

Press Release – Thursday 11 May 2023
Images can be downloaded [here](#)

IMAGES FROM THE REHEARSAL ROOM: RUTH WILSON IN 24-HOUR SHOW *THE SECOND WOMAN*



Rehearsal images are released today of **Ruth Wilson** in the UK premiere of the internationally acclaimed ***The Second Woman***, an epic 24-hour performance at the **Young Vic Theatre**, created and directed by **Nat Randall** and **Anna Breckon**, co-produced with **LIFT**, commencing on **Friday 19 May, at 4pm**.

The Second Woman is produced in association with **Ruth Wilson**, presented in proud association with **House of Oz**.

On-the-door tickets are available throughout the 24-hour performance which will conclude on Saturday 20 May at 4pm. Full ticket details are available at www.youngvic.org

One woman, one scene, one hundred men, one electrifying 24-hour performance.

Over a full 24 hours, 100 different men, non-binary and queer people will star opposite **Ruth Wilson** as she performs over and over a scene between a man and a woman in a relationship that has lost its creativity and romance.

In an epic endurance performance inspired by John Cassavetes' film *Opening Night*, none of the 100 different Martyrs have met or rehearsed with **Ruth Wilson**'s Virginia and most of them are non-actors.

This production, created and directed by **Anna Breckon and Nat Randall**, is a collaboration between **LIFT** and the **Young Vic**, bringing together two of London's most innovative cultural institutions with one of the world's most celebrated actors.

Whether you choose to stay for 24 minutes or the full 24 hours, *The Second Woman* is a unique, cinematic theatre experience in which the stage offers the audience a wide-angle view of the action, while multiple cameras capture and share live close-ups.

Video and Camera Design by **EO Gill** and **Anna Breckon**, Lighting Design by **Amber Silk** and **Kayla Burrett**, UK Lighting Design by **Lauren Woodhead**, Music Composition by **Nina Buchanan**, Set Design by **FUTURE METHOD STUDIO**, and UK Movement Direction by **Yarit Dor**.

The Second Woman is supported by the Australian Government through the Australia Council, its arts funding and advisory body, and originally supported by Next Wave 2016.

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<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/61e9zrohi0vqd56/AApleO4fOToRmUMXWIqDXbOa?dl=0>

About the Young Vic Theatre

Founded in 1970 as a space for world-premiere productions and unexpected takes on classic plays that speak urgently to our present, the Young Vic Theatre has been one of London's leading theatres for more than fifty years.

Welcoming more than 100,000 visitors a year to its London Waterloo location, the Young Vic stands out in the city's cultural landscape for balancing daring commercial drive, success and artistic flair with genuine grassroots social impact change in our neighbourhood. We forge deep connections in our neighbourhood through our Taking Part programme, where we engage with over 15,000 people every year via a wide range of projects, from skills-based workshops to on-stage performances. We give 10% of our tickets free to schools and neighbours, irrespective of box office demand, and we are committed to keeping ticket prices low.

The Young Vic's Creators Program is our space for multi- and anti-disciplinary artists, and is the only scheme of its kind. Launched in 2001, and formerly known as the Directors Program, we offer artists and producers a unique opportunity to develop their craft through opportunities that range from trainee and assistant director roles to a two-year residency through the Genesis Fellow/Associate Director position. The Genesis Network provides an online

community to over 2,000 artists and producers. Each year, the recipient of the Genesis Future Directors Award directs a show in the Clare Theatre with full support from the Young Vic team.

Built upon the principles of access, innovation, and community, the Young Vic is deepening its roots nationally and internationally. Recent productions in the West End and on Broadway include: *Best of Enemies* at the Noël Coward Theatre and Rodgers & Hammerstein's *Oklahoma!* at Wyndham's Theatre; and on Broadway, *Death of a Salesman* at the Hudson Theatre and *The Collaboration* at Manhattan Theatre Club's Samuel J. Friedman Theatre.

The Young Vic's founding spirit is iconoclastic and pushing at the forefront of possibility, bringing together artists and audiences on a global scale and using the power of stories to change our world.

Artistic Director: Kwame Kwei-Armah

Executive Director: Lucy Davies

www.youngvic.org

The Young Vic's annual activities are made possible with public funding from Arts Council England.

Additional support is provided by The Black Heart Foundation and the Genesis Foundation.

***THE SECOND WOMAN* is generously supported by The Charlotte Aitken Trust.**

We gratefully acknowledge Ian Burford and Alec Cannell for generously supporting the Young Vic's mission.

About LIFT

LIFT, London's biennial international festival of theatre, brings joyful, daring and unforgettable theatre from around the world to London, using the whole city as its stage.

Every two years, LIFT presents a festival full of bold and relevant culture, international perspectives, and thought-provoking performances. Whether it's a much-loved venue, iconic landmark or unsung corner of London, LIFT gathers Londoners around incredible art.

LIFT's mission is to create powerful, invigorating experiences that challenge artistic, political and social conventions; to champion artist advancement at home and abroad; to lead sustainable internationalism; and to celebrate and connect London to the world. We engage and create communities around ideas and projects, connect leading artists to locals, connect international artists and local artists to London, and together make incredible art happen. Recent work includes the UK Premiere of award-winning, climate change opera *Sun & Sea* which was presented as part of the 2022 festival.

Artistic Director and CEO: Kris Nelson

Executive Director: Stella Kanu

<https://www.liftfestival.com/>

About The Charlotte Aitken Trust

The Charlotte Aitken Trust is a charitable foundation set up by the celebrated literary agent Gillon Aitken in his daughter's name. The purpose of the Trust, as defined by Gillon, is to support, encourage, sustain and promote literary creativity in all its forms. The Trust was established in 2020 and since then has given grants and created associations with the Young

Vic, The Brontë Parsonage, the Forward Poetry Prize and The Sunday Times Young Writer of the Year Award, among others.

About House of Oz

House of Oz is a platform to showcase the depth and breadth of Australian talent from the emerging to the veteran, in a venue with a distinctly Australian flavour. Born at the Edinburgh Festival Fringe in 2022 as part of the UK/ Australia Season, House of Oz featured a diverse program spanning genres and generations, quality food and beverage options and an atmospheric courtyard bar, and in this inaugural year, won an award for Best Fringe Venue. More than just four walls, House of Oz provides the production, producing, marketing and PR support for Australians to showcase their work in its best possible light, in a way that makes them proud.