Barber Shop Chronicles

A Fuel, National Theatre, and West Yorkshire Playhouse co-production

WHEN:
THURSDAY, NOV 8, 7:30 PM
FRIDAY, NOV 9, 7:30 PM
SATURDAY, NOV 10, 2:30 & 7:30 PM

VENUE:
ROBLE STUDIO THEATER

Photo by Dean Chalkley
Program

Barber Shop Chronicles
A Fuel, National Theatre, and West Yorkshire Playhouse co-production

Writer Inua Ellams
Director Bijan Sheibani
Designer Rae Smith
Lighting Designer Jack Knowles
Movement Director Aline David
Sound Designer Gareth Fry
Music Director Michael Henry
Fight Director Kev McCurdy
Associate Director Stella Odunlami
Associate Director Leian John-Baptiste
Assistant Choreographer Kwami Odoom
Barber Consultant Peter Atakpo
Company Voice Work Charmian Hoare
Dialect Coach Hazel Holder
Tour Casting Director Lotte Hines

Wallace / Timothy / Mohammed / Tinashe Tuwaine Barrett
Tanaka / Fifi Mohammed Mansaray
Musa / Andile / Mensah Maynard Eziashi
Ethan Alhaji Fofana
Samuel Elliot Edusah
Winston / Shoni Solomon Israel
Tokunbo / Paul / Simphiwe Patrice Naiambana
Emmanuel Anthony Ofoegbu
Kwame / Fabrice / Brian Kenneth Omole
Olawale / Wole / Kwabena / Simon Ekow Quartey
El Nathan / Benjamin / Dwain Jo Servi
Abram / Ohene / Sizwe David Webber

Design Associate
Catherine Morgan
Re-lighter and Production Electrician
Rachel Bowen
Lighting Associate
Laura Howells
Sound Associate
Laura Hammond
Wardrobe Supervisor
Louise Marchand-Paris

Pre-Production Manager
Richard Eustace
Production Manager
Sarah Cowan
Company Stage Manager
Julia Reid
Deputy Stage Manager
Fiona Bardsley
Assistant Stage Manager
Sylvia Darkwa-Ohemeng
Costume Supervisor
Lydia Crimp
Costume and Buying Supervisor
Jessica Dixon

Co-commissioned by Fuel and the National Theatre. Development funded by Arts Council England with the support of Fuel, National Theatre, West Yorkshire Playhouse, The Binks Trust, British Council ZA, Òran Mór and A Play, a Pie and a Pint.

Inua Ellams’ 2018–19 residency is supported by the Stanford Presidential Residencies on the Future of the Arts.
About the Artists

Tuwaïne Barrett
Wallace / Timothy / Mohammed / Tinashe
Tuwaïne trained at Mountview Academy of Theatre Arts. Credits at Mountview include: The Alchemist; Macbeth; A Lie of the Mind; Ghosts; Othello; and If You Don’t Let us Dream, We Won’t Let You Sleep. His work in theater includes: Blue Orange (Soho Theatre); A Streetcar Named Desire and; A Season in the Congo (Young Vic). TV includes: Relik; A Discovery Of Witches; and Silent Witness. Film includes: Drop.

Elliot Edusah
Samuel
This is Elliot’s first professional role after completing his training at LAMDA in 2018. Theatre credits at LAMDA include Taming of the Shrew; Suckerpunch; All’s Well That Ends Well and The Flick. Prior to this, Elliot’s theatre credits include As You Like It (The Brit School); and Heartfelt (Theatre Royal Stratford East).

Maynard Eziashi
Musa / Andile / Mensah
Maynard Eziashi’s work in theater includes: The Winter’s Tale; Pericles; and Season of Migration to the North (Royal Shakespeare Company); Free Fall (Pleasance); Faith u Reason (Bush); A Jamaican Airman Forsees his Death (Royal Court); and A Respectable Wedding (Almeida). TV includes: Bad Boys; The Changeling; and Hallelujah Anyhow. Film includes: The Contract; Kiss Kiss (Bang Bang); and Ace Ventura: When Nature Calls.

Alhaji Fofana
Ethan
Alhaji won the 2017 Children’s BAFTA Award for Best Performance for his role of Ryan in Screwball. His television credits include Silent Witness (BBC), Holby City (BBC), Josh (BBC3), Brotherhood (Big Talk/Comedy Central), Siblings (BBC 3) and a series regular in Youngers, series 2 (Big Talk/E4).

Solomon Israel
Winston / Shoni
Solomon trained at LAMDA. Theater credits include: The Fantastic Follies of Mrs Rich; Duchess of Malfi; Miss Littlewood; Kingdom Come; Twelfth Night; The Comedy Of Errors; and The Tempest (Royal Shakespeare Company); The Pulverised (Arcola/York Theatre Royal); Dutchman (Young Vic); Octagon (Arcola); I Know All the Secrets in My World (Tiata Fahodzi); Chigger Foot Boys (Ovalhouse); Juicy and Delicious (Nuffield Southampton); Taking Steps (Old Laundry Theatre). TV credits include: Lovesick; Doctor Who; I Live With Models; Josh; Brothers with No Game; Law and Order; Holby City; and Quick Cuts. Radio includes: Three Strong Women (BBC).

Mohammed Mansaray
Tanaka / Fifi
Mohammed’s theater credits include One Flew Over The Cuckoo’s Nest (Sheffield Crucible), lead roles in Mrs. Dalloway, Jekyll & Hyde, and Othello for the National Youth Theatre’s Rep West End Season. He also has musical theater experience having partaken in Oliver! (Theatre Royal Drury Lane) and Daddy Cool (Shaftesbury Theatre, World Tour). His television credits include: Tracey Beaker Returns (CBBC), Law & Order UK and The Bill (ITV). Film credits include: My Brother the Devil (Rock Rest Entertainment).

Patrice Naiambana
Tokunbo / Paul / Simphiwe
Theater: The Man Who Committed Thought (Fringe First Award Winner); Rosamunde Hutt’s New Nigerians (Arcola); The Secret Lives of Baba Segi’s Wives (Femi Elufowoju Jnr Ensemble); The Caretaker (Bristol Old Vic); Iyalode of Eti, Duchess of Malfi (Utopia Theatre);
Othello; The Histories Cycle; The Spanish Tragedy; Cymbeline; The Lion The Witch and The Wardrobe (Royal Shakespeare Company); Pericles (Shakespeare’s Globe); Steven Berkoff’s Coriolanus (West Yorkshire Playhouse); Marcello Magni’s Tell Them That I’m Young and Beautiful; Ragamuffin (Double Edge Theatre). TV: The Bible; Torchwood; Silent Witness; Casualty; In Exile. Film: Turn up Charlie; Spectre; Monochrome; Schweitzer. Founder of Tribal Soul Arts

Anthony Ofoegbu
Emmanuel

Anthony’s theater credits include: Circle Mirror Transformation (HOME, Manchester); Titus Andronicus; Julius Caesar; Antony & Cleopatra (The Royal Shakespeare Company Rome Season, 2017-2018); Twelfth Night (Nottingham Playhouse); Death and the King’s Horseman (Royal National Theatre); Twelfth Night (Royal Theatre, Northampton); Oedipus at Colonus (Nevada Conservatory Theatre); Treemonisha (Hackney Empire and Battersea Arts Centre); and The Beatification of Area Boy—world tour (West Yorkshire Playhouse). Television credits include: Moonfleet, Spooks, Casualty, Chambers, Family Affairs and The Bill. Film credits include: Justified, Bad Day, Dead Room, Plato’s Breaking Point, The Killing Zone and Samson and Delilah.

David Webber
Abram / Ohene / Sizwe

David trained at Rose Bruford. His theater work includes: Death and the King’s Horseman and Leave Taking (National Theatre); The Huducker Proxy (Nuffield Southampton and Liverpool Playhouse); Catch-22 (Northern Stage); Sweet Bird of Youth (Old Vic); Government Inspector (Young Vic); What’s in the Cat for Contact (Royal Court); One Loue (Bristol Old Vic and Talawa); and The Big Life (Apollo, West End). TV includes: Chewing Gum; Prime Suspect; Youngers; Nan; The Royal Bodyguard; How Not to Live Your Life; and Being Human. Film includes: Captain Phillips; The Children Act; Broken; Tipping the Velvet; 51st State; Among Giants; The Avengers; and Getting Hurt.

Inua Ellams
Writer

Born in Nigeria, Inua Ellams is a cross art form practitioner, a poet, playwright & performer, graphic artist & designer, and founder of the Midnight Run—an international, arts-filled, night-time, playful, urban, walking experience. He is a Complete Works poet alumni and a designer at White Space Creative Agency. Across his work, Identity, Displacement & Destiny are reoccurring themes in which he also tries to mix the old with the new: traditional African storytelling with contemporary poetry, pencil with pixel, texture with vector images. His poetry is published by Flipped Eye, Akashic, Nine Arches & several plays by Oberon.

Bijan Sheibani
Director

Bijan’s recent theater credits include Dance Nation (Almeida); Circle Mirror
Transformation (Home, Manchester); The Brothers Size (Young Vic/Actors Touring Company); Barber Shop Chronicles (National Theatre/Fuel/West Yorkshire Playhouse). He has also directed extensively at the National Theatre of Great Britain where his credits include The Kitchen, Our Class, Emil and the Detectives, and A Taste of Honey.

Recent opera credits include Nothing (Glyndebourne); and Tell Me The Truth About Love (Streetwise Opera). He was an associate director of the National Theatre from 2010-15, and artistic director of Actors Touring Company from 2007–10.

Rae Smith
Designer
Rae Smith’s recent designs in the UK include Nightfall (The Bridge) Translations, and Macbeth (National Theatre); The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe (West Yorkshire Playhouse); Girl from the North Country (Old Vic, Noël Coward Theatre and The Public Theater NY ); This House (National Theatre,Garrick Theatre and UK tour) The Goat or Who is Sylvia? (Theatre Royal Haymarket); Stella (Hoxton Hall and Holland Festival). Other designs include wonder.land, The Light Princess, War Horse (Tony and Olivier Awards) at the National Theatre, Cau and Pag at the Met Opera NY, and The Tempest for Birmingham Royal Ballet. Further info: www.raesmith.co.uk. Upcoming work includes Inua Ellams’ The Little Prince.

Jack Knowles
Lighting Designer
The Importance of Being Earnest (Vaudeville); Machinal, They Drink it in the Congo, Boy, Carmen Disruption, Game (Almeida); Happy Days, Parliament Square, Our Town, Twelfth Night, A Streetcar Named Desire, Wit, The Skriker, There Has Possibly Been An Incident (Royal Exchange); Dan and Phil: Interactive Introverts, The Amazing Tour is Not on Fire (World Tours); Instructions for Correct Assembly, 2071 (Royal Court); Caroline, or Change (Chichester Festival Theatre); Circle Mirror Transformation (Home MCR); Wonderland (Nottingham Playhouse); Beginning (also Ambassadors Theatre); Cleansed (National Theatre); Committee (Donmar); 4.48 Psychosis, Reisende auf einem Bein, Happy Days (Schauspielhaus, Hamburg); Junkyard, Pygmalion (Headlong). www.jackknowles.co.uk

Aline David
Movement Director
Theater work includes: Dance Nation, The House of Bernarda Alba (Almeida); Macbeth, The Merchant of Venice (RSC); Romeo and Juliet, A Taste of Honey, Damned by Despair, Antigone, The Kitchen, Greenland, Our Class (National Theatre); The Brothers Size, Dutchman, Eurydice (with ACT), Elektra, (Young Vic); Nothing (Glyndebourne Opera / Den Jyske Opera); The Mighty Waltzer, 1984, Macbeth (Royal Exchange); The Iphigenia Quartet, How to be Another Woman (Gate); The Tempest (National Youth Theatre); First Love is the Revolution (Soho); Romeo and Juliet, A Taste of Honey, Alice (Sheffield Crucible); The Merchant of Venice (RSC); Of Mice and Men (Birmingham Rep).

Gareth Fry
Sound Designer
Gareth’s U.S. work includes Harry Potter and the Cursed Child; The Encounter (with Pete Malkin), Shun-kin and The Noise of Time, for Complicité; Black Watch, and Let The Right One In; for National Theatre of Scotland. Gareth’s work includes over 20 productions at the Royal National Theatre, over 20 at the Royal Court and countless more, including the Opening Ceremony of the 2012 Olympic Games. Awards include two Tony Awards, two Drama Desk Awards and an IRNE award. As well as three Olivier Awards, an Evening Standard Award, and two Helpmann Awards.

Michael Henry
Music Director
Michael is a composer, vocalist, and musical director. MD work includes An Octoaroo, The Amen Corner, Emperor and Galilean, FELA!, and Death and the King’s Horseman (National Theatre); They Drink It in the Congo and Mr. Burns (Almeida); SYLVIA (Old Vic); The Brothers Size and FEAST (Young Vic). Live backing vocals include George Michael, Chaka Khan, and Pet Shop Boys. Studio vocals include Diana Ross, Robbie Williams, and Billy Bragg. Compositions include Rocket Symphony for 500 voices and fireworks and Stand for 16 voices at the BBC Proms 2006. He has sung a cappella extensively with Flying Pickets and The Shout.

Stella Odunlami
Associate Director
Stella Odunlami is a theater-maker and researcher. She most recently presented the sound installation and performance piece London Wall: 1980 something (V&A). Work as a director includes Made Visible (The Yard); Dies Irae (Hoxton Hall); Hidden (33% Festival at Ovalhouse); Preserves (Hen and Chickens); and Black Cab Music (Lyric
Hammersmith). She was previously resident assistant designer at the Gate, where she worked on Joseph K, Fatherland, and Electra. Other work as assistant designer includes The Revenger's Tragedy (Hoxton Hall); Crocodile (Riverside Studios); and Bad Blood Blues and Come Dancing (Theatre Royal Stratford East).

Leian John-Baptiste
Associate Director
In the past Leian has made short films and launched a website (House of Black) to showcase and celebrate young Black British filmmakers. Earlier this year he worked as an Assistant Director (to Oliver Award nominee Bijan Sheibani) at the Young Vic, on the Brothers Size (written by the Oscar winning writer of Moonlight, Tarell Alvin McCraney). More recently he has directed Waterfalls at Theatre Royal Stratford East & Stop & Search at Theatre 503. Leian plans to do more directing for stage and also get back into directing for screen something he hasn't done much of since studying Broadcast Media at Brunel University.

Catherine Morgan
Associate Designer
Catherine was Associate Designer on St George and the Dragon (National Theatre) and Assistant Designer on The Goat (Theatre Royal, Haymarket). She has worked for designers including Stewart Laing, Giles Cadle, Leslie Travers, Jamie Vartan, Soutra Gilmour, Antony McDonald and Tom Cairns. Associate design credits include: The Hairy Ape (Old Vic, Park Avenue Armory, New York); and Dido & Aeneas / La Voix Humaine (Opera North). Catherine’s recent design credits include: Salad Days (The Union Theatre, Bath Theatre Royal); Screwed (Theatre 503); The One Day of the Year (Finborough). She recently participated in the final for the Dutch Opera Design Award.

Sarah Cowan
Production Manager
Sarah has production managed in venues such as the National Theatre (UK), Manchester Royal Exchange, Theatre Clwyd Cymru, Soho Theatre, Opera Holland Park, and York Theatre Royal among others. She has worked in theater for almost 20 years with experience ranging from large-scale shows to site-specific projects. One of her favorite pieces (aside from Barber Shop Chronicles, of course) was a production called Before I Sleep with Dreamthinkspeak. She is now going international and, following touring the U.S. and Canada with this show, will be heading to the Sydney Theatre Company to Production Manage with them for a while.

Julia Reid
Company Stage Manager
Julia trained in Stage Management at the Royal Central School of Speech & Drama. Theatre credits include: Things I Know To Be True (Frantic Assembly, UK Tour); Fatherland (MIF, Frantic Assembly, Royal Exchange Manchester); Twelfth Night, Cat on a Hot Tin Roof, Scuttlers, Three Birds, Rats Tales, Good, Punk Rock and Private Lives (Royal Exchange Manchester); Midsummer Nights Dream (Int tour, Propeller); The Late Middle Classes (Donmar); Julius Caesar (RSC Swan); In the Night Garden (UK Tour); Been So Long, A Prayer for my Daughter and the Good Soul of Szechuan (Young Vic); Rough Crossings, Angels in America, Paradise Lost (Headlong).

Fiona Bardsley
Deputy Stage Manager
Fiona trained at LAMDA on the Stage Management and Technical Theater course. She then worked in the fringe and the Soho Poly Theatre. Fiona worked at the Royal Court as DSM on many plays including, Road, A Lie of the Mind, and Ice Cream and Hot Chocolate. Fiona’s credits at the National Theatre as Deputy Stage Manager include: The Shaugraun; Arcadia; Dealers Choice; Amy’s View; Skylight. World tours of Richard III; King Lear; Hamlet; The History Boys; Power; Frankenstein; Collaborators; Battle Royal; Humble Boy; Gagarin Way; The Talking Cure; Gethsemane; The Effect; Beyond Caring; Hedda Gabler, and Exit the King.

Sylvia Darkwa-Ohemeng
Assistant Stage Manager
Sylvia is a Rose Bruford Graduate in Stage Management. Her credits include: The 33% Festival (Creative Youth Department at Oval House); 24hour plays (Old Vic: New Voices); NineRooms (Old Vic Tunnels); Monologue Slam; RichMix; Future Fest; Eclipse (NTC); Grandfathers (NTC); Half Breed (India Tour, Soho Theatre); A Guide to Second Date Sex; Strong Arm (Edinburgh Festival: Underbelly Venue); Jungle Book (Birmingham Rep/Roundhouse); Ada Ada Ada (Proximus Lounge, Brussels); Brainstorm (Temporary Space); Putting Words in Your Mouth (Roundhouse); Take-Over Season, Storylab (Tricycle Theatre); NYT Playing Up Season (Arcola); Halfbreed (India Tour); Boys (Vaults Festival); and Nine Night (National Theatre: The Dorfman).
Fuel, co-producer
Fuel produces an adventurous, playful and significant program of work—live, digital, and across art forms—for a large and representative audience across the UK and beyond. We collaborate with outstanding artists with fresh perspectives and approaches who seek to explore our place in the world, expose our fears, understand our hopes for the future, create experiences which change us and in turn empower us to make change in the world around us.

Fuel Director Kate McGrath and Inua Ellams met in 2008, after Kate saw the beginnings of what became Inua’s first play, The 14th Tale, at BAC. Fuel helped Inua develop this debut and produced it, premiering it at the Edinburgh Festival, winning a Fringe First, touring it in the UK and internationally and presenting it at the National Theatre. Since that first meeting, Fuel has worked closely with Inua, producing Untitled, Knight Watch, The Long Song Goodbye, Black T-shirt Collection, The Spalding Suite, and Barber Shop Chronicles since its inception. Fuel previously toured Inua’s An Evening with an Immigrant where with poems, stories, and extracts from his plays, he tells about his life through the lens of his experience of immigration.

Upcoming Fuel projects include: Touching The Void, adapted by David Greig and directed by Tom Morris, opening at the Bristol Old Vic in September 2018.

National Theatre, co-producer
The National Theatre makes world-class theater that is entertaining, challenging, and inspiring. And we make it for everyone.

We stage up to 30 productions at our South Bank home each year, ranging from reimagined classics—such as Greek tragedy and Shakespeare—to modern masterpieces and new work by contemporary writers and theatre-makers. The work we make strives to be as open, as diverse, as collaborative and as national as possible. Much of that new work is researched and developed at the New Work Department: we are committed to nurturing innovative work from new writers, directors, creative artists and performers. Equally, we are committed to education, with a wide-ranging learning program for all ages in our Clore Learning Centre and in schools and communities across the UK.

The National’s work is also seen on tour throughout the UK and internationally, and in collaborations and co-productions with regional theaters. Popular shows transfer to the West End and occasionally to Broadway. Through National Theatre Live, we broadcast live performances to cinemas around the world.

National Theatre: On Demand. In Schools makes acclaimed, curriculum-linked productions free to stream on demand in every primary and secondary school in the country. Online, the NT offers a rich variety of innovative digital content on every aspect of theatre.

We do all we can to keep ticket prices affordable and to reach a wide audience, and use our public funding to maintain artistic risk-taking, accessibility and diversity.

West Yorkshire Playhouse, co-producer
Welcome to the home of incredible stories. There has been a Playhouse in Leeds for almost 50 years; from 1968 to 1990 as Leeds Playhouse and then with the opening of a brand new theatre on its current Quarry Hill site it became West Yorkshire Playhouse.

West Yorkshire Playhouse is a leading UK producing theatre; a cultural hub, a place where people gather to tell and share stories and to engage in world class theatre. We make work which is pioneering and relevant, seeking out the best companies and artists to create inspirational theatre in the heart of Yorkshire. From large scale spectacle, to intimate performance we develop and make work for our stages, for found spaces, for touring, for schools and community center. Our 2015-16 production of Chitty Chitty Bang Bang played to over 500,000 people across the country—our production of Beryl played to 100 in a village hall in Wickenby, Lincolnshire. We create work to entertain and inspire.

As dedicated collaborators, we work regularly with other theatres from across the UK, independent producers, and some of the most distinctive, original voices in theatre today. We develop work with established practitioners and find, nurture and support new voices that ought to be heard. We cultivate new talent by providing creative space for new writers, emerging directors,
companies and individual theatre makers to refine their practice.

Alongside our work for the stage we are dedicated to providing creative engagement opportunities that excite and stimulate. We build, run and sustain projects which reach out to everyone from refugee communities, to young people and students, to older communities and people with learning disabilities. At the Playhouse there is always a way to get involved.

Production credits
Globe built by Creative Metalwork.

This event was made possible by support from the British Council. The British Council is the UK’s international organisation for cultural relations and educational opportunities. We create friendly knowledge and understanding between the people of the UK and other countries. We do this by making a positive contribution to the UK and the countries we work with—changing lives by creating opportunities, building connections and engendering trust.

Upcoming Events

Tickets and information: live.stanford.edu

Mouthpiece
Quote Unquote Collective in association with Why Not Theatre
Jan 31–Feb 2 • 8:00PM
Bing Studio

Ghost Rings
Half Straddle
Feb 14–16 • 8:00PM
Bing Studio