Press Release

FRIDAY 20 JANUARY 2017

DONMAR WAREHOUSE ANNOUNCES FULL CASTING FOR *LIMEHOUSE,* A NEW PLAY BY STEVE WATERS

LIMEHOUSE

A new play by **Steve Waters**
Thursday 2 March – Saturday 15 April 2017
PRESS NIGHT: **Wednesday 8 March 2017**
Director **Polly Findlay**
Designer **Alex Eales**
Lighting Designer **Jon Clark**
Sound Designer **Emma Laxton**
Composer **Rupert Cross**
Casting includes **Roger Allam**, **Nathalie Armin**, **Paul Chahidi, Debra Gillett** and **Tom Goodman-Hill**

The Donmar Warehouse today announces full casting for playwright **Steve Waters**' searing new drama ***Limehouse***. The play imagines what happened when the 'Gang of Four' met in 1981 to break away from the Labour party and form the SDP. Casting includes **Roger Allam** as Roy Jenkins and **Tom Goodman-Hill** as David Owen, joining the previously announced **Paul Chahidi** as Bill Rogers and **Debra Gillett** as Shirley Williams. **Nathalie Armin** will play Debbie Owen, wife of David Owen and co-host of that momentous day in east London. The production is directed by Olivier Award-winning **Polly Findlay**, who makes her Donmar debut.

A divisive left-wing leader at the helm of the Labour party. A Conservative prime minister battling with her cabinet. An identity crisis on a national scale.

This is Britain 1981.

One Sunday morning, four prominent Labour politicians – Bill Rodgers, Shirley Williams, Roy Jenkins and David Owen – gather in private at Owen's home in Limehouse, east London. They are desperate to find a political alternative. Should they split their party, divide their loyalties, and risk betraying everything they believe in? Would they be starting afresh, or destroying forever the tradition that nurtured them?

Steve Waters' thrilling new drama takes us behind closed doors to imagine the personal conflicts behind the making of political history.

LIMEHOUSE is a fictionalised account of real events. It is not endorsed by the individuals portrayed.

Making theatre accessible to as many people as possible remains at the heart of the Donmar's mission. *Limehouse* will see the start of **KLAXON TICKETS**: a new allocation of tickets, starting from £10, will be made available every Monday for performances two weeks later. Tickets will also be available across the auditorium at every price band.

The Donmar's new **YOUNG+FREE** scheme, which provides free tickets to those aged 25 and under will also continue throughout the season, with releases for tickets on the last Friday of each month. **YOUNG+FREE** is made possible thanks to donations from Donmar audiences via **PAY IT FORWARD**. The Donmar has now received almost 2,750 donations alongside their partnership with Delta Airlines, which has enabled the venue to allocate almost 5,600 free tickets so far to those aged 25 and under.

Audiences can sign up to receive information about tickets on the Donmar's new website, www.donmarwarehouse.com

Roger Allam (Roy Jenkins) returns to the Donmar Warehouse following his Olivier Award-winning role in *Privates on Parade* directed by Michael Grandage. Other theatre credits include *The Moderate Soprano* and *Seminar* (Hampstead Theatre), *The Tempest* and the Olivier Award-winning role as Falstaff in *Henry IV Parts I and II* (Shakespeare's Globe), *Uncle Vanya* (Chichester Festival Theatre), *Boeing, Boeing* (Comedy Theatre) and *The God of Carnage* (UK Tour). On television he is best known for his roles as Peter Mannion in the BBC political satire *The Thick Of It* and Detective Inspector Fred Thursday in the Morse prequel *Endeavour.* Film credits include *Tamara Drewe* and *The Queen*.

Nathalie Armin (Debbie Owen) makes her Donmar Warehouse debut in *Limehouse.* Theatre credits include *Another World: Losing Our Daughters to Islamic State, The Motherf**ker with the Hat, Dara* and *Behind the Beautiful Forevers* (National Theatre), *The Complaint* (Hampstead Theatre), *The Bomb/First Blast* (Tricycle Theatre), *On the Record* (Arcola), *Lidless* (High Tide/Trafalgar Studios), *Arabian Nights* and *Othello* (RSC), *Crazy Black Muthaf**kin'Self* (Royal Court). For television her credits include *Humans, Maigret: Maigret's Dead Men*, *Luther, Doctors, EastEnders* and *SPOOKS*. Nathalie's film credits include *Denial* and *Grow Your Own.*

Paul Chahidi (Bill Rodgers) returns to the Donmar Warehouse having appeared in *The Vote* and *Privacy* directed by Artistic Director Josie Rourke. His theatre credits include *As You Like It* (National Theatre), *Shakespeare in Love* (Noel Coward Theatre), *Twelfth Night* (Shakespeare's Globe/Apollo Theatre/NY), as well as numerous credits for the Royal Court, RSC, National Theatre, Young Vic and in the West End. Paul is also an RSC Associate Artist. His extensive film credits include *The Death of Stalin, This Beautiful Fantastic, Undisputed, Love is Thicker Than Water, The Voices, Venus, The Libertine,* and *Notting Hill*. Television credits include *And Then There Were None, Chad, This Country of Ours, Maigret, Him & Her, The Tunnel, What Remains, The Hour* and *Holy Flying Circus.*

Debra Gillett (Shirley Williams) makes her Donmar Warehouse debut in *Limehouse.* Her theatre credits include *Young Chekhov: The Seagull*, *Young Chekhov: Ivanov*, *Three Days in the Country*, *A Small Family Business*, *Tartuffe* (National Theatre), *The Recruiting Officer* (Chichester Festival Theatre), as well as numerous other credits for the RSC, Glasgow Citizens Theatre and the National Theatre. Film credits include *Bridget Jones's Baby, Pride and Prejudice and Zombies, Notes on a Scandal, Breathtaking, A Nice Arrangement* and *The Witches.* Debra's television credits include *Call The Midwife, Cranford Chronicles, Dr Who, Spooks,* and *Cold Feet.*

Tom Goodman-Hill (David Owen) returns to the Donmar Warehouse having starred in *The Cosmonaut's Last Message to the Woman He Once Loved in the Former Soviet Union* in 2005. Theatre credits include *Rabbit Hole* (Hampstead Theatre), *The Effect* and *Earthquakes in London* (National Theatre), *Death and the Maiden* (Harold Pinter), *Enron* (The Coward Theatre, Chichester and Royal Court), and *Spamalot* (Palace Theatre). Television and film credits include *The Secret Agent*, *Humans, Mr Selfridge*, *Call the Midwife*, *Black Mirror*, *The Truth Commissioner*, *Everest* and *The Imitation Game*.

Steve Waters (Writer) returns to the Donmar Warehouse following his play *Temple* in 2015 and *World Music* which was staged in 2004 (also Sheffield Crucible). His plays include *Why Can't We Live Together?* (Menagerie Theatre Company/UK Tour/Soho Theatre/Theatre 503), *Europa* co-authored (Birmingham Rep/Dresden Staatspielhouse/Teater Polski/Zagreb Youth Theatre), *Ignorance/Jahiliyyah, English Journeys* and *After the Gods* (Hampstead), *Capernaum* in *Sixty-Six Books*, *Little Platoons, The Contingency Plan* and *In a Vulnerable Place* (Bush), *Amphibians* (Bridewell), *Out of Your Knowledge* (Menagerie Theatre), *Fast Labour* (Hampstead/West Yorkshire Playhouse) and *Habitats* (Gate and Tron Theatre Glasgow). For radio, Steve has written *Scribblers, Bretton Woods* and *The Contingency Plan* for BBC Radio 3 and *Deep Swimmer, The Air Gap, Little Platoons, Morning, The Parliament of Rooks* and *The Moderniser* for BBC Radio 4. For the screen, Steve has written *The Contingency Plan; Safe House.* Steve is the author of *The Secret Life of Plays.*

Polly Findlay (Director) makes her directing debut at the Donmar Warehouse with *Limehouse.* Polly was the joint winner (with Derren Brown) of the 2012 Olivier Award for Best Entertainment for DERREN BROWN: SVENGALI. She won the JMK Award for Young Directors in 2007, and was awarded the 2006/7 Bulldog Princeps Bursary at the NT Studio. Directing credits include *Ghosts* (HOME Manchester) *The Alchemist (*RSC and The Barbican), *As You Like It* (National Theatre), *Frøken Julie* (Aarhus Theatre, Denmark), *The Merchant of Venice* (RSC), *Treasure Island* (National Theatre), *Krapp's Last Tape* (Sheffield Crucible), *Arden of Faversham* (RSC), *Protest Song* (The Shed, National Theatre), *Gefährten/Warhorse* (National Theatre/Theater des Westens, Berlin), *A Taste of Honey* (Sheffield Crucible), *The Country Wife* (Royal Exchange, Manchester), *Antigone* (National Theatre), *Good* (Royal Exchange Theatre), *The Swan* and *Nightwatchman* (Double Feature - National Theatre, Paintframe), *Twisted Tales* (Lyric Hammersmith), *Honest* (Royal & Derngate and Milnes Bar, Edinburgh, 2011), *Light Shining in Buckinghamshire* and *Thyestes* (Arcola Theatre), *Eigengrau* (Bush Theatre), and *Romeo and Juliet* (BAC).

DONMAR 2017 POWER SEASON

Following *Limehouse*, **Lenny Henry** will make his Donmar debut as Arturo Ui in Bertolt Brecht's satirical masterpiece ***The Resistible Rise of Arturo Ui,*** given a new translation by **Bruce Norris** and directed by **Simon Evans.**

The season will then close with ***The Public Administration and Constitutional Affairs Committee Takes Oral Evidence on Whitehall's Relationship with Kids Company,*** a new musical with book and lyrics edited from the transcript of a House of Commons Select Committee evidence session by **Hadley Fraser** and Donmar Artistic Director **Josie Rourke**. Music is by composer **Tom Deering** and direction by **Adam Penford.** [This production has not been authorised by any participant or Parliament. It is based on the Parliamentary transcript of the oral evidence session on 15 October 2015 and the words spoken by those participating in the inquiry.]

ENDS

For further information, please contact:
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DONMAR WAREHOUSE:
LISTINGS

LIMEHOUSE

A new play by **Steve Waters**
Thursday 2 March – Saturday 15 April 2017
PRESS NIGHT: **Wednesday 8 March 2017**

Donmar Warehouse, 41 Earlham Street, Seven Dials, London WC2H 9LX
www.donmarwarehouse.com

Box Office: **0844 871 7624** (No booking fees, £1 postage fee may apply)
Telephone Mon-Sat 10am-10pm
In person, Mon-Sat, 10am-curtain up (No booking fee)

PERFORMANCE TIMES
Evenings Mon – Sat: 7.30pm
Matinees Thu & Sat: 2.30pm

TICKET PRICES
Stalls £40, £30
Circle £30, £20, £10

PREVIEW PRICES
Stalls £37.50, £27.50
Circle £27.50, £17.50, £10

PREVIEW DISCOUNTS APPLY TO FOLLOWING DATES
Limehouse 2, 3, 4, 6 March, 7.30pm

KLAXON TICKETS
From Monday 13 February new allocations of tickets from £10 will be made available every Monday for performances two weeks later. Tickets will be available across the auditorium at every price band.

CONCESSIONS
For over 60s, £40 tickets reduced to £32.50 and £30 tickets reduced to £25 (matinees only).
£20 for disabled customers. Must be booked in advance and proof of eligibility must be shown on collection.

STANDING TICKETS
£10 standing tickets available every day from 10am in person at the box office.

YOUNG+FREE
Tickets will be released at noon on Friday 24 February 2017 for March and then on the last Friday of each month at noon for the following month. For an opportunity of securing free tickets and for more information, sign up to the mailing list: http://www.donmarwarehouse.com/about/young-and-free

ACCESS
The Donmar Warehouse is fully wheelchair accessible. Guide dogs and hearing dogs are welcome in the auditorium. There is an infrared system in the main auditorium and there is also a hearing loop in the box office.

ASSISTED PERFORMANCES
Tickets cost £20. To book call 020 7845 8573 or email access@donmarwarehouse.com
For all other access enquiries or bookings call 0844 871 7677

CAPTIONED PERFORMANCES – 7.30PM (captioned by Stagetext)
Limehouse Monday 3 April, 7.30pm

AUDIO-DESCRIBED PERFORMANCE - 2.30PM (audio-described by Vocaleyes)
(TOUCH TOUR AT 1.30PM)
Limehouse Saturday 8 April, 2.30pm (touch tour 1.30pm)

TRANSPORT & PARKING
Tubes: Covent Garden, Leicester Sq, Charing Cross, Holborn, Tottenham Court Road
Buses: Destination Leicester Sq.14, 19, 24, 29, 38, 176
Parking: Masterpark

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