

Young Vic

Press Release – Thursday 19 October 2023

Images can be downloaded [here](#)

ANDREA LING ANNOUNCED AS 2023 GENESIS FUTURE DIRECTORS AWARD RECIPIENT



The **Young Vic Theatre** and **Genesis Foundation** is excited to announce **Andrea Ling** as the 2023 **Genesis Future Directors Award** recipient. An interdisciplinary artist within theatre, installation, film and visual arts, Andrea will direct ***The Earthworks*** written by Olivier Award winner **Tom Morton-Smith** (*My Neighbour Totoro*, *Oppenheimer* at the RSC) in the Young Vic's Clare Theatre from **26 March** to **6 April 2024** with tickets on sale at noon today.

The universe doesn't care if we know how it works.

A hotel bar in Geneva, the night before the Large Hadron Collider is switched on. A woman walks up to a man. She's a journalist, trying to write a career-defining article, and he is a scientist, still reeling from a recent loss. What could have an obvious ending, turns into a story of two people's worlds colliding for a brief, yet life-changing moment. *The Earthworks* is a moving and hilarious exploration into carrying the weight of grief and knowing when it's time to let go.

Andrea Ling, 2023 Genesis Future Directors Award recipient, said: *"I am incredibly excited to be the next recipient of the Genesis Future Directors Award. Through the Creators Program, the Young Vic has been my artistic playground and a holding space for community, so I am thrilled to be directing *The Earthworks* for Young Vic audiences. It explores existentialism, grief and awe in a funny yet honest way."*

John Studzinski, Founder and Chairman of the Genesis Foundation, said: *"Supporting creatives in the early stages of their professional lives is central to our work. The Genesis Future Directors Award has been running for over ten years and is one of the finest training opportunities in the UK. It enables an up-and-coming director to be mentored by the*

outstanding Young Vic creative team, in an environment that provides both freedom and firm professional support. It also gives early-career creatives an opportunity to put on a play in a safe studio space, shielded from critical review. We believe the freedom to fail safely is crucial to the development of an artist's craft and to their self-esteem. We very much look forward to seeing Andrea's work and wish her every success."

Sue Emmas, Associate Artistic Director at the Young Vic, said: *"Andrea is innately curious and instinctively pushes creative boundaries. She has been an active and generous member of our Genesis Network and strives to deepen her own and others' artistic practice. With the valued and continued support of the Genesis Foundation, we're excited to realise her vision for this new production of The Earthworks and to continue deepening our relationship with such an exceptional artist."*

Andrea trained through East 15's Acting and Contemporary Theatre course and various theatre-making programmes including the Young Vic's Creators Program and New Earth's Professional Writers Programme. Her work advocates for social change and connection as well as examining the intersection of culture, capitalism, colonialism and ecology, which is influenced by her Bolivian and Chinese heritage. In 2021, Andrea founded arts company, Pacha People, creating immersive and original artworks co-made with communities. Andrea's previous Young Vic credits include *endings* written and directed for *Five Shorts* and Trainee Assistant Director on *A Season in the Congo* by Aimé Césaire directed by Joe Wright.

Made possible by the Genesis Foundation, the Genesis Future Directors Award provides early-career directors with the opportunity to explore and develop their craft by creating their first fully resourced production at the Young Vic, with mentoring and support from the theatre's core artistic team including Artistic Director Kwame Kwei-Armah and Taio Lawson, Genesis Fellow / Associate Director.

Since its inception in 2012, the Genesis Future Directors Award has supported 16 emerging directors and theatre-makers. Among them are **Diyan Zora**, who directed *Mom, How Did You Meet The Beatles?* this summer at Chichester Festival; **Debbie Hannan**, Associate Director at the National Theatre of Scotland; **Nancy Medina**, Artistic Director of the Bristol Old Vic; **Matthew Xia**, Artistic Director and joint CEO of Actors Touring Company; **Lekan Lawal**, Artistic Director of Eclipse Theatre; **Tinuke Craig**, who directed August Wilson's *Jitney* in 2022 at Leeds Playhouse and the Old Vic.

BSL Performance: Thu 4 April 2024, 7.45pm

Captioned Performance: Fri 5 April 2024, 7.45pm

Audio Described Performance: Sat 6 April 2024, 7.45pm

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Images can be downloaded here:

<https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fo/7zhvl2fdszust8wbbgapt/h?rlkey=h87dsjo0gql0shwz90fneu90d&dl=0>

About the Genesis Foundation

The Genesis Foundation has supported the Young Vic's Directors Program (now Creators Program) since its inception 20 years ago and currently funds the Genesis Future Directors Award and the Genesis Fellow.

The Foundation was founded by John Studzinski and has supported thousands of artists in their career development since 2001. Through its partnership model, it provides opportunities for talented artists, principally in theatre and music.

The Foundation's focus is on partnerships with leading UK arts organisations that include the Almeida Theatre, National Theatre, Young Vic and The Sixteen, and on training initiatives - such as the Genesis Theatre Design programme, and the Genesis Future Curators programme at the Royal Academy of Arts – that equip emerging artists for life as a creative professional.

For more information, please visit genesisfoundation.org.uk

About the Young Vic Theatre

Founded in 1970 as a space for world-premiere productions and unexpected takes on classic plays that speak urgently to our present, the Young Vic Theatre has been one of London's leading theatres for more than fifty years.

Welcoming more than 100,000 visitors a year to its London Waterloo location, the Young Vic stands out in the city's cultural landscape for balancing daring commercial drive, success and artistic flair with genuine grassroots social impact change in our neighbourhood. We forge deep connections in our neighbourhood through our Taking Part programme, where we engage with over 15,000 people every year via a wide range of projects, from skills-based workshops to on-stage performances. We give 10% of our tickets free to schools and neighbours, irrespective of box office demand, and we are committed to keeping ticket prices low.

The Young Vic's Creators Program is our space for multi- and anti-disciplinary artists, and is the only scheme of its kind. Launched in 2001, and formerly known as the Directors Program, we offer artists and producers a unique opportunity to develop their craft through opportunities that range from trainee and assistant director roles to a two-year residency through the Genesis Fellow/Associate Director position. The Genesis Network provides an online community to over 2,500 artists and producers. Each year, the recipient of the Genesis Future Directors Award directs a show in the Clare Theatre with full support from the Young Vic team.

Built upon the principles of access, innovation, and community, the Young Vic is now deepening its roots nationally and internationally. Recent transfers include a *Death of a Salesman* and *The Collaboration* on Broadway, and *Best of Enemies* and *Rodgers & Hammerstein's Oklahoma!* in the West End.

The Young Vic's founding spirit is iconoclastic and pushing at the forefront of possibility, bringing together artists and audiences on a global scale and using the power of stories to change our world.

Artistic Director: Kwame Kwei-Armah

Executive Director: Lucy Davies

www.youngvic.org

The Young Vic's annual activities are made possible with public funding from Arts Council England.

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Additional support is provided by The Black Heart Foundation and the Genesis Foundation.

We gratefully acknowledge Ian Burford and Alec Cannell for generously supporting the Young Vic's mission.