

CAST ANNOUNCEMENT – UNDER STRICT EMBARGO UNTIL AFTER 10.30AM, 14 JULY 2026

A NATIONAL TOUR LED BY
ACTORS TOURING COMPANY

LINNEA BERTHELSEN TO MAKE UK STAGE DEBUT IN *DARKLING* BY TITAS HALDER



Linnea Berthelsen (centre), Actors Touring Company Artistic Director Matthew Xia (left) and writer Titas Halder (right).

Ferocious, brutal and damning. An epic story of a life ravaged by ecological disaster.

Opening at Bush Theatre on 5 September before
Touring until 14 November 2026

Actors Touring Company & Bush Theatre today announce that international screen star **Linnea Berthelsen**, will make her UK stage debut in the World Premiere of *Darkling* by Titas Halder, directed by the acclaimed national touring company's Olivier-award-winning Artistic Director Matthew Xia.

Berthelsen, best known globally for her breakout role as Kali Prasad (008) in Netflix's worldwide phenomenon *Stranger Things*, will bring her compelling screen presence to live audiences in the UK for the very first time. She will star in this deeply poetic solo play presented by Actors Touring Company and co-produced with the Bush Theatre. *Darkling* opens at Bush Theatre on **5 September** before touring to Birmingham Rep, Oxford's The North Wall Arts Centre, and HOME, Manchester until **14 November 2026**.

Linnea Berthelsen says: "Matthew is someone I've admired and have hoped to collaborate with for many years. And after seeing and falling in love with Titas' work on Foa, I knew that joining Darkling would be a special opportunity. Titas' script is incredibly nuanced, human and very alive. I'm thrilled to be working with this exceptional creative team."

Darkling exposes the human impact of the 1984 Bhopal gas leak disaster. The production weaves memory and trauma into a visceral narrative that serves as a powerful indictment of corporate malpractice. This human story confronts the systemic impact of industrialisation on poorer nations, raising urgent questions about environmental exploitation and the fight for justice in the global South.

Matthew Xia, Artistic Director of Actors Touring Company, says: *"It is a privilege to collaborate with Linnea, who will bring a magnetic intensity to the role. Titas has written an extraordinarily beautiful and poetic text, and working with a performer of Linnea's calibre gives us the chance to make something epic, intimate and unmistakably theatrical."*

We are proud that Darkling sits at the very core of ATC's mission: to champion globally minded contemporary theatre and bring these vital narratives to audiences across the UK."

Playwright **Titas Halder** adds: *"I'm thrilled that Linnea will be performing in Darkling. When I wrote the piece; a human story about how an ecological disaster rips through one family, I could have never imagined that we would one day be making this play with such an extraordinary team, led by the brilliant Matthew Xia, and anchored by such a truly mesmeric actor as Linnea. I know she will bring a special and profound emotional depth to this solo play, a portrait of an entire life."*

Marking 42 years since the Union Carbide disaster in Bhopal, the themes *Darkling* addresses around environmental injustice resonate powerfully today. The production uncovers the human cost of history's worst industrial catastrophe, bringing an unresolved battle for corporate accountability into sharp focus. (see **Notes to Editors**).

Darkling is made possible with the support of Arts Council England, Cockayne Grants for the Arts, Royal Victoria Hall Foundation, Esmée Fairbairn Foundation, John Ellerman Foundation and the Wates Foundation.

ATC is an Arts Council England National Portfolio Organisation.

-ENDS-

Press Images can be downloaded [HERE](#)

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Previous Praise for ATC Productions

"Wonderfully performed, visually expansive regional premiere... performances are sublime."
The Stage, Small Island

"Unique, challenging and oh-so necessary" - The Guardian, Tambo & Bones

"Inspired, intensely moving piece of immersive theatre" - Financial Times, The Architect

"The production feels more urgent than ever" - Broadway World, Bodies of Water

"Outspoken and magical ... informs us with its history and moves us with its personal stories"
British Theatre Guide, Family Tree

CAST AND CREATIVES

Starring Linnea Berthelsen

Writer	Titas Halder
Director	Matthew Xia
Designer	Simon Kenny
Lighting Designer	Rajiv Pattani
Sound Designer	Beth Duke
Movement Director	Anjali Mehra
Composer	Niraj Chag
Casting Director	Shaheen Baig
Associate Director	Sara Aniqah Malik

LISTINGS

Darkling National Tour is led by Actors Touring Company and co-produced with the Bush Theatre.

Dates and information: 5 September – 14 November
<https://www.atctheatre.com/production/darkling-2026/>

Press Night - 15 September, 7 pm at the Bush Theatre

Bush Theatre, London - 5 September – 24 October
<https://www.bushtheatre.co.uk/event/darkling/>

Birmingham Rep - 30 October – 31 October
<https://www.birmingham-rep.co.uk/whats-on/darkling/>

The North Wall Arts Centre, Oxford - 3 – 4 November
<https://www.thenorthwall.com/whats-on/darkling/>

HOME, Manchester - 11 – 14 November
<https://www.homemcr.org/whats-on/darkling-5qpj>

Show running time 75 mins
Age Guidance 14+

*I walk home. The skyline is changed.
The skeleton is fast becoming a huge metal creature.
They have built a behemoth here.*

Bhopal. India. 1984.

Born under a blue sky in a city of lakes, a girl grows up with her father and sister. The three of them together, always.

But as she grows, the land begins to change. A giant factory rises over her town. Her mother always wanted more for them - now the girl wants more too.

Then comes the night that tears everything apart.

For Actors Touring Company enquiries please contact Diana Whitehead at diana@fourthwallpr.co.uk, +44 (0) 7939 149887

For **press night tickets** and further information on the Bush Theatre, contact Martin Shippen at press@bushtheatre.co.uk

Notes To Editors:

Bhopal Facts

- **The Disaster:** At 5-past-midnight on the 3rd December 1984, a Union Carbide pesticide factory leaked 40 tonnes of toxic gas in Bhopal, India, creating history's worst industrial disaster, as detailed by the [National Institutes of Health](#).
- **The Victims:** The leak poisoned 500,000 people and killed 22,000; peer-reviewed research in [BMJ Open](#) shows the gas caused genetic damage, driving multi-generational birth defects and cancers.
- **The Settlement:** Corporate cost-cutting disabled six critical safety systems before the leak, leading to a minimal \$470 million legal settlement that [Amnesty International](#) condemns as an ongoing failure of corporate accountability.
- **The Legacy:** Abandoned chemical waste continues to poison local groundwater decades later, creating a severe, unresolved human rights and environmental crisis monitored by the [United Nations \(OHCHR\)](#).

BIOGRAPHIES

Linnea Berthelsen

Linnea Berthelsen is a British-trained Danish actress who resides in London.

Linnea is perhaps best known for her role of 'Kali' in Netflix hit *Stranger Things*. Linnea was first introduced as 'Kali' in season two where she was revealed to be the sister of 'Eleven/Jane' played by Millie Bobby Brown. Linnea's character made a shock return to the show in its final season, playing a pivotal part in the show's final storyline.

Linnea's other projects include the role of Jen in Alex Garland's mini-series *Devs* for Hulu and the BBC. Linnea's short film credits include *Teenland* opposite Vic Carmen Sonne and directed by Marie Grahto, *Natskygge*, *What Tyler Did* and *Sláinte*.

Titus Halder

Titus Halder is a writer and director working across Theatre, Film and Music. He is currently Associate Artistic Director at the Donmar Warehouse. As a writer he trained on the Royal Court Theatre Young Writers' Programme.

His first two plays *Run the Beast Down* and *Escape the Scaffold* saw him nominated for Best Writer at the inaugural Stage Debut Awards and acclaimed as a rising star playwright. The same year, his play *The Basement* was a finalist for the Verity Bargate Award.

His next play *Replica* premiered at the National Theatre as part of NT Connections, and was also produced at Riksteatern's Länk Festival in Stockholm. His latest play *Foal* premiered at the Finborough Theatre in London in 2026. He was selected for BBC Voices 2024 and is currently writing his first feature film for Storyteller.

Matthew Xia

Matthew Xia is a multiple award-winning theatre director, cultural leader, and multi-disciplinary artist whose work moves fluidly between stages, streets, and communities.

Matthew Xia has been the Artistic Director of Actors Touring Company since 2018. He was previously Associate Artistic Director at the Royal Exchange Theatre, Manchester; Director-in-Residence at Liverpool Everyman & Playhouse; and Associate Director at Theatre Royal Stratford East.

Directing credits include: **Small Island** (Leeds Playhouse / Birmingham REP / Nottingham Playhouse / ATC); **The Harder They Come** (Stratford East); **Bodies of Water** (ATC / GDIF); **Skeleton Crew** (Donmar Warehouse); **The Architect** (GDIF / ATC / Stephen Lawrence Day Foundation); **Tambo & Bones** (ATC / Theatre Royal Stratford East); the Olivier Award-winning **Hey Duggee – The Live Theatre Show** (Kenny Wax Family Entertainment / Cuffe & Taylor); the Fringe First Award-winning **Feeling Afraid as if Something Terrible is Going to Happen** (Francesca Moody Productions / Bush Theatre); **Rice** (ATC / Orange Tree); **The Wiz** (Ameena Hamid Productions / Hope Mill / BBC Big Night of Musicals); **Family Tree** (GDIF / ATC / Belgrade / Brixton House); **846Live** (Stratford East / GDIF); **Amsterdam** (ATC / Orange Tree / Theatre Royal Plymouth); **Blood Knot** (Orange Tree); **Eden** (Hampstead Theatre); **One Night In Miami...** (Nottingham Playhouse / Bristol Old Vic / HOME); **Into The Woods** and **Frankenstein** (Royal Exchange); **Wish List** (Royal Exchange / Royal Court); **Shebeen** (Nottingham Playhouse / Stratford East); **Sleeping Beauty** and **The Blacks** (Stratford East); Dublin Carol (Sherman Theatre); **Blue/Orange** and **The Sound of Yellow** (Young Vic); **Sizwe Banzi is Dead** (Young Vic / Eclipse); **I Was Looking at the Ceiling and Then I Saw the Sky** (co-director, Stratford East / Barbican); and **Suckerpunch Boom Suite** (Barbican / NitroBEAT).

Across his career, Matthew has directed some of the UK's most talented actors, including Daniel Kaluuya, Cynthia Erivo, Joseph Quinn, Erin Doherty, Malachi Kirby, Maxine Peake, David Haig, and Samuel Barnett.

In 2019, he was awarded an Honorary Doctorate from the University of the Arts London in recognition of his work to make theatre more accessible and to champion minority groups as leaders, makers, and audiences within the industry.

Actors Touring Company

Actors Touring Company (ATC) is a portable portal to the world. Through our work, we connect global artistic voices to local communities across the UK and beyond.

ATC is the UK's leading theatre producer of international plays. We source, commission and produce work from around the world and from the global cultures that exist within the UK. We create dialogue between here and the rest of the world, amplifying voices that have often been overlooked in British theatre.

We explore global systems experienced at a human level: who gets to speak, who is seen, and who is centred. We are passionate about giving voice to the 'outsider within', turning barriers into bridges, and taking storytelling and theatre everywhere, for everyone.

www.atctheatre.com/about

Bush Theatre

Opened in 1972, the Bush Theatre is internationally renowned as 'the place to go for groundbreaking work as diverse as its audiences' (The London Standard). A champion of new work and operating in one of London's most culturally diverse areas, the Bush Theatre produces an engaging programme that asks the big questions of the world we live in through enduring theatre.

Recent successes include Emma Dennis-Edwards' *Not Your Superwoman* starring Letitia Wright and Golda Rosheuvel, and multi-award-winning productions *Red Pitch* by Tyrell Williams and *Shifters* by Benedict Lombe, both of which transferred to the West End and internationally. Richard Gadd's *Baby Reindeer*, now a hit Netflix series, Igor Memic's *Old Bridge*, Waleed Akhtar's *The P Word*, and Matilda Feyisayo Ibini's *Sleepova* won the Olivier Award for 'Best New Production in Affiliate Theatre' in 2021, 2022, 2023, and 2024, respectively. Danny James King's *Miss Myrtle's Garden* was nominated in the same category in 2026.

The Bush Theatre's talent development programmes discover and develop the very best of the UK's theatre makers. The Bush team believes the theatre has a responsibility to generate opportunities for new and established makers alike and to support the sustainability of their careers. The Bush continues to create a space where different communities can shape the future of this country through the power of storytelling.