

Full cast announced for Chekov's *Three Sisters* - reworked for the 21st century by award-winning playwright Anya Reiss



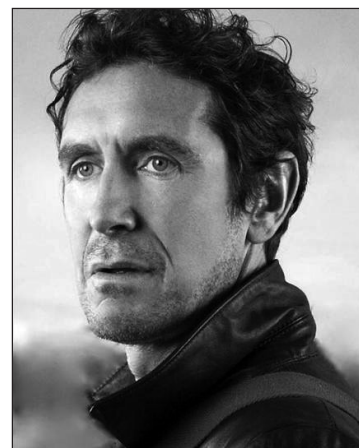
HOLLIDAY GRAINGER
Irina



OLIVIA HALLINAN
Olga



EMILY TAAFFE
Masha



PAUL MCGANN
Vershinin

Full casting is announced for a searing new version of Chekhov's masterpiece, *Three Sisters*, reworked for the 21st century by **Anya Reiss**, Most Promising Playwright at the Evening Standard Awards and Critics Circle Awards in 2010.

Three Sisters reunites producers Jagged Fence Productions and director Russell Bolam - the team behind 2012's critically acclaimed, sell-out hit, *The Seagull* ("fresh, colloquial, sexy and downright perceptive", The Daily Telegraph) - and is co-produced by Danielle Tarento, the award winning producer of last year's smash hit, *Titanic*.

Three Sisters will run for a five-week season in The Large at Southwark Playhouse from Thursday 3 April - Saturday 3 May.

Press night is Tuesday 8 April at 8.00pm.

Holliday Grainger (Irina) starred as Bonnie in the just-aired TV mini series, *Bonnie & Clyde* and played the Pope's wayward daughter, Lucrezia Borgia, in three series of *The Borgias* on Sky Atlantic. She was Estella in the film *Great Expectations* and last appeared on stage in London at the Donmar Warehouse in Douglas Hodge's production of Athol Fugard's *Dimetos*.

Olivia Hallinan (Olga) is best known as Laura Timmins in all four series of the BBC TV series *Lark Rise to Candleford* and also as Kim in Julie Birchill's critically acclaimed *Sugar Rush* on Channel 4. In the West End she appeared in *Precious Little Talent* at Trafalgar Studios and *Herdin' Cats* at Hampstead Theatre - "terrific, full of bounce and fury, so believably incensed, I could feel my blood pressure rising just by listening to her" (Evening Standard).

Emily Taafe (Masha) was Miranda in *The Tempest*, Viola in *Twelfth Night* and Luciana in *The Comedy of Errors*, all for the RSC, and *The Cherry Orchard*, *The King James Bible* and *The Veil* all at the National Theatre.

Paul McGann (Vershinin) is one of Britain's most versatile actors and has appeared in more than 80 films and TV series, including the seminal *Withnail & I*, which was voted the second best British film of the last 25 years by a poll of 60 eminent British film filmmakers and film critics in The Observer. Together with Tim Roth, Gary Oldman and Colin Firth, he was part of the celebrated 'Brit Pack' in Hollywood, where he starred in major films for Steven Spielberg and David Fincher. He was the eighth reincarnation of Dr Who in the 1996 spin-off US TV movie. Last November, after months of fevered speculation, and as part of the show's 50th anniversary celebrations, he delighted millions of fans worldwide when he once again played the Doctor in the specially created mini-episode *The Night of the Doctor*. In recent years he has been seen on TV in *Luther*, *A Mother's Son*, *Ripper Street* and *The Bletchley Circle*. In the West End, he was "memorably good as Reg Nuttall" (The Sunday Times) when he co-starred with Dominic West in Simon Gray's *Butley* at the Duchess.

The rest of the cast are **David Carlyle** (Tusenbach) whose recent roles include *Carpe Diem* at the National Theatre; **Emily Dobbs** (Natasha) was Masha in *The Seagull* at Southwark Playhouse and Stas, in Pam Gems' *Dusa Fish Stas and Vi* at the Finborough; **Michael Garner** (Chebutykin) *The Merry Wives of Windsor* at Shakespeare's Globe; **Dudley Rogers** (Ferafont) *Titanic* at Southwark Playhouse; **Tom Ross-Williams** (Kulygin) received rave reviews as the central character of The Writer in Tennessee Williams' *Vieux Carré* (Front Row Dress Award, Best Revival) at the King's Head Theatre and West End transfer to Charing Cross Theatre; **Joe Sims** (Solyony) was series regular Nige Carter in *Broadchurch* on ITV1, and was named Best Actor in the 2012 Offies for *As We Forgive Them* at the Arcola; **Jane Thorne** (Anfisa) was in *Judgement Day* at the Print Room; **Thom Tuck** (Andrey) was a member of The Penny Dreadfuls comedy group.

For press interviews and images, please contact Kevin Wilson at KWPR

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Jagged Fence Productions and Danielle Tarento present

Three Sisters

by **ANTON CHEKHOV** in a new version by **ANYA REISS**

Director **RUSSELL BOLAM**

Set & Costume Designer **ANTHONY LAMBLE**

Lighting Designer **HOWARD HUDSON**

Sound Designer **MAX PAPPENHEIM**

Anya Reiss (Writer) wrote her first play when she was 14 and then became a member of the Royal Court Theatre's Young Writers' Programme. For the stage, she most recently adapted Chekhov's *The Seagull* for Southwark Playhouse and *Forty-Five Minutes*, which played at the National Theatre's 2013 Connections Festival. Prior to that she wrote *The Acid Test*, which opened at the Royal Court in May 2011 and received rave reviews. Her debut play, *Spur of the Moment*, (written when she was 17) opened at the Royal Court in July 2010, for which she won the Most Promising Playwright Award at the 2010 Evening Standard Awards and the 2010 Critics' Circle Awards and Best New Play at the 2010 TMA Awards.

Russell Bolam (Director) recently directed critically acclaimed productions of *The Merry Wives Of Windsor* at the Ivan Vasov, National Theatre of Bulgaria and Anya Reiss' version of *The Seagull* and the world premiere of Philip Ridley's *Shivered*, both at Southwark Playhouse. *The Seagull* was long-listed for Best Off-West End Production at the Whatsonstage Awards and for Best Actor and Best Actress at the Off West End Awards. *Shivered* was nominated for Best Off-West End Production at the Whatsonstage Awards and for Best Production, Best New Play, Best Actor and Best Director at the Off West End Awards.

Jagged Fence (Producer) was founded in 2006 by Artistic Director Emily Dobbs and has produced critically acclaimed work across London, at regional festivals and venues, and in New York. Theatre includes: *The Love Girl And The Innocent*, *The Seagull*, *The Only True History Of Lizzie Finn*, *Antigone*, *The Hostage* (Southwark Playhouse); *Cornelius* (New York transfer to 59E59 Theater); *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *As You Like It*, *Gotcha*, *Stars In The Morning Skies* (Riverside Studios); *Dusa Fish Stas & Vi*, *Love On The Dole*, *Ours* (Finborough); *Can't Stand Up For Falling Down* (Arcola).

Danielle Tarento (Producer/Casting Director) was named Best Producer at the 2012 Off West End Awards and recently won Best Off West End Production at the 2014 Whatsonstage Awards and Best Musical Production at the 2014 Off West End Awards for *Titanic* at Southwark Playhouse. She has also produced *Victor/Victoria*, *Mack & Mabel*, *Parade and Company* (Southwark Playhouse); *Taboo* (Brixton Clubhouse); *The Pitchfork Disney* (Arcola); *Burlesque*, *Drowning on Dry Land* (Jermyn Street); *Noël and Gertie* (Cockpit). She is co-founder of the Menier Chocolate Factory and co-produced all in-house shows 2004 - 2006, including *Sunday In The Park With George*, which received a West End transfer and five Olivier awards.

Critical acclaim for *The Seagull* at Southwark Playhouse

★★★★ "Fresh, colloquial, sexy and downright perceptive"

The Daily Telegraph

★★★★ "In a year of remarkable Chekhov revivals, this Seagull flies with the best"

The Guardian

★★★★ "As emotionally honest and heartfelt a production as the author could have hoped"

The Times

"An unmissable occasion"

The Observer



Listings info

Three Sisters

Southwark Playhouse
77-85 Newington Causeway
London SE1 6BD

Box Office: 020 7407 0234
www.southwarkplayhouse.co.uk

Nearest Tubes:
Elephant and Castle
and Borough

**Thursday 3 April -
Saturday 3 May**

Monday - Saturday at 8.00pm
Saturday matinee at 3.30pm

**Press night: Tuesday
8 April at 8.00pm**

Tickets: £18.00, concessions
£16.00
Previews (3 - 7 April)
all seats £10

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