# THE ARCHITECT





YLESHOW

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The Future 122





## **CREATORS' NOTES**

"This is not a play about Stephen Lawrence: but an artistic response to that seismic event in British history in 1993. I have gathered a collective of the most brilliant Black theatre artists to respond to this commemoration. As is often the way with such painful events and memories, we want to try to move through the moment and trauma, and the profound loss towards something uplifting and hopeful. We come together in our collective power to celebrate Black lives, hopes and dreams and to imagine an alternative city, designed and inhabited by 'The Architect'." **Matthew Xia, Director** 

"The very name of Stephen Lawrence brings so much to mind, about race and racism, diversity, class and the rest. Issues that, post-McPherson, post-Brexit, we are still debating. The Architect invites us all to imagine a world that would be a celebration of Black lives, what Britain could be. It's a way of looking forward for us all." **Roy Williams, Writer & Curator** 

"As a Black South East Londoner who grew up in the times and on the streets where Stephen Lawrence walked and waited, there is no greater honour for me than to be invited to write for The Architect. This will be a performance and remembrance that will uplift people and give us joy. That is Blackness. It is beautiful. Like the Sankofa bird we look back and fly forward. Even in sorrow, we create something that moves and keeps the movement moving on. Come and get on the bus." **Mojisola Adebayo, Writer & Curator** 

"When you think of Black British history, tragic events are at the forefront. I'm a South Londoner born and raised, so creating a piece of art that travels through an area that holds sad memories means I get to create new memories. My focus on this project has been to explore the hopes and dreams a mother has of raising a Black son in London." **Bola Agbaje, Writer** 

CONCEIVED BY MOJISOLA ADEBAYO, ROY WILLIAMS AND MATTHEW XIA AND CREATED WITH BOLA AGBAJE, DEXTER FLANDERS, VANESSA MACAULEY AND XANA

seismic event in British histo

# WELCOME ABOARD

The Bus Conductress written by Mojisola Adebayo First Breath by Vanessa Macaulay Stand Out by Bola Agbaje Lovers by Dexter Flanders The Boys, Part 1 by Roy Williams Blend In by Bola Agbaje Dream Big by Dexter Flanders F\*\*king England by Dexter Flanders The Architect by Roy Williams Any City by Vanessa Macaulay The Boys, Part 2 by Roy Williams See Me Please by Bola Agbaje The Architect's Dream by Roy Williams



# CREDITS

#### CAST

THE CONDUCTRESS LLEWELLA GIDEON THE BOYS DALUMUZI MOYO & OMAR AUSTIN FIRST BREATH AND ANY CITY THE VOICE OF VANESSA MACAULAY PAMELA DOREENE BLACKSTOCK NADINE SHAYDE SINCLAIR THE LOVERS DANIELLE KASSARATÉ & DANIEL WARD THE ARCHITECT KARL COLLINS

FEATURING THE METRONOMES STEEL ORCHESTRA & THE CAMBRIDGE HARRIERS

#### **CREATIVE TEAM**

CONCEIVED BY **MOJISOLA ADEBAYO, ROY WILLIAMS & MATTHEW XIA** WRITTEN BY **BOLA AGBAJE**, **MOJISOLA ADEBAYO, DEXTER FLANDERS, VANESSA MACAULAY, ROY WILLIAMS** 

DIRECTOR MATTHEW XIA SET & COSTUME DESIGNER NATALIE PRYCE COMPOSER & SOUND DESIGNER XANA MOVEMENT DIRECTOR ASHA JENNINGS-GRANT LIGHTING ASSOCIATE CHRIS MCDONNNELL COSTUME ASSOCIATE NAOMI WRIGHT

#### **PRODUCTION TEAM**

PRODUCTION MANAGER **CLEMENTINE SEELY** CREATIVE PRODUCER **JADE SAMUELS** COMPANY MANAGER **MARIE-ANGELIQUE ST.HILL** STAGE MANAGER **JAMES BOYER SMITH** DEPUTY STAGE MANAGER **PARIS WU** ASSISTANT PRODUCER **BRAD HACKETT** 

THE ARCHITECT is co-produced by Actors Touring Company (ATC) and Greenwich+Docklands International Festival in proud association with the Stephen Lawrence Day Foundation



# THE COMPANY



L-R TOP: Karl Collins, Llewella Gideon, Danielle Kassaraté, Daniel Ward L-R BOTTOM: Omar Austin, Shayde Sinclair, Doreene Blackstock, Dalumuzi Moyo

#### **KARL COLLINS**

Theatre includes: Rockets and Blue Lights (National Theatre), In a Word (Young Vic), Our Town (Regent's Park Open Air Theatre), Nine Night (Trafalgar Studios), Shebeen (Nottingham Playhouse and Theatre Royal Stratford East), Chimerica (Almeida and West End), One Monkey Don't Stop No Show (Eclipse Theatre Company), Riff Raff (Arcola Theatre), Category B, Detaining Justice, Seize the Day, Fabulation, How Long is Never – Darfur (all Tricycle Theatre), The 11th Capital (Royal Court), The Measles (The Gate Theatre), Fuente Ova Juna (National Theatre) Television includes: Champion, Trying, Magpie Murders, The Chelsea Detective, Safe Space, The Larkins, The Responder, Midsomer Murders, The end of the F\*\*\*ing World, Vera, Hollyoaks, This is England '90, Our Zoo, The Driver, The Transporter, By Any Means, The Doors, Youngers, 2012, Black Mirror – The Entire History of You, Blackout, Death in Paradise, The Fades, Excluded, Shelfstackers, Doctor Who, Silent Witness, New Street Law, The Visit, 55 Degrees North, A Thing Called Love, Grease Monkeys, The Bill, Metrosexuality.

Film includes: The Flash, The Unloved, Life and Lyrics, Greenwich Mean Time, Twentyfourseven, Robert Ryland's Last Journey

#### **LLEWELLA GIDEON**

Theatre includes Mary Seacole (Donmar Warehouse), The Long Song (Chichester Festival Theatre), Faith, Hope and Charity (European Tour), Under the Sun (Royal Court), The Amen Corner (Bristol Old Vic), The Big Life (Theatre Royal Stratford East), Faith, Hope and Charity (Théâtre Odéon Paris/Vienna WienFestwochen), Queen in Septimus Bean and the Amazing Machine (Unicorn Theatre), Play Mas (Orange Tree Theatre), The Vote (Donmar Warehouse), Birthday (Jerwood Theatre Downstairs at The Royal Court), The Best of the Little Big Woman, The Little Big Woman, The Little Big Woman Show (Dual Impact), Family Man, The Sunshine Boys (B&S Productions). CONT... Television includes Boarders (BBC), Queenie (Further South Productions), Gangsta Granny Strikes Again (BBC), Mrs Sidhu Investigates (ITV), Amicable (BBC3), Christmas Carole (Sky), Top Boy (Netflix), Sneakerhead (Roughcut), Small Axe Mangrove (BBC), The Real McCoy (also as writer)(BBC), Absolutely Fabulous (BBC), Nighty Night (BBC), Big Train (BBC), Murder Most Horrid (Amazon), Alex Rider (Amazon), Game Face (Channel 4), Millie In-Between (BBC), Still Open All Hours (BBC), Birth Day (Apple TV), The Vote (More 4), Sir Lenny Henry's Race through Comedy of Colour (Gold), Big School (BBC), Gigglebiz (BBC), Trigonometry (BBC), Delivery Man (ITV), Psychobitches (Sky Arts), The Bleak Old Shop of Stuff (BBC), Hotel Trubble (BBC), The Lenny Henry Show (BBC), Doctors (BBC), Holby (BBC), Casualty (BBC) Casualty (BBC).

Films include Rye Lane, Paddington, A Street Cat Named Bob, My Jerome, Black Sea, Second Coming, Before I Go to Sleep, Manderlay, Nativity, Absolutely Fabulous –The Movie, Harry Hill – The Movie.

As a writer, Afternoon Play: Fruit Salad, The Little Big Woman Book. In 2020 Llewella received a Bachelor of Arts in Film and Media from University College, London.

#### DANIELLE KASSARATÉ

DANIELLE KASSARATE Danielle trained at Royal Central School of Speech and Drama on the Drama, Applied Theatre and Education Course. Theatre includes: I Wonder If (Young Vic), Til Death Do Us Part (Theatre503), Aladdin (Mercury Theatre), ... Cake (Theatre Peckham), Curious Incident of The Dog in the Night-Time (The Gielgud Theatre and International Tour), The Color Purple (Birmingham Hippodrome, Leicester Curve & The Color Purple - At Home), Macbeth (Queen's Theatre Hornchurch), Wildfire (Hampstead Theatre), Guys and Dolls (The Royal Exchange Theatre), Little Shop of Horrors (Theatre Clwyd), One Hundred Trillion (The Old Vic Workrooms) and Dusty (Charing Cross Theatre). Workshop includes: Love In Gravitational Waves (Talawa), Mansfield Park (The Watermill Theatre); Pink Spaceship/Sprint (Sky Comedy/Birmingham Rep), Black Power Desk (Gbolahan Obisesan & Gail Babb) Home Girl (Derby Theatre), Hamlet (National Theatre). Television includes: The Sandman (Netflix/Warner Bros)

Television includes: The Sandman (Netflix/Warner Bros).

#### **DANIEL WARD**

Daniel most recently finished leading Tambo And Bones, in the role of Bones, produced by Actors Touring Company and Theatre Royal Stratford East. Other recent theatre credits Actors rouning Company and Theatre Royal Stratford East. Other recent theatre credits include: Cat on A Hot Tin Roof (Royal Exchange Theatre, Manchester), Rebellion and War Of The Roses (RSC), Nora: A Doll's House (Citizen's Theatre), The Amen Corner (National Theatre). Recent screen credits include: Mood (BBC), This Is Going To Hurt (BBC) and A Bird Flew In. Daniel's debut play, The Canary And The Crow, which he both wrote and starred in, opened to a critically acclaimed run at the 2019 Edinburgh Fringe Festival before embarking on a UK tour and winning the 2020 George Devine Award. His theatre writing has gone from strength to strength, with Everything I Own, Ribena and Tactile Nature enjoying critically-acclaimed runs at Hull Truck Theatre, Theatre Royal Stratford East and Theatre Centre respectively.

#### DALUMUZI MOYO

Dalumuzi trained with the National Youth Theatre REP Company 22/23 appearing in Much Ado About Nothing (Duke of York Theatre), Gone Too Far! (Theatre Royal Stratford East), Bakkhai (National Youth Theatre). He is set to make his professional film debut in the upcoming thriller series, THE CASTAWAYS, for Paramount Plus.

#### **OMAR AUSTIN**

Omar recently starred as Joseph Knight in Enough of Him for National Theatre of Scotland & Pitlochry Theatre, for which he was nominated for an Outstanding Performance Award by the Critics Awards for Theatre in Scotland. Omar trained at Royal Welsh College of Music & Drama. On graduating, he filmed the second series of Jez Butterworth's Britannia for Sky/Amazon, and made his professional stage debut in the world premiere of the new play God of Chaos at Theatre Royal, Plymouth.

Other credits include, Pugh in So Here We Are (Queen's Theatre, Hornchurch) and Aaron in The Book of Actions (Nouveau Riche).

#### **DOREENE BLACKSTOCK**

Theatre includes: Es & Flo (Kiln Theatre), FOXES (Seven Dials Playhouse/Theatre 503 & Theatre Peckham), The Key Workers Cycle (Almeida Theatre), 846 Live (Greenwich + Docklands Festival & Theatre Royal Stratford East), Unknown Rivers (Hampstead Theatre), Equus (Trafalgar Studios), Noughts and Crosses (Pilot Theatre Tour), Bullet Hole, Distance (Park Theatre), Much Ado About Nothing (The Globe), Roundelay (Southwark Playhouse), Cymbeline, Hamlet, Noughts & Crosses (RSC), Antigone, Loneliness of the Long Distance Runner (Pilot Theatre Company), Holloway Jones (Synergy Theatre Project), The Container (Young Vic Theatre), Any Which Way (Only Connect Theatre), One Under, The Gift (Tricycle Theatre), 25/7 (Talking Birds Theatre Company), Document Given To Me By a Young Lady from Rwanda (Ice & Fire Theatre Company), The Carver Chair (Contact Theatre), Leave Taking, Girlie Talk (Belgrade Studio), Rosie & Jim's Big Adventure (Ragdoll Theatre Company), Leonora's Dance (Black Theatre Co-operative). TV and Film includes: The Colour Room, Netflix EMMY Award Winning Series, Sex Education (Seasons 1, 2, 3 & 4), Doctors, Death in Paradise, The Child in Time, EastEnders, The Game, Silent Witness, Trinity, The Bill, Life Begins, Family Business, Wire in the Blood, Medics, Casualty, Holby City, Judge John Deed, Gimme Gimme Gimme, Tom Jones, Common as Muck, Mm Hm, This Year's Love.

#### SHAYDE SINCLAIR

Shayde Sinclair graduated this year from the Guildhall and was part of the 2023 Open Door Cohort. Whilst still at the Guildhall, Shayde made her professional debut in the critically acclaimed 'Sleepova' at the Bush Theatre, written by Matilda Feyişayo Ibini and starring alongside Aliyah Odoffin, Amber Grappy and Bukky Bakray.



#### MOJISOLA ADEBAYO (BA, MA, PhD, FRSL, FHEA)

Mojisola 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 (commissioned by Actors Touring Company and Young Vic) 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.

#### **BOLA AGBAJE**

Bola Agbaje is an award-winning playwright/screenwriter. She is listed in Debrett's People of Today. She was inducted into the 200-year-old Royal Society of Literature in 2018. Bola Agbaje's first play, Gone Too Far! was commissioned by Actors Touring Company, produced by Royal Court, won the 2008 Olivier Award for Outstanding Achievement and was adapted by Bola into a film in 2013.

Other theatre includes: Off the Endz, Detaining Justice, Belong, House of Corrections, The Burial and Take a Deep Breath and Breathe.

Bola's international work includes the original screenplay for the highly successful 2015 Nigerian feature film, Fifty, available on Netflix.

#### ΤV

Bola is currently writing for an Animation series on Netflix. She is also developing her own original series with BBC/ FREEMANTLE - Biafra Project; Adaptations of Hope and Glory (BBC, Monumental) and Lagos Noir (Big Talk).

#### FILM

Adaptation of An African in Greenland (co-production between Ardimages UK and Scope Pictures). She is currently writing an Afrobeat film - Gidi hustle.

#### **DEXTER FLANDERS**

Dexter trained at RADA. In 2018 FOXES was a finalist for the Alfred Fagon Award for Best New Play of the Year. It received its world premiere at London's Theatre503 in 2021, transferred to Seven Dials Playhouse in 2022 in London's West End, and is published by Methuen. In 2019 Dexter was chosen to participate in the Royal Court Theatre's Introduction to Playwriting Group. In 2021 Dexter was announced as one of five recipients of a new Screenwriting Bursary from Neal Street Productions. In 2022 Dexter was chosen to participate in Hampstead Theatre's Inspire group and will write a full length play for them. Dexter is currently writing a feature film for Joi Productions and Netflix. He is also developing a TV series with Happy Prince.

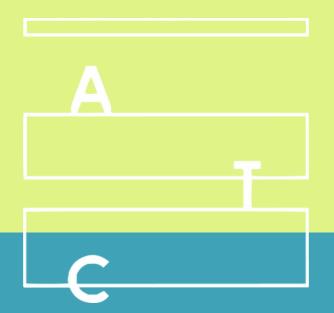
#### VANESSA MACAULAY

Vanessa is a performance artist who works across live performance, movement, video, text and materiality. Despite her interest in an autobiographical approach, her work explores representations of Blackness more broadly with a particular emphasis on Black British experiences. Macaulay has been creating solo performances since 2016, and her professional practice has allowed her to tour her work across the UK and Europe. Additionally, she has been programmed in several festivals, including the Plymouth Fringe Festival, Croydonites, Glasgow Buzzcuts and Talawa Firsts.

#### **ROY WILLIAMS**

Roy Williams' work in theatre includes Sucker Punch (Olivier Award nomination for Best Play and joint winner of the Alfred Fagon Award), Fallout, Clubland and Lift Off at the Royal Court; Category B and Starstuck (John Whiting and Alfred Fagon awards) The Gift for the Tricycle; Baby Girl, Death of England, Death of England: Delroy (both co-written with Clint Dyer), Slow Time and Sing Yer Heart Out For The Lads for the National Theatre; Wildfire, Local Boy and The Firm at Hampstead; Absolute Beginners at the Lyric Hammersmith; The No-Boys Cricket Club and Kingston 14 at Stratford East; Soul: The Untold Story of Marvin Gaye for Hackney Empire at the Royal & Derngate. His work for TV and Film includes BAFTA and RTS Nominated Death of England: Face to Face (co-written with Clint Dyer), BAFTA nominated Soon Gone: The Windrush Chronicles, Fall Out, Baby Father, BAFTA winning Offside.





ACTORS TOURING COMPANY (ATC) has an unrivalled track record in commissioning, producing and touring contemporary international plays that amplify and celebrate global artists from both within and beyond the UK. Our work explores ideas of intersectionality, identity and belonging – opening up conversations across borders both geographic and cultural.

We tour to venues of all scales and sizes, and to places the length and breadth of the UK. We engage with communities whose experiences are under-represented on our stages, and we invite traditional theatre audiences to share the journey.

Since 1980, we have premiered over 200 new plays and translations from (for example) Australia, Norway, Iran, Israel, and the US – bringing global stories to audiences across the UK, from Glasgow to Plymouth and internationally, from Helsinki to Hong Kong.

ATC's TRANSFORMATION SEASON comprises three productions that reveal the hidden histories of Black lives. FAMILY TREE about the legacy of Henrietta Lacks was originally premiered as an outdoor promenade at Charlton House in South London and completed a 14-week nationwide tour of UK theatres in Spring 2023. TAMBO & BONES exploring the history of Black trauma as entertainment for white audiences, from minstrelsy to hip-hop, has just completed a triumphant run at Stratford East – "theatre's not gonna be the same again" (Audience Comment)

THE ARCHITECT IS the finale of the TRANSFORMATION SEASON, bringing together a collective of established and emerging Black writers and theatre-makers in a unique journey towards a more hopeful future.

**GREENWICH+DOCKLANDS INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL (GDIF)** Produced by FESTIVAL.ORG, GDIF has been London's free, annual outdoor theatre and performing arts festival for over 27 years. Taking place from 25 August – 10 September 2023 across Greenwich, East London and the City of London, GDIF is committed to co-creating, commissioning and presenting outdoor productions, which tell compelling stories in spectacular style, whilst bringing Londoners together. In recent years GDIF has developed a reputation for commissioning productions in response to national and global events, including 846 Live, a response to the murder of George Floyd in 2020, directed by Matthew Xia. www.festival.org

"As a festival that sets out to reflect the evolving narratives of the Boroughs in which we work, GDIF is honoured and humbled to be working with a creative team, whose lives and achievements have been shaped by the legacy of Stephen Lawrence. THE ARCHITECT will, without doubt, be the emotional centrepiece of the 2023 festival exemplifying this year's theme, Acts of Hope." Bradley Hemmings, the Artistic Director of the Greenwich+Docklands International Festival, co-commissioner and co-producer of THE ARCHITECT

# STEPHEN LANCE DAYE

#### **STEPHEN LAWRENCE DAY FOUNDATION**

The Stephen Lawrence Day Foundation, established amid unprecedented growing global awareness of racial inequality, exists to inspire a more equitable, inclusive society, and to foster opportunities for marginalised young people in the UK. The Foundation is the home of Stephen Lawrence's legacy with intervention programmes focused in three key areas:Careers, Classrooms and Community. The Foundation delivers activities that run throughout the year, and marks Stephen Lawrence Day on the 22nd April as a focal point to celebrate Stephen's life and the progress made in his name.

"Stories have the power to inspire ordinary people to achieve extraordinary things. The deeply personal individual experiences of people from marginalised communities, paint a picture of our remarkable collective contributions to British society, and also of how far we still have to travel. 'The Architect' is a powerful example of how storytelling can create empathy, understanding and hope in communities, and we are so proud that Stephen's legacy is being supported by the Greenwich+Docklands International Festival, Matthew Xia and the Actors Touring Company as they bring this important production to life." Jessica Neil, Chief Executive of the Stephen Lawrence Day Foundation.

## **RESOURCES & LINKS**

## **Carepack & further reading**

## <u>Audience Survey -</u> <u>Tell us what you think!</u>

## **SPECIAL THANKS**

THE ARCHITECT is presented in support of the <u>Stephen Lawrence</u> <u>Day Foundation</u>.

THE ARCHITECT is supported by The Royal Borough of Greenwich, Royal Greenwich Festivals, Berkeley Group, The University of Greenwich and Arts Council England.

Thank you to Woolwich Night Time Enterprise Zone and Woolwich Lates.

Thank you to The D'Oyly Carte Charitable Trust for their generous support of the Creative Producer role.

Thanks to Steven Kavuma and Seven Dials Playhouse; David Kohn; Neil Shasore; and Nick Tyler and Derrick Boampong.

Thanks to Berkeley Homes, Sugar Studios, Transport for London.

Thanks to National Theatre Studio, Tramshed and Hackney Empire.

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## ATC is

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### <u>GDIF is</u>

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