



**U.S. PREMIERE OF MATT CHARMAN'S *THE MACHINE*
BEGINS PERFORMANCES SEPTEMBER 4**

**Co-commissioned by Park Avenue Armory, Donmar Warehouse, and Manchester International Festival;
Directed by Donmar Warehouse Artistic Director Josie Rourke**

**Staged in Armory's Drill Hall as a Live Sporting Event, Play Depicts
Chess Phenomenon Garry Kasparov's clash with IBM's super-computer Deep Blue**

New York, NY – August 6, 2013 – The U.S. premiere of British playwright Matt Charman's new play, *The Machine*, takes over Park Avenue Armory's vast Wade Thompson Drill Hall September 4-18. The play, a co-commission of Park Avenue Armory, Donmar Warehouse, and the Manchester International Festival, depicts the headline-grabbing 1997 New York chess tournament between Grandmaster Garry Kasparov and Deep Blue, a super-computer developed by technology giant IBM. An epic battle between a human genius and a state-of-the-art machine, *The Machine* will be staged the Armory's 55,000-square-foot drill hall as a sports event complete with a 4-sided arena; a giant, electronic scoreboard; and video cameras capturing and broadcasting the action on a jumbotron.

In 1997, Garry Kasparov, the world's greatest chess player, arrived in New York City for the biggest match of his life. His opponent wasn't a fellow Grandmaster, but a faceless super-computer, Deep Blue, built by tech-giant IBM and masterminded by Dr. Feng-Hsiung Hsu. The man versus machine match was conceived as a publicity stunt by IBM in a bid to raise its profile and its stock price. An international celebrity and the undisputed master of his art, Kasparov came to America for freedom and glory. What he didn't expect to confront was the lifelong dedication of another young genius, Deep Blue's wunderkind inventor Doctor Hsu. What followed was one of the most compelling stories of our time—a collision of human brilliance, foibles, greed, and artificial intelligence. Under the direction of the Donmar Warehouse Artistic Director Josie Rourke, the cast features Hadley Fraser as Garry Kasparov, Francesca Annis as Garry's mother, Clara, and Kenneth Lee as Dr. Hsu.

The Machine is the first play Park Avenue Armory has co-commissioned for the Wade Thompson Drill Hall as part of the Armory's 2013 season, which offers a series of commissions, co-commissions, and presentations that blur the distinctions between genres and break new ground for artists and audiences alike within the unconventional platforms of the Armory's soaring drill hall. The Armory seeks to break the mold of traditional presentation, enabling artists to create and audiences to experience immersive and adventurous work that cannot be done elsewhere in New York. The season also includes *Massive Attack V Adam Curtis* (September 28-October 4), a new kind of imaginative experience conceived by Adam Curtis and Robert Del Naja, mixing music, film, and politics performed by Massive Attack and special guests; a recital series presented in the Armory's exquisitely renovated Board of Officers Room, featuring baritone Christian Gerhaher, violinist Vilde Frang, and pianist Anton Batagov (September 29-October 27); and Robert Wilson's powerful new staging of *The Life and Death of Marina Abramović* (December 12-21). The season was launched in March with *OKTOPHONIE*, Karlheinz Stockhausen's epic electronic masterpiece, ritualized in a lunar environment created by visual artist Rirkrit Tiravanija, followed by *WS*, a monumental installation by Paul McCarthy.

More information on Park Avenue Armory's 2013 artistic season may be found at www.armoryonpark.org.

THE MACHINE

A play by Matt Charman

Directed by Josie Rourke

Cast: Francesca Annis, Antonia Bernath, Cornelius Booth, Hadley Fraser, Daniel Harries, Kenneth Lee, Rob Lines, David Mumeni, Phil Nichol, John Ramm, Lucille Sharp, Brian Sills, Trevor White, with Lorenzo Allchurch, Nicholas Croucher
Lucy Osborne, Designer

Jonathan Watkins, Choreographer

Mark Henderson, Lighting Designer

Ian Dickinson for Autograph Sound, Sound Designer

Michael Bruce, original compositions

Andrzej Gouling, Video Designer

William Conacher, Dialect Coach

Alastair Coomer CDG, Casting

Tara Rubin Casting/Lindsay Levine CSA, US Casting

U.S. Premiere

Commissioned by Park Avenue Armory, Donmar Warehouse, and Manchester International Festival

Wednesday, September 4 at 7:30 p.m. (Preview)

Thursday, September 5 at 7:30 p.m. (Preview)

Friday, September 6 at 8:00 p.m.

Saturday, September 7 at 2:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m.

Sunday, September 8 at 2:00 p.m. and 7:00pm

Tuesday, September 10 at 7:30 p.m.

Wednesday, September 11 at 2:00 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.

Thursday, September 12 at 7:30 p.m.

Friday, September 13 at 8:00 p.m.

Saturday, September 14 at 2:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m.

Sunday, September 15 at 2:00 p.m.

Tuesday, September 17 at 7:30 p.m.

Wednesday, September 18 at 2:00 p.m.

Tickets:

Previews: \$60/\$25

Performances: \$90/\$45

www.armoryonpark.org / (212) 933-5812

Artist Talk

Saturday, September 7 at 5:00 p.m.

Park Avenue Armory Artistic Director Alex Poots moderates a discussion with *The Machine* playwright Matt Charman and director Josie Rourke on the creation and staging of this new work.

Tickets: \$15/\$12 Armory members

www.armoryonpark.org / (212) 933-5812

This production is supported, in part, by public funds from the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of Governor Andrew Cuomo and the New York State Legislature and by the National Endowment for the Arts.

Many thanks also go to the Armory's 2013 season sponsors, Citi and Bloomberg.

About Hadley Fraser

Hadley Fraser is an actor/musician/writer/director. He is best known for his role as Javert in the West End production of *Les Miserables* and appeared in Tom Hooper's feature film version. In 2012, Fraser played Raoul in the 25th Anniversary Concert of *Phantom of the Opera*, which was broadcast around the world. Other stage credits include: *The Pajama Game* (Chichester Festival Theatre), *The Fantasticks* (Duchess Theatre), and *Assassins* (Crucible Theatre). He is a patron of PPA theatre college and together with Ramin Karimloo, he writes, records, and performs music as SHEYTOONS.

About Kenneth Lee

Kenneth Lee's theatre credits include: *Hamlet* (The Pearl Theatre), *Henry IV Part 1*, *Henry IV Part 2*, *Hamlet* (The Shakespeare Theatre, DC), *M Butterfly* (Arena Stage). Lee was recently seen as Mike Masaoka in the musical workshop production of *Allegiance* in NYC with George Takei and Lea Salonga. Film and TV highlights include a season of US comedy series *Delocated*, *Law and Order: CI*, *One Life to Live*, *Children of Invention* (Sundance), *Across the Universe*, *Love & Adventure in New York*, and *Deception* (with Ewan McGregor). His voice can also be heard on *Grand Theft Auto IV*.

About Francesca Annis

Francesca Annis returns to the stage for the first time since she appeared in Rupert Goold's production of *Time and the Conways* at the National Theatre in 2009. She played numerous leading roles during her time as a member of the Royal Shakespeare Company and has since appeared in the West End in productions including *Under the Blue Sky*, *Epitaph for George Dillon*, and *The Vortex*. Film credits include: *Shifty*, *Revolver*, *The Libertine*, and *Milk*. Annis famously played Lady Macbeth in Roman Polanski's film of the Shakespeare tragedy. Her television credits include: *Cranford*, *Jane Eyre*, and *Copenhagen*.

About Josie Rourke

Josie Rourke is the Artistic Director of the Donmar Warehouse, London where she directed *Berenice*, *The Physicists*, and *The Recruiting Officer* in 2012. Her critically acclaimed production of Conor McPherson's *The Weir* will transfer to London's West-End in January 2013.

Her 2010 production of *Men Should Weep* by Ena Lamont Stewart ran in the Lyttelton Theatre at the Royal National Theatre and in 2011 her production of *Much Ado About Nothing* starring David Tennant and Catherine Tate, ran in the West End at Wyndham's Theatre (Olivier nomination, Whatsonstage.com Award). Her other freelance credits include *King John* for the Royal Shakespeare Company, *The Cryptogram* for the Donmar Warehouse, *My Dad's A Birdman* for the Young Vic, and *Loyal Women* for the Royal Court Theatre.

Josie became the Artistic Director at The Bush Theatre, London in 2007. She departed in 2011, after securing a 125 year lease on the former Shepherds Bush Library, and creating its new home with Architects Haworth Tompkins. Shows directed for The Bush Theatre include: *How To Curse*, *Tinderbox*, *2000 Feet Away*, *Wrecks*, *Apologia*, the premier of Nick Payne's *If There Is I haven't Found It Yet*, *Like a Fishbone*. Josie took part in Sandi Toksvig's *Drama: Live!* on Sky Arts in which she directed a new play by Eve Ensler at the Riverside Studios and live on Sky Arts 2.

About Matt Charman

Matt Charman's first play, *A Night at the Dogs*, won the 2005 Verity Bargate Award for new writers and was produced at the Soho Theatre, London. Other productions include *The Observer*, directed by Sir Richard Eyre, and *The Five Wives of Maurice Pinder*, both of which premiered at the National Theatre, where Matt was previously Pearson Writer in Residence. His most recent play, *Regrets*, was staged by New York's Manhattan Theatre Club in March 2012.

Matt is a recipient of the Peggy Ramsay Award and won the Catherine Johnson Award for Best Play for *The Observer*.

For screen, Matt has adapted Irène Némirovsky's bestselling novel *Suite Française*, which is currently filming in Belgium starring Michelle Williams and Kristin Scott Thomas. His original six-part BBC One drama series *Our Zoo* will air in 2014.

About Park Avenue Armory

Part palace, part industrial shed, Park Avenue Armory fills a critical void in the cultural ecology of New York city by enabling artists to create—and audiences to experience—unconventional work that cannot be mounted in traditional performance halls and museums. With its soaring 55,000-square-foot Wade Thompson Drill Hall and array of exuberant period rooms, the Armory offers a new platform for creativity across all art forms. Since its first production in September 2007—Aaron Young's *Greeting Card*, a 9,216-square-foot "action" painting created by the burned-out tire marks of ten choreographed motorcycles—the Armory has organized a series of immersive performances, installations, and works of art that have drawn critical and popular attention working independently or with other cultural institutions. Among the highlights of its first five years are major installations by Ernesto Neto, Ryoji Ikeda, Christian Boltanski, Tom Sachs, and Ann Hamilton; dance performances by Shen Wei Dance Arts, Tricia Brown, and the final performances of the Merce

Cunningham Dance Company across three separate stages; Bernd Zimmermann's harrowing *Die Soldaten* and Karlheinz Stockhausen's *Gruppen* with the New York Philharmonic and performances of his electronic masterpiece *Oktophonie*; and a six-week residency of the Royal Shakespeare Company, in their Stratford-upon-Avon home rebuilt to scale in the drill hall.

The Armory is currently undergoing an ongoing \$200-million revitalization of its historic building, named among the "100 Most Endangered Historic Sites in the World" by the World Monuments Fund in 2000. The renovation and restoration, designed by Herzog & de Meuron, will stabilize and preserve the building and create new resources and state-of-the-art spaces for exhibitions, installations, and performances, as well as Artist-in-Residence studios, rehearsal rooms, and back-of-house amenities—offering dynamic environments for artists and audiences alike.

About Donmar Warehouse

The Donmar Warehouse is a 250-seat subsidised (not-for-profit) theatre located in the heart of London's West End. Since 2012, it has been led by Josie Rourke, who follows Sam Mendes and Michael Grandage as Artistic Director. Over the past 22 years it has built a reputation for artistic excellence as one of London's leading producing theatres. The Donmar works with the industry's finest creative artists to present an unparalleled programme of memorable and award-winning theatre, garnering praise at home and abroad. The theatre's diverse artistic policy encompasses new work, bold reimaginings of classics and innovative revivals of contemporary British, Irish, and American drama. Following *The Machine* in New York, a co-commission with Park Avenue Armory and Manchester International Festival, the Donmar's all-female production of *Julius Caesar*, directed by Phyllida Lloyd, will play at St Ann's Warehouse, Brooklyn, from 3 October – 3 November. www.donmarwarehouse.com

About Manchester International Festival

Manchester International Festival is the world's first festival of original, new work and special events and takes place biennially, in Manchester, UK. The Festival launched in 2007 as an artist-led, commissioning festival presenting new works from across the spectrum of performing arts, visual arts, and popular culture.

Highlights of the first four festivals include Damon Albarn, Jamie Hewlett, and Chen Shi-Zheng's Chinese opera *Monkey. Journey to the West*; group art event Il Tempo del Postino featuring work by Matthew Barney, Tacita Dean, and Olafur Eliasson; Zaha Hadid Architects' new space for the music of Bach; Björk's ambitious three week Biophilia residency; director Robert Wilson's startling new piece for the stage, *The Life and Death of Marina Abramović*, starring Abramović, Willem Dafoe and Antony; Punchdrunk's Doctor Who adventure *The Crash of The Elysium*; Kenneth Branagh's acclaimed *Macbeth*, Maxine Peake's impassioned recitation of Shelley's *The Masque of Anarchy*, thrilling live art from Tino Sehgal, and the iconoclastic film/gig hybrid *Massive Attack V Adam Curtis*.

The Festival works with co-commissioning partners around the world to present new productions, including Park Avenue Armory, New York, Ruhrtriennale in Germany, Festival d'Automne in Paris, Spoleto Festival Italy and more.

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