



**TheWallis**

**PRESS RELEASE**

---

**PRESS CONTACT:**

Press@TheWallis.org  
Libby Huebner, 562.799.6055

**--->PHOTOS FOR DOWNLOAD**

<https://thewallis.org/photos.php?id=156>

**Wallis Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts  
Presents  
Bristol Old Vic, Kneehigh and Wise Children's Production of  
*THE FLYING LOVERS OF VITEBSK***

**Written by Daniel Jamieson, Directed by Emma Rice  
With Music by Ian Ross**

**Available On-Demand  
December 11 –18, 2020**

**Tickets On Sale Now**

(BEVERLY HILLS, CA, November 24, 2020) — The magical world of artist **Marc Chagall** and his wife Bella is tenderly brought to life in Daniel Jamieson's ***THE FLYING LOVERS OF VITEBSK*** presented by the Wallis Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts on demand December 11-18, 2020. Partners in life and on canvas, Marc and Bella are immortalized as the picture of romance. On the painter's canvas they flew, but in real life they walked through some of the most challenging times in 20<sup>th</sup> Century history—navigating the devastation of war, the Russian Revolution and each other. This critically acclaimed theatrical production of Bristol Old Vic, Kneehigh and Wise Children, directed by Emma Rice with music by Ian Ross, combines the visuals of Chagall's paintings with the music and dance of the Russian-Jewish tradition. The on-demand program will be filmed in early December live on stage at the UK's Bristol Old Vic (with strict COVID health restrictions and without an audience). The production features **Marc Antolin** (Marc Chagall) and **Audrey Brisson** (Bella Chagall), reprising their roles from the original production, which had its live US premiere at The Wallis in 2018.

Implementing a COVID-secure procedure, the company members will each have a Coronavirus test before forming a bubble in Bristol. These rigorous measures mean that they will be able to perform the show without social distancing.

"We are taking the utmost care to protect all of our valued team, but all the preparation will all be worth it when we immerse ourselves in the spiritually intimate and genuinely moving, real life love story of Marc and Bella Chagall," says Rice. "And, while nothing will ever replace the thrill of a night out at the theatre, this broadcast – fresh, fun and intimate – is a wonderful adventure."

“*The Flying Lovers of Vitebsk* is a beautiful love story,” said Paul Crewes, The Wallis’ Artistic Director. “Emma brings the production to life in her delightfully unique way. It is joyful, sensual, heartbreaking and funny. It is a great to be able to bring the Company back to L.A. – virtually – with this award-winning production.”

Earlier this fall, The Wallis presented a live-streamed performance of Rice’s production of *Romantics Anonymous*.

Tickets for viewing *The Flying Lovers of Vitebsk* on Smart TV, computer, smartphone or tablet are \$21.38 (£16.00, based on current exchange rates). Ticket sales are being handled by the Ticket Co. in UK, so prices are in British pounds, but credit cards will be charged in US dollars; exchange rates may apply.

Patrons will receive a link and password. On Demand purchase includes a 7-day window of access from 8:00 PM on Friday, December 11 until 7:59 PM on Friday, December 18. Tickets cannot be transferred or shared. Tickets may be purchased by visiting [TheWallis.org/Lovers](http://TheWallis.org/Lovers), by email at [Tickets@TheWallis.org](mailto:Tickets@TheWallis.org) or by calling 310.746.4000 (Tuesday – Friday, 9:30 am – 2:30 pm).

#### **About the Creative Team and Cast:**

**Daniel Jamieson** has worked for Exeter-based Theatre Alibi as an actor, joint artistic director (1995-2000) and writer. His writing credits for the company include *Falling, Hammer and Tongs, Goucher’s War, Cobbo, Caught, One in a Million, The Freeze, Shelf Life, Little White Lies, The Swell, Sea of Faces* and *Birthday*, as well as adapting novels by Charles Dickens, Graham Greene, Michael Morpurgo and Dick King-Smith for the stage. Other theatre credits include *A Box of Photographs, We’re Going on a Bear Hunt* (Polka Theatre), *Where’s the Bear, Wish Wash, Knitwits* and *Flathampton* (Royal & Derngate).

**Marc Antolin** plays Marc Chagall. His previous credits for Wise Children include *Romantics Anonymous* (Bristol Old Vic, digital tour). Other theatre credits include *Camelot* (Watermill Theatre), *Hedda Gabler* (Sherman Theatre), *Cry Havoc* (Park Theatre), *Little Shop of Horrors* – for which he received an Olivier Award nomination for Best Actor in a Musical, *Into the Woods, Hello Dolly!* (Regent’s Park Open Air Theatre), *Twelfth Night* (Shakespeare’s Globe), *The Flying Lovers of Vitebsk* (Kneehigh), *Peter Pan* (National Theatre), *The Trial* (Young Vic), *Taken at Midnight* (Theatre Royal Haymarket/ Chichester Festival Theatre), *Amadeus, Singin’ in the Rain, The Music Man* (Chichester Festival Theatre), *From Here to Eternity* (Shaftsbury Theatre), *Matilda* (RSC/Cambridge Theatre), *Billy Liar* (UK tour) and *Imagine This* (New London Theatre). His television credits include *Keeping Faith*; and for film his credits include *London Road* and *Love Actually*.

**Audrey Brisson** plays Bella Chagall. Her previous theatre credits include *Amelie* (The Other Palace, Watermill Theatre – for which she was nominated for the Olivier Award for Best Actress in a Musical), *Pericles, Pinocchio, Elephanto* (National Theatre), *The Flying Lovers of Vitebsk, Dead Dog in a Suitcase & Other Love Songs, The Wild Bride, Midnight’s Pumpkin* (Kneehigh), *La Strada* (The Other Palace, UK tour), *The Grinning Man* (Bristol Old Vic), and *Romeo and Juliet* (Rose Theatre Kingston). Her television credits include *Money*, and *Outlander II*; and for films her credits include *Hereafter*.

**Emma Rice** is the proud and excited Artistic Director of her new company, Wise Children. She adapted and directed Angela Carter’s *Wise Children* (The Old Vic/UK tour), Enid Blyton’s *Malory Towers* (Bristol Passenger Shed/UK tour) and *Romantics Anonymous* (Bristol Old Vic/Digital tour). For the ENO she directed *Orpheus in the Underworld*. As Artistic Director of Shakespeare’s Globe (2016/18), she directed *Romantics Anonymous, Twelfth Night, A Midsummer Night’s Dream* and *The Little Matchgirl (and Other Happier Tales)*. For the previous 20 years, she worked for Kneehigh as an actor, director and Artistic Director. Her productions for Kneehigh include *The Flying Lovers of Vitebsk, Tristan & Yseult, 946: The Amazing Story of Adolphus Tips, The Wild Bride, The Red Shoes, The Wooden Frock, The Bacchae, Cymbeline* (in association with RSC), *A Matter of Life and Death* (in association with National Theatre), *Rapunzel* (in association with Battersea Arts Centre), *Brief Encounter* (in association with David Pugh and Dafydd Rogers Productions), *Don John* (in association with the RSC and Bristol Old Vic), *Wah! Wah! Girls* (in association with Sadler’s Wells and Theatre Royal Stratford East for World Stages), and *Steptoe and Son*. Other work includes the West End production of *The Umbrellas of Cherbourg, Oedipussy* (Spymonkey), *The Empress* (RSC), and *An Audience with Meow Meow* (Berkeley Repertory Theatre). She was awarded the Outstanding Contribution to British Theatre at the 2019 UK Theatre Awards.

### **About the Wallis Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts:**

The Wallis Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts is a dynamic cultural hub and community resource where local, national and international artists share their artistry with ever-expanding audiences. The campus, located in the heart of Beverly Hills, CA, is committed to robust and distinctive presentations and education programs curated with both creativity and social impact in mind. Distinguished by its eclectic programming that mirrors the diverse landscape of Los Angeles and its location in the entertainment capital of the world, The Wallis has produced and presented more than 275 dance, theater, opera, classical music, cinema and family programs since its doors opened in October 2013. Hailed as “au courant” (*LaLa Magazine*), The Wallis was lauded by *Culture Vulture*, which proclaims, “If you love expecting the unexpected in the performing arts, you have to love The Wallis.” Its programming has been nominated for 57 Ovation Awards and seven L.A. Drama Critic's Circle Awards. The campus itself, a breathtaking 70,000-square-foot facility, celebrating the classic and the modern, has garnered six architectural awards. Designed by acclaimed architect Zoltan E. Pali (SPF:architects), the restored building features the original 1933 Beverly Hills Post Office (on the National Register of Historic Places), which serves as the theater's dramatic yet welcoming lobby, and includes the contemporary 500-seat, state-of-the-art Bram Goldsmith Theater; the 150-seat Lovelace Studio Theater; an inviting open-air plaza for family, community and other performances; and GROW @ The Wallis: A Space for Arts Education, where learning opportunities for all ages and backgrounds abound. Together, these elements embrace the city's history and its future, creating a performing arts destination for L.A.-area visitors and residents alike. The Wallis Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts is led by Chairman of the Board Michael Nemeroff, Executive Director & Chief Executive Officer Rachel Fine and Artistic Director Paul Crewes.

For more information about The Wallis, please visit: [TheWallis.org](http://TheWallis.org).

For downloadable photos, please visit: [TheWallis.org/Press](http://TheWallis.org/Press).

[Like The Wallis on Facebook](#), and follow us on [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#)

### **EDITORS PLEASE NOTE:**

#### **WHAT:**

The Wallis Presents the on-demand broadcast of  
Bristol Old Vic, Kneehigh and Wise Children's Production of  
***THE FLYING LOVERS OF VITEBSK***

Written by Daniel Jamieson

Directed by Emma Rice

Music by Ian Ross

Performed by: Marc Antolin, Audrey Brisson, James Gow and Ian Ross

Set and Costume design: Sophia Clist

Lighting design: Malcolm Rippeth

Sound design: Simon Baker

Movement direction: Etta Murfitt

#### **WHEN:**

available on-demand Friday, December 11, 8 PM (PST) to Friday, December 18, 2020, 7:59 PM (PST)

#### **RUN TIMES:**

Show runs approximately 90 minutes

#### **TICKET PRICES AND INFORMATION:**

Tickets for viewing *The Flying Lovers of Vitebsk* on Smart TV, computer, smartphone or tablet are \$21.38 (£16.00, based on current exchange rates). Ticket sales are being handled by the Ticket Co. in UK, so prices are in British pounds, but credit cards will be charged in US dollars; exchange rates may apply.

On Demand purchase includes a 7-day window of access from 8:00 PM on Friday, December 11 until 7:59 PM on Friday, December 18. Tickets cannot be transferred or shared.

[TheWallis.org/Lovers](http://TheWallis.org/Lovers)

310.746.4000 (Tue.-Fri. 9:30 am – 2:30 pm)

[Tickets@TheWallis.org](mailto:Tickets@TheWallis.org)

