

Press Release - Thursday 26 February 2026

KATIE MITCHELL NAMED AS SCHAUBÜHNE FIND FESTIVAL 2026 ARTIST IN FOCUS AS TWO ROYAL COURT PRODUCTIONS TRANSFER TO BERLIN

- **Katie Mitchell is Artist in Focus at the 2026 Festival of International New Drama**
 - ***Bluets* and *Cow I Deer* to transfer to Germany for the Festival**

The **Royal Court Theatre** are delighted to announce that two of their productions directed by **Katie Mitchell** will transfer to Berlin's Schaubühne in April 2026 as part of FIND, Europe's foremost international festival of contemporary theatre. ***Bluets*** and ***Cow I Deer*** will run as part of the festival's 2026 edition where Mitchell is the **2026 FIND Artist in Focus**.

Every year the FIND Festival spotlights an exceptional artist, recognised for their unique contributions to contemporary theatre. They are artists who bring diverse global perspectives, push boundaries in theatre with documentary approaches, explore social issues, and use innovative forms as part of their process. Previous Artists in Focus have included Elizabeth LeCompte & The Wooster Group, Angélica Liddell and Caroline Guiela Nguyen. The appointment marks Mitchell's significant contribution to the European and UK theatre scene over her career to date.

Mitchell will open the FIND Festival with her production of Maggie Nelson's *Bluets* adapted by Margaret Perry, which was part of David Byrne's inaugural season for the Royal Court Theatre in 2024. Her most recent production in the UK, *Cow I Deer* will also transfer, having originally premiered at the Royal Court in 2025 in a co-production with the National Theatre of Greece. Co-created with Nina Segal and Melanie Wilson, it follows the lives of a cow and a deer with sounds and noises, but no words. Katie's production of *Orlando*, for the Schaubühne in 2019, a queer biography that transverses four centuries of human history in a radical adaptation by Alice Birch after the novel by Virginia Woolf, will also be part of the programme.

David Byrne, Artistic Director, Royal Court Theatre, said: *"Her selection as FIND 2026 Artist in Focus confirms Katie Mitchell as one of the most accomplished and celebrated theatre artists working on the world's stages today."*

Katie conceived and directed Maggie Nelson's BLUETS, adapted by Margaret Perry, in an astonishing production that was my very first programmed production in the Jerwood Theatre Downstairs - and Katie worked in collaboration with Nina Segal and Melanie Wilson to welcome audiences into the natural world with COW | DEER.

These productions, theatrically dazzling and reflective in equal measure, have been real adventures for audiences and the Royal Court could not be more proud that they will be entering the repertoire at the Schaubühne as a celebration of Katie's body of work."

[FIND](#) runs 16 - 26 April.

[Bluets](#) runs from 15 April

Cow I Deer runs 22 - 25 April
On the 15th April there will be an artist talk with Katie Mitchell.

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For inquiries and information about the festival, please contact Julia Kretschmer:
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Images from the run of Cow I Deer at the Royal Court Theatre [here](#).

Images of Katie Mitchell [here](#).

Katie Mitchell

Katie has directed over 100 productions in a career spanning forty years. She has pioneered radical work about female experience, climate change and her unique blend of theatre and film making, Live Cinema. She has been an Associate Director at the RSC, National Theatre and The Royal Court Theatre. She is currently Resident Director at the Berlin Schaubühne and the Deutsches Schauspielhaus in Hamburg. In 2009 she was awarded an OBE and in 2017 the British Academy's Presidents Medal for services to drama. She teaches extensively in universities and conservatoires and is Professor of Theatre Directing at Royal Holloway University and Professor of Professional Practice at Central School of Speech and Drama.

For the Royal Court: Cow I Deer, Bluets, Anatomy of a Suicide, Ophelias Zimmer (& Berlin Schaubühne), 2071, Ten Billion, The City, The Country, Forty Winks, Nightsongs, Mountain Language/Ashes to Ashes, Live like Pigs.

Other theatre includes: Bernarda Albas Haus, 4.48 Psychosis, Travelling on One Leg, Happy Days (Hamburg Schauspielhaus); Orlando, Miss Julie, Lungs, The Yellow Wallpaper, Not the End of the World, Fraulein Julie (Schaubühne, Berlin); The Maids (Toneelgroep, Amsterdam); A Sorrow Beyond Dreams (Vienna Burgtheater); Night Train, Rings of Saturn, Request Programme (Cologne Schauspielhaus); Easter, Krapps Last Tape, Night and Dreams (Dramaten Theatre, Stockholm); Cleansed, Women of Troy, Iphigenia at Aulis, Three Sisters, Ivanov, Dream Play, The Seagull, Waves, Dream Play (National); The Cherry Orchard, Ivanov (Young Vic); Little Scratch, Say it with Flowers, The Trial of Ubu (Hampstead).

Opera includes: Houses Slide (Britten Sinfonia); Pelleas et Melisande, Alcina, Trauernacht, The House Taken Over, Written on Skin (Aix en Provence Festival); Makropulos Case, The Blue Woman, Lucia di Lammermoor, Lessons in Love and Violence, Theodora (Royal Opera House); Le Vin Herbe, Neither (Staatsoper, Berlin); Al Gran Sole Carico D'Amore (Salzburg Festival); Frau ohne Schatten, Orest, Jenufa (Dutch National Opera); St Matthew's Passion (Glyndebourne Opera); Bluebeard's Castle (Munich Staatsoper).

Awards include: Best Director for International Opera Awards, The Tonic Award, The Stanislavsky International Prize (Russia), Best Director Nestroy Prize (Austria), Best Production Reumert Prize (Denmark), Golden Mask Award for Best Foreign Production (Russia), The New Theatrical Realities Prize (Europe), OBIE Best Production Award, Evening Standard Best Director Award and the German Theatertreffen Prize in 2008, 2009, 2020 and 2025.

Code of Conduct

The Royal Court has devised a Code of Conduct intended for staff, freelancers, audiences, participants, supporters, independent companies and wider stakeholders. It sets out the fundamental principles for how we work together: guidelines and expectations which reflect our legal duties, as well as our values and ethics – including anti-racist and anti-oppressive practice. [Please read more here](#).

