

Press Release

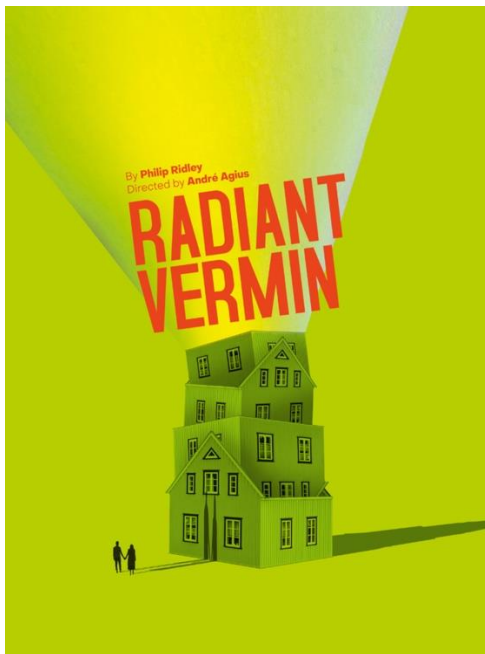
The Bridge Theatre, Brussels' only professional English-language theatre, returns this autumn with a wickedly comic satire.

Starring West End talents Matilda Tucker and Santino Smith, alongside Belgian TV - personality and Drag Queen Sederginne

RADIANT VERMIN

By PHILIP RIDLEY

5 to 23 NOVEMBER 2024



Radiant Vermin by Philip Ridley and directed by André Agius is a wickedly comic satire about a young couple who are offered a way out of the housing crisis, and the lengths to which they are willing to go for it.

Featuring West End actors Matilda Tucker and Santino Smith, alongside TV - personality and Drag Queen Sederginne, this upcoming play uses biting humour to explore issues like gentrification and homelessness, and the moral dilemmas surrounding them.

A hilarious and outrageous black comedy from internationally acclaimed 'master of modern myth' (Guardian) Philip Ridley. Playful, provocative and viciously sharp, Radiant Vermin is a meditation on how far we will go to satisfy our materialistic greed.

PRACTICAL DETAILS

Dates: 5 to 23 November 2024

Venue: La Tricoterie, 158 Rue Théodore Verhaegen, Brussels

Ticket Price: 11,50 – 31,50€

Press Night: 6 November 2024

RADIANT VERMIN

Directed by André Agius, a Maltese Theatre Director and Theatre - Maker based in Edinburgh, is known for his playful, experimental, and bold approach to theatre. He explores different styles and genres, focus on new writings to contemporary re-tellings and adaptations of modern classics.

His notable roles include Artistic Director for the Edinburgh International Book Festival's Scotland Through Time Shows and Associate Director for *Two Sisters* at the Lyceum Theatre. He has directed *Utter Filth* at the Traverse Theatre and several productions for *A Play, A Pie & A Pint*. In Malta, he directed *God Of Carnage* and adaptations of works by Pinter, Hare, and Ibsen. André holds an MFA in Directing from Edinburgh Napier and a BA (Hons) in Theatre Studies from the University of Malta, with additional training at Rose Bruford College and Odin Teatret in Denmark.

CREATIVE TEAM

Director	André Agius
Assistant Director	Rozana Radu
Designer	Ellie Wintour
Lightning Designer	Peter Small
Sound Designer	Loup Mormont
Production Manager	Steve Bree
Stage Manager	Abbie Moore

MEET THE CAST

This upcoming production features two West End actors and a prominent drag queen that will bring this darkly comic tale to life.



Matilda Tucker as Jill

Matilda made her West End debut in *The Doctor* and has established herself with strong performances in *The Snow Queen* as Gerda and *The Kitchen Sinks*. She appears on screen in *Dangerous Liaisons* and *Wonka* and lends her voice to *Doctor Who – God of War*. Trained at LAMDA, Matilda brings intensity and emotional depth to the role of Jill.



Santino Smith as Ollie

Santino Smith, trained at the Royal Welsh College of Music & Drama, has portrayed complex characters in *A View From The Bridge* and *Jerusalem*. He has also served as Associate Director for Moorcroft. His roles in *Sadie* and *Lynn & Lucy* showcase his versatility. Santino's portrayal of Ollie promises to be an emotional experience, dedicated to his late mother.



Sederginne as Ms Dee

Sederginne is known for her humor and charisma. Gaining international fame from *Drag Race Holland*, she has hosted TV shows and created her own theater tour, *Van WC-Madame tot Diva*. In her role as Ms Dee, she brings unmatched comedic timing and flair.

MORE THAN JUST THEATRE: POST-SHOW TALKS

The Bridge Theatre offers more than just a performance, it invites the audience to actively engage in post-show discussions to encourage discussions on themes relevant to the play and our everyday lives. And it does so with the help of top - notch speakers such as Philippe van Parijs, political scientist and philosopher or Sébastien Roy, Director of Samusocial.brussels.

The theme for the talks for this production: The Costs of Gentrification, Housing Crisis and Homelessness

UPCOMING SPEAKERS

Thursday 7 November:

André Agius, Director of Radiant Vermin, on his vision for the play

Tuesday 12 November:

Gilles van Hamme, Professor of Human Geography at the Université libre de Bruxelles, on *Social diversity, a discourse of variable geometry*

Wednesday 13 November:

Dimitri Berliner, Technical Director of Communa, on *Moving towards a more affordable, democratic, resilient and creative city*

Thursday 14 November:

Hülya Ertas, Coordinator of exhibitions and publications at the Flanders Architecture Institute, on *Architecture's societal and political role*

Friday 15 November:

Sébastien Roy, Director of Samusocial.brussels, on *The state of homelessness In Brussels*

Tuesday 19 November:

Samuel Fuks, Director of La Bulle, on *Lessons from my chats with people who live on the streets*

Friday 22 November:

Philippe van Parijs, Political Philosopher and Political Economist, on *A Changing Brussels*

ABOUT THE BRIDGE THEATRE

Founded in 2021, The Bridge Theatre is the only professional English-language theatre in the Belgian capital. It produces two new plays per year, each with a cast of high-calibre actors (native English-speakers or actors who have already performed in English). As a nomadic theatre, each production is presented at a different venue across Brussels.

The Bridge Theatre's mission is to connect the people of Brussels through the experience of culture, using a language spoken daily by many of the city's residents.*

The Bridge Theatre is more than just a production company. It interacts with the local community through different activities, combining community workshops, activities for schools and corporate immersive training experiences alongside their original productions in order to share the benefits of the performing arts beyond the stage.

* The latest language barometer conducted in 2024 by BRIO - the Brussels Center for Information, Documentation and Research - shows that English is the second most widely spoken language in the Brussels-Capital Region, spoken by 47% of the city's inhabitants on a daily basis

PRESS CONTACT



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