

ENGLISH TOURING THEATRE ANNOUNCES FULL CAST FOR OTHELLO

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**; Fight Director: **John Sandeman**

Creative Advisor: **Abdul-Rehman Malik**; Casting Director: **Annelie Powell CDG**

English Touring Theatre today announces the full cast for the upcoming revival of **Richard Twyman's** critically acclaimed production of *Othello*, a co-production with **Oxford Playhouse** and **Shakespeare at the Tobacco Factory**. **Richard Twyman** directs **Kitty Archer** (Desdemona), **Philip Correia** (Cassio), **Naby Dakhli** (Montano), **James Ellis** (Duke), **James Godden** (Soldier/Senator), **Paul McEwan** (Iago) **Victor Oshin** (Othello) and **Kelly Price** (Emilia) joining returning cast members **Chris Bianchi** (Brabantio), **Hayat Kamille** (Bianca), **Brian Lonsdale** (Roderigo) and **John Sandeman** (Lodovico).

Othello 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**.

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.

In addition ETT will run *The Othello Project*, where journalist and activist **Abdul-Rehman Malik**, will curate a multi-art festival in response to the production at each venue giving a platform to some of the most exciting Muslim artists and writers working in the UK today. Further details to be announced.

Kitty Archer plays Desdemona. Her theatre credits include *One for Sorrow* (Royal Court Theatre).

Chris Bianchi returns to the cast to play Brabantio. His theatre credits include *Waiting for Godot* (Tobacco Factory/UK tour), *All's Well That Ends Well* (Shakespeare at the Tobacco Factory/UK tour), *Tartuffe*, *Hamlet*, *The School for Scandal*, *Arcadia*, *As You Like It*, *Richard III*, *King Lear*, *The Cherry Orchard*, *Antony and Cleopatra*, *Julius Caesar* (Shakespeare at the Tobacco Factory), *The Inn at Lydda* (Shakespeare's Globe), *Romeo and Juliet* (Rose Theatre Kingston), *Thérèse Raquin*, *Lullabies of Broadmoor Quartet*, *The French Detective and The Blue Dog* (Theatre Royal Bath), *The Boy Who Cried Wolf!*, *The Rivals*, *4 Toys in A Tent*, *The Boy and The Baby*, *No Loud Bangs*, *Penetrator* (Bristol Old Vic), *Prometheus Bound* (Young Vic), *Filumena* (Piccadilly Theatre), *King Lear*, *The Provok'd Wife* and *The Seagull* (The Old Vic). His television credits include *The Cafe* and *Historyonics*.

Philip Correia plays Cassio. His theatre credits include *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Holy Warriors*, *Antony and Cleopatra* (Shakespeare's Globe/international tour), *Keepers of Infinite Space* (Park Theatre), *The Pitmen Painters* (National Theatre), *Judgement Day* (The Print Room), *The Syndicate* (Chichester Festival Theatre), *Bus Stop* (New Vic/Stephen Joseph Theatre), *The Cherry Orchard* (Birmingham Rep), *Country Music* (West Yorkshire Playhouse), *Romeo and Juliet* (Jermyn Street Theatre), *Hobson's Choice* (Chichester Festival Theatre/UK tour), *The History Boys* (National Theatre/Wyndham's Theatre/UK tour) and *The Merry Wives of Windsor* (RSC). His television credits include *Atlantis*, *Inspector George Gently*, *Vera* and *Canoe Man*; and for film, *The Hunters* and *Bliss!*.

Naby Dakhli plays Montano. His theatre credits include *Falsestuff* (Teatre Nacional de Catalunya), *Electra* (La Cave a Théatr) and *She Never Talks About Love* (Les Échantillons). His film credits include *Gemini* and *Traces of Sandalwood*.

James Ellis plays Duke. His theatre credits include *This is This* (Arts Theatre), *Titus Andronicus*, *Timon of Athens* (Cambridge Shakespeare Festival), *Romeo and Juliet* (Broadway Studio Theatre), *Aphra* (The Space), *The Comedy of Errors* (Rose Theatre Kingston). His television credits include *Elizabeth I*; and for film, *Friends of Money*.

James Godden plays Soldier/Senator. This marks his professional stage debut.

Hayat Kamil returns to play Bianca. Her theatre credits include *If Chloe Can* (National Theatre) and *Waiting for Summer* (Etcetera Theatre). Her film credits include *Murder on the Orient Express*.

Brian Lonsdale returns to play Roderigo. His theatre credits include *My Romantic History*, *The Boy On The Swing* (Live Theatre), *Pound Look* (Gala Theatre), *Noises Off* (Nottingham Playhouse/Nuffield Southampton Theatres), *Martyr* (Unicorn Theatre), *War Horse* (National Theatre), *Diary of a Football Nobody* (Nottingham Playhouse), *The Pitmen Painters* (Duchess Theatre/UK tour/ The Manhattan Theatre Club, Broadway), *Pandora* (Arcola Theatre), *Bedroom Farce* (West Yorkshire Playhouse), *St George and The Dragon* and *Jason and The Argonauts* (Warwick Arts Centre). His film credits include *The Other Possibility* and *Goal!*.

Paul McEwan plays Iago. His theatre credits include *The Invisible Man* (Queen's Theatre Hornchurch), *The Seven Acts of Mercy*, *The Two Noble Kinsmen*, *Richard III*, *La Lupa* (RSC), *Inkheart* (HOME, Manchester), *A Doll's House* (Sherman Theatre), *but i cd only whisper* (Arcola Theatre), and *Man in the Middle*, *Decade* and *The Night Before Christmas* (Theatre503). His television credits include *Peaky Blinders*, *Strictly Confidential* and as series regular Shane Doyle in *Emmerdale*.

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

Kelly Price plays Emilia. Her theatre credits include *The Secret Diary of Adrian Mole Aged 13 ¾ - The Musical* (Menier Chocolate Factory), *A Little Night Music* (Menier Chocolate Factory/Garrick Theatre – Olivier Award nomination for Best Supporting Performance in a Musical), *The Woman in White* (Palace Theatre), *Mamma Mia!* (Prince Edward Theatre), *It's a Wonderful Life* (Avalon), *Guys and Dolls* (Piccadilly Theatre), *Desperately Seeking Susan* (Novello Theatre), *Chicago* (Cambridge Theatre), *The Misanthrope* (Comedy Theatre), *Zack, That Day We Sang*, *Little Shop of Horrors* (Royal Exchange Manchester), *Stepping Out* (Salisbury Playhouse), *Boeing Boeing*, *Company* (Sheffield Crucible), *Perchance to Dream* (Finborough Theatre), *One Man Two Guvnors* (National Theatre tour) and *All the Angels: Handel and the First Messiah* (Shakespeare's Globe Theatre). Her television work includes *Endeavour*, *Waterloo Road*, *Accused – Helen's Story*, *Massive* and *Kombat Opera*; and for film, *The Sense of An Ending* and *A Bunch of Amateurs*.

John Sandeman returns to play Lodovico. His theatre credits include *All's Well That Ends Well*, *Hamlet*, *Richard III* (Shakespeare at the Tobacco Factory), *Romeo and Juliet* (The Lord Chamberlain's Men), *Berlin Kabaret* (Brighton Festival Fringe/Soho Theatre), *The Massacre at Paris* (Shakespeare's Globe), *Beggar's Bush* (Latitude Festival), *King Lear* (Shakespeare at the Tobacco Factory), and *Elegies for Angels*, *Punks* and *Raging Queens* (Shaw Theatre). His film credits include *Seven Lucky Gods*.

Richard Twyman is Artistic Director of English Touring Theatre. 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 Djinnns of Eidgah* and *PIIGS*. His other theatre credits include *Les Liaisons Dangereuses* (Tokyo) *Henry IV Part 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*.

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.

Tour Dates

Oxford Playhouse

18 September – 22 September

Press night: 20 September

Box Office: **01865 305305** / www.oxfordplayhouse.com

Harrogate Theatre

25 – 29 September

Box Office: **01423 502 116** / www.harrogatetheatre.co.uk

Cast in Doncaster

2 – 6 October

Box Office: **01302 303 959** / www.castindoncaster.com

Lawrence Batley Theatre

9– 13 October

Box Office: **01484 430528** / www.thelbt.org

Everyman Theatre Cheltenham

16– 20 October

Box Office: **01242 572573** / www.everymantheatre.org.uk

Oldham Coliseum Theatre

23– 27 October

Box Office: **0161 624 2829** / www.coliseum.org.uk

Wolsey Theatre Ipswich

30 October – 3 November

Box Office: **01473 295900** / www.wolseytheatre.co.uk

Warwick Arts Centre

6 – 10 November

Box Office: **024 7652 4524** / www.warwickartscentre.co.uk

Northern Stage

13 - 17 November

Box Office: **0191 230 5151** / www.northernstage.co.uk

Lighthouse Poole

20 – 24 November

Box Office: **01202 280000** / 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*, the Olivier Award winning *Nell Gwynn*, Richard Twyman's critically acclaimed production of *Othello* and the 20th 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 25th anniversary having begun the year with a critically acclaimed production of *A Streetcar Named Desire* directed by the 2017 RTST Sir Peter Hall Director Award-winning Chelsea Walker. *Othello* will tour the UK again visiting 10 venues and in the autumn of this year ETT will co-produce *Dealing with Clair* by Martin Crimp, directed by Richard Twyman with the Orange Tree Theatre in Richmond.

In 2019 ETT will produce a major revival of *Equus* by Peter Shaffer in a co-production with Theatre Royal Stratford East, directed by award winning director Ned Bennett as well as collaborating again with the Orange Tree Theatre on the world premiere of *Cougar* by Rose Lewenstein, directed by Chelsea Walker.

www.ett.org.uk

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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

@OxfordPlayhouse

Shakespeare at the Tobacco Factory (stf) is a touring ensemble based in Bristol, producing Shakespeare and other classic work. The company was founded in 1999 by Andrew Hilton. 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's current, acclaimed production of *Henry V* directed by Elizabeth Freestone premiered in June 2018 at The Ustinov Studio, Bath Theatre Royal as part of Jonathan Church's Summer Season ahead of an extensive UK autumn tour.

The highly successful 2017 co-production, *Othello* (Tobacco Factory Theatres in Bristol and English Touring Theatre on tour), embarks on a further 2018 UK autumn tour in co-production with English Touring Theatre, Oxford Playhouse and Shakespeare at the Tobacco Factory (**stf**). Abraham Popoola who played Othello in stf's 2017 co-production went on to win the Stage Debut Award 2017 for 'Best Actor in a Play' for his performance.

2018 marked the company's fourth visit to the Neuss Shakespeare Festival as we presented *Henry V* in June. In 2016 *Hamlet* directed by Andrew Hilton visited the Craiova International Festival in Romania.

www.stf-theatre.org.uk

@ShakespeareatTF

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