FULL CASTING ANNOUNCED FOR THEATRE ROYAL STRATFORD EAST’S  
KING HEDLEY II

Written by August Wilson  
Directed by Nadia Fall  
Set and Costume Design by Peter McKintosh  
Lighting Design by Howard Harrison  
Fight Directors Rachel Bown-Williams and Ruth Cooper-Brown of Rc-Annie Ltd

Friday 17 May 2019 – Saturday 15 June 2019  
Press night: Thursday 23 May 2019

Theatre Royal Stratford East is delighted to announce the full cast for King Hedley II, which is directed by Artistic Director Nadia Fall. Joining Lenny Henry, who is appearing as smooth-talking hustler Elmore, are Dexter Flanders (Mister), Martina Laird (Ruby), Aaron Pierre (King Hedley), Cherrelle Skeete (Tonya) and Leo Wringer (Stool Pigeon).

1980s Pittsburgh, a city in decay. Against the backdrop of Reagan’s America, King, an ex-con, is trying to rebuild his life and start a family.

He’s got hopes and dreams of opening a video store and building a new life. If only he can get ten thousand dollars together, if only he can catch a break. In his dusty backyard he plots and plans with his friend Mister, but is this all a pipe dream?

August Wilson’s touching and angry King Hedley II is a quest for redemption for one man and a whole community.

Nadia Fall, Artistic Director of Theatre Royal Stratford East said:

“I am thrilled to announce such a brilliant cast for what is surely one of August Wilson’s most hard-hitting plays, a story which is as relevant today as when it was first written. This is the first time a Wilson play has been performed at Theatre Royal Stratford East and it feels like a perfect fit.”

Dexter Flanders plays Mister. His theatre credits include Queen Margaret (Royal Exchange Theatre); A Streetcar Named Desire (ETT); King Lear (National Theatre); Clybourne Park, Scuttlers, A Bitter Herb and Loveplay (RADA). His Television and film credits include Not Going Out, Home Alone 2 and Kat & The Band.

Lenny Henry plays Elmore. Lenny has been a comedian since the age of 16. He has risen from being a cult star on children’s television to becoming one of Britain’s best-known comedians, as well as a writer, philanthropist and award-winning actor. In recent years he has starred in The Comedy of Errors at the National Theatre, Fences at the Duchess Theatre, and in 2017 he made his Donmar Warehouse debut in The Resistible Rise of Arturo Ui. He has also been a Trustee of the National Theatre since February 2016. His television credits include Broadchurch, The Syndicate and the
biographic Danny and The Human Zoo. Henry’s Production Company, Douglas Road, has achieved success in partnership with Burning Bright on the recently acclaimed The Commonwealth Kid documentary. As a co-founder of Comic Relief, in 2018 he was delighted to announce that the British Public had donated over £1billion to Comic Relief over the last 30 years. He is a strong advocate for diversity, taking his work on the subject to Cannes in order to deliver the Keynote speech launching the idea of offering tax breaks for diversity, as well as talks given in Rome to the global TV and film insider audience. Henry was chosen by Baroness Doreen Lawrence to interview three beneficiaries of the Stephen Lawrence trust at his memorial in 2018.

**Martina Laird** plays Ruby. Martina returns to Theatre Royal Stratford East following Shebeen in 2018. Her other credits include Shebeen (Nottingham Playhouse/Theatre Royal Stratford East); Shakespeare Trilogy (Donmar Warehouse); Moon on a Rainbow Shawl (National Theatre/Talawa Theatre Company); The White Devil, Troilus and Cressida and Three Hours After Marriage (The Royal Shakespeare Company); Who Cares (Royal Court Theatre); The Five Wives Of Maurice Pinder (National Theatre); All the Little Things We Crushed and Liquid Gold (The Almeida); Breath Boom (The Royal Court) and Othello (Donmar Warehouse). Her television credits include EastEnders, Blitz, Casualty, The Bay, Epiphany, Jericho, The Dumping Ground, London’s Burning, Shameless, The Bill and Peak Practice.

**Aaron Pierre** plays King Hedley. Aaron is a graduate from LAMDA and made his theatre debut in Othello as Cassio opposite André Holland and Mark Rylance at The Globe in 2018. His television credits include Krypton, The A Word, Prime Suspect 1973 and Britannia.

**Cherrelle Skeete** plays Tonya. Her theatre credits include A Small Place (Gate Theatre); Fun Home (Young Vic); The Seagull and Jack and Beanstalk (Lyric Hammersmith); Harry Potter and the Cursed Child (Palace Theatre); Three Days in the Country and The Amen Corner (National Theatre); Wind in the Willows (Royal and Derngate); And I and Silence (Finborough Theatre); The Lion King (Lyceum Theatre) and Joey Boy (The MAC). Her Television credits include Silent Witness, Doctors, Danny and the Human Zoo, The Five, Ordinary Lies and Call the Midwife.

**Leo Wringer** plays Stool Pigeon. His recent theatre credits include The Fantastic Follies of Mrs Rich, King Lear and Romeo and Juliet (RSC); Our Lady of Kibeho, Soul (Royal & Derngate/Hackney Empire); As you like it, Anthony and Cleopatra (National Theatre); A Midsummer Night’s Dream (Noel Coward Theatre); Father Comes Home From The Wars, Search and Destroy (Royal Court); Julius Caesar, Taming of the Shrew, Titus Andronicus and Othello (Shakespeare at the Tobacco Factory); Perseverance Drive (Bush Theatre); The Comedy of Errors (RSC Tour/Young Vic); Othello (Nottingham Playhouse); Twelfth Night, More Grimm Tales, As I Lay Dying and Blackta (Young Vic); Othello, Charlie Lavender (Southwark Playhouse); Two Horsemen (Bush Theatre, Time Out Award); Hamlet (Young Vic/Japan); The Winter’s Tale (Complicité, International & UK Tour); Divine Right (Birmingham Rep); The Odyssey (Gate Theatre); My Children! My Africa! (Salisbury Playhouse) and Medea (Abbey Theatre/Queens). His film credits include The Kitchen Toto, The Changeling, Night Hawks and television credits Urban Myths – The Trial of Joan Collins, Heirs of the Night, Black Earth Rising, The Moonstone, Gangsta Granny, Law and Order, Silent Witness, Mad Men and Specialists, Escape from Kampala, Canterbury Tales, Rough Crossings, Judge John Deed, Casualty and Rebus.

**August Wilson** (1945–2005) was an American playwright. He won a Pulitzer Prize and a Tony Award for his play Fences and earned a second Pulitzer Prize for The Piano Lesson. His other notable works include Seven Guitars, Gem of the Ocean, Jitney and Ma Rainey’s Black Bottom.

**Nadia Fall** trained at Goldsmiths College (MA Directing) and on the NT Studio's Directors programme. Nadia directed The Village as her first show as Artistic Director of Theatre Royal
Stratford East. Her other directing credits include *The Suicide*, *Our Country’s Good*, *Dara*, *Chewing Gum Dreams*, *Home*, *Hymn*, *The Doctor’s Dilemma* (National Theatre); *Hir*, *Disgraced* (Bush Theatre); *R and D* (Hampstead Theatre); *Way Upstream* (Chichester Festival Theatre); *Hobson’s Choice* (Regent’s Park Open Air Theatre); *How Was It For You?* (Unicorn Theatre); *Sticks & Stones* (Polka Theatre); *The Maids* (Lyric Hammersmith); *Miss Julie* (Croydon Warehouse Theatre) and *Wild Turkey* (Site Specific). As Associate Director, *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time* (Gielgud Theatre), *Collaborators* and *The Habit of Art* (National Theatre), and as Staff Director, *Rocket to the Moon*, *Really Old, Like Forty Five*, *Phèdre* and *Much Ado About Nothing* (National Theatre). Fall has directed at Guildhall School of Music and Drama, the Unicorn Theatre and led participation initiatives with partners such as the Young Vic, Clean Break, Soho Theatre and the Royal Court. She is also an acting coach, supporting professional actors for film and stage.

**NOTES TO EDITORS**

About Theatre Royal Stratford East

Since 1884, **Theatre Royal Stratford East**, the historic producing house in the heart of London’s East End has spearheaded diverse work and championed often marginalised stories on its stage. Many leading actors, writers and directors have been part of the Theatre Royal Stratford East family including Meera Syal, Barbara Windsor, Don Warrington, Indhu Rubasingham, Tanika Gupta, Roy Williams and Cynthia Erivo to name but a few. Now with Artistic Director Nadia Fall at the helm, Theatre Royal Stratford East presents a bold programme of reimagined classics, timely revivals and ground-breaking new work.

Box Office 020 8534 0310 | [www.stratfordeast.com](http://www.stratfordeast.com)

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**SHOW INFO**

**Previews:** Fri 17 – Wed 22 May 2019  
**Press Performance:** Thu 23 May 2019  
**End date:** Sat 15 June 2019  
**Time:** 7.30pm (matinees at 2.30pm)  
**Price:** From £10  
**Runtime:** TBC  
**Age Guidance:** 14+  

**Concessions:** Limited number of £10 tickets for under 26s. If you can’t attend a show without the support of a companion or carer, you can get a companion ticket free of charge.  

**Newham Discount Night:** Mon 20 – Wed 22 May (There are limited number of £5 tickets available for first time visitors who work or live in Newham. Proof of ID is required. Newham Discount Night tickets can only be purchased in person or over the phone (020 8534 0310).)
Access performances:
BSL Performance – Thu 06 Jun, 7.30pm
Captioned Performance – Fri 07 Jun, 7.30pm
Audio Described Performance – Sat 08 Jun, 2.30pm

EQUUS
An English Touring Theatre and Theatre Royal Stratford East co-production
Directed by Ned Bennett
Previews: Fri 15 – Wed 20 Feb 2019
Press night: Thu 21 Feb, 7pm
End date: Sat 23 Mar 2019
Time: 7.30pm (matinees 2.30pm)
Price: From £10
Runtime: TBC
Age Guidance: 14+
Concessions: £10 tickets available for under 26s. If you can’t attend a show without the support of a companion or carer, you can get a companion ticket free of charge.

Newham Discount Night: Fri 15 – Wed 20 Feb, 7.30pm (There are limited number of £5 tickets available for first time visitors who work or live in Newham. Proof of ID is required. Newham Discount Night tickets can only be purchased in person or over the phone (020 8534 0310).)

Access performances:
BSL Performance – Thu 14 Mar, 7.30pm
Captioned Performance – Fri 15 Mar, 7.30pm
Audio Described Performance – Sat 16 Mar, 2.30pm

NOUGHTS & CROSSES
Based on the novel by Malorie Blackman
Adapted by Sabrina Mahfouz
Directed by Esther Richardson
Start date: Wed 24 Apr
End date: Sat 4 May 2019
Time: 7.30pm (matinees 2pm)
Price: From £10
Runtime: TBC
Age Guidance: 12+
Concessions: £10 tickets available for under 26s. If you can’t attend a show without the support of a companion or carer, you can get a companion ticket free of charge.

NOYE’S FLUDDE
Music by Benjamin Britten
Directed by Lyndsey Turner
Previews: Mon 1 Jul – Tues 2 Jul 2019
End date: Sat 13 May 2019
Press night: Wed 3 Jul 2019
Time: 7pm (with selected performances at 11am and 2pm)
Price: From £10
Runtime: TBC
Age Guidance: 5+
Concessions: £10 tickets available for under 26s. If you can’t attend a show without the support of a companion or carer, you can get a companion ticket free of charge.
Newham Discount Night: Mon 1 and Tue 2 Jul (There are limited number of £5 tickets available for first time visitors who work or live in Newham. Proof of ID is required. Newham Discount Night tickets can only be purchased in person or over the phone (020 8534 0310).)