

Regional Theatre Young Director Scheme success as three new productions open across the UK from RTYDS directors

Jo Newman directs

This Land by Sian Owen

13 – 30 April, Salisbury Playhouse & touring

Ben Occhipinti directs

#ChipShoptheMusical written & co-produced by Emma Hill

11 – 21 May, Olympus Chip Shop, Bolton & touring

Rebecca Frecknall directs

Julie by Zinnie Harris

3 – 18 June, Northern Stage

Over the next three months, three new shows directed by young directors on the Regional Theatre Young Director Scheme (RTYDS) 18-Month Residencies will be performed around the country. Jo Newman is Resident Assistant Director at Salisbury Playhouse, Ben Occhipinti at Octagon Theatre Bolton and Rebecca Frecknall at Northern Stage.

Regional Theatre Young Director Scheme (RTYDS) is the UK's longest running and most influential training scheme for emerging directors, with alumni including **Rupert Gould, Michael Boyd, Vicky Featherstone** and **Matthew Xia**. It brings together emerging directors with the UK's leading regional theatre companies, and in recent years has particularly focused on directors who live outside London and are from communities presently under-represented in theatre.

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Sue Emmas, Artistic Director of RTYDS said: *"RTYDS is aiming to change the face of British Theatre in response to the dearth of diverse directors in leadership positions. We've made a long-term commitment to nurturing talent by finding directors right at the start of their careers and breaking down the cultural, financial and social barriers to becoming a theatre director in the UK. I am incredibly excited and proud that just two years into our new Arts Council England and Esmée Fairbairn Foundation funded programmes, we have three of our directors opening major productions in leading regional theatres in this coming season."*

RTYDS originated in the 1960s. Re-devised in 2014, the scheme is dedicated to increase diversity in the profession, uniting emerging directors with major regional theatre companies, providing opportunities through its three programmes: Introduction to Directing; Three-Month Placements; and 18-Month Residencies, providing both first steps and career development.

This Land, directed by Jo Newman, opened at Pentabus in March, and is at Salisbury Playhouse from 13 – 30 April and then tours nationally (full details below). The show will be live streamed at Battersea Arts Centre as part of *A Nation's Theatre Festival* on 6 May.

Bea and Joseph are rekindling their love. But, with the arrival of a fracking company ready to dig, their village is falling apart. Through the lives of a young couple, *This Land* tells a story of community, belonging and the ground beneath our feet.

#ChipShoptheMusical, directed by Ben Occhipinti, is at Olympus Chip Shop, Bolton 11 - 21 May and then on tour. Price includes fish, chips & a brew!

Teenager Ayla and middle-aged Gram meet when Ayla blags a job in his chip shop. Ayla secretly dreams of a grime music career but has no idea how to make it happen. Gram is disillusioned and falling out of step as the world is changing around him. Can they sort their lives and the shop out, before business and personal pressures force a closure?

Julie, directed by Rebecca Frecknall is at Northern Stage 3 - 18 June.

In Zinnie Harris's version of *Miss Julie*, August Strindberg's masterpiece, Julie, the young mistress of the estate, is drawn into a tryst with her father's butler. In the heat of midsummer's night, the couple hurtle towards a conclusion that will shake them and the existing order to its core.

CONTACT

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photos are available at keanlanyon.smugmug.com password: download

ABOUT RTYDS

Established in 1960, the Regional Theatre Young Director Scheme (RTYDS), is the UK's longest running and most influential training scheme for emerging directors. RTYDS brings together emerging directors with the UK's leading regional theatre companies and is particularly focused on directors who live outside London and are from communities presently under-represented in theatre.

RTYDS has helped the development of many of the best directors in British theatre including: **Michael Boyd** (RSC), **Rupert Goold** (Almeida), **John Tiffany** and **Vicky Featherstone** (Royal Court), **Natalie Ibu** (Tiata Fahodzi) and **Matthew Xia** (Manchester Royal Exchange).

Many RTYDS alumni are now Artistic Directors of major UK theatres. This year, **Elizabeth Newman** (Octagon Theatre, Bolton) and **Nikolai Foster** (Curve, Leicester) join **Lorne Campbell** (Northern Stage) and **James Dacre** (Royal and Derngate) as past recipients of RTYDS residencies who are currently hosting the next generation of RTYDS resident directors at their theatres.

RTYDS is funded by Arts Council England and the Esmée Fairbairn Foundation, is an Associate Company of the Young Vic and has a base at Northern Stage in Newcastle. www.rtyds.co.uk

LISTINGS BELOW

LISTINGS

This Land

Salisbury Playhouse 13 – 30 April

Tickets £13.50 (under 25s £9)

Box Office 01722 320 333 salisburyplayhouse.com

On Tour:

3 - 4 May **Stahl Theatre, Oundle** 01832 273930

6 May **Pentabus Theatre, Bromfield** 01584 856564

7 May **Leintwardine Community Centre Herefordshire** 01547 540 310

#ChipShopTheMusical

Olympus Chip Shop, Bolton

11 – 21 May 7.30pm

Tickets £18 (£16) – includes fish, chips & a brew!

Box Office 01204 520661

octagonbolton.co.uk/chipshopthemusical

On Tour:

23 – 27 May, 8pm **In Plaice, Bradford**

1 – 3 June **Wackers, York** 6pm food / 7:30pm show, and 8:30pm food / 9pm show

17 – 18 June **Woody's, Barnsley** 6:30pm food / 7pm show

Yorkshire Festival Dates:

16 June **The White Horse Thirsk**

19 June **Seafish, Conisbrough**

21 – 22 June **Nash's, Leeds**

23 June **Wetherby Whaler, Guiseley**

27 June **Wetherby Whaler, Wakefield**

Julie

Northern Stage

3 – 18 June

Tickets: £14.50 / £12 concessions

Box Office 0191 230 5151 northernstage.co.uk