

# Young Vic

Release – Monday 12 January 2026

New production images available [here](#)

## LAST CHANCE TO SEE *BENGAL TIGER AT THE BAGHDAD ZOO* AT THE YOUNG VIC

- Final weeks for Rajiv Joseph's surreal, dark comedy *Bengal Tiger at the Baghdad Zoo* in a new hit production directed by Omar Elerian. Must end 31 January.

The UK premiere of *Bengal Tiger at the Baghdad Zoo* by Rajiv Joseph (*Guards at the Taj*), directed by Omar Elerian (*Rhinoceros*) enters its final weeks at the Young Vic Theatre with final performances on **Saturday 31 January**.

**Rajiv Joseph's** Pulitzer and Tony-nominated surreal and profoundly dark comedy gained critical acclaim following its December opening as part of Artistic Director Nadia Fall's inaugural season at the Young Vic.

*Iraq, well into the new millennium. A fast-talking Tiger haunts the streets, plagued by a fundamental question: "Why am I here?". And he's not the only one.*

*The lives of American Marines Tom and Kev collide with Iraqi translator Musa after their chance encounters with the Tiger. Iraqi or American, man or beast, they are all searching for meaning, revenge, forgiveness, and a solid gold toilet seat that's worth a fortune.*

Starring Olivier Award-nominee **Arinzé Kene** (*Misty*), **Ammar Haj Ahmad** (*The Jungle*), **Patrick Gibson** (*Dexter:Original Sin*), **Peter Forbes** (*Follies*), **Sara Masry** (*Application 39*), **Hala Omran** (*I Medea*) and **Sayyid Aki** (*Community, Rule Britannia*).

Following its premiere on Broadway in 2011, the play received multiple Tony nominations and recognition as a Pulitzer Prize finalist. This new production is brought to life with Designer **Rajha Shakiry**, Lighting Designer **Jackie Shemesh**, Sound Designer **Elena Peña**, Movement Director **Annie-Lunnette Deakin-Foster**, Casting Director **Heather Basten CDG**, Fight and Intimacy Directors **Rachel Bown-Williams** and **Ruth Cooper-Brown** of RC-Annie, Dialect Coach **Khaled Abunaama**, Voice and Dialect Coach **Hazel Holder**, Costume Supervisor **Male Arcucci**, Hair & Make Up Supervisor **Sarah-Jane Pucci**, Props Supervisor **Kate Margretts**, Jerwood Assistant Director **Layla Madanat**, and Associate Designer **Yimei Zhao**.

-ENDS-

**Listings:**

Young Vic presents  
*Bengal Tiger at the Baghdad Zoo*  
By Rajiv Joseph  
Directed by Omar Elerian

Young Vic, Main House  
2 December 2025 – 31 January 2026

**Access performances:**

BSL Performance (BSL interpreter Vinessa Brant): Wed 14 Jan, 2.30pm & Fri 16 Jan, 7.30pm  
Captioned Performances (captioned by Miranda Yates): Fri 23 Jan, 7.30pm  
Relaxed Performances: Wed 21 Jan, 7.30pm  
Audio Described Performances (audio described by Miranda Yates and Eleanor Margolies): Sat 17 Jan, 2.30pm and Thu 22 Jan, 7.30pm

**-ENDS-**

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**Young Vic Press Contacts:**

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**About the Young Vic Theatre**

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

Welcoming 100,000 visitors a year, the Young Vic stands out in the nation's cultural landscape for balancing daring commercial drive and artistic flair with genuine grassroots social impact work within our community. This success is seen most vividly in the audience group for which we are famous; the most diverse, lively and engaged in London. This is the fruit of years of building involvement among local young people. 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 believe great art belongs to everyone. Ticket prices are kept low and 10% of tickets are given free within the local community; enabling a unique, no-risk taste of great theatre for thousands of people.

Our unique, fully-flexible auditoria allows us to present great plays by and with the next generation of theatre artists alongside work by some of the world's great directors, actors and designers. We are proud to be a directors' theatre known for launching careers and a combination of youth and genius which makes us one of the most vibrant theatres in the UK.

Built upon the principles of access, innovation, and community, the Young Vic is deepening its roots nationally and internationally. Recent transfers include *Punch, Best of Enemies* and *Oklahoma!* in the West End and *Death of a Salesman* and *The Collaboration* on Broadway.

Some theatres present great plays. Some give young artists opportunities to grow. Some build strong and lasting relationships with their community. The Young Vic does all three.

**Artistic Director:** Nadia Fall

**Executive Director:** Lucy Pattison

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

**The Young Vic is grateful to be a beneficiary of public funding from Arts Council England.**

**Bengal Tiger at the Baghdad Zoo is generously supported by the Young Vic Season Circle.**

**Thank you to the additional generosity of our donors, partners, and members whose support each year makes our work on stage and in our local communities possible.**

**We thank Lambeth Council and Southwark Council for their continued support.**