

# press release



Tuesday 13 July 2010

**COMIC ACTOR LINE-UP FOR BRUCE NORRIS' CLYBOURNE PARK  
AT ROYAL COURT THEATRE**

**Clybourne Park  
By Bruce Norris**

Directed by Dominic Cooke  
26 Aug – 2 Oct 2010  
Jerwood Theatre Downstairs  
Press Night, Thur 2 Sep 2010 7pm

***Clybourne Park* – the new play by *The Pain and the Itch* writer Bruce Norris – will open in the Jerwood Theatre Downstairs at the Royal Court Theatre on 2 Sep (previews from 26 Aug) with a cast that includes some of Britain's best comedy actors from *The Office*, *Gavin and Stacey* and *Four Weddings and a Funeral*.**

The cast includes Lorna Brown, Martin Freeman, Sarah Goldberg, Lucian Msamati, Steffan Rhodri, Sam Spruell and Sophie Thompson.

**Bruce Norris'** satirical new comedy explores the fault line between race and property. Written in two parts, over two generations in 1959 and 2009, the company will play a different role in each act.

*Clybourne Park* first opened at the Playwrights Horizons in New York in February 2010. This production marks the play's European premiere. Norris' previous credits include *The Pain and the Itch* (Royal Court, 2007), *The Infidel*, *Purple Heart* and *The Unmentionables*.

Sloane Square  
London SW1W 8AS

Telephone  
020 7565 5050

Box Office  
020 7565 5000

Fax  
020 7565 5001

E-mail  
info@royalcourttheatre.com

Web  
www.royalcourttheatre.com

The Jerwood Theatres  
at the Royal Court

Artistic Director  
DOMINIC COOKE

Executive Director  
KATE HORTON

President  
Dame Joan Plowright CBE

Chairman  
Anthony Burton

Vice Chairman  
Graham Devlin

Council  
Jennette Arnold  
Judy Daish  
Sir David Green KCMG  
Joyce Hytner OBE  
Stephen Jeffreys  
Wasfi Kani OBE  
Phyllida Lloyd  
James Midgley  
Sophie Okonedo  
Alan Rickman  
Anita Scott  
Katharine Viner  
Stewart Wood

Honorary Council  
Sir Richard Eyre CBE  
Alan Grieve CBE  
Martin Paisner CBE

The English Stage  
Company Ltd  
Registered Charity  
No. 231242  
Company Registration  
No. 539332 (London)

More follows.../

# press release



*“But you can’t live in a principle, can you? Gotta live in a house.  
And so do they.  
Not in this house they don’t”*

*In 1959 Russ and Bev are selling their desirable two-bed at a knock-down price. This enables the first black family to move into the neighbourhood, creating ripples of discontent amongst the cosy white urbanites of Clybourne Park. In 2009, the same property is being bought by Lindsey and Steve whose plans to raze the house and start again is met with a similar response. Are the issues festering beneath the floorboards actually the same fifty years on?*

**Lorna Brown’s** theatre credits include *Short Fuses* at the Bristol Old Vic, *Once on this Island* at Hackney Empire, *Things of Dry Hours* at the Royal Exchange and *93.2 FM* at the Royal Court. On television, she has appeared in *Catherine Tate*, *The Bill* as Leanne Samuels and *French and Saunders*.

**Martin Freeman’s** theatre credits include *The Exonerated* at Riverside Studios, *Blue Eyes and Heels* at the Soho Theatre and *Kosher Harry* at the Royal Court. On film, he has appeared in *Hot Fuzz*, *Breaking and Entering*, *The Hitchhikers Guide to the Galaxy*, *Confetti* and *Love Actually*. On television, he is best known for playing Tim in Ricky Gervais’ multi award-winning comedy *The Office*.

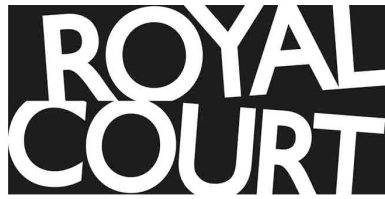
**Sarah Goldberg’s** credits include *Miss Lilly Gets Boned* at the Finborough, *Six Degrees of Separation* at The Old Vic, *Apologia* at the Bush Theatre and the Wallace Shawn readings at the Royal Court Theatre.

**Lucian Msamati’s** theatre credits include *Ruined* at the Almeida, *Death and the King’s Horseman* and *The Overwhelming* at the National Theatre, *Pericles* at the RSC, *The Resistible Rise Of Arturo Ui* at the Lyric Theatre and *Fabulation* at the Tricycle. On screen, he has appeared in *Ashes to Ashes*, *The No. 1 Ladies’ Detective Agency* and *Spooks*.

More follows.../

For further information please contact Anna Evans in the Royal Court Press Office on 020 7565 5063 or e-mail [annaevans@royalcourttheatre.com](mailto:annaevans@royalcourttheatre.com).

# press release



**Steffan Rhodri's** theatre credits include *The Father* at Chichester Festival Theatre, *Suddenly Last Summer*, *The Birthday Party* and *Troilus and Cressida* at the Clwyd Theatr Cymru and *Abigail's Party* at Hampstead Theatre and the West End. On television, his credits include playing Dave 'Coaches' in the BBC's multi award-winning comedy *Gavin and Stacey*, *Belonging* for BBC Wales and *Doctors*.

**Sam Spruell's** theatre credits include *The Caretaker* at Theatre Royal Bath, *Pornography* at the Birmingham Rep and Traverse Theatre. On film, he has appeared in *The Hurt Locker*, *Defiance*, *Elizabeth: The Golden Age* and *London to Brighton*. On television, he has appeared in *Luther*, *The Fixer*, *Ashes to Ashes*, *Foyle's War* and *Spooks*.

**Sophie Thompson's** theatre credits include *Measure for Measure* at Shakespeare's Globe, *Into the Woods* at the Donmar Warehouse, for which she received an Olivier Award for Best Actress In A Musical, *Company* at the Donmar Warehouse and *Wildest Dreams* at the RSC for which she was nominated for an Olivier Award. On television, she played Stella Crawford in *EastEnders* and also appeared in *May Contain Nuts*, *A Room with a View*, *The Railway Children* and *Persuasion*. On film, she appeared in *Four Weddings and a Funeral*, *Emma* and *Gosford Park*.

Artistic Director of the Royal Court **Dominic Cooke** will direct after collaborating with Norris on *The Pain and the Itch* in 2007 – his first production in post at the Royal Court. Other credits at the Royal Court include *Aunt Dan and Lemon*, *The Fever*, *Seven Jewish Children*, *Wig Out!*, *Now or Later*, *Rhinoceros* and two plays in Mark Ravenhill's epic play cycle *Shoot/Get Treasure/Repeat*. His credits elsewhere include *Arabian Nights* and *Noughts and Crosses*, both for the RSC, as adapter and director.

*Clybourne Park* will be designed by Robert Innes Hopkins with lighting by Paule Constable and sound by David McSeveney.

***Clybourne Park* will run in the Jerwood Theatre Downstairs from 26 August – 2 October 2010. Tickets available online at [www.royalcourttheatre.com](http://www.royalcourttheatre.com) or from the Box Office on 020 7565 5000.**

- ends -

(13/07/10)

More follows.../

For further information please contact Anna Evans in the Royal Court Press Office on 020 7565 5063 or e-mail [annaevans@royalcourttheatre.com](mailto:annaevans@royalcourttheatre.com).

# press release



Notes to Editors:

For further information please contact Anna Evans in the Royal Court Press Office on 020 7565 5063 or e-mail [annaevans@royalcourttheatre.com](mailto:annaevans@royalcourttheatre.com).

## **Listings information**

26 Aug – 2 Oct 2010

Jerwood Theatre Downstairs

Mon-Sat 7.30pm

Thu mats 3.30pm (23 & 30 Sep) Sat mats 3.30pm (from 4 Sep)

Press night Thu 2 Sep 7pm

No performance Mon 30 Aug

Post-show discussion Tue 21 Sep

Captioned performance Tue 28 Sep, 7.30pm

Audio described performance Sat 18 Sep, 3.30pm

Age guidance 14+

Tickets £25, £18, £12

Mondays all seats £10

Concessions £5 off top two prices\* (avail. in advance for all perfs until 4 Sep incl. and all mats. For all other perfs, avail. on a standby basis on the day)

25s and under Limited free tickets available for 25s and under through the Arts

Council national scheme A Night Less Ordinary. £6\* tickets also available.

School and HE Groups of 8+ 50% off top two prices (avail. Tue–Fri)

Groups of 6+ £5 off top price (avail. Tue–Fri)

Access £12 (plus a companion at the same rate)

\* ID required, not bookable online. All discounts are subject to availability.

## **Creative Team:**

Dominic Cooke	Director
Robert Innes Hopkins	Designer
Paule Constable	Lighting
David McSeveney	Sound

## **Cast includes:**

Lorna Brown	Francine/Lena
Martin Freeman	Karl / Steve
Sarah Goldberg	Betsy / Lindsey
Lucian Msamati	Albert / Kevin
Steffan Rhodri	Russ / Dan
Sam Spruell	Jim / Tom
Sophie Thompson	Bev / Kathy

For further information please contact Anna Evans in the Royal Court Press Office on 020 7565 5063 or e-mail [annaevans@royalcourttheatre.com](mailto:annaevans@royalcourttheatre.com).