

A Sheffield Theatres and Utopia Theatre Production

HERE'S WHAT SHE SAID TO ME

World Premiere

Written by
Oladipo Agboluaje

Conceived and directed by
Mojisola Elufowoju



Photography by George Eyo

Fri 30 October - Sat 14 November

CRUCIBLE

 Utopia Theatre

**SHEFFIELD
THEATRES**



WELCOME

It's always a pleasure to introduce audiences to new shows, but welcoming you back through our doors this time feels extra special. It's been over seven months since the Crucible did what it was built for, and watching talented actors and beautiful writing reinvigorate the space has been deeply moving. We are delighted to be working with Sheffield Theatres' resident company, Utopia Theatre, to bring you the world premiere of **Here's What She Said to Me** on the Crucible stage.

This show is the first in our Together Season - the chance for us to come back together to experience brilliant live theatre. Next comes three of Alan Bennett's **Talking Heads**, which bring **Imelda Staunton, Maxine Peake, and Tamsin Greig** to Sheffield, as well as the return of **Operation Crucible** and **Far Gone**; two powerful stories from local artists. And of course, the festive period just wouldn't be the same without our favourite dame, with **Damian's Pop-Up Panto** coming just in time to save Christmas.

We are so pleased to be working with such fantastic theatre artists to bring you a season of shows – a mixture of home-grown and national hits, stories of resilience and stories of joy. Thank you for coming to this performance, for supporting our work, and for making sure we can continue to make bold and brilliant theatre. We couldn't be more excited to be back.

Robert Hastie
Artistic Director

First performed at the Crucible Theatre Sheffield on
Fri 30 October 2020.

Sheffield Theatres Crucible
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ENGLAND**

CAST BIOGRAPHIES



Kiké Brimah
Aramide

Kiké trained at ArtsEd London School of Acting studying a BA Acting for Film & TV.

Theatre credits include:

Custody (Faith Drama Productions); *Some Other Mother* (Traverse Theatre - James Tait Black Awards Nomination).

Television credits include:

Death In Paradise; *Noughts And Crosses*; *Doctors*.

Film credits include:

Bride Wars; *Love Type D*; *The Riot Act*; *Extra Time*.

Other credits include:

Dybbuk, *Natives* (Rehearsed Readings - Boundless Theatre).



Estella Daniels
Omotola

For Sheffield Theatres, credits include:

Racing Demon.

Theatre credits include:

Dirty Butterfly (Young Vic); *Iya Ile* (Soho Theatre); *Counting Stars* (Theatre Royal).

Television credits include:

Da Vinci's Demons; *Death in Paradise*; *Sinbad*.



Ayo-Dele Edwards

Agbeke

Ayo-Dele trained at Mountview Theatre School.

Theatre credits include:

Becoming (Stratford Circus Arts Centre); *The Secret Lives of Baba Segi's Wives* (Arcola Theatre/Elufowoju Jr Ensemble/Lagos); *Iyalode of Eti* (Duchess of Malfi) (Utopia Theatre/Leeds Playhouse/Lagos); *Voices of Change* (NitroVox); *No Man Is An Island* (Tangle); *The Estate* (Tiata Fahodzi/Soho Theatre).

Choral Arrangement credits include:

Sold – The Mary Prince Story (Kuumba Nia Arts/Northwall Theatre); *The Secret Lives of Baba Segi's Wives* (Arcola Theatre); *Custody* (Ovalhouse); *The Burial* (Stonecrabs Theatre Company/The Albany); *The Hotel Cerise* (Theatre Royal Stratford East); *Iya Ile* (Tiata Fahodzi/Soho Theatre).

Radio credits include:

Fake Heiress; *The Secret Lives of Baba Segi's Wives*; *Death and the King's Horseman*; *Stealing Souls*; *The Proposition*; *Nature Calls*; *Loveness and Me*; *The Estate*.

Films include:

Wake Up; *The Cowfoot Prince* (Vocalist/songwriter).

CREATIVE BIOGRAPHIES

Oladipo Agboluaje

Writer

Oladipo trained in Theatre Arts at the University of Benin, and has been a writer in residence at New Wolsey Theatre, Soho Theatre and the National Theatre. He has taught creative writing and post-colonial theatre at London Metropolitan University, Florida State University – London campus, Goldsmiths University of London and University of Greenwich. He is a Fellow of the Royal Literary Fund, and the Assistant General Secretary of the African Theatre Association (AfTA).

Theatre credits include:

Early Morning (Oval House Theatre, South London); *Mother Courage* (adaptation with Eclipse Theatre/UK Tour); *Knock Against My Heart* (Redbridge Drama Centre); *Immune* (Royal & Derngate, Northampton with Plymouth Theatre Royal/Tour); *The Estate* (Soho Theatre); *Iyale – The First Wife* (Soho Theatre); *The Christ of Coldharbour Lane* (Soho Theatre); *The Hounding of David Oluwale* (adaptation – West Yorkshire Playhouse); *Threshold* (Jepson Theatre, University of Richmond); *The Garbage King* (adaptation at Unicorn Theatre); *New Nigerians* (Arcola Theatre).

Mojisola Elufowoju

Director

Mojisola is the CEO and Artistic Director of Utopia Theatre. Her work includes devising and curating Utopia Theatre Creative Hub; staff director at The National Theatre on *Three Sisters*; recipient of the 2017 Opera Awards Foundation bursary; founding member of Mosaic Opera Collective; guest director at the London Academy of Dramatic Arts and London South Bank University.

She has recently launched a new initiative, Utopia Theatre Creative Hub, bringing African theatre experts together to offer courses, workshops and events online.

For Sheffield Theatres, credits include:

Far Gone.

Theatre credits include:

How Far Apart? (Work In Progress - Arcola Theatre and Sheffield Hallam Performance Lab); *The Bogus Woman* (Camden People's Theatre); *On Missing* (The Cockpit Theatre); *The Pied Piper Of Chibok Opera* (Opera North Residency and Arcola Theatre); *I am David Oluwale* (Work In Progress - Leeds Playhouse); *Iyalode of Eti* (Leeds Playhouse); *London Tales* (Rich Mix and Lost Theatre); *This Is Our Chance* (Cultural Centre Calabar, Nigeria); *The Shepherd's Chameleon* (CLF Art Cafe) House of Corrections (Riverside Studios); *Wake Me When It's Time* (York Theatre Royal).

Amanda Stoodley

Designer

Amanda trained at Liverpool Institute for Performing Arts and graduated in 2009 with a first class honours degree in theatre and performance design. Amanda previously studied and worked in illustration, graphic, interior & stained glass design.

For Sheffield Theatres, credits include:

Tribes; The Effect; A Raisin In The Sun (Eclipse/Sheffield Theatres/ Belgrade Theatre/UK Tour).

Theatre credits include:

Queen Margaret, Moments That Changed Our World, Hamlet, Black Roses (& UK Tour); *All I Want Is One Night* (& Wilton's Music Hall); *Two, Winterlong* (& Soho Theatre); *Truth About Youth Festival, Making An Exhibition Of Ourselves (At Home)* (Manchester Royal Exchange); *Europe, Around The World In Eighty Days, Be My Baby, Untold Stories* (Leeds Playhouse); *The Last Testament Of Lillian Bilocca* (Hull UK City Of Culture 2017); *The Rise & Fall Of Little Voice, Summer Holiday, The Big Corner, East Is East, Jane Eyre, Winter Hill, The Tenant Of Wildfell Hall, To Kill A Mockingbird, The Family Way, Private Lives, Duet For One, Separation, Robin Hood, Can't Pay? Won't Pay!* (Bolton Octagon Theatre); *Dr Blighly* (Nutmhut, 14-18 Now, Brighton); *The Massive Tragedy Of Madame Bovary* (Liverpool Everyman & Playhouse/Peepolykus/Nuffield Theatre/Bristol Old Vic/Northampton Royal & Derngate/UK Tour); *Anon* (Welsh National Opera); *The Maw Broon Monologues* (Tron Theatre, Glasgow); *Faith Healer, North & South, Before The Party* (Pitlochry Festival Theatre); *The Masque of Anarchy* (Manchester International Festival); *Fireface* (Young Vic Theatre); *Manchester Sound: The Massacre, Manchester Lines* (Manchester Library Theatre); *Epstein* (Epstein Theatre, Liverpool/West End); *I Know Where The Dead Are Buried* (24:7 Theatre Festival, Manchester); *Dark Side Of The Building* (Unity Theatre, Liverpool); *Innovation - Liverpool Biennial* (Hope Street Ltd.); *Four Corners* (Bluecoat Arts Centre, Liverpool); *Wish You Were Here* (Liverpool Everyman).

Awards include:

Best Design, Theatre Awards UK 2012, for MANCHESTER LINES; Best Studio Production, Manchester Theatre Awards 2013, BLACK ROSES; JMK Award 2012, Design for FIREFACE.

Andy Purves

Lighting Designer

Andy trained in sound and lighting engineering at the University of Derby and has an MA in lighting design and theatre-making from Central School of Speech and Drama, where he is now a visiting lecturer in performance lighting.

For Sheffield Theatres, credits include:

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Theatre credits include:

The Long Goodbye with Riz Ahmed (Manchester International Festival/ BAM); *I Have Met The Enemy and Radical Acts* (Common

Wealth); *Into The Light* (Frantic Assembly & Hijinx); *The Kneebone Cadillac*, *49 Donkeys Hanged*, and *The Man with the Hammer* (Theatre Royal, Plymouth); *Ignition* (Frantic Assembly); *Under Milk Wood* (Northern Stage); *Toast* (The Lowry, Salford); *The Siege* (The Freedom Theatre, Palestine, UK tour and Skirball Centre, NYC); *We're Still Here* (National Theatre Wales/Common Wealth); *Any Port in a Storm* (Giffords Circus); *Invincible* (Original Theatre); *Girls* (Soho Theatre/Talawa/Hightide Festival); *RISE* (Old Vic, London); *A Midsummer Night's Dream* and *Hänsel und Gretel* (Royal College of Music); *Decades* (Brit School); *One Million Tiny Plays About Britain* (Watermill Theatre); *Merlin* (Nuffield, Southampton); *No Way Back*, *Othello*, *Lovesong* and *The Believers* - winner of a Knight of Illumination Award 2014 (Frantic Assembly); *Stay Another Song* and *Turning a Little Further* (Young Vic); *The Nutcracker and the Mouse King* (The Unicorn); *Ragnarok* (Eastern Angles); *Cooped* (Spymonkey); *It's a Family Affair* (Sherman, Cardiff); *Rock Pool* (Inspector Sands); *Beautiful Burnout* (Frantic Assembly/National Theatre of Scotland); *Mess* (Caroline Horton); *Little Dogs* (National Theatre Wales/Frantic Assembly); *Stockholm* (Sydney Theatre Company/Frantic Assembly); *Babel* (Stan Won't Dance); *Ida Barr and Office Party* (Barbican); *Frankenstein* (Northampton Royal).

Early in 2020, Andy was lighting design associate for ZooNation's *Message in a Bottle*, produced by Sadler's Wells and Universal Music and in the summer of 2018, he was a lighting design associate for Spiegelworld's workshop production *We Are Here* at La Mama, NYC.

Andy is Technical Director and Producer with Relative Motion making digital immersive experiences.

Rob Hart **Sound Designer**

Rob Hart works as a sound designer for theatre and film. He trained in Sound Design at Edinburgh University (MSc). He regularly performs experimental music and expanded cinema as a solo artist and in the collaborations *Swab* and *The Hellfire Project*. His sound design can also be heard in the recent video series for the V&A Museum *ASMR at the V&A*.

Theatre credits include:

Long Day's Journey Into Night (Bermuda Festival); *Holiday Selfie* (Pulse Festival, The New Wolsey Theatre); *Eclipse* (Theatre Royal, Stratford); *Rosaura* (Women and War Festival, London); *Iyalode of Eti* (West Yorkshire Playhouse); *The Foley Explosion* (The Yard Theatre).

Karin Fisher-Potisk **Movement Director**

Karin was born in Austria and holds a Teaching Diploma in Clarinet from the Mozarteum Academy for Music and Performing Arts, Salzburg, and a Diploma in Contemporary Dance and Choreography from The London Contemporary Dance School.

Karin was Artistic Director, Performer and Educator of Ricochet Dance Productions, an award winning Dance Company that gained critical acclaim over the 20 year period of its existence, including the Time Out Award for 'Consistently Inventive Creativity'. Karin has

commissioned and performed in over thirty new works for Ricochet from renowned choreographers.

In 2008 Karin completed an MA (Dist.) in Movement/Directing and Teaching at the Royal Central School of Speech and Drama. She has since worked with actors, dancers and choreographers in one to one coaching and custom-tailored workshops, as well as lecturing at Italia Conti, Arts Educational and East 15. She is a Visiting Lecturer at the Royal Central School of Speech and Drama where she has devised the course Body in Performance / Experiential Anatomy.

As a Movement Director:

Karin has worked with Directors Anna Ehnold Danailov, Rachel Grunwald, Tim Trimingam Lee, Untold Theatre, and the Motherhouse Project.

Nadine Rennie CDG

Casting Director

Nadine was in-house casting director at Soho Theatre for fifteen years; working on new plays by writers including Dennis Kelly, Bryony Lavery, Arinzé Kene, Roy Williams, Philip Ridley, Laura Wade and Vicky Jones.

Nadine also has a long-running association as casting director for Synergy Theatre Project and is a member of the Casting Directors Guild.

For Sheffield Theatres, credits include:

The Last King of Scotland; Run Sister Run.

Theatre credits include:

The Glass Menagerie, Hoard (Arcola Theatre); *Good Dog* (Tiata Fahodzi); *Little Baby Jesus* (Orange Tree); *Random, There Are No Beginnings* (Leeds Playhouse); *The Little Prince* (Fuel); *Price* (National Theatre of Wales); *Whitewash, Typical, Shuck n Jive, The Special Relationship* (Soho Theatre).

Television credits include:

BAFTA-winning CBBC series *Dixi* (casting the first three series).

Connie Treves

Assistant Director

Connie was Resident Assistant Director at Sheffield Theatres between 2019 - 2020.

She is an Associate Artist at Good Chance, where she leads participatory poetry and performance programmes in Coventry, Sheffield and Barnsley.

As assistant director, credits include:

Coriolanus (Sheffield Theatres); *Guys and Dolls* (Sheffield Theatres); *Ivy* (Southwark Playhouse).

As director, credits include:

Sandwiches (Sheffield Theatres); *The Enchanted* (Bunker Theatre).

PRODUCTION CREDITS

Production Manager **Stephanie Balmforth**
Company Manager **Andrew Wilcox**
Stage Manager **Sarah Gentle**
Deputy Stage Manager **Sarah Greenwood**
Assistant Stage Manager **Rosalind Chappelle**

Costume Supervisor **Debbie Gamble**
Wigs Supervisor **Val Atkinson**

LX Programmer **Neale Franklin**

PRODUCTION THANKS

Neil Gidley, Limelight Presentation Systems, White Light Ltd,
Imogen Singer, Steve Nash.



At Utopia Theatre, we are passionate about producing for the British and international stage, innovative contemporary African Theatre celebrating elements of the culture, language and traditions from Africa.

Utopia Theatre is a producing company formed in 2012. We commission new plays and we are dedicated to demonstrating the rich cultural heritage of Africa's theatre canon, and in so doing, dispel stereotypes and encourage authentic voices from the African Diaspora. The company synthesises African and Western performing traditions to celebrate the meeting of different cultures, and presents productions in Sheffield and on tour, with programmes aimed at developing and promoting writers, performers and artists from the African Diaspora.

Artistic Director and CEO **Mojisola Elufowoju**

Producer **Emma Laugier**

Marketing Manager **Adesola Lajuwomi**

Administrator **Amanda Holt**

Associate Producer **Milan Govedarica**

Utopia Board of Trustees

Dr Max Farrar (Chairman), Sarah Sanderson, Patricia Cumper and Bookey Oshin.

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