**CASTING UPDATE FOR YOUNG VIC’S PRODUCTIONS OF *JESUS HOPPED THE ‘A’ TRAIN* AND *WILD EAST***

* **Kate Hewitt** directs **Oberon K. A. Adjepong**, **Matthew Douglas**, **Dervla Kirwan**, **Ukweli Roach** and **Joplin Sibtain** in ***Jesus Hopped the ‘A’ Train*** from 14 February.
* **Lekan Lawal** directs **Lucy Briers**, **Kemi-Bo Jacobs** and **Zach Wyatt** in ***Wild East*** from 6 February.
* Limited Tickets also on sale for ***The Jumper Factory,*** originally created in collaboration with inmates at **HMP Wandsworth**, which returns to run alongside *Jesus Hopped the ‘A’ Train* from 27 February.

With the Young Vic’s recent run of critical-success including *The Convert* currently running at Young Vic, *The Inheritance* at the Noël Coward Theatre and *The Jungle* now playing at St Ann’s Warehouse in New York, Artistic Director of the Young Vic, **Kwame Kwei-Armah**, today announces the full cast for **Stephen Adly Guirgis**’ ***Jesus Hopped the ‘A’ Train***, directed by **Kate Hewitt** in the Main House, and **April de Angelis**’ ***Wild East***, directed byrecipient of Genesis Future Directors Award, **Lekan Lawal**, in The Clare.

For *Jesus Hopped the ‘A’ Train*, **Kate Hewitt** directs **Oberon K. A. Adjepong** (Lucius Jenkins), **Matthew Douglas** (D’Amico), **Dervla Kirwan** (Mary Jane Hanrahan), **Ukweli Roach** (Angel Cruz) and **Joplin Sibtain** (Valdez). The production previews from 14 February, with a Press Night on 20 February, and runs until 30 March.

For *Wild East*, **Lekan Lawal** directs **Lucy Briers** (Dr Pitt), **Kemi-Bo Jacobs** (Dr Gray) and **Zach Wyatt** (Frank). The production opens on 6 February and runs until 16 February.

A limited number of tickets are also now on sale for ***The Jumper Factory*** by **Luke Barnes**. Originallyconceived by the **Young Vic Taking Part** department and **Justin Audibert**, created in collaboration with inmates at **HMP Wandsworth**, as a parallel production to *The Brothers Size* in January 2018, *The Jumper Factory* explores the stories of people behind bars. The production returns to run alongside *Jesus Hopped the ‘A’ Train* which examines these experiences through the American justice system. Directed by **Josh Parr**, *The Jumper Factory* will be performed in The Maria from 27 February until 9 March, by young men who have all been directly or indirectly affected by the criminal justice system.

**JESUS HOPPED THE ‘A’ TRAIN**

By **Stephen Adly Guirgis**

Directed by **Kate Hewitt**

Director: **Kate Hewitt**; Designer: **Magda Willi**; Costume Designer: **Kinnetia Isidore**

Lighting Designer: **Guy Hoare**; Sound Designer: **Peter Rice**; Movement Director: **Imogen Knight**

UK Casting Director: **Julia Horan CDG**; US Casting Director: **Jim Carnahan CSA**

**Main House**

14 February - 30 March 2019

**Press Night:** **Wednesday 20 February 2019, 7pm**

From Pulitzer Prize winner Stephen Adly Guirgis (*The Motherf\*cker with the Hat*), comes this critically-acclaimed dark comedy about the American justice system and the contradictory nature of faith.

Inside the lockdown wing of Rikers Island prison, a frightened young man accused of murdering a cult leader is confronted with a charismatic born-again serial killer and a sadistic guard. Will one man’s redemption lead to another’s damnation?

**Stephen Adly Guirgis** is a playwright, screenwriter, director, and actor. As a playwright, his other credits include *Our Lady Of 121st Street, The Last Days of Judas Iscariot, Little Flower of East Orange, The Motherf\*cker with the Hat*, and *Between Riverside and Crazy*, which won the 2015 Pulitzer Prize for Drama. His television writing credits include *NYPD Blue* and *The Get Down*.

**Oberon K. A. Adjepong** plays Lucius Jenkins. His theatre credits include *Good Grief* (Vineyard Theatre), *The* *Winter’s Tale, Measure For Measure, Pericles*, *Tamburlaine* (TFANA), *Homecoming Queen* (Atlantic Theatre Company - AUDELCO nomination), *Uncommon Sense* (Tectonic Theater Project), *Party People* (The Public Theater), *12 Angry Men* (The Billie Holiday Theatre), *Like I Say*, *Cellophane* (Flea Theatre), *Mother Courage*, *The Blacks* (The Classical Theater of Harlem/Classic Stage Company), *Wabenzi* (New Ohio Theatre), *Hamlet Project* (La MaMa), *Sango* (NBT - AUDELCO nomination). His television credits include *Blacklist*, *The Knick* and *Louie*; and for film, *Crazy* *Famous* and *Crown* *Heights*.

**Matthew Douglas** returns to the Young Vic to play D’Amico. His previous credits for the company include *King Lear*. Other theatre credits include *An Inspector Calls* (UK tour/Playhouse Theatre), *Far from the Madding Crowd* (The Watermill Theatre), *The Widowing of Mrs Holroyd* (The New Vic), *Travesties*, *The* *Importance of Being Ernest* (Birmingham Rep), *Hay Fever* (West Yorkshire Playhouse), *She Stoops to Conquer* (Birmingham Rep/Chichester Festival Theatre/UK tour), *The Big House* (Abbey Theatre, Dublin), *Salt Meets Wound* (Theatre503), *Hecuba* (RSC/Albery Theatre) and *Othello* (international tour). His television credits include *Miracle Landing on the Hudson*; and for film, *Papadopoulos and Sons*.

**Dervla Kirwan** plays Mary Jane Hanrahan. Her theatre credits include *King Lear*, *Frankie and Johnny*, *Uncle Vanya* (Chichester Festival Theatre), *Mr Foote’s Other Leg* (Hampstead Theatre, Theatre Royal Haymarket), *The Weir* (Donmar Warehouse and West End), *Betrayal* (Donmar Warehouse), *Aristocrats* (National Theatre) and *Hush* (Royal Court Theatre). Her television credits include *White Dragon*, *The Silence*, *Material Girl*, *True Dare Kiss*, *55 Degrees North*, *Hearts and Bones*, *Ballykissangel* and *Goodnight Sweetheart*; and for film, *Trautmann*, *Interlude in Prague*, *Luna*, *Entity*, *Ondine* and *Dangerous Parking*.

**Ukweli Roach** plays Angel Cruz. His theatre credits include *Nightfall* (Bridge Theatre), *5,6,7,8 (rough cuts)* (Royal Court Theatre), *Romeo & Juliet* and *Helen* (Globe Theatre). Television credits include *Humans*, *Hard Sun, Blindspot* (series 1 - 3), *Dickensian*, *The Royals*, *Grantchester*, *Silk*, *Drifters*, *Starlings*, *Monroe* and *Eternal Law*. Film credits include *One Day*, *Streetdance 3D* and *Venus And The Son*. Roach is Artistic Director of dance company Birdgang, touring with the *Blaze* international Hiphop dance show.

**Joplin Sibtain** plays Valdez. His theatre credits include *The Beaux’ Stratagem*, *Dara*, *An Oak Tree*, *Behind The Beautiful Forevers*, *Othello*, *The Wind in the Willows*, *The Absence of War* (National Theatre), *Godchild* (Hampstead Theatre), *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Shakespeare’s Globe), *King Lear* (Almeida Theatre), *The King and I* (Curve), *An Enemy of the People* (Sheffield Theatres), *A Street Car Named Desire* (Nuffield Southampton Theatres), *The Crucible* (Octagon Theatre Bolton), *Indian Ink* (Salisbury Playhouse), *The Ark an The Covenant* (Battersea Arts Centre), *The Fall Guy*, *The Moonstone* (Royal Exchange Theatre), and *Romeo and Juliet* (RSC). His television credits include *Nightflyers*, *Safe*, *Hard Sun* and *No Offence*; and for film, *Honey in the Head* and *Naachle London*.

**Kate Hewitt** directs. Her theatre credits for the company include as director *Far Away* (JMK Young Director Award, 2014) and as Associate Director, *Yerma*. Her other directing credits include *Frost/Nixon*, *Tribes* (Sheffield Theatres), *The Ice Road* (Raucous Theatre), *Kiki’s Delivery Service*, *Tomcat* (Southwark Playhouse), *Romeo & Juliet* (Ambassador’s Theatre) and *Portrait* (Edinburgh Festival/UK tour). As Associate Director her credits include, *One Love: The Bob Marley Musical* (Birmingham Rep), *Charlie & The Chocolate Factory* (Drury Lane), *Medea* (Headlong Theatre Company) and *Electra* (Gate Theatre/Latitude Festival).

Oberon K.A. Adjepong is appearing with the permission of UK Equity, incorporating the Variety Artistes’ Federation, pursuant to an exchange program between American Equity and UK Equity.

**Wild East**

By **April De Angelis**

Directed by **Lekan Lawal**

Director: **Lekan Lawal**; Designer: **Sarah Beaton**; Lighting Designer: **Amy Mae**

Sound Designer: **Harry Blake**; Casting Director: **Charlotte Sutton CDG**

**The Clare**

6 - 16 February 2019

Recipient of Genesis Future Directors Award, **Lekan Lawal**, directs **April De Angelis**’ surreal ***Wild East***. This outlandish play artfully turns the most sterile of settings, a corporate job interview, into a sharp comedy about the permeation of human chaos.

**April De Angelis**’ work includes *The Village* adapted from Lope de Vega’s *Fuenteovejuna* (Theatre Royal Stratford East), My Brilliant Friend adapted from Elena Ferrante’s novels (Rose Theatre Kingston), Rune (Old Vic Stoke), *After Electra* (Plymouth Theatre Royal and Tricycle Theatre), *Jumpy* (Royal Court and Duke of York’s), *Catch* (a collaboration with four other female playwrights) and *Wild East* (Royal Court), *A Gloriously Mucky Business* (Lyric Hammersmith), *Calais* (Paines Plough/Oran Mor), *Country* (Terror Season, Southwark Playhouse), an adaptation of *Wuthering Heights* (Birmingham Rep Theatre), *A Laughing Matter* (Out of Joint Theatre Company, National Theatre), *The Warwickshire Testimony* (RSC, The Other Place), *The Positive Hour* (Out of Joint Theatre/National Tour) and *Playhouse Creatures* (Sphinx Theatre Company, later revived by The Old Vic Theatre).

**Lucy Briers** plays Dr Pitt. Her theatre work includes *Forty Years On, The Seagull* and *Ivanov* (Chichester Festival Theatre), *Show Boat* (Sheffield Theatres and New London Theatre), *Wolf Hall* and *Bring Up the Bodies* (RSC, Aldwych Theatre and Broadway), *Top Girls* (Out of Joint, Chichester Festival Theatre and Duke of York’s Theatre) and *Ivanov* (Donmar West End). Her recent television work includes *Gentleman Jack, Victoria, Mrs Wilson, Press, Father Brown, Count Arthur Strong, Our Girl, Dark Matter, The Thick of It, Twenty Twelve* and *Einstein and Paddington*; for film, *Genius, Alan Partridge: Alpha Papa*, and *The Children of Men*.

**Kemi-Bo Jacobs** plays Dr Gray. Her theatre credits include *The Sweet Science of Bruising* (Southwark Playhouse), *Betrayal* (Derby Theatre), *Hedda Gabler* (Salisbury Playhouse) and *All My Sons* (Royal Exchange Theatre). Her television credits include *The Letter for the King, The Great, Cheat,* *McMafia*, *Delicious*, *Our Girl Thirteen*, *The Honourable Woman* and *Doctor Who*; and forfilm, *London Has Fallen.*

**Zach Wyatt** plays Frank. He graduated from Guildhall School of Music and Drama this year. His theatre work includes *I and You* (Hampstead Theatre).

**Lekan Lawal**’s directing credits include *Betrayal* (Derby Theatre), *HyBrasil* (The Old Vic), *Stories to Tell in the Middle of the Night* (Summerhall), *Last Journey* (Pentabus/Latitude), *Capitalism in Crisis* (Arcola Theatre).Associate/Assistant Director credits include *Look Back in Anger*, *Jinny*, *Sweeney Todd*, *Alice in Wonderland* and *Cinderella* (Derby Theatre), *Measure for Measure* (Young Vic), *Politrix* (The Big House) and *The Merchant of Venice* (Arcola Theatre).Lawal is currently an Artistic Director of *Up Next* at Battersea Arts Centre and an Associate Artist at the Hackney Showrooms.

**The Jumper Factory**

By **Luke Barnes**

Conceived by **Young Vic Taking Part** and **Justin Audibert**

Directed by **Josh Parr**

Director: **Josh** **Parr**; Sound Designer: **Mike** **Winship**; Lighting Designer: **Jess** **Glaisher**

Costume Designer: **Catherine** **Kodicek**

**The Maria**

27 February – 9 March 2019

Originally staged by prisoners to fellow inmates, **Luke Barnes** collaborated with **HMP Wandsworth** to create a new piece of theatre with eight inmates about how they survive a life behind bars.

This new production, performed in The Maria studio, is presented by a cast of young men aged from 18 – 25, whose lives have all been affected in some way by the criminal justice system.

**Josh Parr** directs **Ayomide Adegun**, **Raphael Akuwudike**, **Jake Mills**, **Rushand** **Chambers**, **Pierre Moullier** and **Tej Obano**.

**Young Vic Listings**

66 The Cut, Waterloo, London, SE1 8LZ

Box Office: **020 7922 2922**

[**www.youngvic.org**](http://www.youngvic.org)

**Jesus Hopped the ‘A’ Train**

Main House

14 February – 30 March 2019

Press Night: **Wednesday 20 February, 7pm**

Performances:Monday – Saturday at 7.30pm

Matinees on Wednesdays and Saturdays at 2.30pm

Captioned: Thursday 14 March at 7.30pm

Audio Described: Wednesday 20 March at 2.30pm

Tickets: £10, £20, £30, £40 (Concessions available)

Previews: £10, £20, £25 (Concessions available)

**Wild East**

The Clare

6 February – 16 February 2019

Performances: Monday – Saturday at 7.45pm

Matinees on Wednesdays and Saturdays at 2.45pm

Tickets: £17 (Concessions available)

**The Jumper Factory**

The Maria

27 February – 9 March 2019

Performances: Monday – Saturday at 8pm

Matinees on Wednesdays and Saturdays at 3pm (except 27 February)

Tickets: £15

**Young Vic**

Based on The Cut in London’s Waterloo, we produce new plays, classics, musicals, adaptations of books, short films, digital projects and game changing forms of theatre. We attract large audiences from many different backgrounds, and forge deep connections in our neighbourhood where we provide extensive free activities. For many years the Young Vic has been synonymous with inclusivity, accessibility and creativity. We foster emerging talent and collaborate with some of the world’s finest directors, performers and creatives; creating productions that say much about the world we live in.

Chair of the Board: Patrick McKenna

Artistic Director: Kwame Kwei-Armah

Executive Director: Despina Tsatsas

[www.youngvic.org](http://www.youngvic.org)

**The Young Vic’s Supporters**

The Young Vic receives public subsidy from Arts Council England and Lambeth & Southwark Borough Councils.



**Genesis Foundation**

The Genesis Foundation has supported the Young Vic for nearly 15 years, including the Young Vic’s director’s program since its inception. The Genesis Foundation is pleased to fund the Genesis Fellow and Genesis Fellow Production Fund, the Genesis Future Directors Awards and the Genesis Directors Network at the Young Vic.

Established by John Studzinski in 2001, the Genesis Foundation works in partnership with the leaders of prestigious UK arts organisations such as LAMDA, the National Theatre, The Sixteen and the Young Vic. Its largest funding commitment is to programmes that support directors, playwrights, actors and musicians in the early stages of their professional lives.



[genesisfoundation.org.uk](http://www.genesisfoundation.org.uk)

Season at a glance

**THE CONVERT**

**By Danai Gurira**

**Directed by Ola Ince**

Main House

Until 26 January 2019

**A preview of the National Theatre and National Film Board of Canada co-production**

**Presented by the Young Vic**

**DRAW ME CLOSE**

Maria Studio

21 January – 2 February 2019

**WILD EAST**

**By April De Angelis**

**Directed by Lekan Lawal**

The Clare

6 - 16 February 2019

**JESUS HOPPED THE ‘A’ TRAIN**

**By Stephen Adly Guirgis**

**Directed by Kate Hewitt**

Main House

14 February – 30 March 2019

Press Night: Wednesday 20 February, 7pm

**THE JUMPER FACTORY**

**By Luke Barnes**

**Conceived by Young Vic Taking Part & Justin Audibert**

**Directed by Josh Parr**

The Maria

27 February – 9 March 2019

**A Young Vic, Elliott & Harper and Cindy Tolan Production**

**DEATH OF A SALESMAN**

**By Arthur Miller**

**Directed by Marianne Elliott**

Main House

1 May –29 June 2019

Press Night: Thursday 9 May, 7pm

**A Young Vic and Los Angeles Performance Practice co-production**

**BRONX GOTHIC**

**Writer, Performer and Sound Designer: Okwui Okpokwasili**

**Director, Visual and Sound Designer: Peter Born**

The Maria

1 – 29 June 2019

Press Night: Wednesday 5 June, 7pm

**IVAN & THE DOGS**

**By Hattie Naylor**

**Directed by Caitriona Shoobridge**

The Clare

10 – 20 July 2019

**A Young Vic, Manchester International Festival and Green Door Pictures co-production**

**TREE**

**Created by Idris Elba & Kwame Kwei-Armah**

**Directed by Kwame Kwei-Armah**

Main House

29 July – 24 August 2019

Press Night: Thursday 1 August, 7pm

**BLOOD WEDDING**

**By Federíco Garcia Lorca**

**in a new version by Marina Carr**

**Directed by Yaël Farber**

Main House

19 September – 2 November 2019

Press Night: Wednesday 25 September, 7pm

**FAIRVIEW**

**By Jackie Sibblies Drury**

**Directed by Nadia Latif**

Main House

28 November 2019 – 18 January 2020

Press Night: Thursday 5 December, 7pm

For further information, please contact:

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