



PRESS CONTACT

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PRESS RELEASE

Monday 30th November 2015

Kevin Whately and Angela Griffin to lead cast in *Arthur* by Ben Weatherill as part of Pitch Your Play at the Theatre Royal Haymarket

Kevin Whately and Angela Griffin will lead the cast in a staged reading of *Arthur* by Ben Weatherill at the Theatre Royal Haymarket as part of Masterclass' Pitch Your Play initiative. Angela Griffin returns to the Theatre Royal Haymarket stage after appearing as Dolly in Nicholas Hytner's production of *One Man Two Guvvornors* by Richard Bean in 2013.

The full cast includes Rebecca Charles and Phoebe Sparrow.

Director, Jake Smith, commented;

"We are delighted that such a talented group of actors are able to join our reading of *Arthur* by Ben Weatherill at the Theatre Royal Haymarket. We believe this cast will allow the play to have the strongest first public outing and we are grateful that these performers are willing to lend their time and efforts to help in the development of new British playwriting."

Arthur is the last in a trio of staged readings produced by Masterclass as part of their Pitch Your Play Autumn Season. [Shakespeare's Sister](#) by Emma Whipday and [Hilddrop](#) by Joel Samuels were staged at the Theatre Royal Haymarket and at the Novello Theatre earlier this autumn.

Speaking about this year's project Blayne George, Masterclass Programme Director, said;

"Pitch Your Play is an exciting opportunity to open up the Theatre Royal Haymarket stage to a new generation of writers, directors and producers in order to help showcase their work. We are thrilled that such established acting talent are willing to work alongside the theatre makers of tomorrow in developing new writing."

The Masterclass Pitch Your Play initiative is generously supported by the Noel Coward Foundation.

- ENDS -



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Listing Information

Arthur by Ben Weatherill

Rehearsed reading at the Theatre Royal Haymarket

Friday 4th December, 2.30pm

Arthur written by Ben Weatherill, directed by Jake Smith and produced by Joshua Beaumont

“... You and your brother grew up here. You were made in this house. And I’m not ready to give it up yet.”

Arthur lives alone in a third floor council flat overlooking Leeds, a city that has been home to him and his family for fifty years. The time has come however for Arthur’s middle aged children to move their father out of the family home, but for his needs or theirs?

Notes to Editors

For more information, interviews or images please contact Josh Brown on josh@masterclass.org.uk or 020 7389 9662

Cast Biographies:

KEVIN WHATELY - Arthur

Theatre credits include Herbie in *Gypsy* (Chichester), Uncle Peck in *How I Learned to Drive* (Donmar), Ray Lucas in *Snake in the Grass* (Old Vic), Juror 8 in *Twelve Angry Men* (Bristol Old Vic and Comedy Theatre), Daines in *Our Own Kind* (Bush), John Proctor in *The Crucible* and Blackmore in *The Widowing of Mrs Holroyd* (Haymarket, Leicester), Tony Lumpkin in *She Stoops to Conquer* (Oxford Playhouse), Prince Hal in *Henry IV* (Newcastle), Phil in *Bad Language* (Hampstead Theatre), Elvis in *Operation Elvis* (Tricycle), Andy in *Accounts* (Edinburgh and Riverside Studios,) and seasons at Perth, Stoke, Worcester and Newcastle.

Television includes *Lewis* (9 series), *Inspector George Gently*, *Joe Maddison’s War*, *Who Do You Think You Are?*, *The Children*, *Who Gets the Dog*, *Footprints in the Snow*, *Dad*, *Auf Wiedersehen Pet* |(4 Series) *Belonging*, *Tamworth Two*, *Promoted to Glory*, *Plain Jane*, *Inspector Morse* (7 Series & 4 single films), *What Katy Did*, *Pure Wickedness*, *The Broker’s Man* (2 Series) , *Gobble*, *Trip Trap*, *Peak Practice* (3 Series), *Skallagrigg*, *B&B*, *Night Voice*, , *A Murder is Announced*, *Shackleton*, *The Dig* and *Fair Stood the Wind for France*.

Films include *Silent Cry*, *Purely Belter*, *Return of the Soldier* and *The English Patient*.

ANGELA GRIFFIN - Jacquie

Angela was most recently on stage in *Breeders* at the St James Theatre and *One Man, Two Guvvors* at the Theatre Royal Haymarket.



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Television includes: *Lewis*, *The Dumping Ground*, *Mount Pleasant* (Series 1 & 2), *Hustle*, *Boy Meets Girl*, *Waterloo Road*, *Open Wide*, *Down To Earth*, *Cutting It*, *Babyfather*, *Waking The Dead*, *Holby City*, *Coronation Street*

Film includes: *Last Chance Harvey* (Overture Films)

Presenting includes: *Emergency With Angela Griffin* (Sky1) *Angela And Friends* (Sky1) *Golden Globes Coverage* (Co-hosting with Gethin Jones) *National Lottery Show* (BBC1) *Brown Britain* (Channel 4)

REBECCA CHARLES – Susan

Theatre credits include: *The Father* (Theatre Royal Bath), *Les Liaisons Dangereuses*, (Salisbury Playhouse), *The Old Country* (English Touring Theatre/Trafalgar Studios), *Julius Caesar*, (Barbican and Tour) *Great Expectations* (Manchester Royal Exchange), *Boston Marriage* (Bolton Octagon), *Just Between Ourselves* (Salisbury Playhouse), *Uncle Vanya* (The Wrestling School / Hebble Theatre Berlin), *The Norman Conquests* (Salisbury Playhouse), *Richard III* (Derby Playhouse), *The Castle* (The Wrestling School), *The Importance of Being Earnest* (Derby Playhouse), *Hated Nightfall* (Tour and Royal Court), *The Recruiting Officer* and *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Royal Lyceum, Edinburgh), *Cyrano de Bergerac* (Haymarket Theatre), *Blithe Spirit* (Harrogate Theatre), *Wicked Old Man* (West Yorkshire Playhouse), *Peter Pan* (Theatr Clywd), *Boston Story* (The Mill at Sonning), *A Pin to See the Peepshow* (Redgrave Theatre and Tour), *Mrs Dot* (Palace Theatre, Watford).

Television credits include: *Homefront*, *Doctors*, *Eastenders*, *Midsomer Murders*, *Heartbeat*, *The Office*, *Hear the Silence*, *Foyle's War*, *People Like Us*, *The Bill*, *Casualty*, *The Peter Principle*, *Jonathan Creek*, *Over Here*, *Jewels*, *The House of Eliott*, *Fatal Inversion*, *The Alleyn Mysteries – Artists in Crime*.

Film credits include: *The Heart of Me*, *Bridget Jones's Diary*, *Shakespeare in Love*, *Mrs Brown*.

PHOEBE SPARROW - Katie

Phoebe trained at Mountview Academy of Theatre Arts. She is currently appearing in *Downton Abbey* Series 6 and *Flowering Cherry* at The Finborough Theatre.

Other theatre credits include *Fathers and Sons* directed by Lyndsey Turner (Donmar Warehouse), *City Stories* (St. James Theatre) and *Cherry* (Jermyn Street Theatre).

Creative Team Biographies:

Ben Weatherill is currently playwright in residence with Curve, Leicester. His debut play *Chicken Dust* debuted at the Finborough Theatre earlier this year. He is currently represented by Curtis Brown.

Jake Smith studied Drama and Theatre Practice at the University of Hull graduating with first-class honours. He is currently the Trainee Director at Chichester Festival Theatre. Jake began his career



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at Hull Truck and was a founding member of Assemble Fest, promoting, mentoring and supporting emerging theatre companies.

Joshua Beaumont is currently the Associate Producer at Seabright Productions. Joshua is a graduate of the Stage One Apprenticeships for New Producers and the National Theatre Course for Young Producers. Joshua has previously worked at Hull Truck Theatre, Slung Low Theatre Company and Festival Highlights.

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The Theatre Royal Haymarket Masterclass Trust

Masterclass is a small charity that has a big impact on young people's lives with a unique offering of free masterclasses by leading theatre professionals, careers advice sessions, apprenticeships and performance experiences. Masterclass is committed to using theatre and the beautiful Theatre Royal Haymarket to inspire and empower young people, the talent of the future. To date over 70,000 16 – 30 year olds have benefited from our programme. www.masterclass.org.uk

Pitch Your Play is generously supported by the Noël Coward Foundation

The Noël Coward Foundation was set up as a charitable trust in 2000 by Graham Payn and Dany Dasto. The Trust Deed aims to support the advancement of education and Drama by the promotion, whether in England or elsewhere, of the education of students and other persons in the arts of drama and the theatre. www.noelcoward.org



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