



*Hamlet and Oresteia*

As Interpreted by Olivier Award-Winning Director Robert Icke  
and Starring Alex Lawther and Lia Williams,  
Make North American Premieres at Park Avenue Armory

Performed in Repertory in the Wade Thompson Drill Hall,  
Icke's Contemporary Adaptations Shed New Light on Classic Dramas

June 1 – August 13, 2022



*Lia Williams in Oresteia at the Almeida Theatre. Photo: Manuel Harlan*

**New York, NY** – April 4, 2022 – From June through August, Park Avenue Armory will present the North American premieres of **Robert Icke's** award-winning modern adaptations of William Shakespeare's *Hamlet* and Aeschylus' *Oresteia*, performed in repertory in the grand Wade Thompson Drill Hall. Directed and interpreted by the Olivier Award-winning Icke—acclaimed for his intelligent and accessible productions and his ability to bring fresh, new perspectives to classical texts—the productions will feature **Alex Lawther** (*The Imitation Game*, *The Last Duel*, *The French Dispatch*, *Black Mirror*) in *Hamlet* as the brooding protagonist, and **Lia Williams** (*The Crown*, *His Dark Materials*), who returns to *Oresteia* in her Olivier-nominated role as Klytemnestra and will perform as Gertrude in *Hamlet*. The productions, which originated at the internationally acclaimed Almeida

Theatre in London, will be presented in repertory for 11 weeks at the Armory and performed by a single British company. Both productions use video elements and dynamic stage design to examine the psychological impacts of grief and retribution, and will play on alternating evenings with previews beginning June 1 for *Hamlet* and June 9 for *Oresteia*.

“Robert Icke is a visionary director who is disrupting the way audiences consume classical works,” said **Pierre Audi, the Armory’s Marina Kellen French Artistic Director**. “Icke’s directorial approach recontextualizes and democratizes classic texts that are often seen as inaccessible, catapulting them into the modern world and upholding their relevance through his cogent adaptations of works like *Hamlet*, *Oresteia*, and *Enemy of the People*—all of which we’ve been proud to present at the Armory.”

“We are delighted to welcome Robert Icke back to the Armory for an ambitious merging of theatricality and clever multimedia integration” said **Rebecca Robertson, Founding President and Executive Producer of Park Avenue Armory**. “The Armory is committed to providing the space for fresh, innovative perspectives from vanguard artists working around the world. We are enthusiastic to work with Icke and his team to bring these two classics to the Drill Hall, reinterpreting their timeless lessons for the modern world.”

Icke’s *Hamlet* and *Oresteia* originated at the internationally acclaimed Almeida Theatre, which was founded in 1979 by Audi. At the Armory, the productions will play in repertory for the first time, allowing audiences to experience the throughlines and connections Icke explores in his pairing of these classic dramas—depicting two epic family sagas written over 2,000 years apart—which will be performed by the same cast. In his adaptations, Icke bridges antiquity and the contemporary to create worlds that enhance the psychological drama in classic texts; he blurs the lines between public and private life in *Hamlet*, and heightens courtroom tensions in *Oresteia*.

*Hamlet* and *Oresteia* are part of Park Avenue Armory’s full 2022 season. Additional upcoming Drill Hall programming at the Armory includes: the North American premiere of Grawemeyer Award-winning *Upload* (March 22-30, 2022), a critically heralded new opera by composer, director, and librettist **Michel van der Aa** featuring soprano **Julia Bullock** and baritone **Roderick Williams**; *Monochromatic Light (Afterlife)* (September 27-October 8, 2022), a new commission by musician and composer **Tyshawn Sorey** that pays homage to Morton Feldman’s iconic composition for the dedication of Houston’s Rothko Chapel 50 years ago, with director **Peter Sellars** reimagining the work with a new staging designed for the Drill Hall featuring works by visual artist **Julie Mehretu**; the debut of an Armory-commissioned immersive film installation, *Euphoria* (November 30-January 1, 2023), by German video and film artist **Julian Rosefeldt** that takes aim at the destructive potential of capital, money, greed, and consumption, featuring original music composed by **Samy Moussa** and performed by an ensemble of jazz drummers and singers from the **Brooklyn Youth Chorus**.

Previous theatrical productions at the Armory include Robert Icke’s interactive adaptation of Henrik Ibsen’s classic morality tale *Enemy of the People*; Sam Mendes’ hit production of *The Lehman Trilogy*, adapted by Ben Power and starring Adam Godley, Ben Miles, and Simon Russell Beale; *Antigone*, an acclaimed production that flooded the Drill Hall with water as it mixed the foundational principles of Greek tragedy, Japanese Noh theater, Indonesian shadow play, and Buddhist philosophy to tell the classic Greek tale; *Macbeth*, directed by Rob Ashford and Kenneth Branagh, and starring Branagh and Alex Kingston for which the Wade Thompson Drill Hall was transformed into a bloody, rainy Scottish heath; Ivo van Hove’s chilling staging of *The Damned*; Simon Stone’s critically acclaimed, Obie Award-winning, and four-time Drama Desk-nominated production *Yerma*, starring

Billie Piper and performed within a glass encasement intersecting the audience; Obie Award-winning and eight-time Drama Desk-nominated play *The Hairy Ape*, directed by Richard Jones and starring Bobby Cannavale in a production where the audience was surrounded by a massive revolving stage; Christopher Shinn's adaptation of *Judgment Day*, directed by Richard Jones and starring Emmy Award-winning actor Luke Kirby; Obie Award-winning *A Room in India* (*Une chambre en Inde*) with Le Théâtre du Soleil under the direction of Ariane Mnouchkine; and the unprecedented residency of the **Royal Shakespeare Company** of five productions in repertory over six weeks in association with Lincoln Center Festival.

## **PERFORMANCE SCHEDULE**

Tickets sold separately for each production. For a full schedule of performances, please visit [armoryonpark.org](http://armoryonpark.org).

### **Hamlet**

North American premiere

A Park Avenue Armory and Almeida Theatre Production

This production had its world premiere at The Almeida Theatre in London

Produced by The Almeida Theatre and produced in the West End by Ambassador Theatre Group and Sonia Friedman Productions

By **William Shakespeare**

Direction **Robert Icke**

Set & Costumes **Hildegard Bechtler**

Lighting **Natasha Chivers**

Sound **Tom Gibbons**

Video **Tal Yarden**

Previews: June 1 – June 25

Performances: June 28 – August 13

Evenings at 7:00 p.m.; Matinees at 1:00 p.m.

Dates will vary. Please [check the website](#) for a full *Hamlet* schedule.

### **Oresteia**

North American premiere

A Park Avenue Armory and Almeida Theatre Production

This production had its world premiere at The Almeida Theatre in London

Produced by The Almeida Theatre and produced in the West End by Ambassador Theatre Group and Sonia Friedman Productions

After **Aeschylus**, in an adaptation by **Robert Icke**

Direction **Robert Icke**

Set and Costume **Hildegard Bechtler**

Lighting **Natasha Chivers**

Sound **Tom Gibbons**

Video **Tim Reid**

Previews: June 9 – June 20

Performances: June 21 – August 13

Evenings at 7:00 p.m.; Matinees at 1:00 p.m.

Dates will vary. Please [check the website](#) for a full *Oresteia* schedule.

## **TICKETS**

Tickets start at \$45 and can be purchased at [armoryonpark.org](http://armoryonpark.org) / (212) 933-5812

Park Avenue Armory  
643 Park Avenue at 67<sup>th</sup> Street, New York, NY

## **SPONSORSHIP**

Citi and Bloomberg Philanthropies are the Armory's 2022 Season Sponsor.

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## **ABOUT ROBERT ICKE**

Robert Icke is an award-winning writer and theater director best known for his modern adaptations of classic texts. Recent original productions include *Enemy of the People* at Park Avenue Armory (2021), *Oedipus* and *After Nora* at Internationaal Theater Amsterdam (2020, 2018), and *The Doctor*, based on Arthur Schnitzler's *Professor Bernhaldi* at the Almeida Theatre in London (2019). Other recent productions include Anton Chekhov's *Ivanov* at Schauspiel Stuttgart (2019) and William Shakespeare's *Hamlet* at the Almeida Theatre and West End (2017).

In 2018, Icke won the Kurt Hübner Award for his debut production in Germany, an adaptation of *Oresteia*, and was elected Fellow of the Royal Society of Literature. He is the youngest ever winner of the Olivier Award for 'Best Director' for *Oresteia* (2015), which also won the 'Best Director' prize at both the Critics' Circle and Evening Standard Theatre Awards.

## **ABOUT ALEX LAWTHER**

Alex Lawther is best known for his acclaimed roles in *The Last Duel*, the third series of Charlie Brooker's *Black Mirror*, and in *The End of the F\*\*\*ing World*. He made his screen debut as the young Alan Turing in the Oscar-winning film, *The Imitation Game*, for which he was nominated for the 'Best British Newcomer' Award at the BFI London Film Festival.

He was also the recipient of the Best Actor Award at the 2016 Dublin International Film Festival for his performance as ‘Elliot’ in the British film *Departure*. Alex’s other screen credits include Fox Searchlight’s *The French Dispatch*; Fox Searchlight’s *Goodbye Christopher Robin*; and a starring role in BBC One’s adaptation of *Howards End* in 2017, based on the classic E.M. Forster novel and adapted by screenwriter and playwright Kenneth Lonergan. His theater credits include: David Hare’s *South Downs* (Minerva Theatre; Harold Pinter Theatre); Ali Taylor’s *Fault Lines* (Hampstead Theatre); Martyn Hesford’s *The Glass Supper* (Hampstead Theatre); *Crushed Shells and Mud* (Southwark Playhouse); *The Jungle* (Young Vic, The Playhouse Theatre, and St. Ann’s Warehouse in Brooklyn); and *The Tempest* (Caliban/Ferdinand, Théâtre des Bouffes du Nord).

### **ABOUT LIA WILLIAMS**

Lia Williams is an English actor and director, known for her work in theater, film, and television. Her theater credits include: *The Night of the Iguana* (Noel Coward Theatre), *The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie* (Donmar Warehouse), *The Lover*, *The Collection* (Donmar Warehouse); *Mary Stuart* (Almeida/Duke of York’s); *Oresteia*, for which she was nominated for an Olivier Award for Best Actress (Almeida/Trafalgar Studios); *Old Times* (Harold Pinter); *Arcadia* (Ethel Barrymore, NY); *Skylight*, which garnered Tony and Olivier nominations (NT/Royale, NY). Her film credits include *The Foreigner*, *The Christmas Miracle of Jonathan Toomey*, *Girl from Rio*, *The King Is Alive*, *Different for Girls*, *The Fifth Province*, *Firelight*, and *Dirty Weekend*. Her television credits include: *Death in Paradise*, *Riviera*, *The Capture*, *His Dark Materials*, *The Crown*, *Kiri*, *The Silkworm*, *The Missing*, *Secret State*, *Doc Martin*, *May 33rd* (Bafta Best Actress nomination); *The Russian Bride* (FIPA Best Actress Award); *Imogen’s Face*, *Shot Through the Heart*, *Flowers of the Forest*, and *Seaforth*.

### **ABOUT PARK AVENUE ARMORY**

Part palace, part industrial shed, Park Avenue Armory fills a critical void in the cultural ecology of New York, supporting unconventional works in the performing and visual arts that cannot be fully realized in a traditional proscenium theater, concert hall, or white wall gallery. With its soaring 55,000-square-foot Wade Thompson Drill Hall and an array of exuberant period rooms, the Armory enables a diverse range of artists to create, students to explore, and audiences to experience epic, adventurous, relevant work that cannot be done elsewhere in New York.

Programmatic highlights from the Wade Thompson Drill Hall include Ernesto Neto’s *anthropodino*, a magical labyrinth extended across the Drill Hall; Bernd Alois Zimmermann’s harrowing *Die Soldaten*, in which the audience moved “through the music”; *the event of a thread*, a site-specific installation by Ann Hamilton; the final performances of the Merce Cunningham Dance Company on three separate stages; an immersive *Macbeth* set in a Scottish heath with Kenneth Branagh; *WS* by Paul McCarthy, a monumental installation of fantasy, excess, and dystopia; a radically inclusive staging of Bach’s *St. Matthew Passion* staged by Peter Sellars and performed by Sir Simon Rattle and the Berliner Philharmoniker; eight-time Drama Desk-nominated play *The Hairy Ape*, directed by Richard Jones and starring Bobby Cannavale; *Hansel & Gretel*, a new commission by Ai Weiwei, Jacques Herzog, and Pierre de Meuron about privacy and surveillance; *FLEXN* and *FLEXN Evolution*, two Armory-commissioned presentations of the Brooklyn-born dance-activist group the D.R.E.A.M. Ring, created by Reggie “Regg Roc” Gray and director Peter Sellars; Simon Stone’s heralded production of *Yerma* starring Billie Piper in her North American debut; *The Let Go*, a site-specific immersive dance celebration by Nick Cave; Satoshi Miyagi’s stunning production of *Antigone* set in a lake; Sam Mendes’ critically acclaimed production of *The Lehman Trilogy*; the *Black Artists Retreat* hosted by Theaster Gates, which included public talks and performances, private sessions for the 300 attending artists, and a roller skating rink; *Deep Blue Sea* by Bill T. Jones and the Bill T. Jones/Arne Zane Dance Companies;

and *The Shape of Things*, a multi-work installation, convening, and performance series by Carrie Mae Weems. Productions in the Armory's Social Distance Hall included works by Bill T. Jones; David Byrne, Christine Jones, and Steven Hoggett; Laurie Anderson and Robert Icke.

In its historic period rooms, the Armory presents more intimate performances and programs, including its acclaimed *Recital Series*, which showcases musical talent from across the globe within the intimate salon setting of the Board of Officers Room; the *Artists Studio* series curated by MacArthur "Genius" and jazz phenom Jason Moran in the newly restored Veterans Room, which features a diverse array of innovative artists and artistic pairings that reflect the imaginative improvisation of the young designers and artists who originally conceived the space; a Public Programming series that brings diverse artists and cultural thought-leaders together for discussion and performance around the important issues of our time viewed through an artistic lens; and the Malkin Lecture Series that presents scholars and writers on topics related to the social, political, and aesthetic history of the building.

Among the performers who have appeared in the *Recital Series* and the *Artists Studio* in the Armory's restored Veterans Room and the Board of Officers Room are: Christian Gerhaher; Ian Bostridge; Jason Moran; Lawrence Brownlee; Barbara Hannigan; Lisette Oropesa; Roscoe Mitchell; Conrad Tao and Tyshawn Sorey; Rashaad Newsome; and Krecy Garcia ("El Prodigio").

Highlights from the Public Programming series include: symposiums such as Carrie Mae Weems' daylong event called *The Shape of Things*, whose participants included Elizabeth Alexander, Theaster Gates, Elizabeth Diller, and Nona Hendryx; a daylong Lenape Pow Wow and Standing Ground Symposium held in the Wade Thompson Drill Hall, the first congregation of Lenape Elders on Manhattan Island since the 1700s; salons such as the Literature Salon hosted by Branden Jacobs-Jenkins, whose participants included Lynn Nottage, Suzan Lori-Parks, and Jeremy O. Harris, and a Spoken Word Salon co-hosted with the Nuyorican Poets Cafe; and most recently, *100 Years | 100 Women*, a multiorganization commissioning project that invited 100 women artists and cultural creators to respond to women's suffrage.

Current Artists-in-Residence at the Armory include two-time Pulitzer Prize-winning playwright Lynn Nottage; Obie winner and Pulitzer short-listed playwright Branden Jacobs-Jenkins and Carmelita Tropicana; Reggie "Regg Roc" Gray and the D.R.E.A.M. Ring; singer and composer Sara Serpa; Tony Award-winning set designer and director Christine Jones and choreographer Steven Hoggett; and Mimi Lien, the first set designer to receive a MacArthur Fellowship. The Armory also supports artists through an active commissioning program including such artists as Bill T. Jones, Lynn Nottage, Carrie Mae Weems, Michel van der Aa, Tyshawn Sorey, Rashaad Newsome, Julian Rosefeldt, Branden Jacobs-Jenkins, and others.

The Armory also offers creativity-based arts education programs at no cost to thousands of students from underserved New York City public schools, engaging them with the institution's artistic programming and outside-the-box creative processes. Annually, more than 5,000 young adults from 50+ under-resourced public schools attend a dedicated student matinee of each Armory production with workshops by Master Teaching Artists provided in the classroom and at the site. In seven partner schools, Teaching Artists facilitate in-depth semester- or year-long residencies that support the schools' curriculum. Youth Corps, the Armory's year-round paid, monitored internship program, begins in high school and continues into the critical post-high school years, providing interns with over 14,000 hours per year of mentored employment, job training, and skill development, as well as a network of peers and mentors to support their individual college and career goals.

The Armory is undergoing a multi-phase renovation and restoration of its historic building led by architects Herzog & de Meuron, with Platt Byard Dovell White as Executive Architects.

[www.armoryonpark.org](http://www.armoryonpark.org)

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