

Young Vic

Press Release – Thursday 26 May 2022

Images and biographies can be downloaded [here](#)

COMPLETE CAST ANNOUNCED FOR *CHASING HARES*

Irfan Shamji plays Prab with Ayesha Dharker as Chellam, Zainab Hasan as Kajol, Scott Karim as Devesh and Saroja-Lily Ratnavel as Amba.

Written by Sonali Bhattacharyya, *Chasing Hares* is the winner of Theatre Uncut's 2021 Political Playwriting Award.

A Young Vic and Theatre Uncut co-production

Chasing Hares

By Sonali Bhattacharyya

Directed by Milli Bhatia

16 July - 13 August 2022

Press Night 25 July, 7pm

They can't afford for the truth to get out. He's the one person brave enough to tell it.

The Young Vic today announces the complete cast and creative team for the world premiere of *Chasing Hares*, a new play by award-winning playwright **Sonali Bhattacharyya** (*Two Billion Beats*) and directed by **Milli Bhatia** (*seven methods of killing kylie jenner*). The play, set between the UK and West Bengal, considers the power of storytelling in the struggle for a fairer world.

Ayesha Dharker (*The Father, The Father and The Assassin*) plays Chellam, with **Zainab Hasan** (*The Welkin, Lotus Beauty*) as Kajol, **Scott Karim** (*Dracula, The Invisible Hand*) as Devesh, **Saroja-Lily Ratnavel** (*Bravo Two Charlies, Electric Rosary*) as Amba and **Irfan Shamji** (*The Ipress File, Hamlet*) as Prab, in this tale of resistance and dignity in the face of global exploitation.

By day machine operator Prab struggles to survive the precarity and brutality of his factory job in West Bengal, by night he writes stories for his baby daughter Amba. When a popular actress recruits him to write a play for her, Prab seizes the opportunity to expose the injustice of factory conditions and the rumors of child exploitation. But in his fight for change, is he ready to risk his future, his family and even his own life?

Chasing Hares is designed by **Moi Tran**, with lighting design by **Jai Morjaria**, video design by **Akhila Krishnan**, sound design by **Donato Wharton**, composition by **Sarathy Korwar** and movement direction by **Chi San Howard**. The creative team is complete with casting director **Polly Jerrold**, R&D Dramaturg **Guy Jones**, R&D lyric consultant **Jammz**, audio description by **Eleanor Margolies** and captioning by **Miranda Yates**.

BSL performance: 29 July, 7.30pm

Audio Described performance: 2 & 9 August, 7.30pm

Relaxed performance: 3 August, 7.30pm

Captioned performance: 4 August, 7.30pm

Socially Distanced performance: 8 August, 7.30pm

ENDS

For more information, please contact:

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About Theatre Uncut

Theatre Uncut make bold, progressive, political theatre for everyone, everywhere. They work with the world's leading and emerging playwrights. Theatre Uncut plays are tools for change and have been performed in 26 countries across 4 continents and viewed by over 200,000 people online. The Theatre Uncut Political Playwriting Award was launched to discover the next generation of political voices.

www.theatreuncut.com

**THEATRE
UNCUT**

About the Young Vic

For over fifty years, the Young Vic has produced new plays, classics, musicals, adaptations of books, short films, digital projects, and game-changing forms of theatre, attracting large audiences from many different backgrounds.

Based in London's Waterloo, 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 [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 theatre-makers a unique opportunity to develop their craft through skills workshops, peer-led projects, paid assistant roles through the [Genesis Fellow](#), the [Jerwood Assistant Director Program](#) and the [Boris Karloff Trainee Assistant Director Program](#), as well as access to the [Genesis Network](#). Twice a year, the recipient of the [Genesis Future Directors Award](#) directs a show in The Clare theatre at the Young Vic with full support from the Young Vic's creative, administrative and production teams, enabling us to support and nurture an emerging theatre artist as a part of the Young Vic programme.

For many years, the Young Vic has been synonymous with inclusivity, accessibility, and creativity. We catalyse debate and channel our work into the digital world, to reach new audiences and continue conversations outside of our four walls. We foster emerging talent and collaborate with some of the world's finest directors, performers and creatives; creating award-winning productions which engage with the world we live in.

Artistic Director: **Kwame Kwei-Armah**

Executive Director: **Lucy Davies**

Youngvic.org

Public Support



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**ARTS COUNCIL
ENGLAND**



Season Support



The Young Vic's 2022 season is also supported by the Genesis Foundation and IHS Markit.

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