Press Release

Thursday 29 June 2017 – FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Arcola Theatre announces**

**new Summer/Autumn Season**

* Arcola revives smash-hit, critically-acclaimed ***THEBES LAND*** - winner of Best Production at the 2016 Off West End awards
* First London revival for 35 years of Terry Johnson's comedy ***INSIGNIFICANCE****,*about an imagined meeting between Albert Einstein and Marilyn Monroe
* Olivier Award-winning OperaUpClose comes to Arcola for the first time with a new English version of Tchaikovsky’s ***EUGENE ONEGIN***
* Henry Naylor’s multi-award-winning global hit ***ANGEL*** receives its London premiere
* ***#HASHTAG LIGHTIE*** returns for a full run after sold-out success
* London premiere of acclaimed ***ALL THE LITTLE LIGHTS*** by Jane Upton, winner of the George Devine Award for Most Promising Playwright
* Alfred Fagon Audience Award-winning Papatango return to Arcola with world premiere of ***HANNA*** by Offie-nominated playwright Sam Potter
* 11th year of Arcola’s annual opera festival ***GRIMEBORN*** features 14 productions
* **PLAYWROUGHT**, Arcola’s annual festival of new writing, returns with 14 rehearsed readings

Artistic Director **Mehmet Ergen** said:

“I’m thrilled to announce Arcola’s new season, which features the eleventh edition of our **Grimeborn** Opera Festival, followed later in the year by a major new production of **Eugene Onegin**; the first London revival of Terry Johnson’s **Insignificance** in 35 years; London premieres of new plays **All The Little Lights** and **Angel**; the world premiere of Hanna; and the return of sold-out successes **Thebes Land** and **Hashtag Lightie**.”

“This is an exciting time at Arcola. Having just retained our place in Arts Council England’s National Portfolio, we are able to produce more new works from raw talent, reimagined classics and ambitious plays from thrilling contemporary voices. I look forward to welcoming you to Arcola again soon.”

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Continues overleaf

**25 July – 2 September 2017**  
**Grimeborn 2017**

See opera differently at Grimeborn. 'East London's ... irreverent and influential festival of new opera' (Time Out) is back for its eleventh year with 14 exciting productions.

Rarely-performed pieces. Reinvigorated classics. Brand new works from some of the UK’s most exciting up-and-coming artists and companies.

Tickets range from £7 to £22. Whether it’s your first or your latest opera experience, you’ll be right at home at Grimeborn 2017.

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Full listings on www.arcolatheatre.com/grimeborn

Public booking opens Thursday 6 July, 12.30pm

[www.arcolatheatre.com](http://www.arcolatheatre.com) #Grimeborn17

Press contact: **Kevin Wilson** ([kevinwilsonpr@gmail.com](mailto:kevinwilsonpr@gmail.com), 07884 368697)

**Studio 1**

6 September – 7 October 2017  
Arcola Theatre and CASA Latin American Theatre Festival present  
**Thebes Land**    
by Sergio Blanco

Direction and Adaptation by Daniel Goldman   
   
It’s back. The smash-hit, critically-acclaimed Thebes Land - winner of Best Production at the 2016 Off West End awards - returns to Arcola for 5 weeks only.  
  
In this exhilarating multiple-reality drama, a playwright struggles to stage the incredible story of Martin Santos, a young man serving a life sentence for killing his father with a fork. As their interviews progress and opening night approaches, both of their worlds begin to unravel with shocking consequences. Will the truth be found, and can it be told?  
  
Trevor White and Alex Austin reprise their celebrated performances in Daniel Goldman's funny, ingenious production, performed inside a giant steel cage.

★★★★ "Sublimely funny" Guardian  
★★★★ "Ingenious" Evening Standard  
★★★★ "Utterly compelling" The Stage  
★★★★ "Sharp, satisfying" WhatsOnStage  
★★★★★ "A must-see" Morning Star  
★★★★★ "Mesmerising" BritishTheatre.com  
★★★★ "Exhilarating" Exeunt  
★★★★ "Titillating" TheGayUK   
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Cast: Trevor White, Alex Austin  
Direction and Adaptation: Daniel Goldman  
Design: Jemima Robinson  
Lighting and Video Design: Richard Williamson  
Sound Design: Elena Pena   
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Monday-Saturday at 7.30pm, Saturday matinees and Wednesday 4 October at 3pm  
Tickets £12-£22 (previews £10-£17)

Public booking opens Thursday 6 July, 12.30pm

[www.arcolatheatre.com](http://www.arcolatheatre.com) #ThebesLand @arcolatheatre @casafestival  
   
Press contact: **Chloe Nelkin PR** (chloe@chloenelkinconsulting.com, 0203 6272 960)  
Press night: 11 September 2017

18 October – 18 November 2017  
Arcola Theatre presents  
**Insignificance**   
by Terry Johnson

A professor, an actress, a baseball player and a senator walk into a hotel room. What happens next, didn’t. Or maybe it did. It certainly could have done - with a little imagination…

Written by two-time Olivier Award winner **Terry Johnson**, this hilarious and bittersweet comedy receives its first London revival in 35 years.

Albert Einstein and Marilyn Monroe banter about fame, relativity and their personal lives (when they’re not being interrupted by Joe DiMaggio and Joseph McCarthy) in this dazzlingly inventive drama about the challenges of being known, and of knowing yourself.

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Monday-Saturday at 7.30pm, Saturday matinees and Wednesday 15 November at 3pm  
Tickets £12-£22 (previews £10-£17)

Public booking opens Thursday 6 July, 12.30pm

[www.arcolatheatre.com](http://www.arcolatheatre.com) #Insignificance  
   
Press contact: Jack Gamble ([jack@arcolatheatre.com](mailto:jack@arcolatheatre.com), 0207 503 1645)  
Press night: 23 October, 7.30pm

22 November – 23 December 2017  
Opera Up Close presents  
**Eugene Onegin**   
Music by Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky

Words by Robin Norton-Hale

Direction by Lucy Bradley   
   
Olivier award-winning **OperaUpClose** comes to the Arcola for the first time with a new English version of **Tchaikovsky**’s sweeping opera, ***Eugene Onegin***.  
  
A coming-of-age story, a requiem for lost innocence and a triumphant celebration of hard-won independence, it is told through some of the most glorious vocal music ever written.  
  
This new chamber version transposes the story of Tatyana’s sexual awakening to the early 1960s, a world on the cusp of the women’s liberation movement when new thinking stood up to the old ways.

Infatuation and self-restraint do battle in a well-tailored world of sleek suits and full skirts, with seasonal allusions to the snow-swept Russian landscape of **Alexander Pushkin**’s original novel.   
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Monday-Saturday at 7.30pm, Saturday matinees and Wednesday 20 December at 3pm  
Tickets £12-£22 (previews £10-£17)

Public booking opens Thursday 6 July, 12.30pm

[www.arcolatheatre.com](http://www.arcolatheatre.com) #EugeneOnegin  
   
Press contact: Amy Novadnieks (amy@operaupclose.com)  
Press nights: 29 and 30 November 2017, 7.30pm

**Studio 2**   
   
11 September – 7 October 2017  
Arcola Theatre in association with Redbeard Theatre and Gilded Balloon Productions present  
**Angel**    
by Henry Naylor   
Direction by Michael Cabot   
   
★★★★★ “Riveting ... I would see it again, in an instant”—The Times  
  
Syria, 2014. In the town of Kobane, there’s a siege as fierce as Stalingrad. ISIS, having steam-rollered through Iraq, are expecting to take the town easily. But the citizens have found a heroine: a crackshot sniper with 100 kills to her name. And she appears indestructible. She’s the legendary Angel of Kobane.  
  
Inspired by an extraordinary true story, ***Angel*** is the critically-acclaimed new drama from playwright **Henry Naylor**. Following a sold-out run in Edinburgh, where it won a prestigious Fringe First award, it premieres in London for four weeks only. **Michael Cabot** (*Marat Sade, Pera Palas*) returns to Arcola to direct **Avital Lvova** in the title role.  
  
Formerly a head writer of *Spitting Image*, Henry Naylor has written for some of the most famous names on television, including Alistair McGowan, Lenny Henry and Rory Bremner. Following *The Collector* and *Echoes*, Angel is the third of his ‘Arabian Nightmares’ to transfer to Arcola.  
  
WINNER, Scotsman Fringe First for innovation and outstanding new writing  
★★★★ “Outstanding new writing… A magnificent, challenging show”—Scotsman  
★★★★ “Riveting, thought-provoking piece of theatre ... The monologue, ably directed by Michael Cabot, is hypnotic, and Bragança’s energetic performance outstanding.”—Scottish Daily Mail  
★★★★ “A terrific tour de force”—WhatsOnStage  
★★★★ “A compelling story of success against adversity”—The Stage  
   
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Cast: Avital Lvova  
   
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Monday-Saturday at 8pm, Saturday matinees at 3.30pm  
Tickets £14-£17 (previews £12)

Public booking opens Thursday 6 July, 12.30pm

[www.arcolatheatre.com](http://www.arcolatheatre.com) #AngelArcola  
  
Press contact: **Paul Sullivan** ([paul@paulsullivan.info](mailto:paul@paulsullivan.info), 07881 885 253)  
Press night: 12 September, 8pm

10 October – 4 November 2017  
Fifth Word and Nottingham Playhouse present  
**All The Little Lights**    
by Jane Upton

Direction by Laura Ford   
   
*“I know you want what everyone else wants. A family. A home. But you’ll never have it. Cos of what’s inside you.”*  
  
Joanne and Lisa were like sisters. Then Lisa got away. Now she’s back, but the ghosts from their past still haunt her. Amy just wants to belong.

Three forgotten girls spend one last night by the railway lines, eager to recover what they’ve lost. Deeply moving and darkly funny, ***All The Little Lights*** is their story: a tale about people who slip through the cracks, and who end up fighting for survival.  
  
**Jane Upton** won the 2016 George Devine Award for Most Promising Playwright for ***All The Little Lights***. Now, following an acclaimed UK tour, it receives its London premiere at Arcola.  
  
“Terrifically realistic and darkly funny... truly extraordinary and moving theatre” – Nottingham Post

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Cast: Esther-Grace Button, Sarah Hoare, Tessie Orange-Turner   
Set and Costume Design: Max Dorey   
Lighting Design: Alexandra Stafford   
Sound Design: Max Pappenheim   
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Monday-Saturday at 8pm, Saturday matinees at 3.30pm  
Tickets £14-£17 (previews £12)

Public booking opens Thursday 6 July, 12.30pm

[www.arcolatheatre.com](http://www.arcolatheatre.com) #AllTheLittleLights @fifthword  
  
Press contact: **Chloe Nelkin PR** (chloe@chloenelkinconsulting.com, 0203 6272 960)  
Press night: 12 October, 8pm

14 November – 2 December 2017  
Black Apron Entertainment presents  
**#Hashtag Lightie**    
by Lynette Linton

Direction by Rikki Beadle-Blair   
   
Ella is popular, addicted to social media, Queen of the Selfie, and mixed race. Her thriving YouTube channel has make up tips, opinions, and videos of her boisterous family. But after one of her videos goes viral, Ella finds herself at the centre of a social media storm that leads to a family meltdown. With her identity and perception of beauty challenged, can Ella promote self-love without fueling hate?  
  
Writer **Lynette Linton** (Former Associate Director, Gate Theatre) and director **Rikki Beadle-Blair** (*Team Angelica*, Theatre Royal Stratford East) return with their heart-warming and hilarious exploration of what it means to be mixed race in Britain today.  
  
There will be a question and answer session after each performance. Stay and chat to the cast and creative team.

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Cast: Adele James, Devon Anderson, Sophia Leonie, Grace Cookey - Gam, Jamie Richards, John Omole   
Dramaturg: John Gordon   
Lighting Design: Richard Lambert   
Sound Design: Tristan Parkes   
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Monday-Saturday at 8pm, Saturday matinees at 3.30pm  
Tickets £14-£17 (previews £12)

Public booking opens Thursday 6 July, 12.30pm

[www.arcolatheatre.com](http://www.arcolatheatre.com) #hashtaglightie  
   
Press contact: **Aaron Wright** ([info@blackapronent.com](mailto:info@blackapronent.com))

Press night: 16 November, 8pm

3 January –20 January 2018  
Papatango Theatre Company presents  
**Hanna**    
by Sam Potter

Direction by George Turvey

*“The only words are to do with adoption. But that's not what happened to us. What happened to us was something quite different.”*

Being a young mum is supposed to be hard - but for Hanna, the only thing she's ever been brilliant at is raising her beloved daughter Ellie. Until a DNA test reveals staggering news. Ellie is not Hanna's child. And now her 'real' parents want to meet.   
  
How can an ancient mix-up in an overstretched maternity ward be explained to a three-year-old? Is Hanna supposed to let these strangers into her daughter's life? Forced to question what being a parent really means, Hanna makes a drastic decision that will change all their lives.  
  
This funny, heartfelt and compelling world premiere from Offie-nominated playwright **Sam Potter** asks what family means in a modern society, delicately weaving in questions of racial identity, economic privilege, and the lottery of birth. It is presented by the team behind 2016's hit *After Independence*, winner of the Alfred Fagon Audience Award and recently adapted for BBC Radio 4.   
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Monday-Saturday at 8pm, Saturday matinees at 3.30pm  
Tickets £14-£17 (previews £12)

Public booking opens Thursday 6 July, 12.30pm

[www.arcolatheatre.com](http://www.arcolatheatre.com) #HannaPlay @PapatangoTC  
  
Press contact: **Alex Millward** at **Kate Morley PR (**[**alexander@katemorleypr.com**](mailto:alexander@katemorleypr.com)**,** 0207 299 4300)  
Press night: 5 January 2018, 8pm

**PLUS**

24 - 30 July 2017  
Arcola Creative Engagement presents  
**PlayWROUGHT#5**    
14 writers. 14 plays. 14 new ways to see the world.

PlayWROUGHT is Arcola’s week long celebration of new ideas, new voices and new writing. PlayWROUGHT #5 is set to be our biggest Festival yet, with fourteen exciting new plays presented as a series of rehearsed readings.  
  
The playwrights have had one-to-ones with the Arcola team, developed their work in R&D days, and taken part in masterclasses led by Lisa Goldman (former Artistic Director of Red Room and Soho Theatre). Joined now by exciting directors and actors, each play offers a unique insight into a world in flux.  
  
The festival is a culmination of a unique development process and aims to celebrate and support new and emerging talent, regardless of age, by providing these fourteen playwrights with the guidance, space and support in which to develop their ideas.   
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Tickets £6

Public booking opens Thursday 6 July, 12.30pm

[www.arcolatheatre.com](http://www.arcolatheatre.com) #PlayWROUGHT  
  
Press contact: **Nick Connaughton** (nick@arcolatheatre.com**,** 0207 503 1645)

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**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.

Tickets go on sale to the public on Thursday 6 July.  
Priority Booking is now open to all Arcola Theatre Supporters.

Memberships start from £50.  
For more information about memberships or to join at any level, call the Individual Giving & Development Team on 0207 503 1645 or email: supportus@arcolatheatre.com

Box Office: 0207 503 1646 (12.30pm – 6pm)  
Online: www.arcolatheatre.com

**Coming up**

24 - 30 July 2017  
**PlayWROUGHT#5**    
Press contact: **Nick Connaughton** (nick@arcolatheatre.com, 0207 503 1645)

25 July – 29 July 2017  
**Grimeborn: The Marriage of Kim K**    
Music and Direction by Stephen Hyde

Libretto by Leo Mercer

Press contact: **Kevin Wilson** ([kevinwilsonpr@gmail.com](mailto:kevinwilsonpr@gmail.com), 07884 368697)

31 July – 4 August 2017

**Grimeborn: The Cunning Little Vixen**    
Music & Libretto by Leoš Janáček

Direction by Guido Martin-Brandis   
Press contact: **Kevin Wilson** ([kevinwilsonpr@gmail.com](mailto:kevinwilsonpr@gmail.com), 07884 368697)

1 August – 3 August 2017  
Opera Alegria presents  
**Grimeborn: The Silken Ladder & The Husband at the Door**  
by Lindsay Bramley   
Music by Offenbach & Rossini   
Press contact: **Kevin Wilson** (kevinwilsonpr@gmail.com, 07884 368697)

2 August 2017  
**Grimeborn: Une Education Manquée**   
Music by Emmanuel Chabrier   
Direction by Isabelle Kettle

Musical Director by William Cole

Press contact: **Kevin Wilson** ([kevinwilsonpr@gmail.com](mailto:kevinwilsonpr@gmail.com), 07884 368697)

4 August – 5 August 2017  
**Grimeborn: Diary Of One Who Disappeared**   
by Ozef Kalda   
Music by Leoš Janáček  
Direction by Jack Furness   
Press contact: Kevin Wilson (kevinwilsonpr@gmail.com, 07884 368697)

5 August – 6 August 2017  
**Grimeborn: Porgy & Bess**    
Original music by George Gershwin

Lyrics by DuBose Heyward and Ira Gershwin  
Arrangements by Knut Olv Ryngestad, Guy Jones and Tom Mawby

Press contact: **Kevin Wilson** ([kevinwilsonpr@gmail.com](mailto:kevinwilsonpr@gmail.com), 07884 368697)

6 August 2017  
**Grimeborn: Opera Mouse**    
by Melanie Gall   
Music by Mozart, Bizet, Puccini   
Press contact: **Kevin Wilson** (kevinwilsonpr@gmail.com, 07884 368697)

8 August – 12 August 2017  
**Grimeborn: Armide**   
Music by Jean-Baptiste Lully

Libretto by Philippe Quinault

Direction by Marcio da Silva   
Press contact: **Kevin Wilson** ([kevinwilsonpr@gmail.com](mailto:kevinwilsonpr@gmail.com), 07884 368697)

13 August 2017  
**Grimeborn: V**   
Music by Jen Waghorn

Libretto by Bec Martin-Williams and Jen Waghorn

Direction by Bec Martin-Williams   
Press contact: **Kevin Wilson** ([kevinwilsonpr@gmail.com](mailto:kevinwilsonpr@gmail.com), 07884 368697)

15 - 26 August 2017  
**Grimeborn: Samson and Delilah**  
Music by Camille Saint-Saëns  
Libretto by Ferdinand Lemaire  
Direction by Aylin Bozok   
Press contact: **Kevin Wilson** ([kevinwilsonpr@gmail.com](mailto:kevinwilsonpr@gmail.com), 07884 368697)

17 August – 19 August 2017  
**Grimeborn: Collision**

Music by Lewis Coenen-Rowe

Libretto by Kurt Schwitters

Direction by Cecilia Stinton   
Press contact: **Kevin Wilson** (kevinwilsonpr@gmail.com, 07884 368697)

21 - 22 August 2017  
**Grimeborn: Il Letto (The Bed)**   
Music by Giacomo Puccini

Libretto by Christpher Hogg

Direction by Ella Marchment

Press contact: **Kevin Wilson** ([kevinwilsonpr@gmail.com](mailto:kevinwilsonpr@gmail.com), 07884 368697)

24 August – 26 August 2017  
**Grimeborn: Fun at the Festival**   
Music by Arthur Sullivan, Gian-Carlo Menotti

Libretto by F C Burnand, G.C Menotti, J Norland

Direction by Paula Chitty  
Press contact: **Kevin Wilson** (kevinwilsonpr@gmail.com, 07884 368697)

29 August – 2 September 2017  
**Grimeborn: Thrill Me: The Leopold & Loeb Story**

Music & Libretto by Stephen Dolginoff

Direction by Guy Retallack   
Press contact: **Kevin Wilson** ([kevinwilsonpr@gmail.com](mailto:kevinwilsonpr@gmail.com), 07884 368697)

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**Thebes Land**    
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Direction by Daniel Goldman   
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Press contact:

Press Night: 29 and 30 November 2017

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Press contact: **Alex Millward** at **Kate Morley PR** ([alexander@katemorleypr.com](mailto:alexander@katemorleypr.com), 0207 299 4300)  
Press night: 5 January 2018, 8pm