“There is no such thing as a happy colonised people.
Never has been and never will be. That is our basic delusion.”

Arcola Theatre presents
the **world premiere** of

Shrapnel: 34 Fragments of a Massacre

by Anders Lustgarten

Directed by Mehmet Ergen
Designer Anthony Lamble
Lighting Designer Richard Williamson
Music and Sound Designer Neil McKeown
Dramaturg Seçil Honeywill

December 2011. Watching video footage from a drone, Pentagon officials see a huddle of people – unarmed smugglers, with mules – treading their familiar path across the Turkish-Iraqi border. Hours later, Turkish Armed Forces drop bombs on the group. 34 civilians are killed.

The Roboski massacre is one of the most controversial episodes in the ‘war on terror’. Piecing together the fragments of the tragedy, Anders Lustgarten’s startling new play, **Shrapnel: 34 Fragments of a Massacre**, dares to ask what a massacre is made of.

Shrapnel: 34 Fragments of a Massacre is a story of malicious commands and mournful commemorations; an urgent, powerful insight into the state of modern warfare. It is the first of two urgent political plays directed by Arcola Artistic Director Mehmet Ergen in the current season. The second, *Clarion*, by former Fleet Street journalist Mark Jagasia, an urgent black comedy about free speech, nationalism and the state of the British media, opens in April.

Shrapnel: 34 Fragments of a Massacre will get its World Premiere Wednesday 11 March - Thurday 2 April.

Press night is Monday March 16 at 7.30pm

Cast: Tuncay Akpınar, Josef Altin, Karina Fernandez, David Kirkbride, Aslam Percival Husain, Ryan Wichert

Anders Lustgarten says: “I used to work for a Kurdish human rights group, and I want the victims of the Roboski killings to have the voice they’ve been denied. But I also want to ask a pointed question: who’s responsible for a massacre? Is it only the soldier who presses the button or fires the shots? What about the politicians who can’t inspire with anything except hatred? The media that plays along, fulminating or fearful? The nerdy technocrats who make the bombs and clock off at 5pm? This story could be about Gaza, or Iraq, or any of the many modern assaults on poor people by industrialised societies. It’s a play, fundamentally, about complicity.”

Mehmet Ergen says: “This is the first of two powerful political plays receiving their world premieres in the Arcola’s new season. *Clarion* will question the state of the British media; *Shrapnel* the state of modern warfare. Both are vital and urgent subjects, especially in the run up to the general election.”

Anders Lustgarten won the inaugural Harold Pinter Playwright’s Award for *If You Don’t Let Us Dream We Won’t Let You Sleep* at the Royal Court Theatre Downstairs. He is currently under commission to the Royal Court and the National Theatre among several others, and is also adapting David Peace’s *The Damned United* for a national stage tour. His newest plays are **Shrapnel: 34 Fragments of a Massacre** and *Lampedusa,* which will premiere at Soho Theatre in April. As a long-standing political activist, he’s been arrested in four continents.

Press contact: Kevin Wilson at KWPR 07884 368697
kevinwilsonpr@gmail.com

Arcola Theatre
24 Ashwin Street
London E8 3DL
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Wednesday 11 March - Thurday 2 Apri

Press night: Monday March 16 at 7.30pm

Monday - Saturday evenings at 7:30pm
£19 / £15 concessions

Saturday matinees at 3:00pm
21 March - £17 / £14 concessions
28 March - £19 / £15 concessions

Opening performances (11-14 March) -
All tickets £12
Pay What You Can Tuesdays (tickets in person from 6pm – limited and subject to availability)
Tickets are £10 or less with Arcola Passport

Running time to be confirmed with first preview.