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HANDBAGGED makes NYC premiere at Brits Off Broadway at 59E59 Theaters

A sidesplitting imagining of the two most powerful women on the world's stage in their moments together behind closed doors

New York, New York April 15, 2019—**59E59 Theaters** (Val Day, Artistic Director; Brian Beirne, Managing Director) is thrilled to welcome to **Brits Off Broadway** the NYC premiere of **HANDBAGGED**, written by **Moira Buffini** and directed by **Indhu Rubasingham**. Produced by Round House Theatre, **HANDBAGGED** begins performances on **Tuesday, June 4** for a limited engagement through **Sunday, June 30**. **Press Opening is Wednesday, June 12 at 7:00 PM**. The performance schedule is **Tuesday – Friday at 7:00 PM; Saturday at 2:00 PM & 7:00 PM; and Sunday at 2:00 PM**. Performances are at **59E59 Theaters** (59 East 59th Street, between Park and Madison). Single tickets are **\$25 - \$70** (\$49 for 59E59 Members). To purchase tickets, call the **59E59 Box Office** at **646-892-7999** or visit www.59e59.org.

The Iron Lady. The Queen. Born six months apart, each woman had a destiny that would change the world. But when the stiff upper lip softened and the gloves came off, which one had the upper hand?

Indhu Rubasingham, Artistic Director of the Kiln Theatre (formerly known as the Tricycle Theatre), returns to direct after helming acclaimed productions at Round House, Tricycle, and in the West End. Called “a hilarious, intelligent treat” by *Time Out London*, **HANDBAGGED** is the wickedly funny comedy that imagines what the world’s most powerful women talk about behind closed palace doors.



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The cast features **Anita Carey** (*The Daughter In Law* at the New Vic), **Kate Fahy** (*Handbagged* at the Tricycle Theatre and Round House), **Beth Hylton** (*Handbagged* at Round House), **John Lescault** (*The Music Man* at Arena Stage), **Susan Lynskey** (*Roe* at Arena Stage), and **Cody LeRoy Wilson** (*As You Like It* at the Folger Theatre).

The design team includes **Richard Kent** (scenic and costume design); **Jesse Belsky** (lighting design); and **Carolyn Downing** (sound design). The Production Stage Manager is **Che Wernsman**.

Moira Buffini's (playwright) plays include Oliver Award-winning *Handbagged* for the Tricycle; *Welcome to Thebes*, *Wonder.land* (with Damon Albarn), and *Dinner* (Olivier nominated) for the National Theatre; *Dying for It* (adapted from Nikolai Erdman's *The Suicide*) for the Almeida; *A Vampire Story* for National Theatre Connections; *Loveplay* for the RSC; *Silence* (Susan Smith Blackburn Prize) for Birmingham Rep; *Gabriel* (LWT Plays on Stage and Meyer Whitworth Awards) for the Soho; Blavatsky's *Tower for the Machine Room*; *Jordan* with Anna Reynolds (Writers' Guild Award) for the Gate. Both *Dinner* and *Handbagged* have enjoyed West End transfers. Screenplays include *Jane Eyre*, directed by Cary Fukunaga; *Tamara Drewe*, directed by Stephen Frears; *Byzantium*, directed by Neil Jordan. She is co-creator and lead writer of *Harlots* for Hulu.

Indhu Rubasingham (director) has been the Artistic Director of the Tricycle Theatre, now the Kiln Theatre, since 2012. Productions as Artistic Director include: *Red Velvet* (Evening Standard Award and Critics' Circle Award, also at St. Ann's Warehouse, NYC and Kenneth Branagh Season, West End), *A Wolf in Snakeskin Shoes*, *Multitudes*, *The House That Will Not Stand*, *Handbagged* (Olivier Award for Outstanding Achievement in an Affiliate Theatre, also West End transfer and UK tour), *Paper Dolls*, and *The Invisible Hand*. Indhu also recently directed *Ugly Lies the Bone* and *The Motherf**cker with the Hat* at the National Theatre. Other selected directing credits include: *Women, Power and Politics*, *Stones in His Pockets*, *Detaining Justice*, *The Great Game: Afghanistan*, *Fabulation and Starstruck* (Tricycle); *Belong*, *Disconnect*, *Free Outgoing*, the Evening Standard Award-winning *Lift Off*, *Clubland*, *The Crutch* and *Sugar Mummies* (Royal Court); Pulitzer Prize-winning play *Ruined* (Almeida); *Yellowman* and Pulitzer Prize winning *Anna in the Tropics* (Hampstead Theatre); *The Waiting Room* (National Theatre); *The Ramayana* (National Theatre/Birmingham Rep); *Secret Rapture* and *The Misanthrope* (Minerva, Chichester), *Romeo and Juliet* (Festival Theatre, Chichester), *Pure Gold* (Soho Theatre); *The No Boys Cricket Club* and *Party Girls* (Stratford East); *Wuthering Heights* (Birmingham Rep); *Heartbreak House* (Watford Palace); *Sugar Dollies*, *Shakuntala* (Gate); Opera includes *Another America* at the Almeida and Sadler's Wells. Indhu was awarded an MBE in the New Year's Honours List 2017. ###