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Manhattan Theatre Club **Announces Two Productions For 2017-2018 Season**

Manhattan Theatre Club and Royal Court Theatre Present

The Children

American Premiere

Written by Lucy Kirkwood

Directed by James Macdonald

Starring Original London Cast

Francesca Annis, Ron Cook, Deborah Findlay

Actually

New York Premiere

Written by Anna Ziegler

Directed by Lileana Blain-Cruz

Presented in Association with Williamstown Theatre Festival

Lynne Meadow (Artistic Director) and **Barry Grove** (Executive Producer) are pleased to announce two productions as part of **Manhattan Theatre Club's** upcoming 2017-2018 season.

On Broadway at the **Samuel J Friedman Theatre** (261 West 47th Street), MTC will produce the American premiere of **The Royal Court Theatre's** production of ***The Children***, the new play by **Lucy Kirkwood** (*Chimerica*), directed by **James Macdonald** (*Top Girls* at MTC) starring acclaimed London cast members **Francesca Annis, Ron Cook, and Deborah Findlay**.

At **The Studio at Stage II – The Harold and Mimi Steinberg New Play Series**, MTC will produce the New York premiere of ***Actually***, the new play by **Anna Ziegler** (*Photograph 51*), directed by **Lileana Blain-Cruz** (*Red Speedo*), presented in association with **Williamstown Theatre Festival, Mandy Greenfield**, Artistic Director.

ON BROADWAY AT THE SAMUEL J. FRIEDMAN THEATRE

The Children

American Premiere by **Lucy Kirkwood**

Directed by **James Macdonald**

Featuring London cast members **Francesca Annis, Ron Cook, Deborah Findlay**

Previews Begin: Tuesday, November 28, 2017

Opening Night: Thursday, December 14, 2017

Direct from an acclaimed run in London, the powerful Royal Court Theatre production of **Lucy Kirkwood's** astonishing new play will make its American debut at MTC with the heralded original cast. In a remote cottage on the lonely British coast, a couple of retired nuclear engineers are living a very quiet life. Outside, the world is in utter chaos following a devastating series of events. When an old friend turns up at their door, they're shocked to discover the real reason for her visit. *The Mail on Sunday* calls ***The Children*** "beautifully written and superbly acted." Hailed by *The Independent* as "the most rewarding dramatist of her generation," playwright **Lucy Kirkwood** makes her highly anticipated New York debut. Directing is the award-winning **James Macdonald** (*Top Girls* at MTC).

The Children will star the original Royal Court Theatre cast BAFTA Award winner **Francesca Annis** (BBC's "Cranford"), Olivier Award nominee **Ron Cook** (*Juno and the Paycock* at The Donmar), and Olivier Award winner **Deborah Findlay** (RSC's *Stanley*).

The creative team for ***The Children*** will feature **Miriam Buether** (*scenic and costume design*), **Peter Mumford** (*lighting design*), and **Max Pappenheim** (*sound design*).

Additional listings information for ***The Children*** will be announced in the coming weeks.

MTC AT THE STUDIO AT STAGE II - HAROLD AND MIMI STEINBERG NEW PLAY SERIES

Actually

New York Premiere by **Anna Ziegler**

Directed by **Lileana Blain-Cruz**

Presented in Association with Williamstown Theatre Festival (**Mandy Greenfield**, Artistic Director)

Previews Begin: Tuesday, October 31, 2017

Opening Night: Tuesday, November 14, 2017

Amber and Tom are freshmen at Princeton University, where their experiences so far have only two things in common: drunken parties and a desire to fit in. But when they meet, their common experience becomes anything but, and their moral mettle is put to the test. **Lileana Blain-Cruz** directs **Anna Ziegler's** deeply felt and relevant play about intimacy and responsibility, power and provocation, privilege, and protocol.

The co-world premiere of ***Actually*** will be produced by Geffen Playhouse and Williamstown Theatre Festival in 2017.

The Studio at Stage II has been partially underwritten with a major grant from **The Harold and Mimi Steinberg Charitable Trust**.

Casting, creative team, and additional listings information for **Actually** will be announced in the coming weeks.

In addition to **The Children** and **Actually**, Manhattan Theatre Club's 2017-2018 season will also include the previously announced Broadway premiere of **Prince of Broadway** at MTC's **Samuel J. Friedman Theatre**, and at **New York City Center – Stage I**, the New York premiere of **In the Body of the World**. Additional productions for MTC's 2017- 2018 season will be announced in the coming weeks.

Manhattan Theatre Club, under the leadership of Artistic Director **Lynne Meadow** and Executive Producer **Barry Grove**, has become one of the country's most prominent and prestigious theatre companies. Over the past four and a half decades, MTC productions have earned numerous awards including six Pulitzer Prizes and 20 Tony Awards. MTC has a Broadway home at the Samuel J. Friedman Theatre (261 West 47th Street) and two Off-Broadway theatres at New York City Center (131 West 55th Street). Renowned MTC productions include August Wilson's *Jitney*; *Heisenberg* by Simon Stephens; *The Father* by Florian Zeller with translation by Christopher Hampton (Tony Nomination for Best Play); *Fool For Love* by Sam Shepard; *Airline Highway* by Lisa D'Amour; *Casa Valentina* by Harvey Fierstein; *Outside Mullingar* and *Doubt* by John Patrick Stanley; *The Commons of Pensacola* by Amanda Peet; *Murder Ballad* by Julia Jordan and Juliana Nash; *Choir Boy* by Tarell Alvin McCraney; *The Assembled Parties* by Richard Greenberg; *Wit* by Margaret Edson; *Venus in Fur* by David Ives; *Good People* and *Rabbit Hole* by David Lindsay-Abaire; *The Whipping Man* by Matthew Lopez; *Time Stands Still* by Donald Margulies; *Ruined* by Lynn Nottage; *Proof* by David Auburn; *The Tale of the Allergist's Wife* by Charles Busch; *Love! Valour! Compassion!* by Terrence McNally; *The Piano Lesson* by August Wilson; *Crimes of the Heart* by Beth Henley; and *Ain't Misbehavin'*, the Fats Waller musical. For more information on MTC, please visit www.ManhattanTheatreClub.com.

TICKETING INFORMATION

New and renewing subscribers can join us for the season by calling The MTC Clubline at 212-399-3050. Single ticket information along with other listings information for MTC's 2017-2018 season will be announced at a later date.

For more information and to sign up for MTC's "30 Under 30" program for theatregoers age 30 and under visit www.manhattantheatreclub.com/30under30/.

BIOGRAPHIES FOR THE CHILDREN

LUCY KIRKWOOD (*Playwright*). In 2009, her play *It Felt Empty When the Heart Went at First but Is Alright Now* was produced by Clean Break Theatre Co. at the Arcola Theatre. The play was nominated for an Evening Standard Award for Best Newcomer and made Lucy joint winner of the John Whiting Award 2010. *NSFW* premiered at the Royal Court Theatre, starring Janie Dee and Julian Barrett, in 2012. *Chimerica*, premiered at the Almeida Theatre in 2013 and subsequently transferred to the West End, earning the Best New Play at the 2014 Olivier and Evening Standard Awards, as well as the Critics Circle Award and the Susan Smith Blackburn Award. Most recently, in late 2016 her play *The Children* premiered at the Royal Court, London, while *Mosquitoes*, presented by special arrangement with Manhattan Theatre Club, opens at the National Theatre in summer 2017. Lucy also writes for television: she has written for "Skins" (Company Pictures), created and wrote "The Smoke" (Kudos / Sky 1), and is currently writing a mini-series of her play *Chimerica* for Playground Productions. She also wrote and directed the short film *The Briny* and is developing projects with Clio Barnard and Lenny Abrahamson.

JAMES MACDONALD (*Director*). Theatre credits include: *Who's Afraid of Virginia Wolf?* (Harold Pinter Theatre, West End), *The Father* (Bath, Tricycle, West End), *Escaped Alone* (also BAM and UK Tour), *The Wolf from the Door*, *Circle Mirror Transformation*, *Love and Information*, *Cock*, *Drunk Enough to Say I Love You*, *Dying City*, *Fewer Emergencies*, *Lucky Dog*, *Blood*, *Blasted*, *4.48 Psychosis* (also European tour and U.S. tour), *Hard Fruit*, *Real Classy Affair*, *Cleansed*, *Bailegangaire*, *Harry and Me*, *Simpatico*, *Blasted*, *Peaches*, *Thyestes*, *Hammett's Apprentice*, *The Terrible Voice of Satan* (Royal Court), *The Chinese Room* (Williamstown Theatre Festival), *Bakkhai*, *A Delicate Balance*, *Judgment Day*, *The Triumph of Love* (Almeida), *Cloud Nine* (Atlantic Theatre Company, New York), *Roots* (Donmar Warehouse), *Wild, #aiww - The Arrest of Ai Weiwei* (Hampstead), *And No More Shall We Part* (Hampstead/Traverse, Edinburgh), *Love and Information* (Minetta Lane, New York), *Cock* (Duke Theater, New York), *King Lear*, *The Book of Grace*, *Drunk Enough to Say I Love You* (Public Theater, New York), *Top Girls* (Broadway at MTC), *Dying City* (Lincoln Center), *A Number* (New York Theatre Workshop), *John Gabriel Borkman* (Abbey, Dublin/BAM), *Dido Queen of Carthage*, *The Hour We Knew Nothing of Each Other*, *Exiles* (National Theatre), *Glengarry Glen Ross*, *The Changing Room* (West End), *Troilus and Cressida*, *Die Kopien* (Schaubuehne Berlin), *4.48 Psychose* (Burgtheater Vienna), *The Tempest*, *Roberto Zucco* (RSC), *Love's Labour's Lost*, *Richard II* (Manchester Royal Exchange), *The Rivals* (Nottingham Playhouse), *The Crackwalker* (Gate), *The Seagull* (Sheffield Theatres), *Miss Julie* (Oldham Coliseum), *Juno and the Paycock*, *Ice Cream and Hot Fudge*, *Romeo and Juliet*, *Fool for Love*, *Savage/Love*, *Master Harold... and the Boys* (Contact Theatre), *Prem* (Battersea Arts Centre/Soho Poly). Opera includes: *A Ring A Lamp A Thing* (Linbury), *Eugene Onegin*, *Rigoletto* (Welsh National Opera), *Die Zauberflöte* (Garsington), *Wolf Club Village*, *Night Banquet* (Almeida Opera), *Oedipus Rex*, *Survivor from Warsaw* (Manchester Royal Exchange/Hallé), *Lives of the Great Poisoners* (Second Stride). Film includes: *A Number* by Caryl Churchill with Tom Wilkinson and Rhys Ifans. James was an Associate Director at the Royal Court from 1992 to 2006 and a NESTA fellow from 2003 to 2006.

FRANCESCA ANNIS (*Rose*). Theatre includes: *The Machine* (MIF/NYC); *Time & The Conways*, *A Month in the Country* (National Theatre); *Afterplay* (Sydney Festival); *The Glass Menagerie* (Gate, Dublin); *Under Blue Sky*, *Ghosts*, *Epitaph for George Dillon*, *Lady Windermere's Fan*, *Three Sisters*, *The Heretic*, *The Passion Flower Hotel* (all West End); *Mrs. Klein* (National Theatre); *Shoreditch Madonna* (Soho Theatre); *Vortex*, *Henry IV*, *Versailles* (Donmar Warehouse); *Blood* (Royal Court); *Hedda Gabler* (Chichester Festival/UK tour); *Hamlet* (Almeida/Broadway); *Romersholm* (Young Vic); *Sienna Red* (Theatre Royal, Bath/UK tour); *Troilus & Cressida*, *Romeo & Juliet*, *The Tempest*, *The Comedy of Errors*, *Measure for Measure* (RSC); *Arms & The Man* (Theatre Royal, Windsor); *Hamlet* (Broadway/US tour). Television includes: "Home Fires," "Loving Miss Hatto," "Little House," "Cranford," "Miss Marple," "Jane Eyre," "Jericho," "Copenhagen," "Deceit," "Wives & Daughters," "Deadly Summer," and "Reckless." Film includes: *Shifty*, *Revolver*, *The Libertine*, *Under the Cherry Moon*, *Macbeth*, and *Dune*. Awards include: BAFTA Award for Best Actress for "Lillie."

RON COOK (*Robin*). Select UK theatre credits: *The Children*, *The Recruiting Officer*, *Our Country's Good*, and *Cloud Nine* at The Royal Court; *Faith Healer*, *Trelawny of the Wells*, *Richard II*, *King Lear*, *Juno and the Paycock*, *Glengarry Glen Ross* at the Donmar; *The Homecoming* and *The Ruling Class* at Trafalgar Studios; *The Seafarer*, *Howard Katz*, *Black Snow* at The National; *Henry V*, *Hamlet*, *Twelfth Night*, and *Art* in the West End. Select television credits: "Mr Selfridge" (seasons 1-4), "The Mystery of Edwin Drood," "Little Dorritt," "Silent Witness," "The Diary of Anne Frank," "Dr Who," "Foyle's War," "Funland," and "The Singing Detective." Select film credits; *Hot Fuzz*, *Confetti*, *On a Clear Day*, *Merchant of Venice*, *Thunderbirds*, *24 Hour Party People*, *Charlotte Gray*, *Chocolat*, *Lucky Break*, *Topsy-Turvy*, and *Secrets and Lies*.

DEBORAH FINDLAY (*Hazel*). New York Theatre: the original production of *Top Girls* (Public Theatre, Obie Award), *Escaped Alone* (BAM), *Stanley* (Outer Critics Circle Award), *Vincent River*

(59E59). Select UK Theatre: *The Children, Escaped Alone*, and *Top Girls* all at The Royal Court Theatre; *Rules for Living, Timon of Athens, House of Bernada Alba, The Mandate, Mother Clap's Molly House, The Winter's Tale*, and *Stanley* (Olivier Award) all at the National Theatre; *Coriolanus, Moonlight, Madame De Sade, John Gabriel Borkman, The Cut*, and *The Vortex* all at the Donmar; *The Glass Menagerie* at the Young Vic; *Like A Fishbone* at the Bush Theatre; *Separate Tables* at the Chichester Festival Theatre; *School for Scandal, Twelfth Night, The Merchant of Venice* at the RSC; and *Tongue of a Bird* and *Hedda Gabler* at the Almeida. Select television: "Lovesick," "Coalition," "Law and Order: UK," "Poirot," "Cranford," "State of Play," and "Torchwood." Recent film credits: *Making Noise Quietly, Hampstead, Kaleidoscope, Jackie, The Ones Below*, and *Lady in The Van*.

THE ROYAL COURT in London is the writers' theater. It is a leading force in world theatre for energetically cultivating writers—undiscovered, emerging and established.

Through the writers, the Royal Court is at the forefront of creating restless, alert, provocative theater about now. They open their doors to the unheard voices and free thinkers that, through their writing, change our way of seeing.

Over 120,000 people visit the Royal Court in Sloane Square, London, each year and many thousands more see their work elsewhere through transfers to the West End and New York, UK and international tours, and digital platforms.

Recent transfers to New York have included *Escaped Alone* by Caryl Churchill last month at BAM; Beckett's *Not I, Footfalls, Rockaby*, also BAM; and, on Broadway, *The River* and *Jerusalem* by Jez Butterworth, and *Constellations* by Nick Payne.

Through all the work, the Royal Court strives to inspire audiences and influence future writers with radical thinking and provocative discussion.

The Royal Court's extensive development activity encompasses a diverse range of writers and artists and includes an ongoing program of writers' attachments, readings, workshops and playwriting groups. Twenty years of the International Department's pioneering work around the world means the Royal Court has relationships with writers on every continent.

Within the past 60 years, Caryl Churchill, John Osborne, Samuel Beckett, Arnold Wesker, Ann Jellicoe, Howard Brenton, and David Hare have established their careers at the Court.

Many others including Athol Fugard, Mark Ravenhill, Simon Stephens, Debbie Tucker Green, Sarah Kane – and, more recently, Lucy Kirkwood, Nick Payne, Penelope Skinner, and Alistair McDowall—have followed.

Today, Royal Court plays from every decade are performed on stage and taught in classrooms and universities across the globe.

To find out more about the Royal Court Theatre visit royalcourttheatre.com.

BIOGRAPHIES FOR ACTUALLY

ANNA ZIEGLER (*Playwright*). Ziegler's plays include *Photograph 51* (directed on the West End by Michael Grandage and starring Nicole Kidman; winner of London's WhatsOnStage Award for Best New Play; it was previously produced at Ensemble Studio Theatre and Seattle Repertory Theatre, among others), *Actually* (upcoming at Manhattan Theatre Club, The Geffen Playhouse and The Williamstown Theatre Festival), *The Last Match* (upcoming at The Roundabout Theatre Company; previously produced at The Old Globe Theatre; City Theatre); *Boy* (Keen Company/Ensemble Studio

Theatre; Outer Critics Circle John Gassner Award nominee), *A Delicate Ship* (The Playwrights Realm; Cincinnati Playhouse in the Park), and *Another Way Home* (Theater J; The Magic Theatre). Anna has been commissioned by Manhattan Theatre Club, The Geffen Playhouse, Seattle Repertory Theatre, The Old Globe Theatre, Ensemble Studio Theatre, Virginia Stage Company, and New Georges. Her plays have been developed at The Sundance Theatre Lab, The O'Neill National Playwrights Conference, The Williamstown Theatre Festival, Cape Cod Theatre Project, New York Stage and Film, The Araca Group, Old Vic New Voices, and Soho Rep's Writer/Director Lab, among others, and are published by Dramatists Play Service. A collection entitled *Anna Ziegler: Plays One* is published by Oberon Books. Anna is also at work on a television pilot for AMC/Sundance and a screenplay for Scott Free Productions. She is a graduate of Yale College and holds an M.F.A. in dramatic writing from the Tisch School of the Arts.

LILEANA BLAIN-CRUZ (*Director*) Recent Projects: Suzan Lori-Parks' *The Death of the Last Black Man in the Whole Entire World* at Signature Theatre. Branden Jacobs-Jenkins' *War* at LCT3/Lincoln Center Theater and Yale Repertory Theater. Alice Birch's *Revolt. She Said. Revolt Again* at Soho Rep. Lucas Hnath's *Red Speedo* at New York Theatre Workshop, *Salome* at Jack, *Much Ado About Nothing* at the Oregon Shakespeare Festival; Christina Anderson's *Hollow Roots* at the Under the Radar Festival at The Public Theater; a new translation of *The Bakkhai* at the Fisher Center of Performing Arts at Bard College; and *A Guide to Kinship and Maybe Magic*, a collaboration with Jacobs-Jenkins and choreographer Isabel Lewis at Dance New Amsterdam. She was a 2050 Directing Fellow at NYTW, an Artistic Associate of The Exchange and The Orchard Project, a member of the Lincoln Center Director's Lab, and an Allen Lee Hughes Directing Fellow at Arena Stage. She received her MFA in directing from the Yale School of Drama. Upcoming projects include, *Henry IV, Part One* at Oregon Shakespeare Festival, *The Bluest Eye* at The Guthrie, and Dominique Morisseau's *Pipeline* at Lincoln Center.

WILLIAMSTOWN THEATRE FESTIVAL. Since 1955, the Williamstown Theatre Festival has brought America's finest actors, directors, designers, and playwrights to the Berkshires, engaging a loyal audience of both residents and summer visitors. Each WTF season is designed to present unique opportunities for artists and audience alike, revisiting classic plays with innovative productions, developing and nurturing bold new plays and musicals, and offering a rich array of accompanying cultural events including Free Theatre, Late-Night Cabarets, readings, workshops, and educational programs. With offices in both Williamstown and New York City, WTF creates vibrant work that feeds the wider theatrical landscape. The artists and productions shaped at the Festival each summer often go on to reach diverse audiences nationally and internationally. WTF is also home to one of the nation's top training and professional development programs for new generations of aspiring theatre artists and administrators. WTF was honored with the Tony Award for Outstanding Regional Theatre in 2002 and the Commonwealth Award for Achievement in 2011.

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