

**SUBJECT: LYRIC THEATRE TO HOST COMEDY GALA FUNDRAISER FOR LOUISE REAY**

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**DATE: FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE FRIDAY 23 MARCH 2018**

A comedy gala will take place on **Monday 21 May** in support of comedian **Louise Reay**. Produced by Berk's Nest, Rabbit Rabbit and Amy Annette, the gala will take place at the **Lyric Theatre** in London's West End.

Dubbed '**Ex Appeal**', the gala will showcase performances from some of the UK's finest comedians, from household names to rising stars, and will raise funds for Louise's legal defence in the case being brought against her by her ex-husband.

Comedians confirmed to perform include **Aisling Bea, Sara Pascoe, Nish Kumar, Josh Widdicombe, David O'Doherty, Josie Long, Rachel Parris, Ed Gamble** and **Lolly Adefope**, with more names to be announced in due course. All profits will be donated to the crowdfunding campaign that Louise has set up for her defence.

Louise Reay is an award-winning stand-up comedian and documentary maker. On 30 January 2018, Louise was served with defamation, privacy and data protection proceedings by her husband, from whom she is separated. The claim is in relation to a comedy show that was performed in 2017. *Ex Appeal* is the only large-scale funding effort currently underway to support Louise and uphold comedians' freedom of speech. Further information on the details of the case can be found in the Go Fund Me campaign set up by Louise.

Comedian and documentary-maker **Louise Reay** has been performing stand-up since age 16. Louise is a fluent Chinese-speaker and has made a range of documentaries on social issues for the BBC and Channel 4. Louise has written and performed in two live shows questioning our attitudes to language, immigrants and race: *It's Only Words* and *Que Sera* (些拉). She has been nominated for Best Comedy Brighton Fringe (2017), Brighton Fringe Tour Award (2016) and Edinburgh Fringe Groundbreaker (2016), and won the **Adelaide Fringe Best Emerging Artist** (Weekly Award, 2017), **South Africa Arena Prize** (2017) and **Alternative New Comedian of the Year** (2015), becoming a **finalist for the Leicester Square Theatre New Comedian of the Year** (2015). She most recently performed the third instalment of her provocative trilogy on power and oppression, *Eraserhead*, at Adelaide Fringe 2018.

**ENDS**

For more information, please contact Emma Draper or Claudia Conway on [emma@draperconway.com](mailto:emma@draperconway.com) / [claudia@draperconway.com](mailto:claudia@draperconway.com) or +44 (0) 7910 837008 / +44 (0) 7966 567701

**NOTES FOR EDITORS**

***Ex Appeal***

Time: 7.30pm

Date: Monday 21 May 2018

Venue: Lyric Theatre

**Ticket Booking**

Prices: £25 / £20 / £15

Box office: 0330 333 4812 / [exappeal.co.uk](http://exappeal.co.uk)

Twitter: @exappealcomedy

Lyric Theatre, Shaftesbury Avenue, London, W1D 7ES.

To donate, please visit: [www.gofundme.com/comedian-being-sued-free-speech](http://www.gofundme.com/comedian-being-sued-free-speech)