

TAMBO

& BONES



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Digital Programme

About the show

Tambo and Bones are stuck in a minstrel show.
It's hard to know what's real when you're stuck in a minstrel show.
Their escape plan: get out, get rich, get even.

One of the most talked-about cultural events of 2023, Tambo & Bones is an exhilarating, darkly comic and provocative satire on capitalism and Black performance, that explores the commodification of the Black experience through the mediums of minstrelsy, hip-hop and afro-futurism. Spanning 500 years, Tambo and Bones journey from comedy double-act, to hip-hop superstars to activists in a future America, contending with the alarming repercussions of a nation torn apart by race. Harris' blistering play laughs through our past, blows the roof off our present and imagines an explosive future for our world and for theatre.



THE CAST



TAMBO
CLIFFORD SAMUEL



BONES
DANIEL WARD



X-BOT 1
JARON LAMMENS



X-BOT 2
DRU CRIPPS

THE TEAM

Creative & Production Team

Writer - Dave Harris

Director- Matthew Xia

Set and Costume Designers - Sadeysa Greenaway-Bailey and ULTZ

Lighting Designer - Ciarán Cunningham

Hip-Hop Beats - Excalibah*

Sound Designer & Additional Composition - Richard Hammarton

Movement Director - Kloé Dean

Video Designer - Gino Ricardo Green

Associate Director - Dubheasa Lanipekun

Costume Supervisor - Ysanne Tidd

Fight Director - Sam Lyon-Behan

Original fight choreography - Kevin McCurdy

Voice and Dialect Coach - Joel Trill

Magic & Illusions Consultant - Chris Cox

Production Dramatherapist - Wabriya King

Original Casting - Julia Horan

Voice Actor - Michael Simkins

Puppetry Designer - Hugh Purves

Assistant Designer - Mark Simmons

Company Stage Manager - Marie-Angelique St. Hill

Deputy Stage Manager - Paris Wu

Technical Assistant Stage Manager - Dynzell Muguti

Lighting Associate - Tom Lightbody

Sound Operator - Max Deane

Production Sound & Video Engineer - Ieuan Watkins-Hyde

Tour Marketing Consultant - Holly Adomah

PSE -Jacob Towey

Production Manager - Simon Godfrey

Production Carpenter - Christian Bawtree

Production Carpenter - James Chapman

*WAR produced by Roly Botha and Excalibah and Dollas to Dreams produced by Excalibah and Roly Botha

BIOS

TAMBO CLIFFORD SAMUEL

Clifford Samuel is a celebrated actor. Theatre credits include: 2.22 (West End); Dmitry (Marylebone Theatre); A Guide for the Homesick (Trafalgar Studios); Boudica (Shakespeare's Globe); Don't Sleep There Are Snakes (Simple8 Co/Park Theatre); The Events (Young Vic/Off-Broadway); Mother Courage (National theatre); The Lightning Child (Shakespeare's Globe); Statement of Regret (National theatre); The Changeling (Cheek by Jowl/Barbican); Tierno Bokar (Peter Brook workshop; (Bouffes du Nord) Troilus & Cressida, Julius Caesar, Two Gentlemen of Verona (RSC). Screen includes: Little Bone Lodge (Signature Films); A Birthday Party (BFI/Screen Scotland); Lock-In (Papercut Productions); Betsy & Leonard (Iron Box Films); Sex & Drugs & Rock & Roll (Entertainment Films); Shoot On Sight (Cine Boutique); McMafia (AMC/BBC); Soon Gone: The Windrush Chronicles (BBC); The Mallorca Files (BBC); Holby City (BBC TV); The Bill (Talkback Thames/ITV); Roman's Empire (BBC/Tiger Aspect)

BONES DANIEL WARD

Daniel Ward is a versatile actor and writer. 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), A Bird Flew In and Everything Now (Netflix).

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.

X-BOT 1

JARON LAMMENS

Jaron is a dancer, choreographer & movement director based in London. Taking inspiration from old school hiphop and rnb, Jaron tries to blend soul and grooves to create smooth movement.

In Tambo & Bones he applies all the popping & robotic knowledge he's gathered over the years, having trained in places like Belgium, Los Angeles, Paris & London.

Jaron started acting four years ago, featuring in several commercials and is now slowly discovering the taste of stage and film, which he also blends into his choreographies.

X-BOT 2

DRU CRIPPS

Dru Cripps is a British Comedy Guide award winning clown that trained in physical theatre at East 15 Drama School. Most recently Cripps has finished his Westend Clown debut for Sophie's Surprise 29th, whilst performing his sold out solo fringe shows. Cripps has been featured on the BBC, ITV, and Dave.

WRITER

DAVE HARRIS

Dave Harris is a poet and playwright from West Philly. Selected plays include TAMBO & BONES (LA Drama Critics Award "Best New Play", TimeOut London "Best Plays of 2023,"), EXCEPTION TO THE RULE (Roundabout Theatre Company, 2022), and EVERYBODY BLACK (Humana Festival 2019). His first feature film, Summertime, premiered at the 2020 Sundance Film Festival and was released in 2021. Dave has written feature and television projects for AMC (Interview With A Vampire), Netflix, Apple (Widow's Bay), Amazon (The Fortress of Solitude), and FX amongst others. His first full-length collection of poetry, Patricide, was published by Button Poetry.

DIRECTOR MATTHEW XIA

Matthew Xia is the multi-award-winning Artistic Director of ATC (Actors Touring Company). He was previously Associate Artistic Director at the Royal Exchange Theatre, Manchester; Director-in-Residence at The Liverpool Everyman & Playhouse; and Associate Director at Stratford East.

Matthew has directed some of the UK's most talented actors, including Daniel Kaluuya, Cynthia Erivo, Joseph Quinn, Maxine Peake, David Haig, Samuel Barnett, Matt Henry, Karl Collins, Martina Laird, Malachi Kirby, and Erin Doherty.

Directing includes: Skeleton Crew (Donmar Warehouse); The Architect (GDIF/ATC/Stephen Lawrence Day Foundation); the Olivier Award-winning Hey Duggee – The Live Theatre Show (Kenny Wax Family Entertainment/Cuffe & Taylor); the Fringe First Award-winning Feeling Afraid as if Something Terrible is Going to Happen (Francesca Moody Productions); The Wiz (Ameena Hamid Productions/Hope Mill); Family Tree (GDIF/ATC/Belgrade/Brixton House); One Night In Miami... (Nottingham Playhouse/Bristol Old Vic/HOME); Into The Woods, Frankenstein (Royal Exchange); Wish List (Royal Exchange/Royal Court); Sizwe Banzi is Dead (Young Vic/Eclipse).

In 2001 Matthew became the first DJ to join BBC Radio 1Xtra. As DJ Excalibah he played most major festivals in the UK and held residencies at some of the most prestigious clubs including Ministry of Sound, Fabric and venues across Europe and the UK. In 2019, he was awarded an Honorary Doctorate from the University of the Arts London for his efforts to make theatre universally accessible.

Further Reading

- Matthew Xia | Tambo & Bones Interview
- <https://www.afridiziak.com/interviews/matthew-xia/>
- Abolish the Stage: Reflecting on Race and Theatre with Tambo & Bones - https://tomsix.substack.com/p/abolish-the-stage?utm_campaign=post&utm_medium=web
- Hip-Hop – and America – Are Changing, and Not for the Better
<https://www.politico.com/news/magazine/2023/09/17/hip-hop-politics-00114584>
- Minstrelsy in Victorian Britain - <http://anthonybinns.com/?p=73>
- Other work from Dave Harris
<https://www.staydancingdave.com/published-work>
- Thoughts on Tambo & Bones by Craig Lucas
<https://www.playwrightshorizons.org/shows/trailers/craig-lucas-review-tambobones-dave-harris/>
- Skin Like Soil by Dave Harris
<https://thenewjournalat Yale.com/2015/11/skin-like-soil/>
- TimeOut Review - July 2023
<https://www.timeout.com/london/theatre/tambo-bones-review#:~:text=US%20poet%20and%20playwright%20Dave,and%20the%20expansion%20of%20its>

Support Resources

- The Black, African & Asian Therapy Network - <https://www.baatn.org.uk>
 - A directory of therapists of Black, African, Asian or Caribbean heritage
- Black Minds Matter - <https://www.blackmindsmatteruk.com/>
 - Connects Black individuals and families to free mental health support provided by Black therapists
- Mind - <http://www.mind.org.uk/>
 - Mind offer information and support for all aspects of mental health.
- Young Minds - <http://www.youngminds.org.uk>
 - Young Minds provides support on a range of mental health issues for young people (up to 25) and their families.
- CrimeStoppers - <http://www.crimestoppers-uk.org>
 - Anyone who would like to report a crime but are uncomfortable going directly to the police can call CrimeStoppers. Crimes can be reported in confidence and anonymously; calls are not traced.
- Stand Against Racism & Inequality - <http://www.sariweb.org.uk/>
 - Support for victims of any type of hate crime including racist, faith-based, disablist, homophobia, transphobia, age-based or gender-based.
- The Kings Fund - <https://www.kingsfund.org.uk/projects/inequalities-inclusionnhs-providers/support-racism-discrimination>
 - Support information if you have been affected by racism or discrimination in the workplace.
- Exit UK - <http://exituk.org/>
 - Offering help and advice for anyone wanting to leave behind involvement with the far right and extremist influences.

Full Tour Venue Booking Info

Royal & Derngate, Northampton

Friday 7 – Saturday 15 March 2025

7pm. Matinee: Thurs & Sat 2:30pm

<https://www.royalandderngate.co.uk/>

01604 624811

ROYAL
DERNGATE &
NORTHAMPTON

Liverpool Playhouse

Wednesday 26 – Saturday 29 March 2025

7:30pm. Matinee: Thurs 1:30pm & Sat 2pm

<https://www.everymanplayhouse.com/>

0151 709 4776

LIVERPOOL
PLAYHOUSE

HOME Manchester

Tuesday 1 – Saturday 5 April 2025

7:30pm. Matinee: Sat 2pm

<https://homemcr.org/>

0161 200 1500

HOME

Belgrade Theatre

Wednesday 9 – Saturday 12 April 2025

7.30pm. Matinee: Sat 2pm

<https://www.belgrade.co.uk/>

024 7655 3055

THE
BELGRADE
THEATRE
COVENTRY

Stratford East

Tuesday 29 April – Saturday 10 May 2025

7:30pm. Matinee: Thurs & Sat 2:30pm

<https://www.stratfordeast.com/>

020 8534 0310

STRATFORD
EAST

Leeds Playhouse

Wednesday 14 – Saturday 24 May 2025

7:45pm. Matinee: Thurs 2pm & Sat 2:30pm

<https://www.leedsplayhouse.org.uk/>

0113 213 7700

LEEDS
PLAY
HOUSE

Tell us your thoughts...

We'd love to know how you felt about Tambo & Bones.
Tell us here: <https://form.jotform.com/250283185616357>

Donate

If you enjoyed the work and want to support future tours, please consider supporting us with a donation by clicking the link below.

<https://www.atctheatre.com/support/>

Special Thanks

To our co-producers, venues, audiences and all of our funders..



John Ellerman
Foundation



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