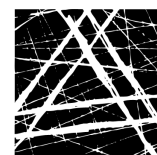


Press Release

Tuesday 5 May 2015 - FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



arcola
theatre

Arcola Theatre announces new Summer/Autumn season

- ***THE HOUSE OF MIRRORS AND HEARTS***, a new chamber musical by **Eamonn O'Dwyer** and **Rob Gilbert**, receives its world premiere in a production by **Ryan McBryde**
- ***GRIMEBORN***, Arcola's month-long festival of opera, returns for its ninth year
- Director **Nadia Latif** reunites with American playwright **Kristiana Colón** for ***OCTAGON***, the follow-up to their acclaimed 2012 Arcola sell-out *but i cd only whisper*
- ***EVENTIDE***, **Barney Norris'** first play since the award-winning *Visitors*, gets its world premiere prior to a national tour, co-produced by Arcola Theatre and Up in Arms
- Plus, in January 2016, **Rebecca Lenkiewicz's** new play ***JANE WENHAM: THE WITCH OF WALKERN*** comes to London following a national tour, co-produced by Arcola Theatre, Out of Joint and Watford Palace Theatre

Katy Lipson for Aria Entertainment, and Perfect Pitch, present

THE HOUSE OF MIRRORS AND HEARTS

by **Eamonn O'Dwyer & Rob Gilbert**

Music and Lyrics by **Eamonn O'Dwyer**

Directed by **Ryan McBryde**

2 July - 1 August 2015

The House of Mirrors and Hearts is a contemporary British story about a dysfunctional family haunted by their past. **Eamonn O'Dwyer** and **Rob Gilbert's** atmospheric and intoxicating musical will receive its world premiere at Arcola in a production by **Ryan McBryde**, with musical direction by **David Randall** and designs by **David Woodhead**.

'Keeping secrets is a kind of art...'

When Anna's husband is killed in a tragic accident at their home, her family's life is changed forever. Seven years pass and, torn apart by grief, Anna has drunk herself numb. Her daughters, Lily and Laura, spend their days in bitter silence and suspicion. Then Nathan, a new lodger studying the works of a forgotten poet, forces them to confront their past. The tension threatens to shatter this already broken household once and for all.

The House of Mirrors and Hearts is presented by **Aria Entertainment** (*Jerry's Girls*, *Marry Me a Little*) and **Perfect Pitch** (*Lift*, *The Go Between*), two companies dedicated to the development of original British musicals. It plays from 2 July to 1 August, with a press night on 7 July. Casting to be announced.

Eamonn O'Dwyer | Music and Lyrics

Credits include *A Christmas Carol*, *Hamlet*, *Tess of the d'Urbervilles*, and *The Lion, The Witch & The Wardrobe* (Rose Theatre, Kingston), *Around the World in Eighty Days* and *The Glass Menagerie* (Chipping Norton Theatre), *Much Ado About Nothing* (Stockholm English Speaking Theatre) *The Immortal Hour* and *Merrie England* (Finborough Theatre), *Boy in a Dress* (Edinburgh Festival and Bush Theatre), *My Swordhand is Singing* (Festival of Stories), *Rodgers & Hammerstein's Cinderella* (Tabard Theatre), *Frankenstein: The Year Without A Summer* (Dorset Corset Theatre Company), *Liquorice & Smokerings* (Pulse Festival, Ipswich), *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Barakura Festival, Japan) and *The Massacre* (Theatre Royal, Bury St Edmunds). From 2008-2011 Eamonn also played the pivotal role of the Song Man in the National Theatre's multi-award winning *War Horse* in the West End.

Robert Gilbert | Book and Lyrics

Rob trained as an actor at LIPA, and in 2009 helped to found Sell A Door Theatre Company. After writing two shows for Sell A Door, Rob began working on *The House of Mirrors and Hearts* with Eamonn O'Dwyer. As an actor Rob's credits include *Anna Karenina* and *The Rolling Stone* (Manchester Royal Exchange), *Blood and Gifts* and *From Morning To Midnight* (National Theatre), *Lionboy* (Theatre de Complicite), *Henry IV Parts 1 & 2* and *Two Gentleman of Verona* (Royal Shakespeare Company), *Sinbad* (Sky), *Uncle* (BBC3).

Ryan McBryde | Director

Work includes: *Saturday Night Fever* (Theatre Royal Bath and UK Tour), *1984* (Schauspielbühnen, Stuttgart), *Angus, Thongs and Even More Snogging* (West Yorkshire Playhouse), *Hamlet The Musical* (Pleasance, Royal & Derngate, Northampton and Richmond Theatre - WhatsOnStage Audience Award for Best Production), *Sweet Charity*, *Spring Awakening*, *The Full Monty*, *Hysteria*, *Hair*, *Deathtrap* and *The Fox* (English Theatre, Frankfurt), *A Day at the Racists* (Finborough Theatre), the Royal Shakespeare Company's 50th Anniversary Gala, *On the 20th Century* (Union Theatre) and *The Jabberwocky* (Arcola Theatre).

David Randall | Musical Director

Work as Musical Supervisor includes: *The Last Five Years* (Theatre Royal, Haymarket) and *Christmas in New York* (West End). As Musical Director: *A Spoonful of Stiles & Drewe* (Her Majesty's Theatre), *Little by Little* and *Mrs. Gucci* (Arts Theatre) and *Julie Atherton: No Space for Air* (Apollo Theatre). Other credits include: *Tracy Beaker Gets Real* (Nottingham Playhouse/ National Tour), *Guys and Dolls* (Theatr Clywd), *Next Door's Baby* (Orange Tree Theatre), *Salad Days*, *The Roy Orbison Story* and *West End Stars in Concert* (all National Tours), *Marry Me a Little* (St. James Studio), *When Midnight Strikes* (Finborough Theatre) and *Closer Than Ever*, *Tomorrow Morning*, and *John & Jen* (Landor Theatre). David also Devised/Directed/Musically Directed and Arranged *Notes from New York* (Donmar Warehouse, Trafalgar Studios, Arts Theatre); *Not(es) from New York* and *Notes in Heels* (Duchess Theatre).

World premiere

Now booking at www.arcolatheatre.com

[#HOMAH](https://twitter.com/HOMAH)

Arcola Theatre presents

GRIMEBORN 2015

'London's hippest festival of new and underground opera' *Time Out*

4 - 29 August 2015

Innovative adaptations of traditional operas. Unknown, rarely seen or under-appreciated works. Brand new pieces from the most exciting up-and-coming composers, musicians and companies.

Since it launched in 2007, the **Grimeborn** festival has introduced new audiences to opera and given emerging artists the platform to showcase and develop their talent. It has consistently challenged the perception that opera is inaccessible and elitist.

Returning to Arcola for its ninth year, **Grimeborn 2015** will fill Studio 1 and 2 with over 10 productions.

Full listings to be announced

More information: www.arcolatheatre.com/grimeborn
[#Grimeborn](https://twitter.com/Grimeborn)

Supporting Wall in association with Tabula Rasa Theatre presents

OCTAGON

by **Kristiana Colón**

Directed by **Nadia Latif**

16 September - 17 October 2015

Press Night: Monday 21 September 2015, 7.30pm

Following the acclaimed 2012 Arcola sell-out *but i cd only whisper*, director **Nadia Latif** reunites with American playwright **Kristiana Colón** for *Octagon*. The world premiere production features designs by **Lorna Ritchie**, and begins previews on 16 September.

'Some poems are better written in flesh...'

After Wall Street and Tahrir Square, after ISIS and the NSA, after Ferguson and Eric Garner: here come the poets.

In a downtown poetry slam with a place on the team to be won, eight young poets prepare to do battle. But backstage it's all kicking off with love triangles, families to feed and wounds to rip open. And in the end, is it about winning - or finding the words that need to be said?

Nadia Latif | Director

Recent productions include *Slaves* at Theatre503 and *Even Stillness Breathes Softly Against A Brick Wall* at Soho Theatre.

Kristiana Colón | Writer

Kristiana is a Chicago poet, playwright, actor, educator, and Ensemble member at Teatro Luna, Chicago's all-Latina theatre company. In autumn 2012, she opened her one-woman show *Cry Wolf* in Chicago while her play *but i cd only whisper* had its world premiere at Arcola. She was nominated for Most Promising Playwright in the 2012 OffWestEnd awards. Kristiana has served as Playwright in Residence at University of Illinois-Chicago and as adjunct faculty English and Humanities at North Park University, Chicago State University, Malcolm X College, and Tribeca Flashpoint Academy. In February and March 2013, she toured the UK with her collection of poems *promised instruments*. She is lyricist in the hip-hop duo April Fools, and has been featured on HBO's *Def Poetry Jam*.

Supporting Wall is an Olivier and Fringe First Award-winning company based in London. The company was founded in 2008 by producers Ben Monks and Will Young. Recent productions include *BULL* (Young Vic), *Radiant Vermin* (Soho Theatre), *Dark Vanilla Jungle* (UK Tour/Soho Theatre).

World premiere

Now booking at www.arcolatheatre.com

Up in Arms and Arcola Theatre, in association with The North Wall

EVENTIDE

by **Barney Norris**

Directed by **Alice Hamilton**

23 September - 17 October 2015

Press Night: Friday 25 September 2015, 8pm

Then on national tour until 14 November

Up in Arms and **Arcola Theatre** today announce the world première of **Barney Norris's** new play *Eventide*, directed by **Alice Hamilton**. The production opens on 25 September, with previews from 23 September, and runs until 17 October, ahead of a national tour to Theatre Royal Bury St Edmunds, The North Wall, Salisbury Playhouse and other venues to be announced.

'Try and do something with your life. Be deliberate, you know?'

A love song, an elegy, a celebration - *Eventide* tells the story of three people whose worlds are disappearing. John is a landlord forced to sell up; Liz is a church organist who can't get a gig; Mark takes what work he can just to pay the rent. Their tales unfold round the back of a pub hidden deep in the heart of the Hampshire countryside. But is that heart still beating?

Barney Norris won the Critics' Circle and Off West End Most Promising Playwright Awards for *Visitors* ('Extraordinary' *The Guardian*, 'Heartbreaking' *New York Times*), which played a sell-out run at Arcola before transferring to the Bush Theatre. *Eventide* reunites him with director Alice Hamilton in a powerful new production from Up In Arms.

Barney Norris | Writer

Plays include the critically acclaimed *Visitors* (Critics Circle Award and the Off West End Award for Most Promising Playwright). His first book, *To Bodies Gone: The Theatre of Peter Gill*, is published by Seren. In spring 2015 his short play *Every You Every Me* was produced by Salisbury Playhouse

on a tour of schools and secure psychiatric units around Wiltshire. His first novel will be published by Doubleday in 2016.

Alice Hamilton | Director

Productions for Up in Arms include Barney Norris's plays *Visitors* (Arcola, Bush Theatre, national tour and rural tour), *Fear of Music* (tour with Out of Joint) and *At First Sight* (tour and Latitude Festival). Short plays include *Belarus* (Arcola for the Miniaturists), *Extinct* and *Starcrossed* (Bush for Courting Drama), *The Kingdom of Me* (Park Theatre for Hatch) and *The Coldest Day Yet* (Upstairs at the Western). She recently worked as assistant to Simon Godwin on a national tour of *Regeneration* and is currently Staff Director on *Man and Superman* (National Theatre). Forthcoming engagements include directing *Orson's Shadow* by Austin Pendleton (Southwark Playhouse).

Up In Arms is a touring theatre company from the south west. Founded in 2008 by co-artistic directors Alice Hamilton and Barney Norris, who first met in their local youth theatre, the company has grown in the last few years from presenting work above pubs, in classrooms and in woods, to collaborating with some of the UK's leading artists and organisations to develop acclaimed, award-winning work. Previous productions include *Visitors* (2014-2015), *Fear Of Music* (2012-2013) and *At First Sight* (2011).

World premiere

Now booking at www.arcolatheatre.com
[#Eventide](https://www.eventide.com)

Plus, next season...

Arcola Theatre, Out of Joint and Watford Palace Theatre, in association with Eastern Angles present

JANE WENHAM: THE WITCH OF WALKERN

by **Rebecca Lenkiewicz**

Directed by **Ria Parry**

5 - 30 January 2016

Press Night: Thursday 7 January, 7.30PM

Following a national tour

Ria Parry will direct the world premiere of **Rebecca Lenkiewicz's** play *Jane Wenham: The Witch of Walkern* for Arcola Theatre, Out of Joint and Watford Palace Theatre. It will tour from September to November 2015, including two weeks of rural touring in association with Eastern Angles, before arriving at Arcola in January 2016.

Jane Wenham, The Witch of Walkern is inspired by events in a Hertfordshire village in 1712. After decades free from witch hunts, Walkern's cunning woman is blamed for a tragic death - and charged with witchcraft. A terrifying ordeal begins, as the village is torn between those who want to save her life, and those who claim to want to save her soul.

Lenkiewicz's beautifully-written play is alive with the mysteries of sex, nature and the supernatural, and blasts society's hunger to find - and create - witches.

The play began life as a research workshop supported by the University of Hertfordshire (an Out of Joint Associate University) and the National Theatre Studio.

Max Stafford Clark (Artistic Director, Out of Joint) said, *'I heard the story of Jane Wenham when I was teaching at the University of Hertfordshire, and I met a historian, Owen Davies, who specialises in the modern history of witchcraft. He told me about the nearby village of Walkern, which had been the site of one of the last successful witch prosecutions three hundred years ago. He joined Rebecca and I and a team of actors for a two week workshop at the National Theatre Studio, and also out researching in Hertfordshire.*

From Jane Wenham's sad story, Rebecca has created a haunting and resonant play, rooted in history yet full of her own rich invention. I can't wait to see it brought to the stage by Ria Parry, whose previous successes include what many thought one of the finest productions of Caryl Churchill's Fen, and two Fringe First-winning plays.'

Casting to be announced.

Rebecca Lenkiewicz won a BAFTA this year for co-writing *Ida*, which also won the Oscar for Best Foreign Film. She won a Fringe First for her play *Soho: A Tale of Table Dancers*, and her plays *The Night Season* and *Her Naked Skin* both premiered at the National Theatre.

Ria Parry is Co-Artistic Director of Iron Shoes, for whom her productions include *Mad About The Boy* (Edinburgh Fringe and National Tour - Fringe First Winner 2009), *Caryl Churchill's Fen* at the Finborough Theatre, and *Crush* (Fringe First winner 2011). Other work includes *Albion* (Bush Theatre), *On Golden Pond* (Salisbury Playhouse) and *The Winter's Tale Re-imagined* (Regent's Park Open Air Theatre.) Ria was awarded the Leverhulme Bursary for Emerging Directors in 2010/11, becoming Resident Director at the National Theatre Studio.

World premiere

Now booking at www.arcolatheatre.com

[#JaneWenham](https://twitter.com/JaneWenham)

Now booking

Box Office: 020 7503 1646 (12.30pm - 6pm)

Online: www.arcolatheatre.com

Tickets for *Grimeborn* will go on sale shortly, with the announcement of full listings.

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.

ENDS.

For more information about Arcola Theatre, please contact Jack Gamble by email to jack@arcolatheatre.com or on 020 7503 1645.

Listings Information

Until Saturday 16 May 2015

Clarion

by Mark Jagasia

Directed by Mehmet Ergen

Until Saturday 23 May 2015

Product

by Mark Ravenhill

Directed by Robert Shaw

20 May - 20 June 2015

Crouch, Touch Pause, Engage

by Robin Soans

Directed by Max Stafford-Clark

Press Night: Friday 22 May, 7.30pm

3 - 27 June 2015

Now This Is Not The End

by Rebecca Targett

Directed by Katie Lewis

Press Night: Friday 5 June, 8pm

2 July - 1 August 2015

The House of Mirrors and Hearts

by Eamonn O'Dwyer & Rob Gilbert

Music & Lyrics by Eamonn O'Dwyer

Directed by Ryan McBryde

Press Night: Tuesday 7 July 2015, 7.30pm

4 - 29 August 2015

Grimeborn 2015

Full listings to be announced

16 September - 17 October 2015

Octagon

by Kristiana Colón

Directed by Nadia Latif

Press Night: Monday 21 September 2015, 7.30pm

23 September - 17 October 2015

Eventide

by Barney Norris

Directed by Alice Hamilton

Press Night: Friday 25 September 2015, 8pm

2 July - 1 August 2015

Jane Wenham: The Witch of Walkern

by Rebecca Lenkiewicz

Directed by Ria Parry

Press Night: Thursday 7 January, 7.30PM

Address	24 Ashwin Street, London E8 3DL
Café / Bar	Arcola Café open 10am-8pm. Arcola Bar from 5pm till late.
Box Office	Phone 020 7503 1646 (12.30pm-6pm Monday-Saturday) Online www.arcolatheatre.com In person 12.30pm-8pm Monday-Saturday
Show times	Studio 1 shows (<i>Clarion; Crouch, Touch, Pause, Engage; The House of Mirrors and Hearts; Octagon; Jane Wenham: The Witch of Walkern</i>): Monday-Saturday at 7.30pm Saturday matinees at 3pm Studio 2 shows (<i>Product; Now This Is Not The End; Eventide</i>): Monday-Saturday at 8pm Saturday matinees at 3.30pm
Website	www.arcolatheatre.com
Twitter	@arcolatheatre
Facebook	facebook.com/arcolatheatre

Arcola Theatre is a national portfolio organisation of Arts Council England.