



ENGLISH KINGS KILLING FOREIGNERS

NINA BOWERS & PHILIP ARDITTI

TOUR
AUTUMN '25



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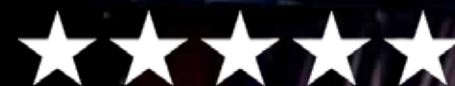
KEY INFORMATION



Mind The Blog



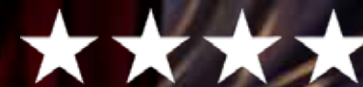
The Reviews Hub



The Greatest Pause



The Upcoming



The Peg Review



Everything Theatre

NOMINATION
OFFIES
DUO PERFORMANCE
IN A PLAY

THE SHOW

"An honest and hilarious discussion about Shakespeare, contemporary Britain and the limits of representation."

Nina

"So many people in this country have a deep connection and complicated relationship with Shakespeare. This show is ours."

Philip

A tell-all dark comedy that peels back the skin of English cultural identity to reveal the steaming battlefields that lies beneath.

Following it's critically acclaimed run at the Camden People's Theatre this laugh out loud **Shakespeare deconstruction** is now booking for an Autumn Tour '25 to fit around a 4 week run at the Soho Theatre..

From rehearsal room microaggressions, to the battlefields of France, weaving in audience participation into the bureaucracy of applying for citizenship, Shakespeare's Globe Ensemble veterans Nina Bowers and Philip Arditti explore their histories alongside England's own as unwilling actors in a national story.

Directed by Shakespeare's Globe Associate Sean Holmes, this form bending new piece of theatre is presented by Realfake Theatre in association with Soho Theatre.

"Astutely reframes the debate in a comedic way"
The Reviews Hub



ENGLISH KINGS KILLING FOREIGNERS is inspired by Nina and Phil's real-life experience of starring in Henry V at the Shakespeare's Globe in 2019 where they first met, both performers bring their extensive backgrounds in British theatre and of performing Shakespeare, to this **'silly show about serious things'**.

The piece asks: What does it mean to cast a Global Majority actor in a Shakespeare play? How does a non-white, non-English person fit into this most English hero-making story?

SYNOPSIS

Two actors Nina and Phil, are cast in a highly anticipated production of Henry V. These two 'outsiders' bond over their scepticism of the Shakespearean institution and its role in the national identity and narrative of England. But discord is just around the corner. Following the death of the "National treasure" star of their show – naturally a White, English actor reviving his performance of Henry V for the fifth time – Nina and Phil find their relationship shifting. Nina is thrust into the title role, a move which impacts on the dynamic; causing increasing conflict and tension between the two.

As an audience to both the play, and the play-within-the-play, we watch Nina and Phil rehearse and perform sections of the play while being pushed to personal and professional extremes. Brutality bubbles under the surface before boiling over with results that will long reverberate, just as King Henry is taking to the battlefield at Agincourt.

An infamous production
of Shakespeare's
Henry V

A friendship tested
by a bloody act

The death of a national
sweetheart

TRAILER

FULL RECORDING

PRESS



“Overwhelmingly entertaining and raucous”



Mind The blog

“An unflinchingly truthful piece”



The Peg

“Astutely silly”



The Reviews Hubs

“Makes you laugh as much as it makes you think”



Everything Theatre

“A Shakespeare deconstruction destined for the West End”

CITY A.M

“a witty, self-aware and thought-provoking drama, centering the political power of theatre, the knotty clash of generational perspectives on immigrant identity and the self-conscious exclusivity of the acting world”



The Upcoming

ALL PRESS COVERAGE



THE TEAM

NINA BOWERS

Nina Bowers is a multidisciplinary performer and writer working in theatre and cabaret.

As an Actor Nina has performed in a wide range of projects at Shakespeare's Globe, The Kiln Theatre Royal Stratford East, The Gate Theatre, and the Barbican. Including Rosalind in As You Like It at the Globe in a "standout performance" (Time Out)

Alongside acting Nina writes and makes work that has been performed at The Yard, ICA, Camden People's Theatre including two solo shows: Nina Talks about Her Values and The Mantis from Atlantis created for CPT Sprint Festival. Her debut play is being produced at Theatr Genedlaethol Cymru Theatr in collaboration with the Welsh Ballroom community. Ninas' Drag King alter-ego Sonny Delight performs regularly at The Glory/The Devine and has made shows for Bristol Pride and outdoor arts festivals. Sonny Delight is a Man-UP 2022 Finalist.

SEAN HOLMES

Sean is currently Associate Artistic Director of Shakespeare's Globe. Prior to this, he was the Artistic Director of the Lyric Hammersmith.

Previous work for Shakespeare's Globe includes Much Ado About Nothing(2024), Comedy of Errors (2023), The Winter's Tale (2022), The Tempest (2022), Hamlet (2021), Twelfth Night (2020), Metamorphoses (2020, co-directed with Holly Race Roughan), A Midsummer Night's Dream (2021, 2019), and Henry VI(2019, co-directed with Ilinca Radulian).

Sean was an Associate Director of the Oxford Stage Company from 2001 to 2006 and has also worked at the National Theatre, RSC, Tricycle, Royal Court, Donmar Warehouse, Chichester Festival Theatre and the Abbey Theatre, Dublin.

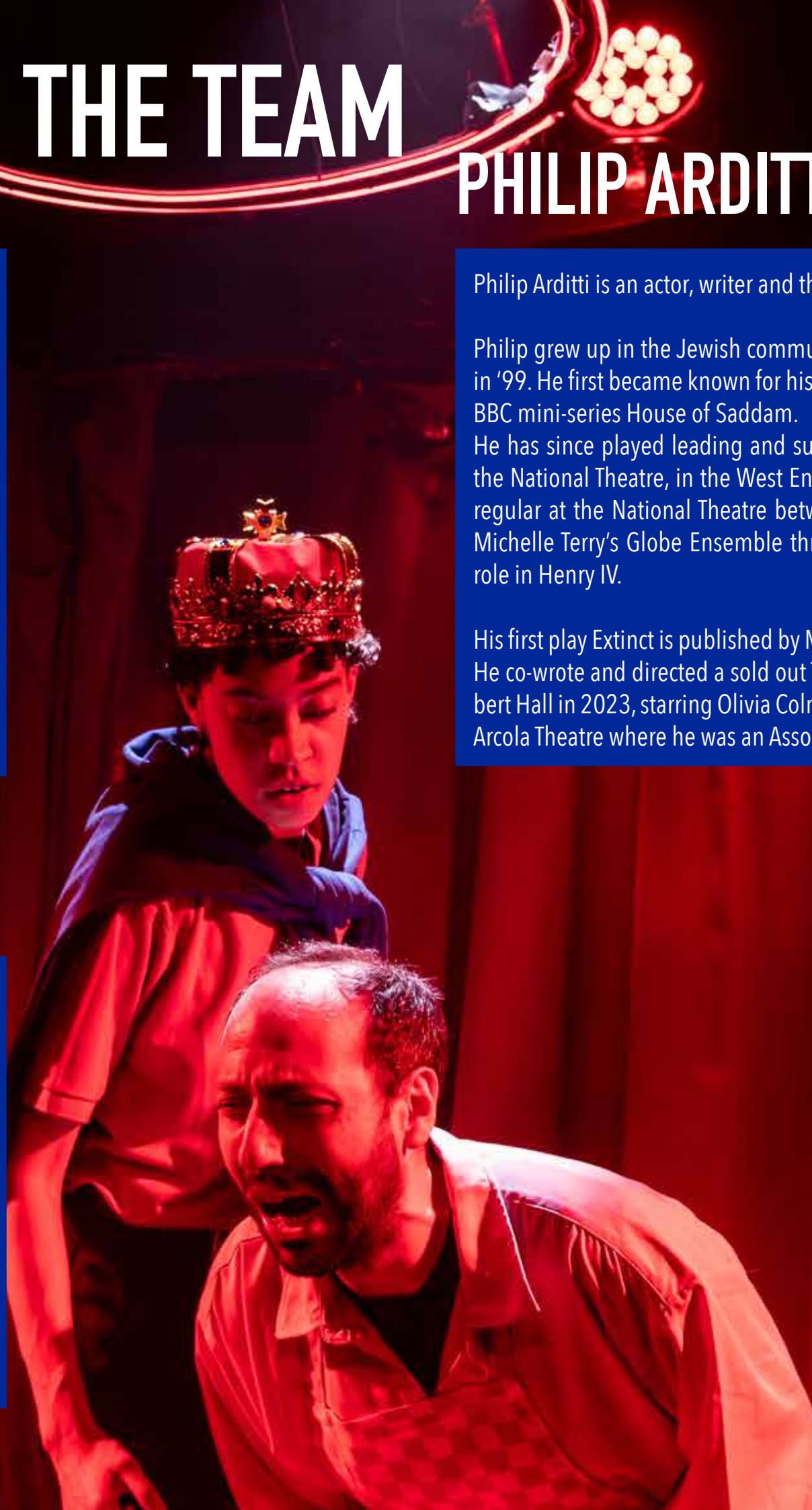
PHILIP ARDITTI

Philip Arditti is an actor, writer and theatre-maker.

Philip grew up in the Jewish community of Istanbul and moved to London in '99. He first became known for his portrayal of Uday Hussein in the HBO/ BBC mini-series House of Saddam.

He has since played leading and supporting roles on stage and screen at the National Theatre, in the West End and on tour across the UK. He was a regular at the National Theatre between 2008 and 2018 and was part of Michelle Terry's Globe Ensemble through 2019 where he played the title role in Henry IV.

His first play Extinct is published by Methuen as part of Global Jewish Plays. He co-wrote and directed a sold out Turkey-Syria Fundraiser at the Royal Albert Hall in 2023, starring Olivia Colman. He was part of the founding of the Arcola Theatre where he was an Associate Producer.





THE COMPANY

REALFAKE THEATRE is a new performance duo by Nina Bowers and Philip Arditti.

We make and tour entertaining and thought provoking theatre.

- Our work is informed by our trained disciplines in classical acting, collaborative and physical theatre.
- We challenge the classical canon, embrace the making and unmaking of narratives and subvert ideas of autobiography.
- We collide the personal and political using clown work, multimedia, audience interaction, and autofiction.

Our first full length piece *English Kings Killing Foreigners* was commissioned by the Camden People's Theatre and supported by Paul Hamlyn Foundation.

Other work includes: ***Cutting the Tightrope***, an evening of new writing on censorship at the Arcola Theatre.

AUDIENCES

- Students - GCSE, A level, Undergraduate & Postgraduate - English / Drama / Politics / Shakespeare Studies
- People interested in nationalism, identity, Britishness
- Migrant and diaspora communities
- Turkish speaking communities
- People interested in similar work e.g. Tim Crouch's 'I, Malvolio', Abigail Thorn's 'The Prince'
- Theatre fans interested in Shakespeare (Globe, RSC)
- People interested in devising, experimental, subversive performances and theatre
- Artists & Educators who engage with Shakespeare
- People interested in migrant & Global Majority-led work

Audience reaction

"very smartly put together...
making some important points"
ANONYMOUS

"Full marks"
ECE

"A very funny, loud, interesting
black comedy"
BELINDA

"Ideas of assimilation, dissimulation and em-
pire embodied with rare genius and skill"
TIM CROUCH - THEATREMAKER

ACCESS PARTNERS

EXTANT

In partnership with **Extant**, UK's leading professional performing arts company that explores visual impairment to create unique and innovative artistic experiences, we delivered a touch tour and a performance for visually impaired audiences.

- pack for visually impaired audiences available
- trained to deliver touch tours

MAVI PRODUCTION

With **Mavi Production**, a Turkish speaking theatre company based in London, we have delivered a SOLD OUT Turkish surtitled performance alongside a bilingual QnA and drama workshops.

Audience development

Marketing Pack

KEY INFORMATION

Availability Autumn '25

Educational Workshops

For an additional we offer 90 minutes workshop for either primary or secondary school groups. Current workshops available.

- Devising theatre - Create your own plays in a collaborative way
- Collaborating with the Bard - Using Shakespeare to tell your own story

QnA

Post Show QnA's offered as part of the run

Show length

70 min

Age suitability

12+

Staging

End-on, small to midscale studios

Fee

Contact realfaketheatre@gmail.com

Sound

Sound is run through laptop and Qlab. Access to sound system required

Lighting

ETC EOS console needed to run lighting, use of the rig, some specials and use of hazer. Practicals to be hung and provided DMX and power

Technical crew

One technician is required to help with the get in and get out

Touring company

3 on the road (Philip, Nina and their touring show operator/stage manager)

ACCESS

We offer tour pack and touch tour for visually impaired audiences
We offer English and Turkish captioned performances

CREATIVE TEAM

Performers and writers

Nina Bowers and Philip Arditti

Director

Sean Holmes

BOOKING

For bookings and enquiries contact

realfaketheatre@gmail.com

WEB & SOCIAL MEDIA

www.realfaketheatre.com

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**ARTS COUNCIL
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