

Institute of Contemporary Arts

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QUEENS ROW

Written and directed by Richard Maxwell

28, 29 September
3, 4, 5, 6, 11, 12, 13 October
2018

Cast: Nazira Hanna, Soraya Nabipour, Antonia Summer
Set and Lights: Sascha van Riel
Costumes: Kaye Voyce
Stage Manager: Jack Finerty

The Institute of Contemporary Arts is pleased to present the world premiere of **QUEENS ROW**, a new play by celebrated New York director and playwright Richard Maxwell. **QUEENS ROW** is commissioned and produced by the ICA, and marks the director's first UK theatre premier.

Maxwell describes his approach as 'staged writing, dialogue between mostly static figures, favouring an American archetype.' His plays often revolve around a small group of people held within a contained architecture, their poetically direct interactions revealing authenticity, integrity and problems. Relationships between Maxwell's characters and their words are considered, yet strikingly indeterminate.

Maxwell founded the theatre company New York City Players (NYCP) in 1999, and his influential body of work encompasses over twenty plays written for stage, presented in galleries, and realised as films. In Maxwell's work, complex representations of cultural archetypes such as the hero and anti-hero are enfolded by narratives that veer between social realism and the historical and metafictional. Juxtaposing realities, Maxwell regularly works with non-professional actors. The structure of his work often involves introspection rhythmically and lyrically informed by music.

Maxwell's work has often responded to the spatial and viewing conditions of contemporary art and theatre spaces, adhering all the while to the parameters of a stage. **QUEENS ROW** exemplifies the ICA's renewed commitment to supporting new work in theatre, performance, dance and music. As part of this renewal, Maxwell has initiated a series of physical changes to the ICA Theatre.

QUEENS ROW has been made possible through the generous support of the Richard Maxwell Commission Supporters Circle, the Friends of the Institute of Contemporary Arts, Cockayne – Grants for the Arts and The London Community Foundation.

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Jack Finerty writes and makes bad clothes in London. His short play *dr. zuma zuk SS19* was recently staged at Žeimiai Manor in Lithuania, in conjunction with the Kaunas Artists' House summer residency programme. He previously worked as a production assistant for Maxwell's play *Paradiso* at Greene Naftali and holds a BA in Art History from Reed College.

Nazira Hanna lived in Cairo, Egypt for almost a decade, working in development in the area of human rights and refugee law with the Legal Research and Resource Centre, National Council for Women and UNHCR. Since returning to London, she is currently exploring her creative side as an artist, costume designer and stylist for film, music videos, fashion and performance art. New to acting, this is her first time on stage.

Richard Maxwell's play *Paradiso* premiered at Greene Naftali Gallery in January and will be presented at Nanterre-Amandiers, Paris; FAB Festival, Bordeaux; and Théâtre Garonne, Toulouse this fall. This summer he participated in the Chinati Foundation's artist in residence program in Marfa, Texas, where the local version of his video-play *Ads* will be shown. Maxwell's first monograph of his plays, *The Theater Years*, was published by Greene Naftali and Westreich Wagner (2017). Other publications include *Theater for Beginners* (2015) and *Plays, 1999–2000* (2004), published by TCG. Maxwell is represented by Greene Naftali Gallery, New York.

Soraya Nabipour is a Sheffield-based theatre maker. She is researching the work of New York City Players for her practice-based PhD at the University of Sheffield. Soraya also works for experimental theatre company Forced Entertainment as a workshop facilitator on their education programme Art Breakers.

Sascha van Riel met Richard Maxwell while working on Toneelgroep Amsterdam's production of *Good Samaritans*. She designed the set and lights for Richard's plays *The Frame*, *Das Maedchen*, *Ode to the Man Who Kneels*, *Neutral Hero*, *Open Rehearsal* for the Whitney Biennial, *Isolde*, *The Evening* and *Paradiso*. She works as a freelance set designer for Dutch and Belgian companies and teaches theatre design at the University for the Arts Utrecht (NL).

Antonia Summer is an actress and singer-songwriter based in the UK. She trained with the National Youth Theatre as part of their Playing Up course. Antonia makes RnB/pop music and will be releasing her first single later this year, with an EP to follow in 2019.

Kaye Voyce has designed costumes for Richard Maxwell and New York City Players on *Henry IV Part One*, *The End of Reality*, *The Frame*, *Neutral Hero*, *Isolde* (with Romy Springsguth), *Open Rehearsal* for the Whitney Biennial, *The Evening* and *Paradiso*. Other recent work includes *Hamlet*, directed by Sam Gold, Annie Baker's *The Antipodes*, directed by Lila Neugebauer, *Measure for Measure* with Elevator Repair Service and Trisha Brown's final two dances.