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English National Opera transfers Du Yun & Royce Vavrek's Pulitzer Prize-winning opera Angel's Bone to the London Coliseum

Presented by visionary theatre director Kip Williams & designer Marg Horwell

16-31 October - London Coliseum



Under 21s can get free tickets to all ENO opera productions at every level of the theatre, and 21-35 year olds can get discounted tickets. Tickets for everyone begin at £25.

Following its powerful UK premiere at Aviva Studios, Manchester this spring, **Du Yun**'s Pulitzer Prize-winning opera ***Angel's Bone*** will transfer to the **London Coliseum** this October. The production's transfer marks a significant milestone in **English National Opera**'s (ENO) dual-centre model, bringing innovative, contemporary and socially relevant opera to audiences in both Greater Manchester and London. Each production has been shaped by the venue in which it is performed, creating two distinct experiences for audiences in each city.

Angel's Bone tells the story of Mr and Mrs X.E., a desperate couple longing for a better life who discover two wounded angels in their garden. They set out to nurse them back to health, but what begins as an act of apparent compassion quickly spirals into a disturbing portrait of greed and exploitation, and an unflinching take on human trafficking and modern-day slavery. As the Manchester Evening News observed in its review, *Angel's Bone* is a reminder that "art is not all

about escapism, good art can act as a mirror to the world we live in," echoing Du Yun's own belief that "art, at its best, functions to provoke".

Composer, performance artist and activist Du Yun's electrifying score fuses medieval polyphony, punk, electronics, chamber music and cabaret creating a unique and vital sonic world. With a libretto by playwright and filmmaker **Royce Vavrek**, *Angel's Bone* was awarded the Pulitzer Prize for Music in 2017 following its acclaimed world premiere in New York and is recognised as one of the most significant operatic works of the past decade.

Multi-award-winning theatre and opera director **Kip Williams** returns to lead this production following his UK opera debut in Manchester. He is joined by Tony and Olivier Award-winning designer **Marg Horwell**, continuing their long-term creative collaboration, with recent shows including *Dracula* starring Cynthia Erivo at the Noel Coward Theatre, *The Maids* at Donmar Warehouse, and *The Picture of Dorian Gray* in the West End and on Broadway. Completing the creative team is **Jack Knowles** as Lighting Designer, **Ash J Woodward** as Original Video Designer, and **Dominic Bilkey** and **Joseph Reiser** as Co-Sound Designers.

Returning to conduct is the internationally renowned **Baldur Brönniman** who is deeply committed to making classical music relevant in the 21st century. Lauded for "injecting vivid life into Du Yun's eclectic score" (The Times) during the Manchester performances, he will be joined in the pit by the award-winning **Orchestra of ENO** who perform the expanded orchestration.

The full cast returns to reprise their critically acclaimed roles from the Manchester run. In the role of Mrs X.E. is Scottish mezzo-soprano and singing actress **Allison Cook**, who was praised by The Stage as "a true star performance". Cook has secured a reputation for her stand-out performances within the contemporary repertoire, and she makes a welcome return to ENO following her role as Judith in *Duke Bluebeard's Castle* (2024). Performing as her husband, Mr X.E., a role he previously "sung with fearsome brilliance" (The Arts Desk), is British baritone **Rodney Earl Clarke** who is often recognised for his versatility in performance. Clarke has extensive experience on stage, with his musical repertoire spanning opera and musical theatre.

The role of Girl Angel is performed by Swedish cross-genre musician and voice actress **Mariam Wallentin**. Best known as one half of the acclaimed duo Wildbirds & Peacedrums, her work spans experimental opera, including *The Wasp Factory* at the Royal Opera House's Linbury Theatre. Scottish tenor **Matthew McKinney** performs the role of Boy Angel. Winner of the 2024 Kathleen Ferrier Awards, he's currently a 2025 Jerwood Young Artist with Glyndebourne. They are joined by Hong Kong countertenor **Keith Pun** as Male Soprano.

Manchester-based guest vocal ensemble, **Kantos Chamber Choir** – renowned for their distinctive sound and praised by The Arts Desk as "extraordinarily good" following their Manchester performances – return to the production.

Angel's Bone opens at the London Coliseum between 16-31 October 2026 for 6 performances.

Angel's Bone is an ENO production. It originally premiered in May 2026 at Aviva Studios, Manchester, in collaboration with Factory International and the BBC Philharmonic Orchestra.

-ENDS-

Notes to Editors:

For more information or to request an interview, please contact:
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Angel's Bone
Composer: Du Yun
Librettist: Royce Vavrek
Director: Kip Williams
Conductor: Baldur Brönniman

Performances:
London Coliseum
16, 22*, 23, 29 October at 19.30. 17 October at 18.00 and 31 October at 15.00.
*British Sign Language Performance.

Running Time: 90 minutes
Performed in English with surtitles available.
Tickets start from £25 (including all fees).

Age Guidance: This production is suitable for 18+. *Angel's Bone* depicts themes of human trafficking and sexual exploitation as well as extreme violence. The action contains strong drug, smoking and alcohol misuse, sexual violence including rape, and death.

Production Images (Aviva Studios, Manchester – May 2026):
https://englishnationalopera.smugmug.com/Angels-Bone-2026/Angels-Bone-Production-Images-
Password: angel

Trailer: https://youtu.be/dhKzA1eWU6s?si=e81TGFt-ABQ1ko-f

About English National Opera:

English National Opera (ENO) is one of the UK's leading opera companies, dedicated to creating extraordinary encounters with opera, on stage and beyond. Performing in English and presenting bold, imaginative productions in an inclusive environment, ENO brings together outstanding artists, musicians and creative teams to tell powerful stories to the widest possible audience.

ENO is a dual-centre opera company, presenting a season at the iconic London Coliseum every year alongside dynamic work in Greater Manchester as part of its pioneering partnership with the city-region. Across the country, ENO runs a wide-ranging programme of learning, participation, creative health and community engagement that supports emerging talent and opens opera to people of all ages and backgrounds.

Founded in 1931 as Sadlers Wells Opera, ENO has played a central role in the cultural life of the nation for more than 90 years.

English National Opera, creating opera without limits.

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