



# Arcola Theatre announces 2017 Spring/Summer Season

- **Neil Bartlett** to direct his new adaptation of **Albert Camus'** modern classic, ***THE PLAGUE***
- RSC Associate Artist **Greg Hicks** to play the title role in **William Shakespeare's** ***RICHARD III***, directed by Artistic Director **Mehmet Ergen**
- **Amy Draper** to direct ***THESE TREES ARE MADE OF BLOOD***, blending cabaret and original music to tell a vital story from Argentina's Dirty War
- **Lourdes Faberes** to play ***TAMBURLAINE*** in **Yellow Earth's** radical retelling of **Christopher Marlowe's** classic, adapted and directed by **Ng Choon Ping**
- **Helena Bell**, Artistic Director of **Kali Theatre**, to direct the world premiere of ***READY OR NOT*** by **Naylah Ahmed**, as part of a UK tour
- Award-winning new play ***THE PULVERISED*** by **Alexandra Badea** to receive its UK premiere in a co-production by Arcola, Changing Face & York Theatre Royal

Artistic Director **Mehmet Ergen** said:

"Arcola's new season confronts tyranny – the tyranny of people by rulers (*Richard III, Tamburlaine, These Trees*), states of emergency (*The Plague, Ready Or Not*) and work in the global economy (*The Pulverised*). At a time when the world order is under strain – but also when ordinary people are feeling the strain of that change – these plays offer a chance to reflect on our afflictions, and on ways we might resist the worst excesses of power. In-keeping with Arcola's commitment to diverse theatre, the season features new productions from leading BAMER companies Yellow Earth and Kali Theatre. Half of the shows are directed by women, including two original works by female playwrights."

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## Studio 1

*Studio 1 is now a fully producing house. Arcola Theatre presents three productions this season:*

**5 April – 6 May 2017**

Arcola Theatre presents

## **THE PLAGUE**

based on *La Peste* by **Albert Camus**

Adapted and directed by **Neil Bartlett**

*“April 29th; lunchtime. Found Mr Michel in the street outside the apartment. Walk unsteady. Eyes unnaturally bright.”*

Dr Rieux is noticing things. A rat on the stairs, where it has no right to be. A sore throat becoming a fever. The first signs of panic. It all amounts to a troubling diagnosis... so what's the cure?

**The Plague** is **Albert Camus'** electrifying story about living through a time of crisis and fighting back against despair.

Written in the aftermath of the Nazis' march across Europe, it struck a powerful chord with millions struggling to understand the fascist 'plague' that had just overwhelmed them.

Now, seventy years later, multi-award-winning director **Neil Bartlett** (*Or You Could Kiss Me*, National Theatre; *Stella*, LIFT) retells Camus' classic for our own dangerous times. His frank and gripping new stage adaptation puts chaos under the microscope, and plants the germ of hope in the power of our common humanity.

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Cast: Joseph Alessi, Burt Caesar, Billy Postlethwaite, Sara Powell, Martin Turner  
Lighting Design: Jack Weir  
Sound Design: Dinah Mullen

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Now booking at [www.arcolatheatre.com](http://www.arcolatheatre.com)  
#ThePlague

Monday-Saturday at 7.30pm, Wednesday and Saturday matinees at 3pm  
Tickets £12-£22 (previews £10-£17)

Press contact: **Liz Hyder** ([liz@lizhyder.co.uk](mailto:liz@lizhyder.co.uk), 07939 372 865)  
Press night: **11 April 2017**

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**11 May – 10 June 2017**

Arcola Theatre presents

## **RICHARD III**

by **William Shakespeare**

Directed by **Mehmet Ergen**

Cast includes **Greg Hicks**

King Edward is on the throne, and England is at peace. But don't worry - it won't be that way for long.

Gripping and outrageous, Shakespeare's **Richard III** is the tale of a ruthless, power-crazed misogynist who lies and cheats his way to the highest seat in the land.

Following his celebrated performances as Macbeth, Julius Caesar, Coriolanus and King Lear for the Royal Shakespeare Company, **Greg Hicks** takes on the role of the tyrant king Richard in this startling new production, directed by Arcola's Artistic Director **Mehmet Ergen**.

*"I'll have this crown of mine cut from my shoulders  
Before I'll see the crown so foul misplaced."*

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Further casting to be announced.

Design: Anthony Lambie

Lighting Design: David Howe

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Now booking at [www.arcolatheatre.com](http://www.arcolatheatre.com)

#RichardIII

Monday-Saturday at 7.30pm, Wednesday and Saturday matinees at 3pm

Tickets £12-£22 (previews £10-£17)

Press contact: **Kevin Wilson** ([kevinwilsonpr@gmail.com](mailto:kevinwilsonpr@gmail.com), 07884 368697)

Press night: **15 May 2017**

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**14 June – 15 July 2017**

Arcola Theatre presents

## **THESE TREES ARE MADE OF BLOOD**

Book by **Paul Jenkins**

Music and Lyrics by **Darren Clark**

Directed by **Amy Draper**

Original story by **Amy Draper, Paul Jenkins** and **Darren Clark**

*"And for our next act ... The Magical Military Junta ... Will make 30,000 people disappear before your very eyes."*

1970s Argentina. A violent, right-wing dictatorship. Thousands of citizens, seized by the authorities, have "disappeared".

Inside the country's most disreputable club, a mother is about to risk everything to find her missing daughter.

Spectacular, arresting and totally unique, ***These Trees are Made of Blood*** blends cabaret and original live music to tell a vital, human story from Argentina's Dirty War.

Step into Buenos Aires for this immersive theatrical experience, which pulls back the curtain on a secretive state, and shines the spotlight on a powerful act of resistance. Following a sold-out premiere in 2015, the cabaret coup reignites at Arcola for four weeks only.

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Now booking at [www.arcolatheatre.com](http://www.arcolatheatre.com)

#TheseTrees

Monday-Saturday at 7.30pm, Wednesday and Saturday matinees at 3pm

Tickets £12-£22 (previews £10-£17)

Press contact: **Jack Gamble** ([jack@arcolatheatre.com](mailto:jack@arcolatheatre.com), 0207 503 1645)

Press night: **16 June 2017**

Originally produced by Jim Croxford for Theatre Bench at Southwark Playhouse

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## Studio 2

**15 March – 8 April 2017**

Yellow Earth presents

# TAMBURLAINE

by **Christopher Marlowe**

Adapted and directed by **Ng Choon Ping**

A lowly shepherd rises to power – and conquers half the known world.

*Tamburlaine* is a breathtaking interrogation of power, masculinity and the limits of violence.

In his new adaptation for **Yellow Earth** theatre company, **Ng Choon Ping** directs a startling production with a British East Asian cast and live taiko drumming. **Lourdes Faberes** makes her Arcola debut as Tamburlaine.

As ‘strongman’ leaders exert their influence, and new power from the East asserts its growing dominance, **Christopher Marlowe**’s classic tale takes on a new urgency and relevance for our time.

*“I mean to be a terror to the world”*

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Cast: Melody Brown, Lourdes Faberes, Fiona Hampton, Susan Hingley, Amanda Maud, Leo Wan.

Live taiko drumming by Joji Hirota.

Design: Moi Tran

Video Design: Gillian Tan

Lighting Design: Neill Brinkworth

Movement: Rose Ryan

Dramaturgy: Stewart Melton

Creative Producer: Kumiko Mendl

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Now booking at [www.arcolatheatre.com](http://www.arcolatheatre.com)

#Tamburlaine

Monday-Saturday at 8pm, Saturday matinees at 3.30pm

Tickets £17 / £14 concessions (previews £12)

Press contact: **Judy Lipsey** ([Judy.Lipsey@premiercomms.com](mailto:Judy.Lipsey@premiercomms.com), 020 7292 7345)

Press night: **20 March 2017**

Tamburlaine is supported by the Cockayne Foundation and the Foyle Foundation.

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**11 – 29 April 2017**

Kali Theatre presents

## **READY OR NOT**

by **Naylah Ahmed**

Directed by **Helena Bell**

Why would an ordinary retired teacher take a young Muslim man hostage in her living room?

In this timely political thriller from **Naylah Ahmed** (winner of the Royal National Theatre Playwrights Award), an innocent encounter soon develops into a dangerous game of hide and seek with the truth.

In a world of 24-hour news, is there any escape from fear? And how can we detect the real enemy at our gates?

**Kali Theatre** has been presenting groundbreaking new theatre by South Asian women for over 20 years. New Artistic Director **Helena Bell** directs this sharp, thought-provoking world premiere, arriving in London as part of a UK tour.

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Cast: Joan Blackham, Naeem Hayat, Natasha Rickman

Design: Rajha Shakiry

Lighting Design: Katharine Williams

Video Design: Daniel Denton

Sound Design: Chris Drohan

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Now booking at [www.arcolatheatre.com](http://www.arcolatheatre.com)

#ReadyOrNot

Monday-Saturday at 8pm, Saturday matinees at 3.30pm

Tickets £17 / £14 concessions (previews £12)

Press contact: **Judy Lipsey** ([Judy.Lipsey@premiercomms.com](mailto:Judy.Lipsey@premiercomms.com), 020 7292 7345)

Press night: **12 April 2017**

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**2 – 27 May 2017**

Arcola Theatre, Changing Face and York Theatre Royal present

## **THE PULVERISED**

by **Alexandra Badea**, translated by **Lucy Phelps**

Directed by **Andy Sava**

*"Stop the rat race. Stop time. Stop the money. Stop the anxiety. Stop everything that has made human beings so bitter."*

A quality assurance officer from France, a call centre manager from Senegal, a factory worker from China, and an engineer from Romania. Each leads a life apart, but all work round-the-clock

for the same multinational corporation.

When work has no borders, what's the cost? Alexandra Badea's captivating drama is a powerful and disturbing portrait of globalisation and its far-reaching effects on our lives.

Following an explosive premiere at the National Theatre of Strasbourg, where it won the prestigious Grand Prix de la Littérature, ***The Pulverised*** arrives in the UK with a new English translation.

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Cast: Rebecca Boey, Richard Corgan, Solomon Israel, Kate Miles

Set and Costume Design: Nicolai Hart-Hansen

Sound and Video Design: Ashley Ogden

Lighting Design: Tom Smith

Movement Director: Lanre Malaolu

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Now booking at [www.arcolatheatre.com](http://www.arcolatheatre.com)

#Pulverised

Monday-Saturday at 8pm, Saturday matinees at 3.30pm

Tickets £17 / £14 concessions (previews £12)

Press contact: **Chloe Nelkin** ([info@chloenelkinconsulting.com](mailto:info@chloenelkinconsulting.com), 0203 627 2960)

Press night: **5 May 2017**

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## About Arcola Theatre

Arcola Theatre is one of London's leading off-West End theatres. Locally engaged and internationally minded, Arcola stages a diverse programme of plays, operas and musicals. World-class productions from major artists appear alongside cutting-edge work from the most exciting emerging companies. Arcola delivers one of London's most extensive community engagement programmes, creating over 5000 opportunities every year. By providing research and development space to diverse artists, Arcola champions theatre that's more engaging and representative. Its pioneering environmental initiatives are internationally renowned, and aim to make Arcola the world's first carbon-neutral theatre.

## Listings

15 March – 8 April 2017

### **TAMBURLAINE**

by Christopher Marlowe

Adapted and directed by Ng Choon Ping

**Press Night: 20 March 2017**

Press contact: **Judy Lipsey** ([Judy.Lipsey@premiercomms.com](mailto:Judy.Lipsey@premiercomms.com), 020 7292 7345)

5 April – 6 May 2017

### **THE PLAGUE**

after *La Peste* by Albert Camus

Adapted and directed by Neil Bartlett

**Press Night: 11 April 2017**

Press contact: **Liz Hyder** ([liz@lizhyder.co.uk](mailto:liz@lizhyder.co.uk), 07939 372 865)

11 – 29 April 2017

### **READY OR NOT**

by Naylah Ahmed

Directed by Helena Bell

**Press Night: 12 April 2017**

Press contact: **Judy Lipsey** ([Judy.Lipsey@premiercomms.com](mailto:Judy.Lipsey@premiercomms.com), 020 7292 7345)

2 – 27 May 2017

### **THE PULVERISED**

by Alexandra Badea, translated by Lucy Phelps

Directed by Andy Sava

**Press Night: 5 May 2017**

Press contact: **Chloe Nelkin** ([info@chloenelkinconsulting.com](mailto:info@chloenelkinconsulting.com), 0203 627 2960)

11 May – 10 June 2017

### **RICHARD III**

by William Shakespeare

Directed by Mehmet Ergen

**Press Night: 15 May 2017**

Press contact: **Kevin Wilson** ([kevinwilsonpr@gmail.com](mailto:kevinwilsonpr@gmail.com), 07884 368697)

14 June - 15 July 2017

### **THESE TREES ARE MADE OF BLOOD**

Book by Paul Jenkins

Music and Lyrics by Darren Clark

Directed by Amy Draper

**Press Night: 16 June 2017**

Press contact: **Jack Gamble** ([jack@arcolatheatre.com](mailto:jack@arcolatheatre.com), 0207 503 1645)

## Box Office

020 7503 1646 (12.30pm – 6pm)

[www.arcolatheatre.com](http://www.arcolatheatre.com)

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