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For Immediate Release

**EASTENDERS STAR CHARLIE BROOKS JOINS THE CAST OF
THE NATIONAL THEATRE'S ACCLAIMED
*THE OCEAN AT THE END OF THE LANE***

Full casting for the National Theatre's production of *The Ocean at the End of the Lane* has been announced today, with screen and stage actor **Charlie Brooks** joining the previously announced cast as *Ursula* and **Jasmeen James** joining as understudy. Charlie is best known for being a series regular in BBC's *EastEnders*, and will be performing until 3 June 2023, with further dates to be announced. **This production is coming to Theatre Royal Plymouth from 14 – 25 February.**

They join **Daniel Cornish** (alternate *Boy*), **Trevor Fox** (*Dad*), **Emma-Jane Goodwin** (understudy), **Paolo Guidi** (ensemble), **Millie Hikasa** (*Lettie Hempstock*), **Lewis Howard** (understudy), **Kemi-Bo Jacobs** (*Ginnie Hempstock*), **Ronnie Lee** (ensemble), **Aimee McGoldrick** (ensemble), **Laurie Ogden** (*Sis*), **Keir Ogilvy** (*Boy*), **Domonic Ramsden** (ensemble), **Joe Rawlinson-Hunt** (understudy), **Risha Silvera** (understudy) and **Finty Williams** (*Old Mrs Hempstock*).

Charlie Brooks' theatre credits include *Beautiful Thing* (UK Tour and West End) and *A Streetcar Named Desire* (Leicester Curve). For TV she is a series regular in BBC's *EastEnders*. She was winner of ITV's primetime celebrity survival show *I'm a Celebrity...Get Me Out of Here!* Alongside her stage and screen work, Charlie is the founder of iampro, an online drama school and creative hub.

Jasmeen James previous theatre credits include *Jekyll & Hyde* schools tour for the National Theatre.

Adapted by **Joel Horwood** and directed by **Katy Rudd**, this thrilling adventure of fantasy, myth and friendship will visit 29 towns and cities, across the UK and Ireland,



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from 12 December 2022 until 30 September 2023. **Charlie Brooks** is scheduled to perform in Salford, Woking, Leicester, Plymouth, Sunderland, Bath, Belfast, Dublin, Bradford, Wimbledon, Edinburgh, Liverpool, Sheffield, Birmingham and Cardiff, with further venues to be confirmed.

Neil Gaiman is known for his graphic novels, including *The Sandman* series (a major new Netflix series which in its first 10 days was watched for over 198 million hours by audiences around the world); his novels for adults and children including *Stardust*, *Coraline*, and *The Graveyard Book*; and multiple film and television projects including *Good Omens* and *Anansi Boys*. *The Ocean at the End of the Lane* was the winner of the Book of the Year at the 2013 National Book Awards and has sold more than 1.2 million copies worldwide. This first major stage adaptation of his work blends magic with memory in a tour-de-force of storytelling that takes audiences on an epic journey to a childhood once forgotten and the darkness that lurks at the very edge of it.

Returning to his childhood home, a man finds himself standing beside the pond of the old Sussex farmhouse where he used to play. He's transported to his 12th birthday when his remarkable friend Lettie claimed it wasn't a pond, but an ocean – a place where everything is possible... Plunged into a magical world, their survival depends on their ability to reckon with ancient forces that threaten to destroy everything around them.

The award-winning creative team includes director, **Katy Rudd**; adaptor, **Joel Horwood**; set designer, **Fly Davis**; costume and puppet designer, **Samuel Wyer**; movement director, **Steven Hoggett**; composer, **Jherek Bischoff**; lighting designer, **Paule Constable**; sound designer, **Ian Dickinson**; magic and illusions director and designer, **Jamie Harrison**; puppetry director, **Finn Caldwell** and casting director, **Naomi Downham**. The associate creative team includes associate director, **Sophie Dillon Moniram**; associate set designer, **Tim Blazdell**; associate movement director, **Jess Williams**; associate lighting designers, **Rob Casey** (for Ammonite) and **Tom Turner**; associate sound designer, **Chris Reid**; associate magic and illusions director, **John Bulleid**; and associate puppetry director, **Gareth Aled**.

Touring for a total of 38 weeks, including 5 *Theatre Nation Partnerships* venues, this is



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the largest tour mounted by the National Theatre since before the COVID-19 pandemic. This UK and Ireland tour follows a celebrated six-month run of *The Ocean at the End of the Lane* at the Duke of York's Theatre in the West End, which opened in 2021 after the production received its world premiere in the Dorfman Theatre in 2019.

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For further information please contact the Media and Communications team on public.relations@theatreroyal.com / 01752 230439

Theatre Royal Plymouth (TRP) is a registered charity providing art, education and community engagement in Plymouth and across the region. It engages and inspires with the aim of touching lives. Theatre Royal Plymouth presents a year-round programme of world class productions on all scales as the South West's principal centre for performing arts.

Theatre Royal Plymouth works with partners to understand the challenges people face accessing the arts, especially vulnerable and disadvantaged people. It creates pathways that are genuinely accessible to those who might otherwise never get to engage with the arts. They collaborate to co-create and co-author work that represents the community, creating the space needed for people to tell their story in their own way.

Theatre Royal Plymouth is the UK's largest regional producing theatre. With a focus on embracing the vitality of new talent and supporting emerging and established artists. It collaborates with a range of partners to provide dynamic cultural leadership for the city of Plymouth.