

## ENGLISH TOURING THEATRE ANNOUNCES VICTOR OSHIN'S PROFESSIONAL DEBUT AS OTHELLO – WITH FURTHER TOUR DATES AND EDUCATION PROGRAMME

English Touring Theatre today announces **Victor Oshin** as Othello in the upcoming revival of **Richard Twyman's** critically acclaimed production of *Othello*, a co-production with **Oxford Playhouse** and **Shakespeare at the Tobacco Factory**. Full cast to be announced shortly.

Further dates are announced for the tour which opens at **Oxford Playhouse** on 20 September and tours to **Harrogate Theatre, Cast in Doncaster, Lawrence Batley Theatre, Everyman Theatre Cheltenham, Oldham Coliseum Theatre, The New Wolsey Theatre, Warwick Arts Centre, Northern Stage** and **Lighthouse Poole**.

ETT will continue its commitment to make touring theatre accessible to young people with their 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary ticket scheme **25 for £2.50** which will offer £2.50 tickets to Othello for young people aged 25 and under.

In addition **ETT's Othello Education Programme** will run alongside the tour offering students and teachers insight into Shakespeare's Othello and their critically acclaimed production. The programme will provide education packs, workshops, pre and post show talks with members of the company, as well as additional resources including podcasts and recorded footage.

**English Touring Theatre** said today, *'We are thrilled to announce the full tour of our critically acclaimed production of Othello which will visit 10 cities this Autumn, continuing our commitment to touring exceptional work to audiences across England.'*

*Alongside the production, the Othello Project and our £2.50 tickets for under 25's will ensure that we continue to reach new and diverse audiences.*

*We are delighted to be working with Victor Oshin in the title role. Victor is a dynamic actor of huge potential and we look forward to giving audiences across the country the chance to see him in his professional stage debut. We'll soon be announcing the full company of actors that he will be working alongside to bring this masterful play to life.*

**English Touring Theatre, Oxford Playhouse and Shakespeare at the Tobacco Factory present**  
**Othello**  
By **William Shakespeare**

UK tour 18 September – 24 November 2018  
**Press night: 20 September at Oxford Playhouse**

Director: **Richard Twyman**; Designer: **Georgia Lowe**; Associate Designer: **Alex Berry**  
Composer & Sound Designer: **Giles Thomas**; Lighting Designer: **Matt Graham**  
Movement Director: **Lanre Malaolu**; Creative Advisor: **Abdul-Rehman Malik**  
Casting Director: **Annelie Powell CDG**

*Othello* is one of Shakespeare's most startlingly contemporary plays – a masterful depiction of a life torn apart by prejudice.

Venice; a western colonial power employs the newly-married Othello, a Muslim general, to lead their army against the impending Turkish invasion. The strain of fitting into a society riven by discrimination and fear soon take their toll. Manipulated by Iago, Othello's life quickly unravels as he turns on everything he holds dear.

Originally co-produced with Tobacco Factory Theatres.

**Victor Oshin** plays Othello. This marks his professional stage debut.

**Richard Twyman** is Artistic Director of English Touring Theatre for which he has directed *Othello* (also Shakespeare at the Tobacco Factory/Tobacco Factory Theatres). Prior to this he was Associate Director (International) at the Royal Court Theatre between 2013-2016, where his directing work included *Torn*, *Harrogate* (also HighTide and UK tour), *You For Me For You*, *Fireworks*, *The Djinn of Eidgah* and *PIIGS*. His other theatre credits include *Les Liaisons Dangereuses* (Tokyo) *Henry IV Pt II* (RSC), *Ditch* (Old Vic Tunnels and HighTide), *Dr Marigold & Mr Chops* (Theatre Royal Bath and UK tour), *Sixty-Six Books* (Bush Theatre) and *Give Me Your Hand* (Irish Rep, New York – nomination for the Drama Desk Award 2012 for Outstanding Unique Theatrical Experience). Between 2003 and 2008 he worked at the Royal Shakespeare Company, where he was Associate Director to Michael Boyd on the multi-award winning Histories Cycle and for which he directed *Henry IV Pt II*.

## ETT's Othello Education Programme

Through an exploration of their critically acclaimed production of *Othello*, **ETT's Othello Education Programme** offers students and teachers the opportunity to gain an exciting insight into one of Shakespeare's most startlingly contemporary plays.

The programme offers an education pack, workshops, talks and other resources including podcasts and recorded footage. The lessons and activities provided are specifically designed to support KS3-4 students studying the play and who have attended the production, and cover themes including Moorish identity, women's roles in the play and the setting and staging.

### Education Pack

Click [here](#) to access the Othello Education Pack – the pack includes discussion topics, exercises and links to podcasts and video footage.

### Workshops

Workshops are designed to enrich and expand on the themes discussed in the Othello Education Pack. Each workshop runs for 2 hours, for up to 30 students, and is run by a specially trained facilitator. The workshops can be held at your venue at any time to suit your schedule.

### **Pre and post show talks**

There will be free pre-show talks, with the production's Assistant Director and ETT's Producer, and post-show talks with the company. The dates for these can be found at:

[www.ett.org.uk/whats-on/othello/access](http://www.ett.org.uk/whats-on/othello/access)

If you are unable to attend the pre or post-show talk but would like to discuss how you can access these digitally or alternatively arrange an additional talk for a fee then please do get in touch.

To book a workshop or other enquiries regarding ETT's Othello Education Programme please contact Bridie: [bdonaghy@ett.org.uk](mailto:bdonaghy@ett.org.uk)

### **Tour Dates**

#### **Oxford Playhouse**

18 September – 22 September

**Press night: 20 September**

Box Office: **01865 305305** / [www.oxfordplayhouse.com](http://www.oxfordplayhouse.com)

#### **Harrogate Theatre**

25 – 29 September

Box Office: **01423 502 116** / [www.harrogatetheatre.co.uk](http://www.harrogatetheatre.co.uk)

#### **Cast in Doncaster**

2 – 6 October

Box Office: **01302 303 959** / [www.castindoncaster.com](http://www.castindoncaster.com)

#### **Lawrence Batley Theatre**

9 – 13 October

Box Office: **01484 430528** / [www.thelbt.org](http://www.thelbt.org)

#### **Everyman Theatre Cheltenham**

16 – 20 October

Box Office: **01242 572573** / [www.everymantheatre.org.uk](http://www.everymantheatre.org.uk)

#### **Oldham Coliseum Theatre**

23 – 27 October

Box Office: **0161 624 2829** / [www.coliseum.org.uk](http://www.coliseum.org.uk)

#### **Wolsey Theatre Ipswich**

30 October – 3 November

Box Office: **01473 295900** / [www.wolseytheatre.co.uk](http://www.wolseytheatre.co.uk)

#### **Warwick Arts Centre**

6 – 10 November

Box Office: **024 7652 4524** / [www.warwickartscentre.co.uk](http://www.warwickartscentre.co.uk)

#### **Northern Stage**

13 - 17 November

Box Office: **0191 230 5151** / [www.northernstage.co.uk](http://www.northernstage.co.uk)

#### **Lighthouse Poole**

20 – 24 November

Box Office: **01202 280000** / [www.lighthousepoole.co.uk](http://www.lighthousepoole.co.uk)

### **Notes to Editors**

**English Touring Theatre** is one of the UK's leading touring companies, winning the UK Theatre Awards Best Touring Production in 2014, 2015 and 2016. ETT works with exciting artists to stage an eclectic mix of new and classic work for audiences throughout the UK and internationally; theatre that is thrilling, popular and engaged in the contemporary world. At the heart of everything ETT does is the passionately held belief that everyone, wherever they are in the country, deserves to have access to world class theatre. In 2017 ETT toured to 40 venues throughout the UK, with productions including Sam Holcroft's *Rules for Living*, *A Streetcar Named Desire* directed by the RTST Sir Peter Hall Director Award-winning Chelsea Walker, Richard Twyman's critically acclaimed production of *Othello* and the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary tour of *The Weir*, which finished its nationwide tour this year, winning the Manchester Theatre Award for Best Visiting Production. 2018 sees the company celebrate its 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

[www.ett.org.uk](http://www.ett.org.uk)

@ETTtweet

**Oxford Playhouse** is a theatre for everyone. Oxford Playhouse and its Burton Taylor Studio present and produce a wide range of live performance. The programme includes the best of British and international drama, family shows, contemporary dance and music, student and amateur shows, comedy, lectures and poetry. They also create live performance in Oxford. The Playhouse produces and tours its own shows, hosts Artists in Residence and presents Playhouse Plays Out, an ongoing series of off-site events which happen at locations across the county. The theatre's Learning team works with over 15,000 people each year through post show discussions, workshops, work experience, holiday schemes, a youth theatre and a young people's theatre company.

[www.oxfordplayhouse.com](http://www.oxfordplayhouse.com)

@OxfordPlayhouse

**Shakespeare at the Tobacco Factory (stf)** is an international touring ensemble based in Bristol producing Shakespeare and other classic work. Since their very first productions in 2000 of *King Lear* and *A Midsummer Night's Dream* directed by Founder, Andrew Hilton, stf has become renowned for its critically acclaimed Shakespeare. The Company was awarded a Peter Brook Empty Space Award in 2001 with a further nomination in 2014. Guest directors have included Jonathan Miller who directed *Hamlet* in 2008, Polina Kalinina who directed *Romeo and Juliet* in 2015 and Richard Twyman who directed *Othello* in 2017. stf are pleased to welcome Elizabeth Freestone in 2018 whose forthcoming production of *Henry V* will premiere at Bath's Ustinov Studio 21 June – 21 July with a fourth visit to Neuss Shakespeare Festival in Germany, before a new autumn touring schedule including Tobacco Factory Theatres, 12 September – 6 October and on tour in the UK, 8 October – 10 November.

[www.stf-theatre.org.uk](http://www.stf-theatre.org.uk)

@ShakespeareatTF

### **The Othello Project**

To accompany the UK tour of *Othello*, ETT, alongside journalist and activist **Abdul-Rehman Malik**, will curate a multi-art festival in response to the production at each venue. The festivals will give a platform to some of the most exciting Muslim artists and writers working in the UK today, shining a light on the contemporary relevance of the play, breaking down barriers to Shakespeare and championing cross-cultural dialogue amongst communities. The project will feature work from

spoken word artist, **Tanya Muneera Williams** and is presented in association with **Amal – a project of the Said Foundation**. Further details about the festivals will be announced soon.

For further information, please contact:

**Kate Morley** 07970 465 648 / [kate@katemorleypr.com](mailto:kate@katemorleypr.com)

**Freya Cowdry** 07944 539 508 / [freya@katemorleypr.com](mailto:freya@katemorleypr.com)