

Nancy Poole PR press release

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THEATRE503 WIPES OUT HIRE FEES AS IT RE-OPENS THIS AUTUMN

Theatre503 announces its re-launch, with 14 plays by new writers staged from September 2021 to May 2022, including the winner of the 2020 Theatre503 International Playwriting Award. The company also reveals major changes to its producing model including the elimination of hire fees to visiting companies, following the recent announcement of the 503Studio at Nine Elms and plans for a physically accessible Latchmere space.

Highlights include:

- US playwright Pravin Wilkins' award-winning *Moreno*, directed by Nancy Medina;
- Premieres of *Milk & Gall* (2018 Award finalist) by Mathilde Dratwa, *Til Death Do Us Part* by Safaa Benson-Effiom (2020 Award Finalist), and 4 further co-productions;
- 503Resets – short runs of 7 new plays produced by emerging freelance companies;
- A new 503Panto, written by debut playwright Lucy Wilson, commissioned as a result of an open call out;
- Theatre503 to replace all hire fees in favour of a 50-50 box office split.

Artistic Director Lisa Spirling and Executive Director Andrew Shepherd:

"One of the biggest barriers to making work on our stage has been a prohibitive hire fee model. By replacing this with a 50-50 box office split, we are reducing the financial impact on incoming companies by 25%. The unique support Theatre503 gives to every company with which we collaborate can be taken even further as we continue to deliver our vital mission of bringing a diverse and talented range of new voices to new and returning audiences. There is still a long way to go to achieve equality of access to a career in the arts, but the 503Studio at Nine Elms, a physically accessible Latchmere space, and this more immediate change are a good start if we are genuinely to build our industry back better. A writer doesn't work in isolation, and an often overlooked role is that of our early career independent producers, who hold a lot of the burden of a show. We're particularly delighted that two recent graduates of our trainee producer scheme are making their professional debuts in Spring 2022, Darcy Dobson and Bethany Cooper, alongside our Producer Ceri Lothian (herself a former trainee), rising producing star Ameena Hamid and the always impressive Defibrillator. We can't wait to share these incredible talents with you soon."

AUTUMN TO WINTER 2021:

503RESETS

6 – 28 September 2021

A series of shorter runs of new writing from early career freelance companies, unable to stage work in the pandemic.

FOXES by Dexter Flanders, directed by James Hillier, a co-production with Defibrillator

5-23 October 2021, Press night: 12 October at 7.30pm (press enquiries: Chloé Nelkin)

Alfred Fagon Award nominated play exploring masculinity and homosexuality within London's Caribbean Community and black street culture.

MILK & GALL by Mathilde Dratwa, directed by Artistic Director, Lisa Spirling, produced by Theatre503

2-27 November 2021, Press night: 9 November at 7.30pm

A surreal and gloriously inventive play about becoming a mother in a nation that's lost its mind.

SNOW WHITE: A 503Panto written by Lucy Wilson

7 – 30 December 2021, Press welcome from 11 December

Snow White and the Evil Queen get the classic 503 twist in a family friendly festive panto.

SPRING 2022:

ZOMBIEGATE by Matthew Gabrielli, directed by Julian Bruton, produced by Ameena Hamid in co-production with Theatre503

1 – 19 February 2022, Press night: Tuesday 8 February at 7.30pm

A witty and empathetic look behind the headlines and hashtags of internet trolls and cancel culture.

MORENO by Pravin Wilkins, directed by Nancy Medina, produced by Theatre503

1 – 26 March 2022, Press night: Tuesday 8 March

Winner of the 2020 Theatre503 Playwriting Award, exploring the impact of Colin Kaepernick's monumental decision to take the knee, set in the heart of an NFL locker room.

TAPPED by Katie Redford, directed by Piers Black, produced by Bethany Cooper in co-production with Theatre503

5 – 23 April 2022, Press night: Tuesday 12 April

A heart-warming comedy about three friends stuck in their home-town in Nottingham and the importance of connection, community and (lack of) hope.

TIL DEATH DO US PART by Safaa Benson-Effiom, produced by Darcy Dobson in co-production with Theatre503

3 – 21 May 2022, Press night: Tuesday 10 May

A timely spotlight on parental grief and what happens when the only thing keeping you together threatens to tear you apart.

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NOTES TO EDITORS:

Theatre503 is at the forefront of identifying and nurturing new voices at the very start of their careers and launching them to the industry. They stage more early career playwrights than another theatre in the world – with over 120 writers premiered each year from festivals of short pieces to full length productions, resulting in employment for over 1,000 freelance artists through their year-round programme. They also support writers all year round with development projects working towards that first full length production as part of the 503Studio.

They provide a diverse pipeline of talent resulting in modern classics like *The Mountaintop* by Katori Hall and *Rotterdam* by Jon Brittain – both Olivier Award winners – to future classics like Yasmin Joseph's *J'Ouvert*, winner of the 2020 James Tait Black Prize and transferring to the West End/BBC Arts and *Wolfie* by Ross Willis, winner of the 2020 Writers Guild Award for Best New Play. Writers who began their creative life at Theatre503 are now writing for the likes of *The Crown*, *Succession*, *Doctor Who*, *Killing Eve* and *Normal People* and every single major subsidised theatre in the country now boasts a new play by a writer who started at Theatre503.

The 2020 Theatre503 International Playwriting Award received 1,719 scripts from 45 countries. It is supported by the Carne Trust and publishing partners Samuel French, A Concord Theatricals Company.

www.theatre503.com / [@Theatre503](https://twitter.com/Theatre503)

LISTINGS DETAILS:

FOXES Press Night: 12 October, 7.30pm

By Dexter Flanders

Directed by James Hillier

5 – 23 October

Tuesday to Saturday (and second Monday), 7:30pm

'Pay What You Can' Saturdays, 3pm (excluding Sat 9 October)

Previews: 5 – 11 October (excluding Sun 10 October), 7.30pm

Relaxed/Captioned: 20 October, 7.30pm

Parent and Baby: 20 October, 12noon

MILK & GALL Press Night: 9 November, 7.30pm

By Mathilde Dratwa

Directed by Lisa Spirling

2 – 27 November 2021

Tuesday to Saturday (and second Monday), 7:30pm

'Pay What You Can' Saturdays, 3pm (excluding Sat 6 November)

Previews: 2 – 8 November (excluding Sun 6 October), 7:30pm

Relaxed/Captioned: 17 November, 7.30pm

Parent and Baby: 17 November, 12noon

SNOW WHITE: A 503Panto Press welcome from 11 December

By Lucy Wilson

7 – 30 December 2021

Tuesday 7 – Saturday 23 December (excl. 13 Dec), 7pm

Saturday, 2pm

Sunday, 1pm & 5.30pm (excl. 26 Dec)

Additional matinees: 21-23 December, 2pm

Monday 27 – Tuesday 28 December, 5.30pm

Wednesday 29 – Thursday 30 December, 7pm

'Pay What You Can' Panto Previews: 7 – 10 December

ZOMBIEGATE Press Night: Tuesday 8 February, 7:30pm

By Matthew Gabrielli

Directed by Julian Bruton

1 - 19 February 2022

Tuesday to Saturday (and second Monday), 7:30pm

'Pay What You Can' Saturdays, 3pm (excluding Sat 5 Feb)

Previews: 1-7 February 2022 (excluding Sun 6 February), 7:30pm

Relaxed/Captioned: 16 February, 7.30pm

Parent and Baby: 16 February, 12noon

MORENO Press Night: Tuesday 8 March, 7:30pm

By Pravin Wilkins

Directed by Nancy Medina

1 - 26 March 2022

Tuesday to Saturday (and second Monday), 7:30pm

'Pay What You Can' Saturdays, 3pm (excluding Sat 5 Mar)

Previews: 1-7 March 2022 (excluding Sun 6 March), 7:30pm

Relaxed/Captioned: 16 March, 7.30pm

Parent and Baby: 16 March, 12noon

TAPPED Press Night: Tuesday 12 April, 7:30pm

By Katie Redford

Directed by Piers Black

5 – 23 April 2022

Tuesday to Saturday (and second Monday), 7:30pm
'Pay What You Can' Saturdays, 3pm (excluding Sat 9 April)
Previews: 5-11 April 2022 (excluding Sun 10 April), 7:30pm
Relaxed/Captioned: 20 April, 7.30pm
Parent and Baby: 20 April, 12noon

TIL DEATH DO US PART Press Night: Tuesday 10 May, 7:30pm

By Safaa Benson-Effiom

3 – 21 May 2022

Tuesday to Saturday (and second Monday), 7:30pm
'Pay What You Can' Saturdays, 3pm (excluding Sat 7 May)
Previews: 3-9 May 2022 (excluding Sun 8 May), 7:30pm
Relaxed/Captioned: 18 May, 7.30pm
Parent and Baby: 18 May, 12noon