

**FURTHER CASTING ANNOUNCED FOR
WORLD PREMIERE OF STEPHEN BERESFORD'S
THE SOUTHBURY CHILD
DIRECTED BY NICHOLAS HYTNER**

Joining the previously announced **Alex Jennings in Stephen Beresford's *The Southbury Child*** are **Holly Atkins, Josh Finan, Jack Greenlees, Jo Herbert, Phoebe Nicholls, Racheal Ofori and Sarah Twomey**. Final casting will be announced shortly. Directed by **Nicholas Hytner, *The Southbury Child*** will run at **Chichester Festival Theatre** from 13 to 25 June 2022, with press night on 17 June and then at the **Bridge Theatre** from 1 July to 27 August 2022. Set designs are by **Mark Thompson** with costume by **Yvonne Milnes**, sound by **George Dennis** and lighting by **Max Narula**.

Sharp-witted, wilful and frequently drunk, David Highland has kept a grip on his parish through a combination of disordered charm and high-handed determination. But when his conscience forces him to take a hard line with a parishioner who wants Disney balloons at a family funeral, he finds himself dangerously isolated from public opinion. As his own family begins to fracture, David must face a future that threatens to extinguish not only his position in the town, but everything he stands for.

Stephen Beresford's very funny new play is a deeply humane exploration of family, faith, tradition and tolerance in a rapidly changing world.

Alex Jennings (David Highland) will make his Bridge Theatre debut in *The Southbury Child* reuniting him with Nicholas Hytner who has previously directed him in *Hymn* and *Cocktail Sticks, Collaborators, The Habit of Art, The Alchemist, The Winter's Tale* and *The Importance of Being Earnest* amongst others. He was last on stage in *Hansard* at the National Theatre where he has worked extensively as well as at the Royal Shakespeare Company. During his theatre career, he has been the recipient of three Olivier awards. His many screen credits include Prince Charles in *The Queen*, Alan Bennett in *The Lady in the Van* (alongside Maggie Smith and directed by Hytner), the Duke of Windsor in *The Crown*, Stephen Frears' *A Very English Scandal* and *This is Going to Hurt* currently being shown on BBC1.

Holly Atkins' (Joy Sampson) theatre credits include *Romeo and Juliet* and *Helen* at Shakespeare's Globe, *The Ballad of Crazy Paola* at the Arcola, *Scarborough* at the Edinburgh Festival Fringe and the Royal Court and *Summer Begins* at Southwark Playhouse. Her television credits include *Home, King Gary, This Country, In the Long Run, Witless, Call The Midwife, Wallander, Criminal Justice, The Sarah Jane Adventures, City Lights, Where the Heart is, Casualty, The Project, Kiss Me Kate* and *EastEnders*. She was most recently seen in Nicholas Hytner's production of *The Book of Dust – La Belle Sauvage* at the Bridge Theatre.

Josh Finan's (Lee Southbury) theatre credits include *Peggy for You* at Hampstead Theatre, *Shook* for Papatango Theatre, *Romeo and Juliet, Macbeth* and *The Merry Wives of Windsor* for the Royal Shakespeare Company, *The Barricade* for Theatre 503 and *The Nutcracker* for Theatre Clwyd. His television credits include *The Responder, Doctors* and *Guerrilla*. On film his credits include *Shook* and *Hellboy*.

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Jack Greenlees (Craig Connor) has been seen in *Party* at the Criterion Theatre. On television his credits include *The Swarm*, *The Trial of Christine Keeler*, *Lethal White*, *Deadwater Fell*, *In Plain Sight* and *Penny Dreadfull*. On film his credits include *She Will*, *Our Ladies*, *Outlaw King* and *Sunset Song*.

Jo Herbert's (Susannah Highland) theatre credits include *The Mirror and The Light* at the Gielgud Theatre, *The Country Wife*, *Cyrano de Bergerac* and *For Services Rendered* both for Chichester Festival Theatre, *Eternal Love* for the English Touring Theatre, *East of Berlin* for the Southwark Playhouse, *Three Winters* for the National Theatre, *Comedy of Errors* and *The Importance of Being Ernest* for Regents Park Theatre, *Wild Honey* and *Hello/Goodbye* for Hampstead Theatre, *The Game of Love and Chance* and *Blackbird* for Salisbury Theatre, *Candida* for Theatre Royal Bath, *The Faerie Queen* International Tour for Glyndebourne, *Room Service Included* at The Mill At Sonning and *As You Like It* and *Anne Boleyn* for Shakespeare's Globe. Her television credits include *Call The Midwife*, *Unforgotten*, *The Crown*, *Loaded*, *Josh*, *Casualty 1909*, *Lewis*, *Holby City* and *Home Fires*. Herbert's film credits include *Misbehaviour*.

Phoebe Nicholls' (Mary Highland) theatre credits include *Scenes from an Execution*, *Rutherford and Son*, *An Inspector Calls* and *Pravda* all for the National Theatre, *When the Rain Stops Falling* and *Waste* for the Almeida Theatre, *Three Women and a Piano Tuner* for Hampstead Theatre, *The Vortex* at the Apollo, *The Three Sisters* at the Queen's Theatre and *Hysteria* at the Royal Court. On television her credits include *A Very British Scandal*, *Chloe*, *Anatomy of a Scandal*, *Sticks and Stones*, *Traitors*, *Endeavour*, *Doctor Thorne*, *Downton Abbey*, *Fortitude* and *Jonathan Strange and Mr Norrell*. Her film credits include *The Electrical Life of Louis Wain*, *The Empty Man*, *Berlin I Love You*, *Mari*, *Finding Your Feet* and *Transformers: The Last Night* and *Starfish*.

Racheal Ofori (Naomi Highland) was previously at The Bridge in *Bach & Sons*. Her theatre credits include *Rare Earth Mettle* for the Royal Court Theatre, *Three Sisters* for the National, *Snowflake* for The Old Fire Station, *Pygmalion* for Headlong and West Yorkshire Playhouse, and *The Merchant of Venice* at Shakespeare's Globe. Her one-woman shows are *Portrait*, which played to sell-out audiences at the Edinburgh Fringe prior to a UK Tour and *So Many Reasons* which ran at Soho Theatre. Her television credits include *Big Age*, *Sliced*, *Enterprise*, *In the Long Run* and *Treadstone*. Ofori's film credits include *I Used To Be Famous* and *Guns Akimbo*.

Sarah Twomey's (Tina Southbury) theatre credits include *Venice Preserved*, *The Provoked Wife*, *A Christmas Carol* and *Twelfth Night* for the Royal Shakespeare Company, *The Young Chekhov Trilogy* for Chichester Festival Theatre and the National Theatre, and *Mermaid* for Shared Experience. Her television credits include *The Mind of Herbert Clunkerfunk*, *The Sandman*, *Call the Midwife* and *Kate and Koji*. On film her credits include *Men*, and *Twelfth Night*.

For the Bridge Theatre **Nicholas Hytner** has directed *Young Marx*, *Julius Caesar*, *Allelujah!*, *Alys*, *Always*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Two Ladies*, *Beat the Devil*, *The Shrine*, *Bed Among the Lentils*, *A Christmas Carol*, *Bach & Sons* and *The Book of Dust – La Belle Sauvage*. In March he will direct Ralph Fiennes in David Hare's *Straight Line Crazy* also at The Bridge. Previously he was Director of the National Theatre from 2003 to 2015.

IMAGES

The Southbury Child

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/gbqjba2o268b4p6/AADRvxProJjITypqyiCZUTVZa?dl=0>

London Theatre Company Bridge Theatre

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/y36ak785xfsx4sd/AAB3ynyiqZTxdJQfvVa-RzdJa?dl=0>

LISTINGS INFORMATION FOR THE BRIDGE THEATRE

Address: Bridge Theatre, 3 Potters Fields Park, London, SE1 2SG
Box Office: 0333 320 0051 or boxoffice@bridgetheatre.co.uk
Access: Audio Described Performance - Sunday 30 July 2022 14:30
Captioned Performance - Tuesday 9 August 2022 19:30
333 320 0051 or access@bridgetheatre.co.uk
Website: www.bridgetheatre.co.uk
Twitter: @_bridgetheatre
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