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**PRESS RELEASE: 11 February 2021**

***ADAM***

**Inspired by the life of Adam Kashmiry**

By **Frances Poet**

Directed by **Cora Bissett** and **Louise Lockwood**

Director of Photography **Carlo D'Alessandro,** Designer **Emily James,** Lighting Designer **Lizzie Powell**, Sound Designer **Garry Boyle**, Composer **Jocelyn Pook**

The cast is: **Myriam Acharki, Yasmin Al-Khudhairi, Haqi Ali, Neshla Caplan, Adam Kashmiry, Stephen McCole, Rehanna MacDonald** and **Hamish Wyllie**

**Produced by National Theatre of Scotland and Hopscotch Films**

**Commissioned by BBC Scotland and BBC Arts**

**Broadcast as part of BBC Arts ‘Lights Up’ for New Culture in Quarantine Season on BBC iPlayer and BBC Four and will premiere on BBC Scotland on 06 March 2021 at 10.15pm.**

Inspired by the life of Adam Kashmiry, *Adam* tellsthe remarkable story of a young trans man and his struggle across genders and borders to be himself. Originally a multi-award-winning stage play, *Adam* has been reinvented as a compelling, theatrical on-screen drama, presented by the National Theatre of Scotland and Hopscotch Films. Adam Kashmiry performs, as himself, in the leading role.

Born in Egypt, Adam was assigned female at birth but always knew he was a boy. Trapped, with no way to describe this feeling, in a deeply conservative society where falling in love with the wrong person can get you killed, he knew that he had to escape. With a borrowed laptop he typed in a question: ‘*Can the soul of a man be trapped in the body of a woman?*’ What followed was beyond Adam’s wildest dreams. A catalyst to begin the epic journey for the right to change his body, to the boy he knew himself to be.

Written by playwright and dramaturg Frances Poet, and reworked for the screen, the hour-long drama focuses on Adam’s isolating experiences in a Glasgow flat while awaiting a decision on his asylum claim. Trapped in a Catch 22 where he cannot prove his need for asylum as a trans man until he transitions but is unable to start transitioning until he is granted asylum, Adam is left alone to wrestle with his conflicting thoughts and feelings as every waking moment sees him haunted by figures from his past and present.

The on-screen version is brought to life by directors Louise Lockwood and Cora Bissett, as well as the stage production star Adam Kashmiry whose life story is at the heart of the drama.

Adam is joined on screen by Myriam Acharki, Yasmin Al-Khudhairi, Haqi Ali, Neshla Caplan, Stephen McCole, Rehanna MacDonald and Hamish Wyllie.

The creative team includes director of photography Carlo D'Alessandro, designer Emily James, lighting designer Lizzie Powell and composer Jocelyn Pook.

The drama features a virtual online trans world choir, brought together for the original award-winning stage production. They appear together on-screen singing Jocelyn Pook’s epic choral original score. Jocelyn Pook is widely known for her score for the film *Eyes Wide Shut*. She has worked with some of the world’s leading artists, and arts institutions including Stanley Kubrick, Martin Scorsese, the Royal Opera House, BBC Proms, Massive Attack and Laurie Anderson.

***‘a powerful story of transcendence’*-** The Herald

*Adam* first premiered in a National Theatre of Scotland production at Edinburgh’s Traverse Theatre in 2017 as part of the Edinburgh Festival Fringe. Since its award-winning opening run, the production has visited venues across the UK, including a run in London as part of the Battersea Arts Centre’s Phoenix Season, as well as an international engagement at New York’s Skirball Festival in 2019. A one-man version of Adam performed by Adam Kashmiry premiered online at The Shedinburgh Fringe Festival in 2020.

Adam Kashmiry made his notable professional stage debut in the 2017 production. He previously appeared in the Citizen Theatre's and Scottish Refugee Council's *Here We Stay* at the Tron Theatre as part of Scottish Refugee Week in 2013. He was integrally involved in the development of both the stage and screen versions of his life story.

Cora Bissett is an acclaimed director, actor and songwriter based in Glasgow. She is Associate Director at the National Theatre of Scotland where her productions include *Room, Rites, Adam, Interference* and *Glasgow Girls.* Other productions include *What Girls are Made Of (*as writer and performer), *Roadkill,* *Whatever gets you through the night* and *GRIT-The Martyn Bennett Story.*

Louise Lockwood is a multi-award-winning documentary maker whose work has been transmitted on network channels in the UK and the USA, Louise was nominated for a Bafta and won a Grierson, RTS (Royal Television Society), RTS Scotland & Scottish BAFTA for her acclaimed documentary, *Parallel Worlds, Parallel Lives*. Louise also won multiple awards for her intimate two-part documentary *Fair Isle – Living on the Edge*, which captured the life of the 60 residents on Britain’s most remote inhabited island over a significant year in 2015.

The on-screen adaptation is produced by the National Theatre of Scotland and Hopscotch Films and commissioned by BBC Scotland and BBC Arts. All organisations previously collaborated on the National Theatre of Scotland’s hugely successful *Scenes for Survival* series, which saw 55 dramatic shorts created in isolation by over 200 leading artists and creatives in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Join the conversation: **#NTSAdam**

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**Press images available on request**

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**Artist Biogs**

**Myriam Acharki** was born in Brussels where she trained first in Artistic Humanities then at L'Insas for a year prior to arriving in London to study with Philippe Gaulier(Lecoq school) Theatre work includes: *Out of Sorts* Theatre 503, *Returning to Haifa* The Finborough, *Kabeiroi* Punchdrunk, *Dionysos Unbound* The Brideswell, *Woyzeck* Drama Desk Awards Nominee- St Ann's New York, *Jane Eyre* Shared Experience, *Woyczek* The Gate Theatre, *Peter Pan* West Yorkshire Playhouse.TV work includes: *This is Iniquity* Goodrum Productions, *Sex Education* Netflix,*Next of Kin* ITV1, *Chasing Shadows* ITV, *Silk* BBC Drama, *Sinbad* Sky/BBC Worldwide, *New Tricks* Wall to Wall/BBC Television, *E20* BBC Television, *Under Suspicion* LaPlanteProductions, *Little Miss Jocelyn* Brown Eyed Boy Production, *Human Cargo* Gemini Awards Nominnee- C.B.C./Alliance Films, *Doctors*BBC, *Holby City* BBC, *Northsquare* Channel 4. Film work includes: *Jumper* NFTS, *John Carter of Mars* Pixar/Disney, *The Beach* Figment Films, *City of Tiny Lights* Ferden Productions, *28k*Formosa Film.

**Yasmin Al-Khudhairi** TV work includes *Ackley Bridge* (Channel 4) and *Killing Eve* (BBC). Film includes *Hilda (*Odds on Productions*). Theatre* credits include *Pizza Delique* (Odds on Productions).

**Haqi Ali** was born in Birmingham. As a teenager he was a member of the St Paul's Youth Theatre and went on to train at The Birmingham School of Speech and Drama. Haqi started his career as a stand-up comedian and went on to build a successful career as a comedic actor and stand up comic. Haqi has featured In BBC’s Network East, as a stand up comic. TV work includes: for the BBC *Citizen Khan*, *Man Like Mobeen and* *Doctors.* Film work includes:*for* Goldwyn Films*Waiting For The Barbarians;* for Paramount Pictures *Jungleland;* for Netflix *Jawbone;* a Bollywood film called *Chall Mera Putt.* He also featured in the award-winning film *Get the Picture in* 2004. Theatre work includes *Every Thing Must Go* with Friction Arts;*The Decent*with Midlands Actors Theatre;*Salty Waters with Pubanat,**Fifth Cup* with*Castaway Arts* and *King Lear* withRSC OpenStages. He was an Official Nominee for the BATSFF 2015 Best Supporting Actor, for his role in the film *Go With God* in 2014. Haqi is also a talented scriptwriter and film Director and had his directorial debut film; ‘*Return’*. He is also a film Editor: *Mr Creep*; *Return* and *Tainted Love*. When he is not working as an actor he facilitates and brings film, theatre and drama production to youth communities who don't usually have access to performing arts.

**Cora Bissett** is a director/actor/songwriter and Associate Director at The National Theatre of Scotland. Cora is passionate about creating innovative cross-form work rooted in collaboration, and frequently seeks out ‘real life’ stories which feel urgent and untold. Her work with NTS (National Theatre Scotland) includes *Adam*,(winner of a Fringe First, Herald Angel and Sottish Arts Club Award on its launch at the Edinburgh Festival Fringe in 2017)  *Rites*, a verbatim production co-created with Yusra Warsama exploring the complex practice of FGM, which was co-produced by the National Theatre of Scotland and Contact Manchester and which toured across the UK in 2015; The popular political musical *Glasgow Girls*, which she co-created with David Greig and directed, which won the Best New Musical in the Off West End Awards 2016 and subsequently The Amnesty Freedom of Expression Award in an independent remount in 2016; *Room,* the stage adaptation of Emma Donoghue’s worldwide bestseller, which Cora directed and co-composed with Kathryn Joseph. The production premiered at Theatre Royal Stratford East and played a month at the Abbey in Dublin. After graduating from the RCS in 1997 Cora worked as an actor for 14 years before launching her Production Company Pachamama with the flagship production *Roadkill.* Amongst numerous awards, *Roadkil*l was awarded an Olivier in 2012 for Outstanding Production in an Affiliate Theatre (with Theatre Royal Stratford East and the Barbican). Other work for Pachamama includes *Grit-The Martyn Bennett Stor*y (written by Kieran Hurley) and *Janis Joplin-Full Tilt* (by Peter Arnott). Cora made a return to the stage after 8 years in her autobiographical play *What Girls Are Made Of*. It opened at the Traverse during the Edinburgh Festival 2018 directed by the Traverse Artistic Director Orla O’Loughlin (Traverse Theatre/Raw Material). Playing sold out houses through the summer, it toured across Scotland and internationally through 2019.

**Neshla Caplan trained at the** Royal Conservatoire of Scotland: MA Musical Theatre.**Theatre credits include** *Move~Gluasad;*Disaster Plan. *The Alchemist;*Tron Theatre. *Arctic Oil, The Breakfast Plays;*The Traverse. *Sunshine on Leith;*Leeds Playhouse/UK No 1 Tour.*ADAM;*National Theatre of Scotland. *Toy Plastic Chicken, Wee Free: The Musical, Voices In Her Ear;*Play Pie and a Pint. *The Sunshine Ghost;*Festival Theatre. *Secret Show 1;*Blood Of The Young/Tron Theatre. *Shark in the Park:*Macrobert/Assembly Rooms. *The Choir;*The Citizens Theatre/ATG. *Arabian Nights, The BFG;*The Royal Lyceum Theatre. *Beauty and the Beast;*Glasgow Life. **Film/Radio/Voiceover Credits:***Christmas Tales*; Royal Lyceum Theatre. *Scenes For Survival-Future Perfect Tense;*National Theatre of Scotland, *From Fact to Fiction: After Midnight;*BBC R4, *Transport Scotland;*Whitespace. *The Bard's Tale;*inXile Entertainment.

**Carlo D’Alessandro** is a UK based cinematographer. His observational style has earned him awards from The Royal Television Society and gained exhibitions across the country. His work spans different genres from years of work in documentaries and commercials and increasing work in narrative drama.

**Emily James** trained at Edinburgh College of Art and Bristol Old Vic Theatre School. She was a finalist for the 1997 Linbury Prize for Stage Design and was also awarded a one-year Design Bursary at the Royal Exchange Theatre. She has worked across the UK for such companies as Theatre Royal Stratford East, Bristol Old Vic, Traverse Theatre, Plymouth Theatre Royal, Hampstead Theatre, Birmingham Rep and the Royal Exchange Theatre. Recent work includes *Factor 9* (Dogstar), *Jumping Puddles* (Frantic Assembly/Open Clasp) and *The Soaking of Vera Shrimp* (Live Theatre, Newcastle). Her work encompasses many genres from new writing to classics, musicals, opera and dance. Outside the UK her designs have been seen in Sweden, Denmark and the USA.

**Adam Kashmiry** was born in Alexandria, Egypt. He came to the UK in 2010 and now lives in Glasgow. In 2012, Adam performed in the Citizens' Theatre Community Company and Scottish Refugee Council’s production *Here We Stay* which returned to The Tron Theatre in 2013. He has also appeared in the short film *Time for T.E.A* by LGBT Youth Scotland and his short film *Everyman*, produced by Bombito Productions will be premiering in February 2021. Adam was also featured in the 2020 film, *Ghost Light*, produced by the NTS and the Edinburgh International Festival, and can shortly be seen in the BBC production, *The Years That Changed Modern Scotland*. As well as a performer, Adam is also a Trans activist and was proud to present a TEDx talk in Glasgow in 2018, tackling different issues and stereotypes associated with the Trans community. *Adam* on stage was his professional stage debut as part of the Fringe Festival 2017. He went on to win a Fringe First Award and Herald Angel Award for his performance in 2017, and was also shortlisted for Amnesty’s International Award for Free Speech. After the production transferred to Battersea Arts Centre, Adam was nominated for an Offies Award London in 2019. The ‘one-man’ Adam was also part of the Shedinburgh 2020 online festival.

**Louise Lockwood** is a multi-award-winning documentary maker with 20 years’ experience. A Fine Art graduate of the Glasgow School of Art the subjects of her documentaries are diverse yet united by a distinct, creative vision. Over the last 20 years Louise’s work has been transmitted on network channels in the UK and the USA, covering topics as diverse as Quantum Physics, Neuroscience, Philosophy, Cancer, Political and Social History and many Film, Theatre, Art and Architecture subjects. Louise was nominated for a Bafta and won a Grierson, RTS, RTS Scotland & Scottish BAFTA for her acclaimed documentary in 2009, PARALLEL WORLDS, PARALLEL LIVES which follows the lead singer of US rock band Eels, Mark Oliver Everett, on his journey of discovery to learn about his father, Hugh Everett III, the quantum mechanic who developed the ground-breaking theory of Parallel Universes. Louise also won multiple awards for her intimate two-part documentary FAIR ISLE: LIVING ON THE EDGE which captured the life of the 60 residents on Britain’s most remote inhabited island over a significant year in 2015.

**Stephen McCole** has just wrapped on a large supporting role alongside Suranne Jones in *Vigil* for BBC Oneand a guest role in ITV’s upcoming series *Too Close* starring Emily Watson.He could most recently be seen in supporting roles in the Netflix features *Outlaw King* and *Malevolent* both opposite Florence Pugh. On television he also appeared in lovely roles in season 2 of ITV smash hit *Brassic* and *Save Me* season 2. He was nominated for Best Actor at the Scottish BAFTA's, for his performance in *Crying with Laughter* and has appeared in films such as *Rushmore, Orphans, The Acid House and Band of Brothers.* He's been a regular performer at The National Theatre of Scotland, most recently in *Blackwatch*. He also appeared in Anita Vettesse’s *Happy Hour* and starred in the brilliantly reviewed *Let the Right One In* at The Royal Court.

**Rehanna MacDonald’**s previous theatre credits include *Adam* (National Theatre of Scotland); *Sinbad* (Perth Theatre); *Peter Gynt* (National Theatre); *This Girl Laughs, This Girl Cries, This Girl Does Nothing* (Stellar Quines); *Arabian Nights* (Royal Lyceum, Edinburgh); *Breakfast Plays: Youthquake, Locker Room Talk* (Traverse Theatre); *The Last Queen of Scotland* (Stellar Quines/National Theatre of Scotland/Dundee Rep); *Early Doors* (Not Too Tame); *Snow White* (Cumbernauld Theatre Company); *Child of the Divide* (Buchar Boulevard); *If I Had a Girl* (Amina, Citizens Theatre, Traverse theatre/Tour); *My Name Is* (Tamasha); *Tender, Spring Awakening, The Wonderful World of Dissocia, A Chorus of Disapproval, Twelfth Night,* Truant (National Theatre Studio). Television credits include: *Teacup Travels* (Cbeebies).

**Frances Poet** is a Glasgow based writer. Stage plays include *Fibres* (Stella Quines/Citizens Theatre, Scottish tour 2019 and a filmed version made in collaboration with Solus in Autumn 2020), *Gut* (Writers' Guild Best Play Award winner, UK Theatre Best Play Award nominated and Bruntwood Prize For Playwriting Shortlisted, Traverse Theatre & Tron Theatre 2018 and in a French translation as *Madra*, Théâtre La Licorne, Montréal 2019 and Théâtre Périscope, Quebec 2020) and the multi-award winning *Adam* (Scottish and UK tours 2017/18, NYU Skirball Centre 2019 and Gasworks Arts Park, Melbourne 2020). Frances has also completed a number of classic adaptations including *The Macbeths*(Citizens Theatre/Scottish Tour 2017/18), *What Put The Blood* (Abbey Theatre, Dublin 2017 and previously as *Andromaque*, Scottish Tour 2015), *Dance of Death* (Citizens Theatre 2016) and *The Misanthrope* (Oran Mòr 2014). Radio work includes *Alt Delete*(BBC Radio 3, 2019), *Gut*(BBC Radio 4, 2019) and *The Disappointed* (BBC Radio Scotland 2015). Screen work includes Episode 5 of a new Scotland-set crime drama, *Annika*, several episodes of *River City* and short films that have played at a number of national and international festivals. Frances's play *Crusaders* was part of NT Connections 2020 and will be included in their 2021 programme and her latest play will be presented as part of Lyceum and Pitlochry Theatre’s Sound Stage initiative in June 2021. *Maggie May*, developed at Leeds Playhouse in a co-production with Leicester Curvewas closed due to Covid-19 the day before its Press Night after just three previews at Queens Theatre, Hornchurch. The play was recently announced as a 2021 Susan Smith Blackburn Finalist.

**Jocelyn Pook** is one of the UK’s most versatile composers, having written extensively for film, television, opera house and concert hall. She has established an international reputation as a highly original composer. Her work for theatre includes *St Joan* (National Theatre of Great Britain) for which she won an Olivier Award and her music-theatre piece *Speaking in Tunes* for which she won a British Composer Award. She won a second British Composer Award for her soundtrack to *DESH*, which accompanies Akram Khan’s dance production of the same name. Her film scores include *Eyes Wide Shut*, which won her a Chicago Film Award and a Golden Globe nomination, *The Merchant of Venice* with Al Pacino which was nominated for a Classical Brit Award, *Brick Lane* directed by Sarah Gavron and a piece for the soundtrack to *Gangs of New York* directed by Martin Scorsese. Jocelyn has also composed scores for television shows and commercials and was nominated for a BAFTA for Channel 4’s *The Government Inspector*. Jocelyn graduated from the Guildhall School of Music and Drama, where she studied the viola. She then embarked on a period of touring and recording with artists such as Peter Gabriel, Massive Attack, Laurie Anderson and PJ Harvey and as a member of the Communards. She also tours extensively with The Jocelyn Pook Ensemble, performing repertoire from her albums and music from her film scores.

**Lizzie Powell**’s previous lighting designs for the National Theatre of Scotland include *Adam, Our Ladies Of Perpetual Succour, In Time o’ Strife, Glasgow Girls, My Shrinking Life, Enquirer, Appointment with the Wicker Man, Knives In Hens, Girl X, Mary Queen of Scots Got Her Head Chopped Off, Our Teacher’s A Troll,Debuts* (with Traverse Theatre), and *Venus As A Boy.* Other theatre include *A Midsummer Night’s Dream* (Scottish Opera), *Smile* (Dundee Rep), *King John, Macbeth* (RSC), *Dial M For Murder* (National Tour); *Kes* (Perth Theatre); *Our Town* (Regents Park Open Air Theatre), *The Country Girls* (Chichester Festival); *Hedda Gabler, Frankenstein* (Northern Stage); *The Mountaintop* (Young Vic); *Victory Condition, B, Human Animals,Violence* and *Son* (Royal Court); *Pinocchio, Cyrano De Bergerac* (with NTS/Lyceum Theatre),*Endgame, The Choir, Fever Dream: Southside, The Libertine, Far Away/Seagulls,Krapp’s Last Tape/Footfalls* (Citizens Theatre); *Avalance: A Love Story* (Barbican Theatre & Sydney Theatre Company); *Mother Courage, Anna Karenina, The Mighty Walzer* (Royal Exchange, Manchester); *Smile, Deathtrap* (Dundee Rep Theatre); *Secret Theatre* (Lyric Theatre, Hammersmith); *What Girls Are Made Of, Spring Awakening, While You Lie, Any Given Day,* and *The Dark Things* (Traverse Theatre); *Under Milk Wood* (Theatre Royal Northampton); *Romeo and Juliet* (Sheffield Crucible).

**Hamish Wyllie** was born in Glasgow and has belonged to both RCS Juniors and National Youth Theatre. Hamish later went on to train at the Academy of Live & Recorded Arts in South London. This is his first project with the National Theatre of Scotland. Other work includes Dandini in *Cinderalla*(Robert C Kelly) Barry Beats in *Then I Met You (Twelve Twelve Theatre),*TV & Film Credits include Keegan Meake in *Armchair Detectives*(Tiger Aspect), Matt in *Trust Me (Red Productions)*andCamera Salesman in *Surprise!* (dir. Peter Hewitt).

**Notes for Editors**

**The National Theatre of Scotland** is dedicated to playing the great stages, arts centres, village halls, schools and site-specific locations of Scotland, the UK and internationally. As well as creating ground-breaking productions and working with the most talented theatre-makers, the National Theatre of Scotland produces significant community engagement projects, innovates digitally, and works constantly to develop new talent. Central to this is finding pioneering ways to reach current and new audiences and to encourage people’s full participation in the Company’s work. With no performance building of its own, the Company works with existing and new venues and companies to create and tour theatre of the highest quality. Founded in 2006, the Company, in its short life, has become a globally significant theatrical player, with an extensive repertoire of award-winning work. The National Theatre of Scotland is supported by the Scottish Government. [www.nationaltheatrescotland.com](http://www.nationaltheatrescotland.com/)

