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Review: Theatre Special: IN THEIR PRIME CENTRE STAGE

BYLINE: Killian Fox and Kate Kellaway and Stephanie Merritt and Liam O'Driscoll and Katie Toms

TOM HOLLANDER

Age: 39

Training: National Youth Theatre

Coming up: The Company , a series on BBC2 about the CIA; The Golden Age , the sequel to Elizabeth, directed by Shekhar Kapur and opening in October; and the TV movie Freezing , to be aired on BBC2 next Christmas. He has just finished in Landscape with Weapon at the National Theatre, and is in Pirates of the Caribbean 3.

Big break: 'Cheek by Jowl's As You Like It , and Way of the World at the Lyric Hammersmith, for which I won the Charleson award.'

Career high: 'Working with Declan Donnellan in As You Like It . We were all in our twenties, touring the world. Everyone loved the show, whatever language we were performing in. Donnellan is a teacher. He tells you what acting is.'

Favourite theatre: 'A theatre where we did As You Like It in Brazil. It was an 18th century Spanish building in a forest with no roof. During the garden and forest scenes butterflies flew in and settled on our shoulders.'

Hero: 'Mark Rylance - he is utterly brilliant.'

Are you proud to be British? 'My father was a refugee from central Europe at the start of the war. England helped his family survive so I don't feel chippy about being proud to be British.'