

9 May 2019

JUDGES AND PRODUCTION COMPANIES ANNOUNCED FOR THE LINBURY PRIZE 2019, WITH SUBMISSIONS NOW OPEN

The Linbury Prize is the UK's most prestigious award for Stage Design, providing a unique opportunity for graduating designers to work with some of the UK's leading theatre, opera and dance companies. This year the members of the judging panel are designers **Lizzie Clachan** (*Absolute Hell, As You Like It*), **Katrina Lindsay** (*Small Island, Harry Potter and the Cursed Child*) and **Rajha Shakiry** (*Nine Night, Misty*); the finalists will be designing for **Birmingham Royal Ballet, Leeds Playhouse, Nuffield Southampton Theatres** and **Octagon Theatre Bolton**.

Twelve finalists will get the chance to work with the four production companies and exhibit their work at the National Theatre in December. Four of the twelve will win a commission to realise their designs with the participating companies, and one designer is awarded the overall winner's title. The submission deadline for this year's prize is Monday 1 July at 12 noon.

David Bintley CBE, Director of Birmingham Royal Ballet said: "Birmingham Royal Ballet is delighted to be one of the Commissioning Companies for the 2019 Linbury Prize for Design. We are excited to have the opportunity to work with some of the best emerging designers, helping to develop the talent pipeline of the future. BRBs commitment to new work, new design and the mentoring of makers across the sector, makes our participation in the Linbury an excellent opportunity for our company."

Amy Leach, Leeds Playhouse Associate Director said "Leeds Playhouse delivers one of the most comprehensive artist development programmes in the country through Furnace, and we are actively growing and expanding our development initiatives to support Designers at all stages of their career. To be a commissioning company for The Linbury Prize 2019 is a real honour and we are delighted to be part of this industry leading initiative that continues to champion young Designers. We look forward to collaborating with a number of exciting artists through the process."

Sam Hodges, Director Nuffield Southampton Theatres said: "The Linbury Prize is one of the most effective artist development opportunities in the country – the dozens of leading designers who have come though it are testament to that. So, as a theatre where design innovation and quality is central to our work, we are extremely pleased to be a commissioning company for the second time."

Lotte Wakeham, Artistic Director of Octagon Theatre Bolton: "I'm thrilled that the Octagon is a commissioning company for the prestigious 2019 Linbury Prize. Ambitious, bold design

has always been at heart of our work, thanks to our flexible auditorium and in-house scenic workshop. It's a hugely exciting time, as we undergo a major capital redevelopment project, with our new building opening in 2020. We look forward to collaborating with a brilliant emerging designer and welcoming them to Bolton."

The Linbury Prize for Stage Design was founded by Lady Anya Sainsbury in 1987 as a springboard for recent graduates from theatre design courses around the UK, giving applicants an unparalleled opportunity to work with professional arts companies and to collaborate with writers, directors and technical teams at a crucial stage in their careers.

Previous winners of the Linbury Prize include some of the most important stage designers working today, including Tim Hatley, whose work includes *Timon of Athens* at the NT, and *Spamalot* and *Shrek the Musical* in the West End and on Broadway; Anthony Ward, whose credits include *Sweeney Todd* at Chichester and in the West End and Headlong's *Enron*; and Olivier Award winner Vicki Mortimer, whose extensive work for the NT includes *Othello*, *The Last of the Haussmans* and *Follies*.

The Linbury Prize for Stage Design is sponsored by the Linbury Trust, one of the Sainsbury Family Charitable Trusts. This year's finalists will be announced in July, with the overall winner announced in December.

The Linbury Prize committee comprises; Jon Bausor, Sean Crowley, Sophie Jump, Katrina Lindsay, Caro Newling (Chair), Christopher Oram, Tom Piper, David Pritchard, Lady Anya Sainsbury and Paul Handley.

ENDS

For images, [click here](#).

For further information, please contact Louisa Terry on 020 7452 3236 / lterry@nationaltheatre.org.uk

The National Theatre

The National Theatre's mission is to make world class theatre that's entertaining, challenging and inspiring – and to make it for everyone. It aims to reach the widest possible audience and to be as inclusive, diverse and national as possible with a broad range of productions that play in London, on tour around the UK, on Broadway and across the globe. The National Theatre's extensive UK-wide learning and participation programme supports young people's creative education through performance and writing programmes like Connections, New Views and Let's Play. Its major new initiative Public Acts creates extraordinary acts of theatre and community; the first Public Acts production was 2018's *Pericles*. The National Theatre extends its reach through digital programmes including NT Live, which broadcasts some of the best of British theatre to over 2,500 venues in 65 countries, and the free streaming service On Demand In Schools, used by nearly 60% of UK state secondary schools. The National Theatre invests in the future of theatre by developing talent, creating bold new work and building audiences, partnering with a range of UK theatres and theatre companies.

For more information, please visit <https://www.nationaltheatre.org.uk/>.
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THE COMPANIES

Birmingham Royal Ballet

Birmingham Royal Ballet is the United Kingdom's leading classical touring ballet company performing a range of traditional, classical and heritage ballets as well as ground-breaking new works with the aim of encouraging choreographers of the future.

The company's current Director is the award-winning choreographer David Bintley CBE and Music Director is Koen Kessels. David Bintley CBE will be standing down as Director in July 2019 at the end of the current season, with internationally renowned Carlos Acosta taking up his appointment as Director in January 2020.

Birmingham Royal Ballet performs at Birmingham Hippodrome for approximately ten weeks of the year and the remainder of the year tours throughout the United Kingdom and overseas.

Leeds Playhouse

Leeds Playhouse has a reputation both nationally and internationally as a leading UK producing theatre. Evolving and regenerating over its 50-year history, the theatre has continued to be a cultural hub and artistic beacon for the North. We make work which is pioneering and relevant, seeking out the best artists to create inspirational theatre in the heart of Yorkshire.

Octagon Theatre Bolton

Octagon Theatre Bolton is a regional producing theatre with the belief that theatre can enrich communities and fundamentally change peoples' lives for the better. It aims to do this through creating a range of entertaining and thought-provoking theatre of the highest quality that inspires and ignites the curiosity of the people of Bolton and beyond. We also provide opportunities for learning and participation to enable people to realise their potential. The Octagon is currently undergoing a multi-million pound redevelopment and is producing a year of shows and activities in venues across Bolton before the new building opens in early 2020. The redevelopment is the largest transformation of the building in the Octagon's 50 year history and will ensure the future of the Theatre for generations to come.

Nuffield Southampton Theatres

Nuffield Southampton Theatres (NST) is one of the UK's leading producing theatre companies. Across its two venues – NST City and NST Campus – NST has developed a reputation for delivering innovative and high quality work on a national and international scale, whilst acting as a major cultural force for good at home in Southampton. NST's produced programme is underpinned by NST Laboratory, a bespoke artist development programme, and our Engagement department's extensive youth and community projects.

THE JUDGES

Lizzie Clachan, Designer

Lizzie Clachan's recent theatre includes *Absolute Hell*, *As You Like It*, *The Beaux Stratagem*, *Treasure Island*, *Port*, *A Woman Killed with Kindness* and *Edward II* at the National; *The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie* at the Donmar Warehouse; *Cyprus Avenue* at the Royal Court, the Abbey, Dublin and the Public, New York; *Yerma* at the Young Vic and Park Avenue Armory, New York; *The Suppliant Women* for Actors Touring Company at the Lyric Edinburgh and the Young Vic; *Three Sisters* at Théâtre de l'Odéon, Paris and Theater Basel; *Life of Galileo*, *Macbeth*, *A Season in the Congo*, *Soldiers' Fortune* at the Young Vic; *Gloria*, *Longing*, *The Trial of Ubu* and *Tiger Country* at the Hampstead; *Ibsen Huis* at Toneelgroep, Amsterdam; *Winter Solstice* for the Actors Touring Company at the Orange Tree; *The Invisible Hand* at the Tricycle; *The Truth* at the Menier Chocolate Factory; *Tipping the Velvet* at the Lyric Hammersmith; *The Skriker* at the Royal Exchange and Manchester International Festival; *Carmen Disruption* at the Almeida; *Fireworks*, *Adler & Gibb*, *Gastronauts*, *The Witness*, *Our Private Life*, *Aunt Dan and Lemon*, *Woman and Scarecrow* and *Ladybird* at the Royal Court; *The Forbidden Zone* at Schaubühne, Berlin; *All My Sons* at Regent's Park; *A Sorrow Beyond Dreams* at Burgtheater, Vienna; *Jumpy* at the Royal Court and the Duke of York's; *Rings of Saturn* at Bühnen Köln; *Crave/Illusions* for Actors Touring Company; *Happy Days* (UK Theatre Award for Best Design) at the Sheffield Crucible; *Wastwater* at the Royal Court and Vienna Festival; *Far Away* at the Bristol Old Vic; *Days of Significance* for the RSC and on UK tour; *The Girlfriend Experience* at the Royal Court and the Young Vic; *Treasure Island* at the Haymarket; *Shoot/Get Treasure/Repeat* at Paines Plough; *I'll be the Devil* and *Days of Significance* for the RSC and at the Tricycle; and *Hide* at Southbank Centre. Opera includes *La Traviata* at Theater Basel and the English National Opera; *Pelléas et Mélisande* at Teatr Wielki, Poland and Festival d'Aix en Provence; *Le Vin Herbé* at Staatsoper Berlin; and *Bliss* at Staatsoper Hamburg. Lizzie Clachan co-founded the performance collective Shunt. The company are known for their immersive, site-specific performances and have won numerous awards including the Peter Brook Empty Space Award, Time Out Live Award and Total Theatre Award.

Katrina Lindsay, Set and Costume Designer

Katrina Lindsay's work covers set and costume design in theatre, dance, opera and television. She won the 2018 Tony Award and 2017 Olivier Award for Outstanding Costume Design on *Harry Potter and the Cursed Child*, currently playing in the West End, on Broadway and in Melbourne and the 2008 Tony, Outer Critics Circle and Drama Desk awards for Outstanding Costume Design for *Les Liaisons Dangereuses* on Broadway. Designs for the National include set and costumes for *Mosquitoes*, *My Country*; *a work in progress*, *Dara*, *Behind the Beautiful Forevers*, *Table*, *The Magistrate*, *London Road*, *Death and the King's Horseman*; costumes for *The Lehman Trilogy*, *wonder.land*, *Earthquakes in London*; and set for *Market Boy*. She designed costumes for *Hamlet* at the Barbican; *American Psycho* at the Almeida and on Broadway; and *Bend it Like Beckham* in the West End (Olivier nomination). Other set and costume designs include *The days run away like wild horses* for Rambert; *The King Dances* for Birmingham Royal Ballet; *Cabaret* in the West End and on UK tour; *Porgy and Bess* at Regent's Park; and numerous shows for the RSC. Costumes for opera include *Benvenuto Cellini* at ENO, Dutch National Opera, Opera National de Paris and Teatro dell'Opera di Roma; *The Damnation of Faust* at ENO, De Vlaamse Opera, Teatro Massimo, Palermo and Staatsoper Berlin; *Eugene Onegin* at the ROH,

Opera Torino and Opera Australia; *Turandot* at ENO; and *Die tote stadt* for Finnish National Opera and New National Theatre, Tokyo. Dance includes *The Most Incredible Thing*, *Eternal Damnation to Sancho and Sanchez* and *Blue Roses* at Sadler's Wells. Katrina Lindsay was the production designer for the film *London Road*. She is an Associate of the National Theatre.

Rajha Shakiry, Designer

Rajha Shakiry studied theatre design at Wimbledon School of Art (BA) and Royal Central School of Speech and Drama (MA, distinction) and has a degree in mathematics. Her work has most recently been exhibited at the V&A (*Make: Believe*, 2015) and as a finalist at World Stage Design 2013. Her design work for theatre includes *Nine Night*, *Misty*, *The Dark*, *Sundowning*, *The Promise*, *The Mountaintop*, *Muhammad Ali and Me*, *Mobile*, *How Nigeria Became*, *Sweet Taboo*, *I Stand Corrected*, *Richard II*, *Still Life Dreaming*, *Safe*, *The Lion and the Unicorn*, *Krunch*, *Lincoln Street*, *Feeble Minds* (set design), *Speak*, *Moj of the Antarctic*, *Visible*, *Everything is Illuminated*, *Goblin Market*, *A Night at the Theatre*, *King*, *Changes*, *The Ghost Downstairs* (costume design), *The Wall* and *Nymphs and Shepherds*. Opera includes *Don Giovanni* and *Le nozze di Figaro*. Dance includes *Head Wrap Diaries* and *Power Games*. rajhashakiry.co.uk