



ROYAL  
DERNGATE &  
NORTHAMPTON

ROSE  
THEATRE  
KINGSTON

## FULL CASTS ANNOUNCED FOR *RULES FOR LIVING*

The full casts are today announced for **English Touring Theatre, Royal & Derngate, Northampton** and **Rose Theatre Kingston's** production of **Sam Holcroft's *Rules for Living***.

**Simon Godwin** directs **Jane Booker** (Edith), **Jolyon Coy** (Matthew), **Ed Hughes** (Adam), **Carlyss Peer** (Carrie), **Laura Rogers** (Nicole) and **Paul Shelley** (Francis) in ***Rules for Living***, which opens in Northampton before touring to Cambridge, Windsor, Brighton, Ipswich and finishes at the Rose from Tue 7 – Sat 18 Nov. It reunites the award-winning co-producing team that produced *The Herbal Bed* in 2016.

**English Touring Theatre, Royal & Derngate, Northampton and Rose Theatre Kingston present**

### **Rules for Living**

**By Sam Holcroft**

Director: **Simon Godwin**; Designer: **Lily Arnold**; Lighting Designer: **Matt Daw**  
Sound Designer and Composer: **Mark Melville**; Movement Director: **Shelley Maxwell**  
Projection Designer: **Andrzej Goulding**; Associate Director: **Spencer Noll**  
Casting Director: **Hancock Stevenson Casting**

**7 – 18 November at Rose Theatre Kingston**

**Press night: 13 September (Royal & Derngate, Northampton)**

**Guest night: 8 November, 7.30pm (Rose Theatre Kingston)**

**And then on tour**

Edith must clean to keep calm. Matthew must sit to tell a lie.

Everyone creates their own rules for living. But what happens when an extended family gathers for a traditional Christmas dinner, and each of them rigidly follows those rules?

Christmas day will never be the same again. As the drinks flow and the obligatory games intensify, family resentments rise and relationships are pulled apart with a bang – like oh so many Christmas crackers.

The regional première of this darkly funny play is produced in collaboration with the producing team, English Touring Theatre, Royal & Derngate, Northampton and Rose Theatre Kingston, who recently won the 2016 UK Theatre Award for Best Touring Production for *The Herbal Bed*.

**Sam Holcroft** recently adapted Roald Dahl's *Fantastic Mr Fox* for Nuffield Southampton Theatres. She was the Writer-in-Residence at the National Theatre Studio from 2013-14 and was the Pearson Playwright in Residence at the Traverse Theatre in 2009-10. In 2014 she was a recipient of the Windham Campbell Prize for Literature in the Drama category and in 2009 she won the Tom Erhardt Award for up and coming writers. Her other plays include *The Wardrobe*, *Edgar And Annabel*, *Dancing Bears*, *While You Lie*, *Pink*, *Vanya* and *Cockroach*. She is currently under commission from the Royal Court Theatre.

**Jane Booker** plays Edith. She previously worked with Simon Godwin on *The Beaux Strategem* (National Theatre). In addition to seasons with the RSC, her other theatre work includes *The Secret Rapture* (Bristol Old Vic), *The Memory of Water* (Hampstead Theatre) and *Sense & Sensibility* (Watermill Theatre). Her television credits include *Inspector Morse*, *Titmuss Regained*, *Murder Most Horrid*, *A Bit of Fry & Laurie*, *Midsomer Murders*, *Jonathan Creek*, *Foyle's War*, *The Only Boy for Me*, *North & South* and *My Family*. Her film work includes *Neverland*.

**Jolyon Coy** plays Matthew. His previous theatre work includes *The Merchant of Venice*, *Holy Warriors*, *Anthony & Cleopatra* (Shakespeare's Globe), *Little Eylof* (Almeida Theatre), *Creditors* (Young Vic), *Wendy and Peter Pan* (RSC), *Our Boys* (Duchess Theatre) and *Posh* (Royal Court and West End). For television, his work includes *Peaky Blinders*, *The Windsors*, *War and Peace* and *Mr Selfridge*; and for film, *Beauty and the Beast*, *Testament of Youth*, *The Fifth Estate* and *The Deep blue Sea*.

**Ed Hughes** plays Adam. His previous theatre credits include *Dead Dog in a Suitcase* (Kneehigh), *Luna Gale* (Hampstead Theatre), *Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas* (Vault Festival), *This House* (National Theatre), *Democracy* (Sheffield Theatres), *Enron* (Headlong/Royal Court and West End), *Rough Crossings* (Headlong), *The Canterbury Tales* (RSC), *Hamlet* (Old Vic). His television work includes *Ripper Street*, *Drifters*, *The Honourable Woman* and *Wallander*.

**Carlyss Peer** plays Carrie. Her theatre credits include *Groundhog Day* (Old Vic), *Jefferson's Garden* (Watford Palace Theatre), *Hamlet*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Shakespeare's Globe), *The Rivals* (Theatre Royal Bath and Theatre Royal Haymarket). For television, her work includes *Pixies*, *Grantchester*, *Brief Encounters*, *Peter and Wendy*, *Holby City* (series regular Bonnie Wallis), *Eternal Law* and *Silent Witness*.

**Laura Rogers** plays Nicole. Her recent theatre work includes *A Lie of the Mind* (Defibrillator/Southwark Playhouse), *Winter Solstice* (Orange Tree Theatre), *A Lovely Sunday for Creve Coeur* (The Print Room), *Private Lives* (UK tour), *Tipping The Velvet* (Lyric Hammersmith), *An Ideal Husband*, *Pressure* (Chichester Festival Theatre), *Masterpieces* (Royal Court), *55 Days and Revelations* (Hampstead Theatre). Her television credits include *Dates*, *Dark Matters*, *Missing* and *Bad Girls*.

**Paul Shelley** plays Francis. His theatre credits include *Brideshead Revisited* (English Touring Theatre), *All My Sons* (National Tour), *The Secret Rapture*, *The Crucible*, *Hedda Gabler*, *Lady in The Dark* (National Theatre), *Les Liaisons Dangereuses*, *The Winter's Tale*, *The Twin Rivals*, *Dingo, Bingo* (RSC), *Anthony and Cleopatra* (Shakespeare's Globe), *The House That Will Not Stand* (Tricycle), *Earthquakes in London* (UK tour), *Moonlight* (Donmar Warehouse) and *Macbeth* (Chichester, West End, New York). His television credits include *Paradise Postponed*, *Titmus Regained*, *A Tale of Two Cities*, *Morse*, *Secret Army*, *Revelations*, *Dr Who*, *Blake's 7*. His film includes *Oh! What a Lovely War*, *Polanski's Macbeth*, *Macbeth*, *Caught in the Act*, *It Shouldn't Happen to a Vet*.

**Simon Godwin** directs. He was previously Associate Director at Royal & Derngate, Northampton where his credits include *Regeneration* (also tour), *The Seagull*, *Habeas Corpus*, *Relatively Speaking* and *The Quartermaine's Terms* (with Salisbury Playhouse). He is an Associate Director at the National Theatre, where he has directed *Twelfth Night*, *Sunset at the Villa Thalia*, *The Beaux Stratagem*, *Man and Superman* and *Strange Interlude*. His work for the Royal Court includes *Routes*, *If You Don't Let Us Dream*, *We Won't Let You Sleep*, *NSFW*, *The Witness*, *Goodbye to All That*, *The Acid Test* and *Wanderlust*. For Bristol Old Vic, he has directed *The Little Mermaid*, *Krapp's Last Tape*, *A Kind of Alaska*, *Faith Healer* and *Far Away*. His other credits include *Hamlet* and *The Two Gentlemen of Verona* (RSC), *The Cherry Orchard* (Roundabout, New York), *Richard II* (Shakespeare's Globe), *Candida* (Theatre Royal Bath) and *The Winter's Tale* (Headlong with Nuffield Theatre & Schtanhaus/UK tour).

**Opens at:**

**Royal & Derngate, Northampton**

8 – 30 September

Box office: 01604 624811

[www.royalandderngate.co.uk](http://www.royalandderngate.co.uk)

**Theatre Royal Brighton**

17 – 21 October

Box office: 0844 871 7627

[www.atgtickets.com/brighton](http://www.atgtickets.com/brighton)

**Before touring to:**

**Cambridge Arts Theatre**

3 – 7 October

Box office: 01223 503 333

[www.cambridgeartstheatre.com](http://www.cambridgeartstheatre.com)

**New Wolsey Theatre, Ipswich**

31 October – 4 November

Box office: 01473 295900

[www.wolseytheatre.co.uk](http://www.wolseytheatre.co.uk)

**Theatre Royal Windsor**

10 – 14 October

Box office: 01753 853 888

<http://www.theatreroyalwindsor.co.uk/>

**Rose Theatre Kingston**

7 – 18 November

Box office: 020 8174 0090

[www.rosetheatrekingston.org](http://www.rosetheatrekingston.org)

**ENGLISH TOURING THEATRE**

English Touring Theatre is one of the UK's most successful and influential touring companies, winning the UK Theatre Awards Best Touring Production in 2014, 2015 & 2016. The company works with leading artists to stage an eclectic mix of new and classic work for audiences throughout the UK and overseas; theatre that is thrilling, popular and engaged in the contemporary world. At the heart of everything ETT does is the passionately held belief that everyone, wherever they are in the country, deserves to have access to the very best work. In 2017 ETT will tour to 40 venues throughout the UK. The company's co-production of *Othello*, with Shakespeare at the Tobacco Factory, ran at Wilton's Music Hall in May and this September the company will produce new versions of Sam Holcroft's *Rules for Living* and Conor McPherson's *The Weir*.

[www.ett.org.uk](http://www.ett.org.uk)

@ETTtweet

**ROSE THEATRE KINGSTON**

Founded by Sir Peter Hall, and modelled on the original Elizabethan Rose Theatre on London's Bankside, Rose Theatre Kingston is the largest producing theatre in South West London. Since opening in 2008, the Rose has collaborated with a range of directors, playwrights and producing partners to create vibrant, engaging and inspiring productions. Recent works include Zach Helm's *Good Canary* directed by John Malkovich, Shakespeare's trilogy *The Wars of the Roses* directed by

Trevor Nunn, David Hare's *The Absence of War* directed by Jeremy Herrin and Jacqueline Wilson's *Hetty Feather* (West End transfer and Olivier Award nominee) directed by Sally Cookson. With over 150,000 visitors a year, the Rose enjoys artistic and critical acclaim from its own productions and co-productions as well as from hosting the work of renowned theatre companies including Royal Shakespeare Company, English Touring Theatre, Shakespeare's Globe, Liverpool Everyman and Playhouse, Propeller and Northern Broadsides. With an auditorium that lends itself to both intimate and epic scale productions, the Rose has established itself as one of the most exciting theatres in the UK.

[www.rosetheatrekingston.org](http://www.rosetheatrekingston.org)

@Rosetheatre

### **ROYAL & DERNGATE, NORTHAMPTON**

Royal & Derngate, Northampton, is the main venue for arts and entertainment in Northamptonshire, with audience members and participants last year numbering more than 474,000 in Northampton and beyond. As one of the major producing venues in the country, Royal & Derngate was named Regional Theatre of the Year by the inaugural Stage 100 Awards in 2011, an accolade for which it was nominated again in 2016. The theatre also won the Management Award for Best Presentation of Touring Theatre in the 2015 UK Theatre Awards for its *Made in Northampton* work. *The Herbal Bed* (a co-production with English Touring Theatre and Rose Theatre Kingston) won the 2016 UK Theatre Award for Best Touring Production. Other recent highlights include a nationwide tour of *Death of a Salesman*, a major tour of *King Lear*, starring Michael Pennington and *Soul*, a new play by Roy Williams about Marvin Gaye. Previous acclaimed touring productions have included Shakespeare's *King John*, world premieres of Arthur Miller's *The Hook* and Aldous Huxley's *Brave New World*, *Young America* (Northampton and National Theatre, London) and *End of the Rainbow* (Northampton and West End). The theatre also runs a wide-ranging *Get Involved* participatory programme which reached over 26,000 people last year, through projects in schools, within the community and at the theatre.

[www.royalndderngate.co.uk](http://www.royalndderngate.co.uk)

@royalndderngate

**For further information please contact:**

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