

Young Vic

Press Release – Monday 21 October 2024

Images available [here](#)

PRODUCTION IMAGES RELEASED FOR *GIRL IN THE MACHINE* DIRECTED BY ANNIE KERSHAW



Leah Harvey and Sophie Melville in *Girl in the Machine* at the Young Vic © Steve Gregson

The Young Vic Theatre has today released production images for *Girl in the Machine* by **Stef Smith** (*The Outrun*, *Nora: A Doll's House*) directed by **Annie Kershaw** (*THIS IS NOT A PROTEST*, *Ulysses*), the 2024 recipient of the **Genesis Future Directors Award**. *Girl in the Machine* will run from Wednesday 16 - Saturday 26 October 2024 in the Young Vic's Clare Theatre as part of the **Creators Program** and **Genesis Future Directors Award** program.

BAFTA nominated actor **Leah Harvey** (*Foundation*, *Small Island*) will play Rowan with **Sophie Melville** (*The Way*, *Iphigenia in Splott*) as Polly in this electrifying new production which explores human and technological interaction.

The gap is getting smaller between the human and the hardware.

Polly loves Rowen but lately that hasn't felt like enough. Then Rowen brings home the Black Box, with its promises to cure depression, and a flick of a switch changes everything. As Polly becomes more distant from the person she planned to share her life with, will her love for Rowen be enough to resist the draw of eternal bliss that the Black Box offers?

Completing the creative team is designer **Khadija Raza**, sound designer **Odinn Orn Hilmarsson**, lighting designer **Lucía Sánchez Roldán**, movement director **Nevena Stojkov**, associate sound designer **Neil McKeown**, casting by **Jacob Sparrow**, and Jerwood Trainee Assistant Director **Neve Adams**.

Made possible by the **Genesis Foundation**, the **Genesis Future Directors Award** program 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. Since its inception in 2012, the Genesis Future

Directors Award has supported 17 emerging directors and theatre-makers including **Andrea Ling, Deirdre McLaughlin, Diyan Zora, Dadiow Lin, Caitriona Shoobridge, Lekan Lawal, Debbie Hannan, John R. Wilkinson, Nancy Medina, Luke Skilbeck, Bryony Shanahan, Ola Ince, Rikki Henry, Tinueke Craig, Finn Beames, Matthew Xia and Ben Kidd.**

The Genesis Future Directors Award is part of the **Young Vic's Creators Program** for multi- and anti-disciplinary artists. The only scheme of its kind, it offers 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.

Captioned Performance: Wed 23 October, 7.45pm

BSL Performance: Thu 24 October, 7.45pm

Audio Described Performance: Fri 25 October, 7.45pm

-ENDS-

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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 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.

Executive Director: **Lucy Davies**

www.youngvic.org

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

We thank Lambeth Council and Southwark Council for their ongoing support.

Additional support is provided by the Genesis Foundation.

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

Thank you to all of our donors who make our work possible.

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