



**Park Avenue Armory Presents North American Premiere of  
Alexander Zeldin's Critically Acclaimed  
*LOVE***

***LOVE* Launches Park Avenue Armory's 2023 Drill Hall Season**

**New York Debut of Visionary Playwright/Director Alexander Zeldin Examines the Power of Love in a Temporary Housing Facility**

**February 25 – March 25, 2023**

NEW YORK, NY—January 13, 2022—Park Avenue Armory will open its 2023 Drill Hall season with the North American premiere of *LOVE* by British playwright and director Alexander Zeldin. Set in the run-up to Christmas, the work depicts several families and individuals who have lost their homes and are placed into a cramped temporary housing facility. This group of strangers—a middle-aged man and his elderly mother, a young family with a baby on the way, a newly-arrived woman from Sudan, and a Syrian refugee—are forced together as they navigate the daily bureaucracy of their welfare system. Developed by Zeldin in dialogue with individuals with firsthand experience and originally presented by the National Theatre in London, this play invites audiences to bear close witness to an intimate family story for our times.

“*LOVE* invites us into the lives of those who are often unseen, but doing so with love in a way that ignites our compassion and empathy,” said **Pierre Audi, the Armory’s Marina Kellen French Artistic Director**. “Zeldin’s thoughtful craftsmanship achieves this goal through careful research and direct engagement with institutional disenfranchisement, while breaking through traditional theatrical forms to create deeply textured, civically provocative theatrical experiences.”

“This outstanding play has great resonance for New Yorkers—and, in fact, all Americans—given our tenuous social safety net and the seemingly inescapable crisis of housing insecurity,” added **Rebecca Robertson, the Adam R. Flatto President and Executive Producer of Park Avenue Armory**. “Zeldin has crafted a groundbreaking and highly compelling experience that furthers the Armory’s commitment to nurturing the next generation of talent who spotlight important societal issues through their unique artistic perspectives.”

Following a five-week premiere run at the National Theatre in 2016, *LOVE* has toured across eight European countries, and was adapted into a film by the BBC. *LOVE* is part of Zeldin’s trilogy of plays *The Inequalities*, which together explore the human impact of austerity in Great Britain. *Beyond Caring*, which premiered in 2014 and had its U.S. premiere at Chicago’s Lookingglass Theatre in 2017, shares the stories of “zero-hours” temporary cleaners at a meat factory; and *Faith, Hope and Charity*, which opened to acclaim at the National Theatre in 2019, goes inside a rundown community center and its reliance on individual hope and generosity to continue operations.

*LOVE* is part of Park Avenue Armory’s full 2023 season. Additional upcoming Drill Hall programming at the Armory includes: the North American premiere of Robert Icke’s play *The Doctor*, starring acclaimed actress **Juliet Stevenson** in an exploration of medical ethics across lines of identity; the world premiere of *Doppelganger*, a theatrical staging of Schubert’s *Schwanengesang* performed by renowned tenor **Jonas**

**Kaufmann** and directed by acclaimed German opera director **Claus Guth**; ***Mutant;Destrudo***, a world premiere, multidisciplinary commission from groundbreaking pop sensation **Arca**; and a restaging of Pina Bausch's iconic ***The Rite of Spring***, performed by an ensemble of dancers from across Africa and paired with ***common ground[s]***, a new work by **Germaine Acogny** and **Malou Airaud**.

Previous theatrical productions at the Armory include Robert Icke's repertory productions of ***Hamlet*** and ***Oresteia***, as well as his interactive adaptation of Henrik Ibsen's classic morality tale ***Enemy of the People***; Sam Mendes' hit production of ***The Lehman Trilogy*** which transferred to Broadway (2022 Tony Award recipient for Best Play) and has toured internationally, 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** with five productions in repertory over six weeks in association with Lincoln Center Festival.

## PERFORMANCE SCHEDULE

### LOVE

February 25 – March 25, 2023

A Zeldin Company

North American Premiere

#### North American Premiere

By **Alexander Zeldin**

Direction **Alexander Zeldin**

Set and Costume Design **Natasha Jenkins**

Lighting Design **Marc Williams**

Sound Design **Josh Anio Grigg**

Movement **Marcin Rudy**

Casting **Jacob Sparrow**

Associate Director **Elin Schofield**

With **Alex Austin, Amelda Brown, Naby Dakhli, Janet Etuk, Amelia Finnegan, Oliver Finnegan, Nick Holder, Hind Swareldahab, and Grace Willoughby**

A Park Avenue Armory and A Zeldin Company Production

Original Production by National Theatre of Great Britain, in co-production with Birmingham Repertory Theatre and produced for European touring by Odéon-Théâtre de l'Europe and A Zeldin Company.

### PERFORMANCES

Monday – Thursday at 7:30pm

Friday at 8:00pm

Saturday at 2:00pm and 8:00pm

### TICKETS

Tickets start at \$30 for previews and \$45 for performances 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

### **ARTIST TALK: LOVE**

Thursday, March 9 at 6:00pm

Tickets: \$20

### **SPONSORSHIP**

Bloomberg Philanthropies is the Armory's 2023 Season Sponsor.

Support for Park Avenue Armory's artistic season has been generously provided by the Charina Endowment Fund, the Donald A. Pels Charitable Trust, The Harold and Mimi Steinberg Charitable Trust, the Fan Fox and Leslie R. Samuels Foundation, the Howard Gilman Foundation, the Horace W. Goldsmith Foundation, The Shubert Foundation, The Emma and Georgina Bloomberg Foundation, the Marc Haas Foundation, the Leon Levy Foundation, the May and Samuel Rudin Family Foundation, Gregory Annenberg Weingarten, GRoW @ Annenberg, the Richenthal Foundation, and the Isak and Rose Weinman Foundation. Additional support has been provided by the Armory's Artistic Council.

### **ABOUT ALEXANDER ZELDIN**

Alexander Zeldin is a writer and director for theater and film. He made work in South Korea, the Middle East, and Russia, as well as at the Naples Festival, before developing a number of his own works as a teacher at East 15 Acting School at the University of Essex between 2011 – 2014. At this time, he also worked as an assistant director to Peter Brook and Marie-Hélène Estienne.

Zeldin's critically acclaimed play *Beyond Caring* had its world premiere at the Yard Theatre in Hackney in 2014, before transferring to the Temporary Theatre at the National Theatre in 2015. *Beyond Caring* toured the U.K., and a new U.S. production was redeveloped and produced by Lookingglass Theater, which opened in Chicago in 2017. In 2015, Zeldin was appointed as Associate Director at Birmingham Repertory Theatre, and his play *LOVE* opened at the National Theatre in 2016 before transferring to Birmingham Rep. In 2018, *LOVE* was presented as part of Festival D'Automne by Odéon-Théâtre de l'Europe and was made into a film by the BBC and Cuba Pictures.

Zeldin was the Artist in Residence at the National Theatre in 2017, and *Faith, Hope and Charity*, the third and final part of *The Inequalities* trilogy, opened to widespread acclaim at the National Theatre in 2019. In 2020, Zeldin formed A Zeldin Company to internationally tour and produce his work, which has toured extensively throughout Europe since 2021. His most recent and first French-language production, *Une Mort Dans La Famille*, opened to high praise at Odéon-Théâtre de l'Europe's Ateliers Berthier in February 2022, and will tour in 2023. A German version of *Beyond Caring* opened at the Schaubühne in Berlin in April 2022.

Zeldin is currently an Associate Director at the National Theatre, the Odéon-Théâtre de l'Europe in Paris, the Théâtres de la Ville du Luxembourg, and the Centre Dramatique National de Normandie-Rouen. Honors include the Quercus Trust Award (2015) and the Arts Foundation 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Fellowship for Literature (2018).

### **ABOUT PARK AVENUE ARMORY**

Part palace, part industrial shed, Park Avenue Armory supports 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—reminiscent of 19<sup>th</sup>-century European train stations—and an array of exuberant period rooms, the Armory provides a platform for artists to push the

boundaries of their practice, collaborate across disciplines, and create new work in dialogue with the historic building. Across its grand and intimate spaces, 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.

The Armory both commissions and presents performances and installations in the grand Drill Hall and offers more intimate programming through its acclaimed *Recital Series*, which showcases musical talent from across the globe within the salon setting of the Board of Officers Room; its *Artists Studio* series curated by Jason Moran in the restored Veterans Room; *Making Space at the Armory*, a public programming series that brings together a discipline-spanning group of artists and cultural thought-leaders around the important issues of our time; and the *Malkin Lecture Series* that features presentations by scholars and writers on topics related to Park Avenue Armory and its history. In addition, the Armory also has a year-round Artists-in-Residence program, providing space and support for artists to create new work and expand their practices.

The Armory's creativity-based arts education programs provide access to the arts 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. Through its education initiatives, the Armory provides access to all Drill Hall performances, workshops taught by Master Teaching Artists, and in-depth residencies that support the schools' curriculum. Youth Corps, the Armory's year-round paid internship program, begins in high school and continues into the critical post-high school years, providing interns with 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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Media Contacts

*For more information or to request images, please contact Resnicow and Associates:*

Josh Balber, [jbalber@resnicow.com](mailto:jbalber@resnicow.com) or (212) 671-5175

Delaney Smith, [dsmith@resnicow.com](mailto:dsmith@resnicow.com) or (212) 671-5160

Emma Gold, [egold@resnicow.com](mailto:egold@resnicow.com) or (212) 671-5186

Jenny Levine, [jlevine@resnicow.com](mailto:jlevine@resnicow.com) or (212) 671-5189