

Arcola Theatre and ATC

Present

GHOSTS

or Those Who Return

by Henrik Ibsen

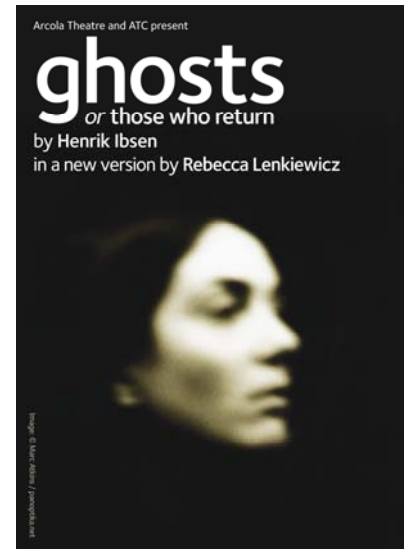
in a new version by Rebecca Lenkiewicz

Directed by Bijan Sheibani

Arcola Theatre

July 22 to August 22

Press night July 24th 8pm



Dream-team collaboration for brand new version of Ibsen's Ghosts

This summer award winning companies ATC and The Arcola Theatre are joining forces to present Rebecca Lenkiewicz's new version of Ibsen's play *Ghosts*. The collaboration brings together the producers of the acclaimed *The Brothers Size* and the theatre that presented the award winning production of the Lenkiewicz translation of *An Enemy of The People* last year.

Written as an expose of what Ibsen saw as the sexual hypocrisy of Victorian society, *Ghosts* provoked one critic to describe it as "a dirty deed done in public" and had audiences reaching for their smelling salts when it was first staged in 1882. Excited by her son Oswald's return to Norway after years abroad, Mrs Alving is soon forced to unearth the past and ghosts who refuse to be silenced.

The production marks ATC's first project in a series looking at the theme of memory which includes two new plays yet to be announced and a range of Spin Off activities.

Bijan Sheibani is Artistic Director of ATC. His production of Tarell Alvin McCraney's *The Brothers Size* was greeted with universal acclaim and was variously described by UK critics as "Psychologically subtle and emotionally powerful" (The Times), "faultless" (The Guardian) and "outstanding" (The Evening Standard). His Olivier award winning production of *Gone Too Far!* returned to the Royal Court last year and ATC co-produced the pan London tour to The Albany and the Hackney Empire. Bijan has recently directed a new opera, *Tarantula in Petrol Blue* at Aldeburgh Music.

Rebecca Lenkiewicz's first play, *Soho – a Tale of Table Dancers*, won a Fringe First at Edinburgh then toured Israel with the British Council and opened at the Arcola Theatre in 2001. *The Night Season*, which opened at the National Theatre in 2004, received the Critics' Circle's Most Promising Playwright Award and was nominated for an Evening Standard Award and the Susan Smith Blackburn Award. Other plays include *Shoreditch Madonna*, *Blue Moon Over Poplar* (Soho Theatre), *A Soldiers Tale* (Old Vic), *Invisible Mountains* (National Theatre Education Department), *Faeries* (Royal Opera House), *Justitia* (for the Jasmin Vardimon Dance Company, UK Tour and Sadler's Wells), an adaptation of Ibsen's *An Enemy of The People* (Arcola Theatre), *Her Naked Skin* (Olivier Theatre, National Theatre), *Fighting for Words* and *Caravan of Desire* (BBC Radio 4, 2006).

LISTINGS

Arcola Theatre, 27 Arcola St, London, E8 2DJ

Boxoffice: 020 7503 1646 boxoffice@arcolatheatre.com

22 Jul – 22 Aug 8pm £16/£10

Previews 22, 23, Jul £10

Matinees 15 & 22 Jul 3pm

Free Post Show Discussions 5 & 10 Aug

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Notes for Editors

ATC

ATC aims to make fresh, bold and ambitious new productions for as wide an audience as possible. Their work is made by bringing together emerging and established artists, from both the UK and abroad. They combine contemporary international playwriting with devised work and innovative productions of classic texts.

By encouraging collaboration between artists and by creating dynamic partnerships with audiences, venues and companies across the world, they aspire to make work that is cohesive, provocative and entertaining.

Since Bijan Sheibani joined ATC as Artistic Director in 2007 the company has toured internationally and throughout London and the UK with two shows; the Olivier Award nominated production of *The Brothers Size* with the Young Vic, and the Olivier Award winning production of *Gone Too Far!* with the Royal Court.

Arcola Theatre

Arcola Theatre has been blazing a trail in artistic excellence since its foundation in 2000, and is one of the most respected arts venues in the UK. Arcola Theatre holds the unique position of being supported by established theatre literati as well as young innovators and has staged work by actors, writers and directors including Adam Rapp, Ariel Dorfman, Bill Bryden, Bonnie Greer, David Farr, Dominic Dromgoole, Eric Schlosser, Frank McGuinness, Greg Hicks, Helena Kaut-Howson, Jack Shepherd, Kathryn Hunter, Lia Williams, Max Stafford-Clark, Sam Shepard, Sean Holmes, Timberlake Wertenbaker and William Gaskill. In the last year alone 28 shows were presented including three West End transfers.