

Stonewall 50th Anniversary and Pride season tour

Three London dates announced at Arcola Theatre

Sunday June 16, Sunday June 23
& Sunday June 30 - the 50th anniversary weekend of The Stonewall Riots

Arcola Theatre, Alexis Gregory and Team Angelica present

Riot Act

a powerful, critically acclaimed verbatim theatre piece

created and performed by Alexis Gregory

directed by Rikki Beadle-Blair MBE



Riot Act is a hard-hitting, hilarious and heart-warming exploration of the history of the LGBTQ rights movement.

Created from playwright and performer Alexis Gregory's interviews with Michael-Anthony Nozzi, one of the only remaining Stonewall survivors; Lavinia Co-op, a 1970s London radical-drag artist; and Paul Burston, a prominent 1990s AIDS activist, this solo verbatim piece is a breathtaking journey through six decades of queer history.

Arriving at Arcola Theatre after a sold-out West End performance and a summer 2018 run in the Kings Head Queer Season, and ahead of a UK Tour, **Riot Act** honours the 50th anniversary of the Stonewall riots – with the 30 June performance marking the actual anniversary weekend. It's going to be a riot!

Riot Act, written and performed by Alexis Gregory, directed by Rikki Beadle MBE, will play Arcola Theatre on Sunday June 16, Sunday June 23 and Sunday June 30.

Arcola Associate Director Jack Gamble said: "In our main-stage programme and with our community Queer Collective, Arcola has a deep commitment to staging the lives and histories of LGBT+ people. We're very proud to be co-producing **Riot Act** ahead of a UK Tour. It's an exceptional piece of theatre, which - on the 50th anniversary of the Stonewall riots - is also a vital reminder that the civil rights of LGBT+ people were hard-won, and must be defended."

'You know what's strange, I felt safer on the night of the riots, on the sidewalk in front of Stonewall, than I did in my own home town'

'I'm a drag queen. I want to live. I want to survive. As an older person, I'm 65 now, I couldn't give a f*cking shit'

**'In London, the idea of 'safe sex' was; don't sleep with Americans. James was older; a mature student.
He was 22 years old when he died'**

Hard-hitting, provocative, tender, truthful, funny, political and personal, these are stories of queerness, sexuality, activism, addiction, family, childhood, love, sex, drag, community, togetherness, conflict, identity, youth, ageing, loss, fierce queens and a Hollywood diva.

Alexis Gregory - Writer and performer

Alexis Gregory is a London-based playwright, performer and producer. Plays include his debut, the immersive 'Slap', directed by Rikki Beadle-Blair MBE (Theatre Royal Stratford East / 'pop-up' performances at Channel 4's London HQ - the channels first ever onsite theatrical presentation and at warehouse space, 'Concrete' in Shoreditch for The Telegraphs 2016 Pride celebrations), published by Team Angelica, long listed for the 2016 Polari First Book Prize, currently being adapted into a film version, verbatim theatre piece; 'Safe' on LGBT youth homelessness (Soho Theatre - Pride in London Arts Festival / London Theatre Workshop - media partnered with 'Attitude' magazine - both directed by Robert Chevara / Norwich Theatre Royal directed by Alexis), created in association with the Albert Kennedy Trust, published by Oberon Books and the April 2018 sell-out run and critically acclaimed 'Sex/Crime' at alternative East-End queer venue, The Glory, with Alexis acting opposite queer cabaret legend Jonny Woo, also directed by Chevara and the workshop of 'Bright Skin Light' (Theatre Royal Stratford East). Short plays include 'And Where There Once Were Two' (Arcola Queer Collective / The Bunker), 'Freak' (Bush Theatre), 'Orlando, Judy Garland and The Fierce Children of the Light - In Response to the Orlando Attack' (St James Theatre). He is a regular guest reader at LGBT literary salon; 'Polari' (Southbank Centre / UK tour) and a judge for the Polari First Book Prize, produces or co-produces much of his own work and is regularly funded by Arts Council England.. Additional acting credits include several plays with Rikki Beadle-Blair's Team Angelica company (Riverside Studios / Pleasance Theatres - London and Edinburgh / The Drill Hall / Birmingham Rep / Tristan Bates Theatre), 'First Signs' (Kings Head), 'Sparkleshark' - Write To Play with Phillip Ridley (Southwark Playhouse), 'Eight' (Kings Head / Tara Arts / Tristan Bates), Larry Kramer's 'A Minor Dark Age' (Operating Theatre Company), 'You Couldn't Make It Up' (New End Theatre), workshop productions of 'Children At Play' (Young Vic) and 'A Thousand Miles of History' (High Tide), performance art piece 'Gasping Words' (ICA), 'SwanSong' (Kings Head Queer Fest). Screen credits include several of Team Angelica's features; 'Bashment', 'Kick Off' and 'Fit' and 'Free' (both co-produced with Stonewall), the co-lead in the upcoming short 'Mankind' (2018) and 'Specimen' (BFI Flare, 2016).

Rikki Beadle-Blair MBE - Director

Rikki Beadle-Blair MBE is a writer, director, composer, choreographer, designer, producer and performer. He has won several awards including the Sony Award, the Los Angeles Outfest Screenwriting and Outstanding Achievement awards. Past projects include several feature films and TV series, including the American feature 'Blackbird' starring Oscar-winning actress, Mo'Nique, 'Stonewall' for the Killer Films New York and BBC Films, Metrosexuality for Channel 4, 'Noah's Arc' for MTV LOGO as well as FIT, KickOff and Bashment for his own company Team Angelica. He is one of the creative directors of the Visionary Youth Project for young European Film Activists. Rikki also works extensively in theatre and has written 28 plays in the last decade that have been performed at Theatre Royal Stratford East, the Bush Theatre, the Soho Theatre, the Tristan Bates Theatre and the Contact Theatre in Manchester. Including the recent groundbreaking Summer In London written for an all trans cast of performers. Rikki is a committed mentor to a great many writers, actors, composers and directors around the world and recently received the The Gay Times Honours award for Services to the Arts

Critical acclaim for Riot Act

"A career defining performance...Rikki Beadle Blair's direction; brilliant...this stand-out piece of theatre will become part of LGBT cultural heritage"

Attitude

"Verbatim theatre at its best"

The Stage

"Gregory has done something magical with Riot Act"

A Younger Theatre

"A stunning and deeply emotional performance...deftly directed by Beadle-Blair:"

Remote Goat

"The most moving piece of new queer writing currently being performed in London"

The Spy In The Stalls

"Theatre at its simplest and at its best"

British Theatre Guide

"Gregory's tour-de-force performance led to the standing ovation he so rightly deserved. Cohesive direction by Beadle-Blair"

Boyz

"Achieves ambitious levels of storytelling. An eye-opening punch to the gut"

Broadway World

Arcola Theatre, Alexis Gregory and Team Angelica present

Riot Act

Created and performed by Alexis Gregory

Directed by Rikki Beadle-Blair MBE

Sunday 16 June

Sunday 23 June

Sunday 30 June

at 7.30pm

Running Time:
60 mins

Arcola Theatre
24 Ashwin Street,
Dalston,
London
E8 3DL

Box office: 020 7503 1646

www.arcolatheatre.com

Tickets:
Best £22
Standard £19
Value £15
Restricted £10

Recommended for audiences of 16 years+.
Contains themes and language of an adult nature.

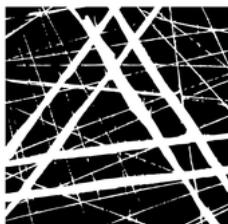
The 'Riot Act' play text is published by Oberon Books

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