

wexner center
for the arts

For immediate release: September 24, 2004

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**BRITAIN'S WORLD-RENOWNED ROYAL COURT THEATRE
TO PERFORM POWERFUL PLAY AT WEXNER CENTER**

RARE U.S. VISIT INCLUDES PLAYWRITING WORKSHOP AND PUBLIC PROGRAMS

“So stunningly staged and dangerously beautiful.”—*Time Out London*, on *4.48 Psychosis*

Columbus—On a rare U.S. tour, Britain's internationally renowned **Royal Court Theatre** (called “the most important theatre in Europe” by the *New York Times*) comes to the Wexner Center to perform the late **Sarah Kane's *4.48 Psychosis***.

Performances are **October 20–23** at 8 pm and **October 24** at 2 pm in the Wexner Center's **Black Box on Mershon Stage**; seating in this intimate venue is limited and no late seating is allowed. Royal Court's visit, which includes related events for students and the general public, marks one of the major events of the theater season.

A harrowing, powerfully raw journey into the depths of depression and emotional distress, *4.48 Psychosis* was first produced in 2000, a year after Sarah Kane's death by suicide at the age of 28. The title is taken from Kane's discovery of clinical studies that concluded 4:48 am is the average time chosen for suicides. On a stage that features an enormous mirror reflecting both performers and audience, and video and lighting designs that buzz with the ferocity of a tortured mind, three actors speak of the various aspects of suicide. Quoting a passage from the play, “I am angry because I understand, not because I don't,” *The Guardian (U.K.)* commented: “Those words from the late Sarah Kane's final play...sum up her short, brave career that was fuelled and terminated by breakdown and suicide. The text does not so much push at the boundaries of theater as simply dissolve them. Just as Kane dissolved herself.”

While in town, the company will offer related public programs, including a **discussion following the opening night performance** and a **free playwriting workshop** on October 23, plus a **workshop with OSU theater students**. (Details of these events are on pages 2–3.) Tickets to the shows are available at the Wexner Center Ticket Office at 614 292-3535 or Ticketmaster at 614 431-3600 or Ticketmaster.com. Ticket prices are \$22 for the public; \$18 for members; \$10 for students. These shows are presented in association with the Ohio State's Department of Theatre with support from the College of the Arts, Department of Comparative Studies, Department of English, Humanities Institute, and Office of International Affairs.

MORE ABOUT SARAH KANE and ROYAL COURT

Sarah Kane is widely considered one of the most important voices in British theater of the last half-century. A key figure in the 1990s' burst of fresh, idiosyncratic talent, Kane received ample support from Royal Court Theatre. Her first play, *Blasted* (1995) provoked controversy and outrage with its graphic scenes of shocking sex and violence. Despite the controversy, writers such as Harold Pinter and Edward Bond leapt to her defense and praised her as one of the most original playwrights of the decade. The news of her death by suicide at age 28 stunned the theater community. Although she wrote only five plays, Kane left a legacy that mirrors that of writer Sylvia Plath in its uncommon insight and refusal to shy away from hard truths.

With a penchant for stirring debate and disregarding the current trends, **Royal Court** has wielded a powerful influence over the theatrical life of the 20th century. Founded in 1888 by Walter Emden, Royal Court first began presenting radical new work in 1904 under the pioneering team of Harley Granville-Barker and John Vedrenne. Their three-year experiment, introducing virtually unknown playwrights from the UK, was unprecedented in range and consistent quality, premiering work by such future greats as Ibsen, Yeats, and Shaw. In the 1990s, Royal Court was closely involved in realizing the stage visions of a new generation of talents who reenergized English theater with their incendiary plays and acid-etched views of contemporary life. Playwrights such as Leo Butler, Joe Penhall, Zinnie Harris, and Rebecca Prichard found a welcome home that worked to develop and produce their visionary works. Royal Court's devotion to new writing talent extends across the globe with programs that support new playwrights, with exchange programs that bring young writers to Britain and send British writers, actors, and directors to work with artists around the world. More info: www.royalcourttheatre.com.

PUBLIC EVENTS AND WORKSHOPS

- **Post-performance discussion**
Wednesday / October 20
Members of Royal Court will discuss *4.48 Psychosis* following the opening night performance.
- **Elyse Dodgson**
The Impact of the Royal Court Theatre: Emerging Playwrights and International Residencies
Thursday, October 21 / 4:30 pm
Wexner Center Film/Video Theater / Free admission

Elyse Dodgson, head of Royal Court Theatre's international department, will discuss the company's in-depth methods for nurturing the work of young

playwrights around the world. Using examples from their history of projects, Dodgson illuminates Royal Court's approach to fostering the creative process.

- **Playwriting Workshop**

Saturday, October 23 / 9:30 am–3 pm

Fort Hayes Metropolitan Education Center Library, 546 Jack Gibbs Boulevard
Columbus-area playwrights of all ages are invited to this **free**, day-long workshop with Royal Court Theatre.

STUDENT ACTIVITIES

Royal Court Theatre's visit to campus involves an intensive **weeklong workshop with** aspiring playwrights from **Ohio State's Department of Theatre**. Students will have the opportunity to directly experience the developmental process that has earned Royal Court accolades as an incubator of talent.

CALENDAR INFORMATION: ROYAL COURT THEATRE: 4.48 PSYCHOSIS

Description: Britain's world-renowned Royal Court Theatre performs their production of the late Sarah Kane's *4.48 Psychosis*.

Dates and times: Wednesday–Saturday, October 20–23 at 8 pm and Sunday, October 24 at 2 pm

Location: Wexner Center's Black Box on Mershon Stage, 1871 N. High St. Seating is limited.

Tickets: \$22 general public, \$18 Wexner Center members, \$10 students

Ticket outlets: Wexner Center Ticket Office, 614 292-3535 or Ticketmaster, 614 431-3600 (or ticketmaster.com)

Public information: 614 292-3535 and www.wexarts.org

Media contact: Erik Pepple, 614 688-3261 or epepple@wexarts.org

Digital images available upon request.

EVENT SUPPORT

4.48 Psychosis is presented by the Wexner Center and David Eden Productions, Ltd. in association with Baryshnikov Dance Foundation. Also presented in association with the Ohio State's Department of Theatre with support from the College of the Arts, Department of Comparative Studies, Department of English, Humanities Institute, and Office of International Affairs.

This production has received generous support from the British Council.

This presentation is supported by the Heartland Arts Fund, a program of Arts Midwest funded by the National Endowment for the Arts with additional contributions from General Mills Foundation, Land O'Lakes Foundation, Sprint Corporation, and the Ohio Arts Council.

The Wexner Center's 2004–05 theater season is presented by Altria Group, Inc.

Major support for the performing arts season is provided by the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation.

Additional season support is provided by the Ohio Arts Council and the Corporate Annual Fund of the Wexner Center Foundation.