

The Coronet Theatre presents the world premiere of

## **THE LODGER**

by Robert Holman

Director: Geraldine Alexander  
Set and Costume Designer: Richard Kent  
Lighting Designer: David Plater  
Composer and Sound Designer: Simon Slater

With Penny Downie, Sylvestra Le Touzel,  
Matthew Tennyson and Iniki Mariano

At The Coronet Theatre

10 September - 9 October 2021  
Press Night Wednesday 15 September at 7.30pm



*"I can't undo what's been said. My world changed this morning. I hope for the better, but we'll see in the future."*

The World Premiere of a cathartic and acerbic new play by influential playwright Robert Holman, whose play *A Breakfast of Eels* was produced at The Coronet Theatre in 2015. The play is directed by actor and director Geraldine Alexander, and is performed by a first-rate cast of Penny Downie, Sylvestra Le Touzel, Matthew Tennyson and Iniki Mariano.

Sisters Dolly and Esther grow up in ultra-conservative Harrogate in the '60s. 50 years later, following the death of their mother, Dolly comes to stay with Esther - now a successful novelist and living in Little Venice with her younger, inscrutable lodger, Jude. To make a new future they will have to be honest, heal old wounds, and the two sisters learn to laugh together again. Laced with humour, *The Lodger* is a story about identity, maturity and the possibility of reconciliation.

**Robert Holman** writes plays of startling beauty, combining close observation of the way people behave with a thrilling and uncompromising mastery of dramatic form. He describes his writing as *'I just write about people'*. He is the playwright frequently named a major influence on other playwrights. *"My favourite living writer."* Simon Stephens. His work has been produced since the 1970s at the RSC, the West End, Royal Court Theatre and elsewhere in the UK. His plays include *The Natural Cause; Mud; Outside the Whale; German Skerries* (for which he won the George Devine Award); *Other Worlds; Today; The Overgrown Path; Making Noise Quietly; Across Oka; Rafts and Dreams; Bad Weather; Holes in the Skin; and Jonah and Otto.*

**Director Geraldine Alexander's** directing credits include: for the Coronet Theatre Genet's *Deathwatch*, her play *Amygdala* and workshops for her adaptation of Iris Murdoch's *The Book and The Brotherhood* and *A Secret Play* by Ben Okri. Other credits include *The Crucible* (Storyhouse, Chester), *Tabori's Wisemen and Copperface* (RSC). Over lockdown she co-founded a company for recent drama graduates which had had their first live performance of *Citizens' Richard* in June 2021. Geraldine is also an actress and writer, who has appeared widely on stage and screen and is currently on screen in *'Bridgerton', 'The One'* and *'Oslo'*.

**Penny Downie plays Dolly.** Penny is known for many roles with the RSC, National Theatre and West End. On TV she is perhaps best known for the Duchess of Gloucester in *The Crown* and as Lady Sinderby in *Downton Abbey*. She previously performed in *Judgement Day* at The Print Room.

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**Sylvestra Le Touzel plays Esther.** Her many recent TV appearances include *Intelligence*, *Roadkill*, *The Crown*, *Endeavour*, *Big School*, *Father Brown*, *Appropriate Adult*, and in film in *The Death of Stalin*, *Radioactive*, *Mr Turner* and *Cloud Atlas*. Many West End, RSC and National Theatre appearances include *Alys Always* (Bridge Theatre), *The Pride of Miss Jean Brodie* (Donmar Warehouse) and *Waste* (National Theatre).

**Matthew Tennyson plays Luke.** Matthew previously performed in Robert Holman's *A Breakfast Of Eels* (The Coronet Theatre) and *Making Noise Quietly* (Donmar Warehouse). His stage career includes *A Monster Calls* (The Old Vic/Bristol Old Vic), *Salomé*, (RSC) and *Cleansed* (National Theatre), on TV *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Humans* and *Babylon*, and in film *Benediction*, *Making Noise Quietly*, *Pride*.

**Iniki Mariano plays Anila.** Iniki was born in Singapore where she made her television and stage debuts. Since training at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama, stage credits include *Peter Pan* (National Theatre/BOV), *The Jungle Book* (Derby Theatre), *Can't Wait for Christmas!* (Orange Tree Theatre). Film includes *The Retreat* by Marcus Anthony Thomas.

Full biographies below.

**For further information and reviewing tickets please contact Sharon Kean 07973 843133 [sharon@keanlanyon.com](mailto:sharon@keanlanyon.com)**

Photographs can be downloaded at [keanlanyon.smugmug.com](http://keanlanyon.smugmug.com) Password: download

### **BOOKING INFORMATION**

**Venue:** The Coronet Theatre

**Dates and Times:** 10 Sept – 9 Oct 2021.

Mon – Sat 7.30pm.

Social distancing matinees: Sat 25 and Thu 30 September, 2.30pm

**Prices:** £32 / £27. Previews £22. Concessions available £20.

### **How to Book:**

020 3642 6606

[thecoronettheatre.com](http://thecoronettheatre.com) (no booking fee)

In person at the Box Office (Mon - Sat, 10am - 6pm)

Address: The Coronet Theatre, 103 Notting Hill Gate, London W11 3LB

Nearest tube: Notting Hill Gate (Central, Circle and District lines)

Website: [thecoronettheatre.com](http://thecoronettheatre.com)

t: @thecoronettheatre

**Geraldine Alexander** is a director, actress and writer, who has appeared widely on stage and screen and is currently on screen in *Bridgerton*, *The One* and *Oslo*. Directing credits include: for The Coronet Theatre, *Deathwatch* by Genet adapted by David Rudkin, her play *Amygdala* and workshops on her adaptation of Iris Murdoch's *The Book and The Brotherhood* and *A Secret Play* by Ben Okri. For the Chester Storyhouse a "shatteringly powerful production" of *The Crucible*. For the RSC festival Tabori's *Wisemen* and *Copperface*. Her many RADA productions include, *Richard III*, *Broadway Bound* and *Our Town*. Over lockdown she co-founded a company for recent drama graduates and after a year of Zoom rehearsals they had their first live performance of *Citizens' Richard* in June 2021.

**Penny Downie** began her career in Australia, later joining the Royal Shakespeare Company. Among her many appearances were Gertrude in the acclaimed 2009 *Hamlet*, Hermione/ Perdita in *The Winter's Tale*, and the title role in Margaret Atwood's *The Penelopiad*. She received the Peggy Ashcroft Award for her Portia. For the National Theatre she has appeared as Chorus in *Henry V*, Katherine in *Enemy of the People*, and Wynne in *Dinner*, among many other roles. Her most recent stage appearances include *Helen* (Globe), *Ghosts* (Royal & Derngate), *Rabbit Hole* (Hampstead Theatre), *The Fairy Queen* (Glyndebourne), *Judgment Day* (Print Room), and *Butley* (Duchess Theatre).

Penny has worked extensively in TV, notably as the Duchess of Gloucester in *The Crown* and as Lady Sinderby in *Downton Abbey*. She recently reprised her role of Ellen in the Channel 4 comedy *Back*. Film work includes *Invictus*, *Breathe*, *Jackie*, *London has Fallen*, *Crime and Punishment*.

**Sylvestra Le Touzel** is a British television, film and stage actor. Her most recent TV appearances include *Intelligence*, *Roadkill*, *The Crown*, *Endeavour*, *Big School*, *Father Brown*, *Appropriate Adult* and in film, *The Death of Stalin*, *Radioactive*, *Mr Turner* and *Cloud Atlas*. Sylvestra has taken part in many theatre productions including *Alys Always* (Bridge Theatre), *Hogath's Progress* (Rose Theatre), *The Pride of Miss Jean Brodie* (Donmar Warehouse), *Giving* (Hampstead Theatre), *Waste* (National Theatre), *The Audience* (Playful Productions), *Merry Wives of Windsor* (RSC), and *Les Parents Terribles* and *Ivanov* (Donmar Warehouse).

**Matthew Tennyson's** theatre roles include *A Monster Calls* (The Old Vic/Bristol Old Vic), *Salomé* (Royal Shakespeare Company), *Cleansed* (National Theatre), *The Seagull* (Regent's Park Open Air Theatre), *A Breakfast Of Eels* (The Coronet Theatre), *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Shakespeare's Globe), *Making Noise Quietly* (Donmar Warehouse), *Beautiful Thing* (Manchester Royal Exchange), *Flare Path* (Theatre Royal Haymarket). His television work includes *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Grantchester*, *Borgia*, *Humans*, *Babylon*, *Father Brown*, *The Hollow Crown*. Film: *Benediction*, *Making Noise Quietly*, *Pride*.

**Iniki Mariano** was born and raised in Singapore where she made her television and stage debuts. She trained at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama in London where she now resides. Recent stage credits include *Peter Pan* (National Theatre/BOV), 'Mowgli' in *The Jungle Book* (Derby Theatre) and *Can't Wait for Christmas!* (Orange Tree Theatre). Film includes *The Retreat* by Marcus Anthony Thomas. Her COVID project Me...Me is available on [virtualcollaborators.co.uk](http://virtualcollaborators.co.uk) Iniki would like to dedicate this performance to her family, Nana and Gloria.