



THE CHILDREN

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

DATE: February 11, 2020

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Jim Torres - 617.529.1670

PRESS DATE: *Sunday, March 1 – 3PM or by request. RSVP [here](#):*

(BOSTON) – From February 28 to March 28, SpeakEasy Stage Company will proudly present the Boston premiere of the acclaimed drama **THE CHILDREN** by British playwright Lucy Kirkwood.

A 2018 Tony Award Nominee for Best Play, **THE CHILDREN** is a taut and timely new play that questions the responsibility each generation has for the way it leaves the world. One summer evening, in an isolated cottage on the British coast, Hazel and Robin, a long-married pair of retired physicists, are surprised by a visit from Rose, a former colleague whom they haven't seen in 38 years. As the friends reminisce, long-held secrets come to light, leading to the real reason behind Rose's return.

A native of East London, Lucy Kirkwood is currently represented on London's stages by *The Welkin*. Her other works include *It Felt Empty When the Heart Went at First but It Is Alright Now* (2009 Evening Standard Award and 2010 John Whiting Award); *NSFW* (2012); *Chimerica* (2014 Olivier and Evening Standard Awards for Best New Play, plus a Critic's Circle Award and the Susan Smith Blackburn Award); *The Children* (2016) and *The Mosquitoes* (2017). Her screen credits include *Skins* (Company Pictures), *The Smoke* (Kudos / Sky 1), and the short film *The Briny*, which she also directed. Ms. Kirkwood adapted her play *Chimerica* into a four-part miniseries for Channel 4 in 2019, and has written a new four-part series *Adult Material*, following a woman's life in the adult film industry, due to be shown in 2020.

Elliot Norton Award-winning director Bryn Boice will direct the SpeakEasy production of **THE CHILDREN**. Her recent credits include *Universe Rushing Apart: Blue Kettle & Here We Go*, two Caryl Churchill one-acts (Commonwealth Shakespeare Company); *Admissions* (The Gamm Theatre); *Last Night at Bowl-mor Lanes* (Greater Boston Stage); and an all-female production of *Julius Caesar* (Actors' Shakespeare Project). Bryn is the newly appointed Associate Artistic Director of Commonwealth Shakespeare Company and is the founding Artistic Director of fringe ensemble Anthem Theatre.

The cast consists of three Norton Award-winners: Tyrees Allen, Karen MacDonald, and Paula Plum.

The design team is Cristina Todesco (scenic); Rachel Padula-Shufelt (costumes); Jeff Adelberg (lighting); and David Remedios (sound). Rachel Sturm is the Production Stage Manager.

THE CHILDREN will run for five weeks, from February 28 through March 28, 2020, in the Roberts Studio Theatre in the Stanford Calderwood Pavilion at the Boston Center for the Arts, 527 Tremont Street in Boston's South End.

Ticket prices start at \$25, with discounts for students, seniors, and people age 25 and under.

For tickets or more information, the public is invited to call BostonTheatreScene Ticketing Services at **617.933.8600** or visit **www.SpeakEasyStage.com**.

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SpeakEasy Stage Company

THE CHILDREN

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Show History

THE CHILDREN premiered at the Royal Court Theatre in London, running from November 17, 2016 to January 14, 2017. The cast featured Francesca Annis, Deborah Findlay, and Ron Cook, and was directed by James Macdonald.

The play then premiered on Broadway at the Samuel J. Friedman Theatre on November 28, 2017. Manhattan Theatre Club produced the transfer of the London production, which saw the same cast and creative team bringing the show to New York. The play received two Tony Award nominations - Best Play and Best Featured Actress in a Play (Findlay).

THE CHILDREN was co-produced in Australia by the Melbourne Theatre Company and the Sydney Theatre Company in 2018. That production won three Helpmann Awards, including Best Play.

Productions of **THE CHILDREN** have also been staged in Toronto, at the Canadian Stage Theatre; in Chicago at Steppenwolf Theatre; in Washington DC at Studio Theatre; and in Lenox, MA at Shakespeare & Company, among others.

Playwright Information

LUCY KIRKWOOD (Playwright) - In 2009, her play *It Felt Empty When the Heart Went at First but Is Alright Now* was produced by Clean Break Theatre Co. at the Arcola Theatre. It was nominated for the Evening Standard Award for Best Newcomer and made Ms. Kirkwood joint winner of the John Whiting Award. *NSFW* premiered at the Royal Court Theatre in 2012. *Chimerica* premiered at the Almeida Theatre in 2013 and subsequently transferred to the West End, winning Best New Play at the 2014 Olivier and Evening Standard Awards, the Critics Circle Award and the Susan Smith Blackburn Award. In 2016 *The Children* premiered at the Royal Court. *Mosquitoes*, presented by special arrangement with Manhattan Theatre Club, opened at the National Theatre in 2017. Ms. Kirkwood wrote an episode for each of the second, third, and fourth series of *Skins*, broadcast between 2008 and 2010. In 2014, her drama series *The Smoke*, made by Kudos, was televised on Sky 1. It follows the exploits of white watch at a fictional London fire station. She adapted her play *Chimerica* into a four-part miniseries for Channel 4, broadcast in 2019, and for the same network has written a new four-part series *Adult Material*, following a woman's life in the adult film industry, due to be shown in 2020.

Director Information

BRYN BOICE (Director) is thrilled to make her SpeakEasy debut. She is an award-winning director, educator, actor, and producer. Recent credits include *Universe Rushing Apart: Blue Kettle & Here We Go*, two Caryl Churchill one-acts for Commonwealth Shakespeare Company (Elliot Norton Award—Outstanding Director, Large Theatre); *Admissions* (The Gamm Theatre); *Last Night at Bowl-mor Lanes* with Paula Plum and Nancy E. Carroll (Greater Boston Stage); and an all-female production of *Julius Caesar* for Actors' Shakespeare Project. Upcoming: *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (CSC2/Comm Shakes). NYC and regional credits as an actor and/or director include work with Asolo Repertory Theatre, Boston Playwrights' Theatre, Caroline's on Broadway, and Manhattan Theatre Club. Bryn is the newly appointed Associate Artistic Director of Commonwealth Shakespeare Company and is the founding Artistic Director of fringe ensemble Anthem Theatre Company. She teaches acting, voice, applied movement, and dialects, among others, at Salem State. She holds an MFA in Directing from Boston University and an MFA in Acting from the Asolo Conservatory for Actor Training (FSU). More information at www.brynboice.com

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Actor Information

TYREES ALLEN* (Robin) is thrilled to be back at SpeakEasy Stage, after having played Pops in last season's *Between Riverside and Crazy* [IRNE and Elliot Norton Awards -- Outstanding Actor]. Broadway credits include *Aida* (OBC) and the renowned revival of *Henry IV* at Lincoln Center. Notable regional credits include playing Colin Powell in the American Premiere of *Stuff Happens* at The Mark Taper Forum, the title role of *Othello* at The Old Globe, Christian in *Ruined* at Echo Theater, and Northumberland in *Richard II* at The Goodman Theatre. At the Dallas Theater Center, he has played Elder Jay in *The Christians*, Evan in *Sweat*, James Bevel in *The Great Society*, and Aegisthus in *Electra*. Tyrees was a series regular on the TV show *Women's Murder Club*, has had recurring roles on several shows, and has guest-starred on over fifty shows.

KAREN MACDONALD* (Rose). SpeakEasy: *Polly*, *Other Desert Cities*; *The Drowsy Chaperone*, *The Drowsy Chaperone*. Broadway: *Amanda Wingfield* [u/s, performed], *The Glass Menagerie*. Off-Broadway: *Oliver Twist* (TFANA). National: *The Audience* (Maltz Jupiter Theatre); *No Exit* (Hartford Stage); *Faithful Cheaters* (Trinity Rep); *Escaped Alone* (Gamm Theatre). Boston-Area: *The Cake*, *Red Hot Patriot* (Lyric Stage); *America Plays* (Plays in Place); *Calendar Girls* (Greater Boston Stage Company); *Finish Line* (Boston Theater Company); *The Apple Family Plays* (Greater Boston Stage Company, Gloucester Stage, New Rep); 73 productions including *Arkadina*, *The Seagull*, *Mother Courage and her Children* (American Repertory Theatre - Founding Company Member); *All My Sons*, *Good People* (Huntington Theatre); *Long Day's Journey into Night* (New Rep); *Universe Rushing Apart*, *Coriolanus*, *All's Well That Ends Well*, *Hamlet* (Commonwealth Shakespeare Company); *Home of the Brave*, *The Blonde*, *The Brunette and the Vengeful Redhead* (Merrimack Rep). Ms. MacDonald has worked nationally from The Wilma Theater to Berkeley Rep. She has been awarded several IRNE and Elliot Norton Awards, and has received the Robert Brustein Prize for Sustained Achievement in the Theatre and the Elliot Norton Prize for Sustained Excellence.

PAULA PLUM* (Hazel). SpeakEasy credits include *The History Boys*, *Reckless*, *The New Century*, *The Savannah Disputation*, and *The Divine Sister*. She is the recipient of seven IRNE Awards; the 1995, 2007, and 2017 Elliot Norton Awards for Outstanding Actress; the 2004 Elliot Norton Award for Sustained Excellence, and the 2003 Distinguished Alumni Award from Boston University. In 2009, in association with SpeakEasy Stage, Paula was one of five actors nationwide to receive the Fox Foundation Resident Actor Fellowship. As a founding member of Actors' Shakespeare Project, she has played Cleopatra, Beatrice, Lady Macbeth, and Phèdre. Paula has also appeared regionally at the Lyric Stage, the American Repertory Theatre, New Rep, Merrimack Rep, Huntington Theatre, Gloucester Stage, and Elm Shakespeare. Film credits include *Mermaids*, *Malice*, *Next Stop Wonderland*, and Woody Allen's *Irrational Man*. Television: *Science Court* (three seasons - ABC) and *The Dick & Paula Celebrity Special* (co-creator and star – FX). Ms. Plum is a cum laude graduate of Boston University and has studied at the London Academy of Music and Dramatic Art, the Dell'Arte Institute, and École Phillippe Gaulier in Paris. She has been published in American Theatre magazine, is married to actor Richard Snee, and is a professional acting coach. www.paulaplum.com

For tickets or more information on **THE CHILDREN**, the public can call BostonTheatreScene Ticketing Services at 617.933.8600 or visit www.SpeakEasyStage.com.

Press inquiries should be directed to **Marketing & Communications Director Jim Torres**:
Office: 617.482.3279 Cell: (not for publication) 617.529.1670 Email: JimTorres@SpeakEasyStage.com

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Calendar Listing Information

THE CHILDREN by Lucy Kirkwood

Presented by: SpeakEasy Stage Company, the Calderwood Pavilion Resident Theatre Company at the Boston Center for the Arts; Paul Daigneault, Producing Artistic Director

2018 Tony Nominee for Best Play! Following acclaimed runs in London and New York City, **THE CHILDREN** is a taut and thrilling new play that questions the responsibility each generation has for the way it leaves the world. One summer evening, in an isolated cottage on the British coast, Hazel and Robin, a long-married pair of retired physicists, are surprised by a visit from Rose, a former colleague whom they haven't seen in 38 years. As the friends reminisce, long-held secrets come to light, leading to the real reason behind Rose's return.

Cast: Tyrees Allen, Karen MacDonald, Paula Plum.

Director: Bryn Boice

Design Team: Scenic: Cristina Todesco
Costumes: Rachel Padula-Shufelt
Lighting: Jeff Adelberg
Sound: David Remedios

Production Stage Manager: Rachel Sturm
Assistant Stage Manager: Emily D. Bahm

Performing at: The Roberts Studio Theatre
in the Stanford Calderwood Pavilion at the Boston Center for the Arts,
527 Tremont Street in Boston's South End.

Performance Schedule: February 28 – March 28, 2020
Wed. & Thurs. at 7:30PM; Fri. at 8PM; Sat. at 4 & 8PM;
Sun. at 3PM. Additional performance Thursday, Mar. 26 at 2PM.

Estimated Run Time: 1 hour and 45 minutes with no intermission

Ticket Prices: Tickets start at \$25. Seniors: \$5 off at all times except gallery seats.
Age 25 and under: \$25 at all times.

Student Rush: \$15 with valid college ID, in person at the box-office only,
two hours before curtain, subject to availability.
Limit – one rush ticket per valid ID.

Box Office: 617.933.8600; www.SpeakEasyStage.com

Press Contact Only: Jim Torres – 617.529.1670 (cell – not for publication)

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