make Arcola the world's first carbon-neutral theatre.

Listings

11 January – 11 February 2017

The Lower Depths

by Maxim Gorky

Translated by Jeremy Brooks and Kitty Hunter-Blair

Directed by Helena Kaut-Howson

Press night: Monday 16 January 2017, 7.30pm

8 - 11 February 2017

Futurists

by Dusty Hughes

Directed by Tony Graham

[No press performances]

9 -11 February 2017

Heart of a Dog

by Mikhail Bulgakov

Adapted by Alexander Chervinsky, translated by Michael Glenny

Directed by Simon Usher

[No press performances]

14 February – 11 March 2017

The New Nigerians

by Oladipo Agboluaje

Press night: Friday 17 February 2017, 8pm

15 February – 25 March 2017

The Cherry Orchard

by Anton Chekhov

in an English version by Trevor Griffiths, from a translation by Helen Rappaport

Directed by Mehmet Ergen

Press night: Tuesday 21 February 2017, 7.30pm

Public booking opens Friday 9 December 2016, 12.30pm

Priority booking (for Arcola Supporters) is now open

020 7503 1646 (12.30pm – 6pm, Mon-Sat)

www.arcolatheatre.com

24 Ashwin Street, London E8 3DL