

A new play by Chris Bush, a co-production between Attic and Arts at the Old Fire Station, to tour South London libraries and community spaces before 3 week run at Arts at the Old Fire Station, Oxford

THE LAST NOËL

A new play by UK Theatre Award winning writer **CHRIS BUSH** (*Standing at the Sky's Edge*, *The Assassination of Katie Hopkins*)

22 November - 1 December, South London Tour
4-23 December, Old Fire Station, Oxford

“We’ll tell the same old stories, all over again. And we won’t complain. Because it’s Christmas.”

It’s Christmas Day. Three generations of a family are busy preparing a feast, and you’re invited. But someone is missing from the table.

***The Last Noël** is a funny, moving, uplifting play with live music and original songs about family, tradition and what happens when we change. Featuring live music and original songs this promises to be a Christmas you’ll never forget.*



This new play was commissioned by South London company **Attic**. It will commence with a tour of South London non-theatre venues including Wimbledon Library, Deptford Lounge and Longfield Hall, Camberwell.

The show will then move to Oxford for a **three-week run at the Old Fire Station** – a unique venue which works closely with the national homelessness charity, Crisis, and has a track record for producing grown-up Christmas shows.

Director **Jonathan Humphreys** takes the helm, and composer **Matt Winkworth** is reunited with Bush for their first creative collaboration since *The Assassination of Katie Hopkins*.

Award-winning writer Chris Bush explains: "I've been dying to write a Christmas show for years, and I'm delighted that Attic and the Old Fire Station are giving me the chance to. We all have different ideas of what a 'perfect' Christmas might look like, with all the extra pressure that the search for perfection adds. While these holidays are meant to be a time for celebration and relaxation, they're often full of complex and conflicting emotions, brimming with sadness as well as joy. *The Last Noel* explores some of these tensions, while also looking at how traditions get forged and family mythology is handed down from one generation to the next."

The Last Noël is the Old Fire Station's third original Christmas show, following the acclaimed run starting with 2016's *Thirty Christmases*, named in *The Stage* Top 10 UK Christmas shows – and last year's smash hit *Snowflake* by **Mike Bartlett**.

★★★★★ **“The rich, beautifully interconnected script...confirms Bush as one of the UK’s most exciting young playwrights.”**

The Stage on *Standing At The Sky's Edge*, 2019

Supported by Arts Council England, the Cockayne Foundation, London Community Fund, London

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ Top 10 Theatre Shows Of 2019

“A Christmas cracker...warm and funny...Excellent stuff.”

Ann Treneman of *The Times* on the Old Fire Station's *Snowflake* (2018)

Attic

Attic are a company of national ambition, rooted in their local community. They create new shows in a variety of contexts with leading artists, placing the reaching of new audiences of all ages at their heart, using libraries and community buildings to tour to areas with low cultural provision. Alongside this producing plays they run a vibrant participation program with people of all ages in their local area of Mitcham, working with hundreds of people a year.

Arts at the Old Fire Station

A thriving arts centre in the heart of Oxford, showcasing the best of local and international performance and artwork, which takes a risk and entertains.

- Theatre, comedy, dance, music, visual art and design.
- Space for performance, exhibitions, rehearsals, meetings, classes, innovation and debate.
- Working closely with the homelessness charity, Crisis, helping to build the confidence and skills of people who are homeless through projects and opportunities.

www.oldfirestation.org.uk | www.facebook.com/artsattheoldfirestation | [@ArtsatOFS](https://twitter.com/ArtsatOFS)

The Old Fire Station, 40 George Street, Oxford OX1 2AQ

CAST:



Anna Wensak plays Alice.

Annie trained at Arts Educational Schools.

Theatre includes: *The Children* at the English Speaking Theatre Frankfurt, and *Moll Flanders* at the Mercury Theatre in Colchester. *The Rhythm Method* Bush Theatre, *Half A Sixpence* Noel Coward and Chichester Festival Theatre, *Beyond The Fence* Arts, *The Stationmaster* Tristan Bates, *Seven Brides for Seven Brothers* Regents Park Open Air, *The Sound of Music* Leicester Curve, *Sister Act* Kilworth House, *White Christmas* Cardiff Millennium Centre, Edinburgh Playhouse, *Singin' in the Rain* Courtyard theatre, Hereford, *My Fair Lady* Plenary Hall Kuala Lumpur, *Jailhouse Rock* Piccadilly, *Supposed to Live Pleasant*, *The Tree Dream* Norwich Playhouse, *Two Men from Derby*, *Happy End*, *Cabaret* Library Theatre Manchester, *Marry Me A Little* Edinburgh Festival.

Annie has toured nationally in *Oliver!* *Double Death*, *Spend, Spend, Spend* and *Tess of the d'Urbervilles*. European tours include *An Inspector Calls* and *Twelfth Night*.

Television includes: *Beyond The Fence* Sky TV, *The Bill* ITV, *Casualty*, *Crimewatch UK*, *Pennies from Heaven* BBC

Dyfrig Morris plays Mike

Theatre Includes: *The Jungle Book* (Royal and Derngate/Fiery Angel/ CTP); *Henry V* (Regent's Park Open Air Theatre); *Candylion*; *The Misanthrope* (National Theatre Wales); *Richard III*; *James and the Giant Peach* and *Of Mice and Men* (West Yorkshire Playhouse); *The Grand Gesture* (Northern Broadsides); *Rape of the Fair Country*; *As You Like It*; *A Small Family Business*; *Arden of Faversham*; *Festen*; *A Midsummer Night's Dream*; *Jack and the Beanstalk*; *Beauty and the Beast*; *The*

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Grapes of Wrath; Troilus and Cressida; Hobson's Choice; Waiting for Godot; One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest; Aladdin; The Crucible; Silas Marner and Rosencrantz & Guildenstern Are Dead (Clwyd Theatr Cymru); *Wizard of Oz* (Hull Truck Theatre); *Cinderella; Sleeping Beauty and Aladdin* (Leeds City Varieties); *The Constant Wife* (Salisbury Playhouse); *Edward II and Dr Faustus* (Manchester Royal Exchange); *The Nutcracker* (Theatre Royal Bath Productions); *Crackers Christmas* (Sherman Theatre Company); *The Twits* (Belgrade Coventry); *Y Madogwys* (Dalier Sylw); *Bully for You* (Roundabout); *Jekyll & Mr. Hyde* (Equinox).

Television Includes: *The Crown* (Netflix), *Hinterland/ Y Gwyll, Gwaith Cartref and Y Pris* (Fiction Factory), *Spilt Milk/ Cara Fi* (Touchpaper Television), *Desperate Romantics* (BBC 2), *Dau Dy A Ni* (Boomerang/HTV), *Tightrope Pictures* (BBC), *Treflan* (Alfresco), *Pobl-y-Cwm* (BBC Wales), *Glan Hafren* (HTV).

Film Includes: *The Big I Am* (TBIAFLIX), *Lois* (Ffilmiau Eryri).

Radio Includes: *Like the First Dewfall* and *The Great Chocolate Murders* (BBC Radio Drama).

Anna Crichlow plays Tess.

Anna graduated from The Royal Central School of Speech and Drama in 2016.

She made her professional debut as Kitty Bennet in *PRIDE & PREJUDICE* (Regent's Park Open Air), and then completed a run at the National Theatre in *COMMON*. Further credits include *CONFIDENCE* at the Southwark Playhouse & *THE WORST WITCH* for Royal & Derngate.

She plays the lead in the upcoming short film *STRANGE DAYS* directed by Alice Seabright.'

LISTING AND TOUR INFO:

CONTACTS for media enquiries and tickets:

Old Fire Station: Alexandra Coke | alexandra.coke@oldfirestation.org.uk | 01865 263990

Attic: Jonathan Humphreys | jonny@attictheatrecompany.com | 07977448814

LONDON VENUES(*denotes PWYD performance):

22nd November 7.30pm Wimbledon Library, Merton Arts Space*

23rd November 2.30pm Clapham Library *

23rd November 7.30pm Wimbledon Library, Merton Arts Space

24th November 2.30pm Deptford Lounge*

26th November 7pm New Horizons Centre, Pollards Hill *

27th November 2.30pm Mitcham Library*

27th November 7.30pm Longfield Hall, Camberwell

28th November 7.30pm Wimbledon Library, Merton Arts Space **[GUEST NIGHT]**

29th November 7.30pm Wimbledon Library, Merton Arts Space

30th November 2.30pm Wimbledon Library, Merton Arts Space*

30th November 7.30pm Wimbledon Library, Merton Arts Space

1st December 2.30pm My Raynes Park Festival*

1st December 7.30pm Wimbledon Library, Merton Arts Space