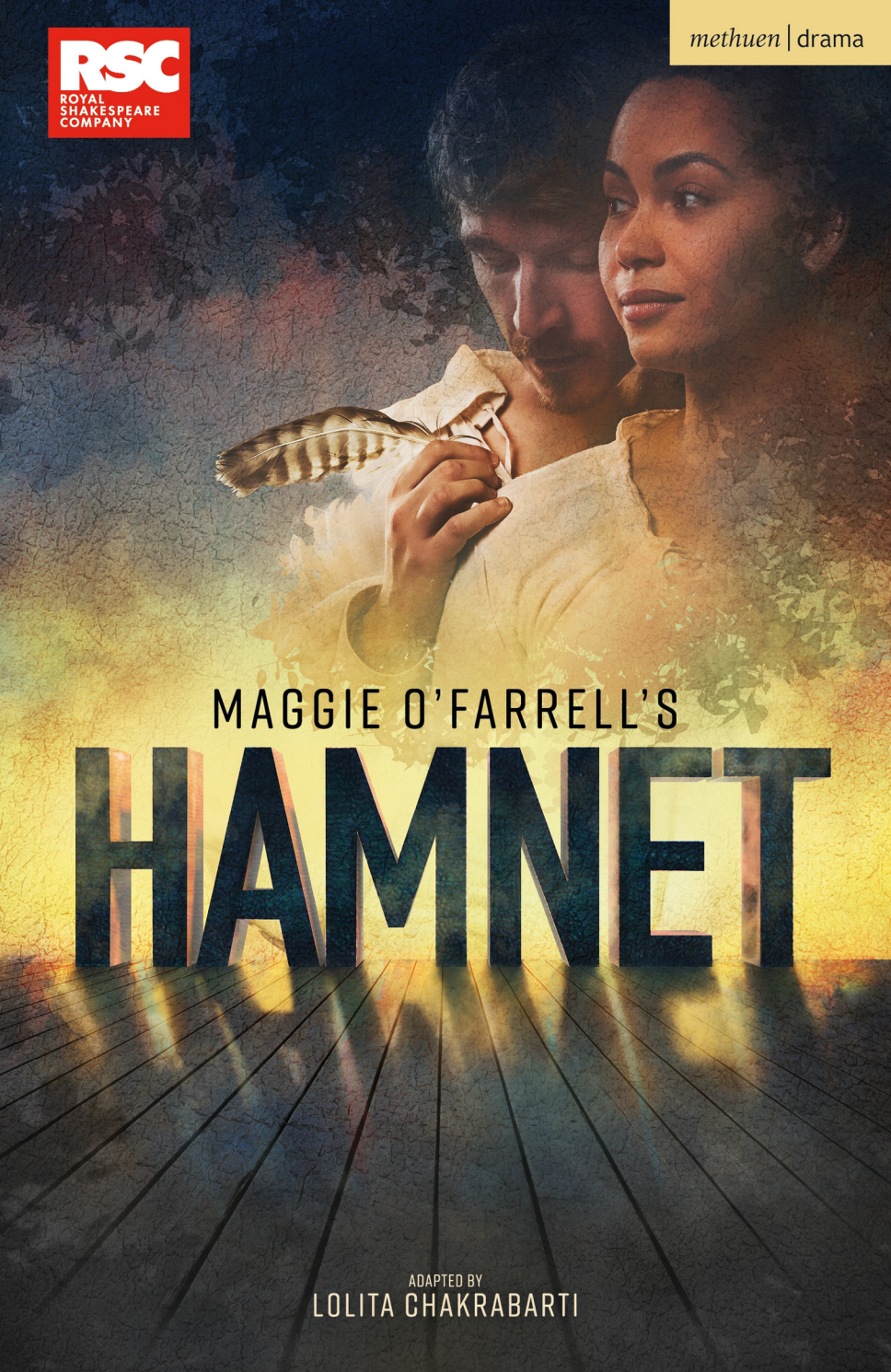


**RSC**  
ROYAL  
SHAKESPEARE  
COMPANY

methuen | drama

A man and a woman in period clothing are shown in a close embrace. The man is holding a feather in his hand. The background is a textured, mottled yellow and brown. The floor is made of dark wooden planks.

MAGGIE O'FARRELL'S

# HAMNET

ADAPTED BY  
LOLITA CHAKRABARTI



# Hamnet

Maggie O'Farrell

Adapted for the stage by Lolita Chakrabarti

*methuen* | drama

LONDON • NEW YORK • OXFORD • NEW DELHI • SYDNEY

METHUEN DRAMA

Bloomsbury Publishing Plc

50 Bedford Square, London, WC1B 3DP, UK

1385 Broadway, New York, NY 10018, USA

29 Earlsfort Terrace, Dublin 2, Ireland

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First published in Great Britain 2023

This edition revised and updated in 2023

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Cover design: Concept by RSC, additional  
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A catalogue record for this book is available from the British Library.

A catalog record for this book is available from the Library of Congress.

ISBN: PB: 978-1-3504-5549-8

ePDF: 978-1-3504-5550-4

eBook: 978-1-3504-5551-1

Series: Modern Plays

Typeset by Mark Heslington Ltd, Scarborough, North Yorkshire

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## ABOUT THE ROYAL SHAKESPEARE COMPANY

The Shakespeare Memorial Theatre was founded by Charles Flower, a local brewer, and opened in Stratford-upon-Avon in 1879. Since then, the plays of Shakespeare have been performed here, alongside the work of his contemporaries and of current contemporary playwrights. In 1960, the Royal Shakespeare Company as we now know it was formed by Peter Hall and Fordham Flower. The founding principles were threefold: the Company would embrace the freedom and power of Shakespeare's work, train and develop young actors and directors and, crucially, experiment in new ways of making theatre. The RSC quickly became known for exhilarating performances of Shakespeare alongside new masterpieces such as *The Homecoming* and *Old Times* by Harold Pinter. It was a combination that thrilled audiences, and this close and exacting relationship between writers from different eras has become the fuel that powers the creativity of the RSC.

In 1974, The Other Place opened in a tin hut on Waterside under the visionary leadership and artistic directorship of Buzz Goodbody. Determined to explore Shakespeare's plays in intimate proximity to her audience and to make small-scale, radical new work, Buzz revitalised the Company's interrogation between the contemporary and classical repertoire. This was followed by the founding of the Swan Theatre in 1986 – a space dedicated to Shakespeare's contemporaries, as well as later plays from the Restoration period, alongside living writers.

In nearly 60 years of producing new plays, we have collaborated with some of the most exciting writers of their generation. These have included: Edward Albee, Howard Barker, Alice Birch, Richard Bean, Edward Bond, Howard Brenton, Marina Carr, Lolita Chakrabarti, Caryl Churchill, Martin Crimp, Can Dündar, David Edgar, Helen Edmundson, James Fenton, Georgia Fitch, Robin French, Juliet Gilkes Romero, Fraser Grace, David Greig, Tanika Gupta, Matt Hartley, Ella Hickson, Kirsty Housley, Dennis Kelly, Hannah Khalil, Anders Lustgarten, Tarell Alvin McCraney, Martin McDonagh, Tom Morton-Smith, Rona Munro, Richard Nelson, Anthony Neilson, Harold Pinter, Phil Porter, Mike Poulton, Mark Ravenhill, Somalia Seaton, Adriano Shaplin, Tom Stoppard, debbie tucker green, Frances Ya-Chu Cowhig, Timberlake Wertenbaker, Peter Whelan and Roy Williams.

The RSC is committed to illuminating the relevance of Shakespeare's plays and the works of his contemporaries for the next generation of audiences and believes that our continued investment in new plays and living writers is an essential part of that mission.

Royal Shakespeare Company and Neal Street Productions, in association with Hera Pictures.

The work of the RSC is supported by the Culture Recovery Fund.

The original production of *Hamnet* was supported by RSC Production Circle members Peggy Czyzak-Dannenbaum, Susan Tomasky and Ronald J Ungvarsky, and Marcia Whitaker.

*Hamnet* is a recipient of the Edgerton Foundation New Play Award.

The RSC Acting Companies are generously supported by The Gatsby Charitable Foundation.

New Work at the RSC is generously supported by The Drue and H.J. Heinz II Charitable Trust.



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ENGLAND**

## NEW WORK AT THE RSC

We are a contemporary theatre company built on classical rigour. Through an extensive programme of research and development, we support writers, directors and actors to explore and develop new ideas for our stages, and as part of this we commission playwrights to engage with the muscularity and ambition of the classics and to set Shakespeare's world in the context of our own.

We invite writers to spend time with us in our rehearsal rooms, with our actors and creative teams. Alongside developing new plays for all our stages, we invite playwrights to contribute dramaturgically to both our productions of Shakespeare and his contemporaries, as well as our work for, and with, young people. We believe that engaging with living writers and contemporary theatre-makers helps to establish a creative culture within the Company which both inspires new work and creates an ever more urgent sense of enquiry into the classics.

Shakespeare was a great innovator and breaker of rules, as well as a bold commentator on the times in which he lived. It is his spirit which informs new work at the RSC.

Support us and make a difference.

For more information visit [\*\*www.rsc.org.uk/support\*\*](http://www.rsc.org.uk/support)

*Hamnet* was first performed at the Swan Theatre in Stratford-upon-Avon on 1 April 2023, presented by the Royal Shakespeare Company and Neal Street Productions in association with Hera Pictures. The production transferred to the Garrick Theatre, London on 30 September 2023. The cast was as follows:

BARTHOLOMEW	<b>GABRIEL AKUWUDIKE</b>
JOAN	<b>SARAH BELCHER</b>
BURBAGE/FATHER JOHN	<b>WILL BROWN</b>
BARTHOLOMEW/HAMNET/ THOMAS DAY/CONDELL (understudy)	<b>HAYDN BURKE</b>
HAMNET/THOMAS DAY	<b>AJANI CABEY</b>
SUSANNA/JUDITH/TILLY (understudy)	<b>FAYE CAMPBELL</b>
SUSANNA	<b>PHOEBE CAMPBELL</b>
TILLY/CATERINA	<b>MHAIRI GAYER</b>
ELIZA	<b>FRANKIE HASTINGS</b>
NED/CONDELL/PHYSICIAN	<b>KARL HAYNES</b>
JUDITH	<b>ALEX JARRETT</b>
AGNES	<b>MADELEINE MANTOCK</b>
JUDE	<b>HANNAH McPAKE</b>
MARY	<b>LIZA SADOVY</b>
WILLIAM	<b>TOM VAREY</b>
JOHN/WILL KEMPE	<b>PETER WIGHT</b>

All other parts played and understudied by members of the Company.



## **CREATIVE TEAM**

**AUTHOR**

**ADAPTER**

**DIRECTOR**

**DESIGNER**

**LIGHTING DESIGNER**

**COMPOSER**

**SOUND DESIGNER**

**MOVEMENT DIRECTOR**

**DRAMATURG**

**FIGHT DIRECTOR**

**CASTING DIRECTOR**

**MUSIC SUPERVISOR**

**ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR**

**DIALECT & VOICE**

**PRODUCTION MANAGER**

**COSTUME SUPERVISOR**

**WIGS, HAIR & MAKE-UP SUPERVISOR**

**CASTING ASSISTANT**

**COMPANY STAGE MANAGER**

**DEPUTY STAGE MANAGER**

**ASSISTANT STAGE MANAGER**

**(BOOK COVER)**

**ASSISTANT STAGE MANAGER**

**FOR NEAL STREET PRODUCTIONS**

**GENERAL MANAGER**

**EXECUTIVE PRODUCER**

**MAGGIE O'FARRELL**

**LOLITA CHAKRABARTI**

**ERICA WHYMAN**

**TOM PIPER**

**PREMA MEHTA**

**OĞUZ KAPLANGI**

**SIMON BAKER**

**AYSE TASHKIRAN**

**PIPPA HILL**

**KATE WATERS**

**AMY BALL CDG**

**BRUCE O'NEIL**

**ED BURNSIDE**

**LIZ FLINT**

**CHRIS HAY**

**DEBO ANDREWS**

**GEORGIA NOSAL**

**ARTHUR CARRINGTON**

**JENNY GRAND**

**LOUISE CHARITY**

**JOSH YORK**

**EVELIN THOMAS**

**GEORGIA GATTI**

**CARO NEWLING**

**REBECCA TREANOR**

**GRISELDA YORKE**

*This text may differ slightly from the play as performed.*

# THE ROYAL SHAKESPEARE COMPANY

## *PATRON*

The late Queen Elizabeth II

## *PRESIDENT*

The former Prince of Wales

## **BOARD**

Shriti Vadera

*Chair*

Sir Mark Thompson

*Deputy Chair*

Daniel Evans

Tamara Harvey

*Co-Artistic Directors*

Catherine Mallyon CBE

*Executive Director*

Andrew Miller MBE

Amanda Parker

Winsome Pinnock

Clare Reddington

Mark Smith

Ian Squires

Professor Ayanna Thompson

Liz Vernon

Lucy Williams

Susan Tomasky

*President RSC America (observer)*

## *ARTISTIC DIRECTOR EMERITUS*

Gregory Doran

*As at September 2023*

*The RSC was established in 1961. It is incorporated under Royal Charter and is a registered charity, number 212481.*

## NEAL STREET PRODUCTIONS

Neal Street Productions is one of the UK's most respected production companies, producing film, television and theatre.

Founded 2003 by Sam Mendes, Pippa Harris and Caro Newling, it makes distinctive, popular award-winning projects on both sides of the Atlantic.

TV series include: *Call the Midwife*, *Britannia*, *Informer*, *Penny Dreadful*, *Stuart A Life Backwards*, *The Hollow Crown*. Films include: Mendes' *Empire of Light*, *1917*, *Revolutionary Road*, *Away We Go*, *Jarhead* and *Things We Lost in the Fire*.

Most recent theatre: new play by Jez Butterworth (West End 2024), *The Motive and the Cue*, *The Lehman Trilogy*, *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory* (currently touring the UK), *Walking with Ghosts*, the new stage adaptation of *Local Hero* and *The Ferryman*.

The theatre slate is overseen by Newling together with producer, Georgia Gatti. In 2015 Neal Street moved under the umbrella of parent company, All3Media, owned jointly between Discovery Communications and Liberty Global.