



Actors Touring Company and Belgrade Theatre Coventry,
in association with Brixton House present

FAMILY TREE

By Mojisola Adebayo

CAST



Aminita Francis

AMINITA FRANCIS - HENRIETTA LACKS

Theatre credits include: Red Riding Hood (Liverpool Everyman), I Am Kevin and Babel (Wildworks), Frankenstein: How To Make A Monster (Battersea Art Centre), The Immersive Great Gatsby (Hartshorn-Hook Productions), Josephine (Theatre Royal Bath), Buggy Malone (Lyric Hammersmith), Afrobelhas Brazil (British Council Tempo Festival), Chocolate Cake (Polka Theatre), Hive City Legal (The Roundhouse/Hot Brown Honey), Six Wives and The New Morning (Theatre Royal Stratford East), Bite Your Tongue (Hackney Showroom/Talawa), Blood Wedding, Romeo and Juliet and The Arsonists (The Courtyard Theatre/CTTC), Next Generation (Zonation) and Cabin Fever (Theatre 503). Television credits include, Frankenstein: How To Make A Monster (BBC).



**MOFETOLUWA
AKANDE**

MOFETOLUWA AKANDE - AIN/ANARCHA/OSHUN

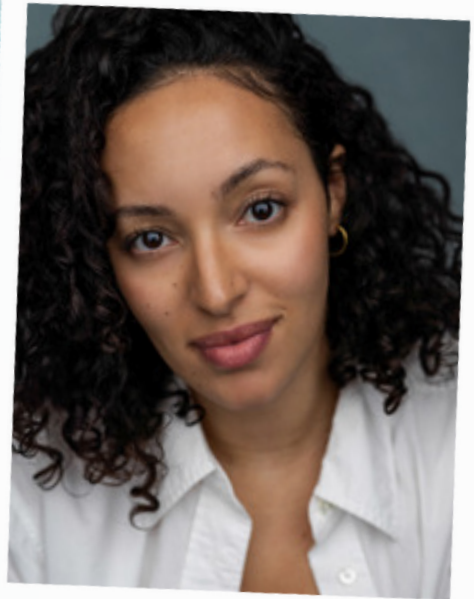
Training: The Bristol Old Vic Theatre School (winner of The Peter O'Toole Prize 2019). Previous theatre credits include A Christmas Carol (Bristol Old Vic) and Girls (Theatre Royal Plymouth). TV/Radio credits include The Nevers (HBO) and The Secret Lives of Baba Segi's Wives (BBC Radio 3). Theatre whilst training: The Life and Adventures of Nicholas Nickleby, Wonderboy, and Clybourne Park. (Bristol Old Vic); We Want You To Watch (Wardrobe Theatre).



KEZIAH JOSEPH

KEZIAH JOSEPH - BIBI/BETSEY

Keziah Joseph is an award-winning actress who has worked extensively in theatre and radio. Theatre credits include: Olivier-nominated Mr Gum and the Dancing Bear (National Theatre), The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe (The Bridge) and Offie-winning Language of Kindness (UK Tour). Broadcast credits include: Crush Hour (Amazon Audible), The Archers (BBC Radio 4), Doctor Who (Big Finish), Octonauts (Netflix).



AIMÉE POWELL

AIMÉE POWELL- LYN/LUCY

Nothello (Belgrade Theatre), Seaview (Belgrade Digital Media and Strictly Arts), Sent To Cov (Sky Arts), This Little Relic (BBC Audio North). Crongton Knights (Pilot Theatre and Belgrade Theatre), Freeman (Strictly Arts Theatre Company), Doctors (BBC) Radio: The Archers – (BBC Radio 4).



ALISTAIR HALL

ALISTAIR HALL- SMOKING MAN

Alistair Hall is an actor and theatre maker from Chippenham. He graduated from RADA in 2019.

His debut solo show Declan received critical acclaim from The Guardian, Attitude magazine and more.

On screen, he recently co-starred with Patricia Hodge in Rose Pandemic. Further theatre credits include The Winter's Tale (Shake Festival) and Safe (Norwich Theatre Royal).

MOJISOLA ADEBAYO, PLAYWRIGHT



MOJISOLA ADEBAYO (BA, MA, PhD, FRSL, FHEA) is a playwright, performer, director, producer, mentor, workshop facilitator and teacher who has been making theatre for social change, internationally, for over 30 years, from Antarctica to Zimbabwe.

Mojisola's own plays include *Moj of the Antarctic: An African Odyssey* (Lyric Hammersmith), *Muhammad Ali and Me* (Ovalhouse), *48 Minutes for Palestine / Oranges and Stones* (Ashtar Theatre, Ramallah), *Desert Boy* (Nitro / Albany Theatre), *The Listeners* (Pegasus Theatre), *I Stand Corrected* (Artscape, Cape Town), *The Interrogation of Sandra Bland* (Bush Theatre), *Wind / Rush Generation(s)* (National Theatre: Connections) and *Nothello* (Belgrade Theatre).

Family Tree won the Alfred Fagon Award for Best Play of 2021. Publications include *Mojisola Adebayo: Plays One and Plays Two* (Oberon Books), *The Theatre for Development Handbook*, co-written with John Martin and Manisha Mehta (Pan Arts) and *Black British Queer Plays and Practitioners: An Anthology of Afriquia Theatre*, co-edited with Lynette Goddard (Bloomsbury Methuen).

Mojisola teaches at Queen Mary, University of London, is an Associate Artist of Black Lives Black Words, AICRE, Pan Arts, the Building the Anti-Racist Classroom collective and an Honorary Fellow of Rose Bruford College. At the time of writing, Mojisola is on a research fellowship at University of Potsdam, Germany and is a Writer-on-Attachment to the National Theatre (UK). Mojisola's next play, *STARS* (Tamasha Theatre Company / Institute of Contemporary Arts) was shortlisted for the George Devine Award 2022 and premieres at ICA London in April 2023, before a national tour. See mojisolaadebayo.co.uk for more.

MATTHEW XIA, DIRECTOR



MATTHEW XIA, one of the busiest and most exciting directors in the UK, was appointed Artistic Director of Actors Touring Company in November 2018. He is a former Associate Artistic Director of Royal Exchange Theatre, Manchester; Director in Residence at Liverpool Everyman & Playhouse; and Associate Director of Theatre Royal Stratford East.

Some of Matthew's acclaimed productions include: at the Royal Exchange, Manchester *Frankenstein*, *Wish List* (also *Royal Court*), and *Into The Woods*; for the Young Vic *Blue/Orange* and *Sizwe Banzi is Dead*; and *One Night In Miami...* and *Shebeen* at Nottingham Playhouse and *The Wiz* at Hope Mill.

Matthew's most recent projects include *Feeling Afraid as if Something is Going to Happen* by Marcelo Dos Santos (Francesca Moody, Edinburgh Fringe First Winner, 2022) and *Hey Duggee* (Cuffe & Taylor, Kenny Wax, BBC Studios, national tour Dec 2022 – June 2023), which has been nominated for Best Family Show at the 2023 Olivier Awards.

Other work of note includes: *Blood Knot* at The Orange Tree, *Sleeping Beauty* at Stratford East, *Scrappers* and *Migration Music* at the Liverpool Everyman and Playhouse; *Dublin Carol* at the Sherman Theatre Cardiff; and NitroBeat's *Suckerpunch Boomsuite* at the Barbican.

Under the pseudonym Excalibah, Matthew was the first DJ to join BBC 1Xtra, where he spent 6 years. As a sound designer and composer, credits include: *The People Are Singing* (Royal Exchange); *Freerun* (Udderbelly); *That's The Way To Do It* (TimeWontWait); *Bolero Remixed* (New London Orchestra). In 2012 Excalibah performed as a headline DJ at the London Paralympic Opening Ceremony. Matthew is a founding member of Act for Change, a trustee of Artistic Directors of the Future, Cardboard Citizens and Get Into Theatre, and has served on the boards of Rich Mix, Creative Futures and Theatre Royal Stratford East. He has been a judge for the Bruntwood Prize for Playwriting (2017), the Yale Drama Series (2018), the Alfred Fagon Award (2017 – 2021) and the Eurovision Song Contest (2022).

SIMON KENNY, SET & COSTUME

DESIGNER



Simon Kenny is a theatre designer based in London. Theatre credits: Duet For One (Orange Tree), Charlotte & Theodore, 4000 Miles, In The Next Room or the vibrator play (Ustinov, Theatre Royal Bath), The Art of Illusion, The Death of a Black Man (Hampstead), Nothello (Belgrade Theatre/Coventry City of Culture), Antigone (Mercury Colchester), several UK tours for Eclipse including The Gift (Stratford East) and Black Men Walking (Royal Exchange), Blue/Orange (Theatre Royal Bath, Royal & Derngate Northampton), Footfalls & Rockaby (Theatre Royal Bath, Jermyn Street), Noughts & Crosses (Pilot/UK tour), Red Dust Road (National Theatre of Scotland), Giraffes Can't Dance (Curve), Holes (Nottingham Playhouse/UK tour), Broken Glass (Watford Palace), Wind in the Willows (Sherman Cardiff); Babette's Feast (The Print Room); Rose (HOME), Twelfth Night, The Merchant of Venice (Shakespeare's Globe), The Ladykillers, Sleuth (Watermill), Ghosts (Theatr Clwyd), Entertaining Mr Sloane (UK tour), Island (National Theatre), and BORDER FORCE, an immersive installation/performance/club event for Duckie.

Musical theatre includes: Whistle Down The Wind (Watermill), The Lion (Southwark Playhouse/Arizona Theatre Company), The Light in the Piazza, Merrily We Roll Along (Royal Academy of Music), The Wiz (Hope Mill), Ghost Quartet (Boulevard Theatre), Assassins (Watermill/Nottingham Playhouse), the multi award-winning Sweeney Todd in a purpose-built pie shop (West End/Off-Broadway), The Selfish Giant (West End), Cabaret (English Theatre Frankfurt), The World Goes Round (Stephen Joseph Theatre), and Saturday Night Fever (Theatre Royal Bath/UK tour).

Opera includes: A Midsummer Night's Dream and Le Nozze di Figaro (Nevill Holt Opera), Vivienne (Royal Opera House: Linbury), and The Cunning Little Vixen and Hány János (Ryedale Festival).

SIMISOLA MAJEKODUNMI, LIGHTING

DESIGNER



**Simisola Majekodunmi is a lighting designer working all over the UK.
Training: Royal Academy of Dramatic Arts (RADA), degree in Lighting Design.**

Theatre: Sound of the Underground, Is God Is, Living Newspaper (Royal Court), Treason: The Musical in Concert (Theatre Royal Dury Lane), A Christmas Carole (Palace Theatre Southend), Starcrossed (Wilton's Music Hall), Electric Rosary (Royal Exchange Theatre), A Christmas Carol (Shakespeare North Playhouse), Nine Night (Leeds Playhouse), Jungle Rumble (Fortune Theatre), Human Nurture (Sheffield Theatres), The Wiz (Hope Mill Theatre), Transformations (New Public), J'OUVERT (Theatre503/West End), Driving Miss Daisy, Baby Box (Theatre Royal, York), Invisible Harmony (Southbank), Puck's Shadow (Watford Palace).

Dance: Traplord (180 Studios), The UK Drill Project (Barbican), Born to Exist (Netherlands and UK Tour), AZARA - Just Another Day & Night (The Place).

FRANCESCA AMEWUDAH-RIVERS, COMPOSER & SOUND DESIGNER

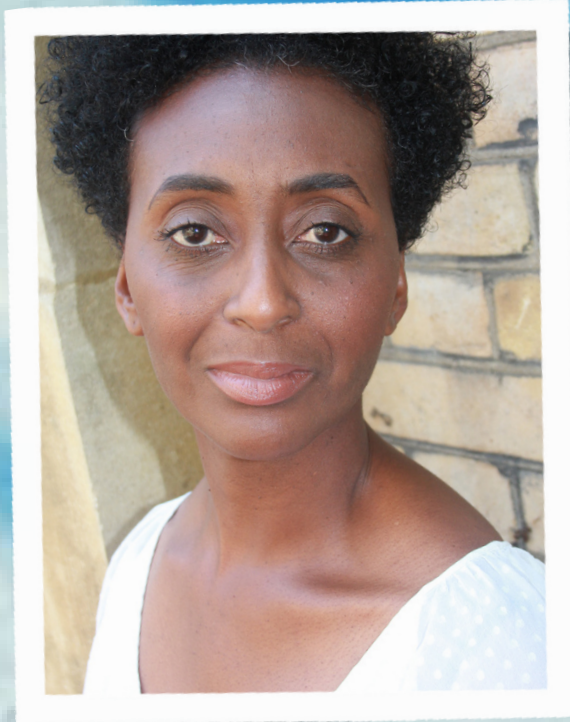


FRAN AMEWUDAH-RIVERS is a British Ghanaian-Nigerian composer, musician and actor who was awarded the Evening Standard Future Theatre Fund Award for Audio Design (2021), and was a finalist for Best Score at the British Short Film Awards (2022) for MINUTES. Fran trained at Oxford University, graduating with a BA in Music, and with the National Youth Theatre of Great Britain.

Recent Theatre includes: Bogeyman (Camden Peoples Theatre & Pleasance Queen Dome, Edinburgh Fringe), Family Tree (Composer/Sound Designer, Actors Touring Company, Greenwich + Docklands International Festival and Young Vic), Bonsai Baby (Composer/Sound Designer, Theatre 503), Three Sisters (Music Assistant, National Theatre), Medea (Composer/Musical Director, Oxford University Dramatic Society).

Recent Film Includes: Minutes (Composer, BFI Flare Film Festival 2022), Medea (Composer, Khameleon Productions), CONSPIRACY (Composer, web series, National Youth Theatre).

DIANE ALISON-MITCHELL, MOVEMENT DIRECTOR



DIANE ALISON-MITCHELL is a movement director and theatre choreographer. She is Head of Movement at Guildhall School of Music and Drama and co-founded and co-leads the Movement Directors' Association (MDA).

Recent theatre credits includes Blue/Orange (Royal & Derngate Northampton), Heart of Hammersmith (Lyric Hammersmith), A Midsummer Night's Dream (Criterion Theatre), When The Crows Visit, Wife, Holy Sh!t (Kiln Theatre), Shuck 'n' Jive (Soho Theatre), Our Lady of Kibeho (Royal & Derngate/Theatre Royal Stratford East), The Hoes (Hampstead Theatre), Snow White and the Happy Ever After Salon (Ovalhouse/Theatre Royal Plymouth), Never Vera Blue, Offside (Futures Theatre), The Island (Theatre Chipping Norton/Dukes Lancaster), Roundelay, Klippies (Southwark Playhouse), They Drink It In The Congo (Almeida Theatre), SOUL (Royal & Derngate/Hackney Empire), Othello, Julius Caesar (RSC), The Emperor Jones (LOST Theatre), How Nigeria Became: A story, and a spear that didn't work (Unicorn Theatre), The Gershwin's Porgy and Bess (Regent's Park Open Air Theatre), We Are Proud to Present a Presentation about the Herero of Namibia, Formerly Known as Southwest Africa, From the German Sudwestafrika, Between the Years 1884-1915 (Bush Theatre), The Island (Young Vic), Lola - The Life of Lola Montez (Trestle Theatre), The Relapse (Embassy Theatre).

As a director, Diane co-directed Bones by Tanika Gupta at the Courtyard Theatre, Royal Central.

AMELIA THORNBUR, ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR



AMELIA THORNBUR is a working-class, dual-heritage multi-disciplinary artist. Graduating from Oxford Brookes in 2019 she began working as a stage manager, before moving into producing and then directing. Currently she's Associate Producer at The North Wall. As Assistant Director she has worked with Emma Rice on Bagdad Cafe (The Old Vic), Anna Glynn on Animal Rocks (Oxford Playhouse) and John Hoggarth on Brown Boys Swim (Edinburgh Fringe First Winner 2022). Amelia wrote and directed an audio drama, Roots and Wings, and is directing a scratch of Butterfly, written by Nicole Joseph as part of Tamasha's Come Through Festival.

Amelia is passionate about breaking down barriers and supporting early-career artists get into the industry. She wants to increase representation within stories on stage, in backstage creative teams, in our audiences and at leadership level - creating an industry that is more reflective of our society. Outside of theatre she is also a bedroom-dj.

WABRIYA KING, PRODUCTION

DRAMATHERAPIST



WABRIYA KING is a qualified dramatherapist (Roehampton University, 2019), creative facilitator and practitioner of Integrated Embodied Psychotherapy.

Wabriya trained as an actor at The Oxford School of Drama (graduating 2012), and brings her rich experience of the theatre world into her therapeutic and facilitation work in a sensitive and meaningful way. Alongside her dramatherapy training, she is a certified practitioner of Integrated Embodied Psychotherapy, a methodology that combines a range of somatic, creative and neuroscientific tools to support clients to feel safe, at home and fully alive in their bodies. Wabriya also draws on her musical, movement and clowning training to offer a diverse and integrative therapeutic experience.

Alongside her private practice, Wabriya specialises as an associate dramatherapist on theatre and film productions, supporting actors and crew to manage their wellbeing and process what arises for them individually and as a team when their work addresses challenging themes. She is the resident Associate Dramatherapist at the Bush Theatre and has also recently partnered with The Globe, Theatre Royal Stratford East, Paines Plough, Hampstead Theatre and Soho Theatre to support productions including Romeo & Juliet, Typical, The Death of a Black Man and Black Love. Wabriya has facilitated therapeutic processing programmes for The Oxford School of Drama and Theatre Centre, and has experience working as a dramatherapist in NHS forensic mental health, and women's refuge settings.



MAYBELLE LAYE, COSTUME SUPERVISOR

MAYBELLE LAYE is a Costume Designer & Wardrobe Supervisor. Her theatre credits include Anansi (Supervisor, Unicorn Theatre), The Wiz (Associate Costume Designer, Hope Mill Theatre), National Theatre Up Next Gala (Costume Designer), Middle (Supervisor, National Theatre), Christmas in the Sunshine (Supervisor, Unicorn theatre).

Film and TV includes: The Great Season 2 & 3 (MRC/HULU), Bad Sisters (Apple TV/ Merman Productions), Wool (MRC/Apple TV) The Kindness of Strangers (independent short film), Eve (independent short film)

6 years onwards from starting on a short pattern course at Morley college followed by a full scholarship to Royal Academy of Dramatic Arts, she has now amassed an impressive array of work and is very much look forward to gaining more creative opportunities in 2023.

TOM LIGHTBODY, LIGHTING ASSOCIATE

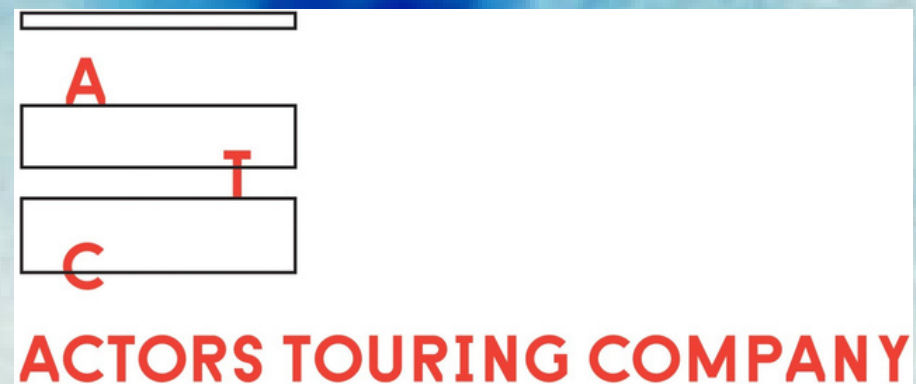


TOM LIGHBODY is a lighting designer. When he's not turning lights on and off in theatres, or looking after his two young boys, Tom can usually be found riding his bike and completing ultra-endurance rides. Last summer he rode the 950 mile "London Edinburgh London" Audax, raising over £1500 for Backup Tech: the Technical Entertainment Charity - www.backuptech.uk

ELIOTT SHEPPARD, DEPUTY STAGE MANAGER



ELIOTT SHEPPARD trained on the Professional Stage Management Course at Bristol Old Vic Theatre School. Stage Management Credits Include: Cinderella (The Maltings, Ely), Salt (Theatre503), Fritz and Matlock, All By Myself, Bloody Mary (Edinburgh Fringe 2022), I Can't Hear You (Theatre503), Jane Eyre (Minack Theatre), The Straw Chair (Finborough Theatre), We Are Here (The Bush Theatre).



ACTORS TOURING COMPANY

(ATC) is a “portable portal to the world”. We are a touring theatre company with an unrivalled track record in the commissioning, producing and touring of contemporary international plays. Our work explores ideas of intersectionality, identity and belonging - opening up conversations across borders both geographic and cultural.

Since 1980, we’ve pioneered the touring of new global plays, often in world premiere translations of plays from Australia, Norway, Iran, Israel, and the US – bringing global stories to audiences from Glasgow to Plymouth.

ATC is currently developing projects with playwrights Nessah Muthy, Yasmin Joseph, writer/performer Ammar Haj Ahmad and partners Greenwich + Docklands International Festival, imPOSSIBLE, SOHO Theatre, and Theatre Royal Stratford East.

ATC is Matthew Xia (Artistic Director & Joint CEO) Andrew Smaje (Executive Director & Joint CEO), Juliana Bearnse (Admin Director), Melina Barnett (Associate Producer), Kate Sarley (Finance Director), Diana Whitehead, Fourth Wall PR (Publicist).

www.atctheatre.com/about



BELGRADE THEATRE

The Belgrade is Coventry's largest professional theatre, producing and presenting a diverse range of shows, events and ground-breaking community and education initiatives. In its landmark building, across the region, the UK and online, it uses theatre to entertain, inspire, share the city's stories, uncover hidden histories, and unleash the creativity of diverse communities.

64 years ago, critic Kenneth Tynan saw the theatre's completion as the beginning of a new era. 'Enter most theatres and it's the gilded, cupidaceous past', he wrote. 'Enter this one, and you enter the future.' The Belgrade is in a period of transition into a new future, led by CEO Laura Elliot and Creative Director Corey Campbell. These leaders have ambitious plans to build on the Theatre's rich history of pioneering theatre, participation, and talent development, to realise a lasting place of sanctuary for creatives and communities.

Through values of collaboration, evolution and authenticity, their working mission is to use the transformative power of theatre to enrich the people of Coventry and beyond.

BRIXTON HOUSE

BRIXTON HOUSE

Brixton House is a modern venue in the heart of Brixton, South London. Formerly Ovalhouse, the theatre has a long legacy of ground-breaking theatre and being a home for artists and a new generation of makers, artists, writers, producers, technicians and audiences, inspiring new experiences that develop community solidarity and passion for social change.

Continuing its legacy of championing innovation and creative expression, Brixton House presents work that is rich in stories that resonate with its local, international, and intergenerational communities. A place for people to come together, to create and enjoy performances, the venue houses two studio theatres, performance spaces, several rehearsal rooms and multi-use meeting rooms, as well as public spaces, a café and a bar. Brixton House is generously supported by London Borough of Lambeth, Arts Council England, Garfield Weston Foundation, The Wolfson Foundation, Cockayne Grants for the Arts, London Community Fund, The 29th May 1961 Charitable Trust.