Anjana Vasan

With her love of finding new ways to tell stories, actor and singer-songwriter Anjana Vasan, has been blazing a trail on stage and screen since she graduated in 2012.

Her role in Channel 4's irreverent and anarchic black comedy 'We are Lady Parts,' about an all-female Muslim punk band refusing to conform, won her a Royal Television Society award for Best Female Comedy Performance. She also received BAFTA nominations for Best Female Comedy Performance for both series one and series two.

She describes the series as 'embracing your weirdness to make art on your own terms'.

Born in India and raised in Singapore, Anjana joined the College's acting cohort as an international student in 2010 and is a graduate of our MA Acting programme. During her time here it became clear, very quickly, that she had a unique and special talent, distinguishing herself as a powerful storyteller with a compelling presence. On leaving Royal Welsh and entering what was - and still is for many - a very exclusive industry, she was cast repeatedly in supporting roles yet stole the show in every one. Eventually, her brilliance was recognised and the higher profile roles, deservedly, started to come. Anjana has since become one of the most exciting and original performers of her generation and has built an extraordinary career defined by depth, range and fearless performance choices.

In 2019 Anjana was nominated for an Evening Standard Theatre Award for Best Actress for her performance as Niru in the Lyric Hammersmith's bold recontextualisation of 'A Doll's House'. Adapted by Tanika Gupta to an Indian setting, this new production explored the additional dynamic of race as well as power and patriarchy.

In 2023, she won the Evening Standard award for Best Actress, along with the *Laurence Olivier Award for* Best Supporting Actress for her performance in 'A Streetcar Named Desire' on the West End - a role she recently reprised in New York. She has performed at most of the UK's leading theatres - The National Theatre, The Royal Court, Shakespeare's Globe, the Young Vic, the Almeida and the Royal Shakespeare Company.

Other screen credits for Anjana include 'Black Mirror Season 3 and most recently, alongside Paapa Essiedu, Black Mirror - Demon 79, for which she received a BAFTA nomination for Best Leading Actress'. She also features in 'Killing Eve', 'Sex Education', 'Brexit, An Uncivil War' and most recently, the BBC mini-series Towards

Zero with Anjelica Huston and Royal Welsh Fellow Matthew Rhys and the recent feature film ‘Wicked Little Letters’ with Olivia Colman and Jessie Buckley.

In addition to all of this stage and screen success, Anjana is a brilliant musician and singer-songwriter, with two albums to her name.

Throughout her career, Anjana has been a generous supporter of the Royal Welsh College, often advising or advocating for graduating actors—particularly students from the global majority. As a performer, she continues to be an inspiring role model for aspiring artists, proving that global talent and diverse narratives can and must be at the heart of contemporary performance.

Honoured Guests, I present to you Anjana Vasan as a Fellow of the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama.