

# ANNA HIBISCUS' SONG

By Atinuke

Adapted for stage by  
Mojisola Kareem-  
Elufowoju

Fri 7 – Sat 15 July



A Utopia Theatre and  
Sheffield Theatres Production



**SHEFF!ELD  
THEATRES**

**PLAYHOUSE**



# WELCOME

A warm welcome to the Tanya Moiseiwitsch Playhouse for this performance of **Anna Hibiscus' Song**.

This is our second collaboration with Utopia Theatre in 2023, and we are delighted to be teaming up with this great team, led by **Mojisola Kareem-Elufowoju**, to bring this much-loved story to the Playhouse stage.

Looking ahead to our Autumn season, **Anna Hibiscus' Song** is just the first of several family friendly productions to enjoy in the coming months. For our youngest audience members, we've got an exciting line up featuring **Julia Macdonald's Stick Man** and "*the greatest sock'n'roll band in the world*"; **Andy and the Odd Socks**.

For the rest of the family, we're proud to welcome **Life of Pi** back to Sheffield after multi-award-winning runs both in the West End and on Broadway.

The classic musical **Annie** will also visit the Lyceum this autumn before we wrap up the year by welcoming the legendary **Damian Williams** back to Sheffield Theatres for his sixteenth year as our Pantomime Dame in **Beauty and the Beast**. Damian will star alongside Blue's **Duncan James** and CBeebie's **Jennie Dale** in what is sure to be a fantastic festive treat.

As always, thank you for supporting Sheffield Theatres, and I hope you enjoy **Anna Hibiscus' Song**!

Tom Bird

Chief Executive, Sheffield Theatre

**SHEFFIELD  
THEATRES**

# CAST

Grandfather / Chocolate /  
Storyteller

**Malick Bojang**

Narrator / Angel / Mama /  
Storyteller

**Althea Burey**

Grandmother / Benz / Uncle  
Tunde / Storyteller

**Dorthea Darby**

Papa / Musician / Storyteller

**Julius Obende**

Anna Hibiscus

**Saskia Rose**

Auntie Jolie / Narrator /  
Storyteller

**Maya Thompson**

# PRODUCTION TEAM

Writer

**Atinuke**

Adapted for the stage and  
directed by

**Mojisola Kareem-Elufowoju**

Designer

**Kevin Jenkins**

Lighting Designer

**Alexandra Stafford**

Sound Designer

**Lee Affen**

Movement Director

**Maria Cassar**

Dramaturg

**Mike Kenny**

Puppetry

**Stephen Tiplady**

Puppet Maker

**Amelia Pimlott**

Wardrobe Assistant

**Hannah Dumm**

Production Manager

**Natalie Welch**

Producer

**Tom Dixon**

Stage Manager

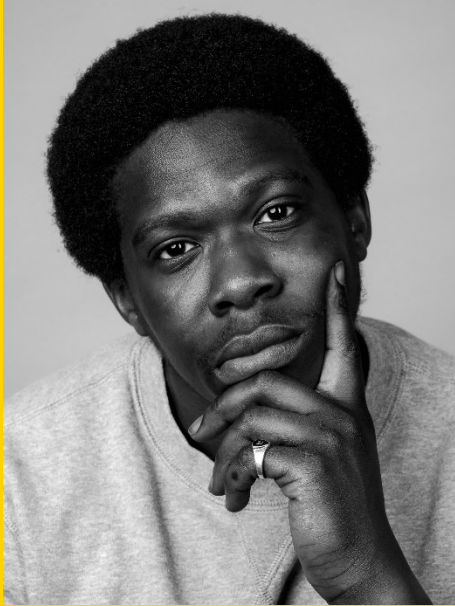
**Holly M Wright**

Assistant Stage Manager

**Miriam Baalcke**



# CAST BIOGRAPHIES



## **MALICK BOJANG**

GRANDFATHER / CHOCOLATE / STORYTELLER

Malick trained at Identity School of Acting (IDSA), London. He was born and raised in Hackney, North East London.

**Television credits include:** *Youngers* (E4); *Loki* (Disney+); *Jungle* (Amazon Prime).

**Film credits include:** *Heart of Stone*.



## **ALTHEA BUREY**

NARRATOR / ANGEL / MAMA / STORYTELLER

Althea studied Musical Theatre at Guildford School of Acting and at the Colchester Institute. Althea has worked as a diviser, working on a variety of research and development projects.

**Theatre credits include:** *Robin Hood* (Dukes Theatre, Lancaster); *CLASSIC!* (Edinburgh Fringe Festival); *The Smeds and The Smoos*, *The Gruffalo's Child* (Tall Stories Theatre Company, UK Tour); *Elegies for Angels Punks and Raging Queens* (Union Theatre); *Paw Patrol: Race to The Rescue* (UK Tour / International Tour); *NewsRevue* (Edinburgh Fringe Festival / Arts Theatre, London).

**Television credits include:** *Waco Untold: The British Stories* (ITVX).

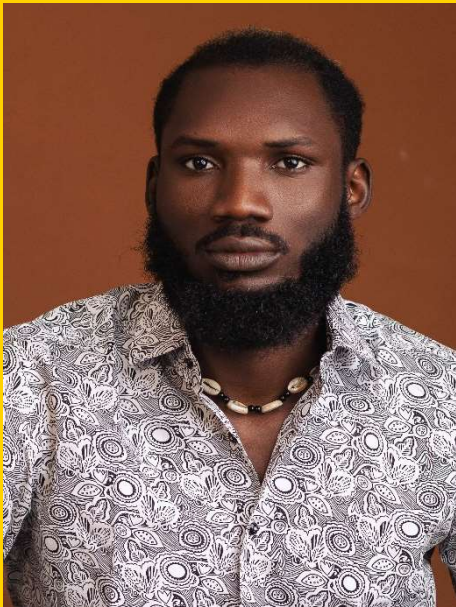
**DORTHEA DARBY**

GRANDMOTHER / BEN / UNCLE TUNDE / STORYTELLER

Dorthea studied Drama and Theatre at Kent University with a year abroad at Long Beach State, California. Dorthea regularly performs at Write2Speak in London.

**Theatre credits include:** *Peter Pan, Santa's Christmas Wish* (Redbridge Drama Centre).

**Other credits include:** *The Inside Man* (online, Twist and Pulse); *Get Pumped* (online, Pulped Productions).

**JULIUS OBENDE**

PAPA / MUSICIAN / STORYTELLER

Julius is an actor, choreographer, and percussionist whose experience has spanned over a decade. His passion and professionalism has earned him notable productions which made him one of the most sought after performers in Lagos, Nigeria.

**Theatre credits include:** *Motherland the Musical, The Trials of Brother Jero, Moremi the Musical, Wakaa the Musical, Full Circle the Musical* (Terra Kulture); *Queen Moremi the Musical, Reloaded* (Lagos Continental Hotel, Lagos); *KOLOFU* (Fratz International Festival / German Tour); *Just Justice* (DFID UKAID RoLAC Tour, Lagos / Kano / Abuja).

**Production credits include:** As producer and director: *Child Internationale* (MUSON festival 2022). As choreographer: *PUNCTUATION* (Goethe Institute, Lagos / Ubumuntu Arts Festival, Kigali)

**Other credits include:** As Festival Coordinator: *Kininso International Festival of Theatre for Children* (Lagos).



**SASKIA ROSE**  
ANNA HIBISCUS

Saskia trained at the Identity School of Acting, has a BA Hons in Acting for Stage and Media from University of West London and is a member of the National Youth Theatre.

**Theatre credits include:** *Romeo and Juliet, Macbeth, An Inspector Calls* (Globe Players, UK Schools Tour).

**Television credits include:** *Riches* (ITV).

**Film credits include:** *Raging Grace*.



**MAYA THOMPSON**  
AUNTIE JOLIE / NARRATOR / STORYTELLER

Maya was born in Nottingham and studied Acting at The Royal Central School of Speech and Drama.

**Credits whilst training include:** *Anyone Can Whistle, Macbeth* (Royal Central School of Speech and Drama).

# CREATIVE BIOGRAPHIES

## **MOJISOLA KAREEM-ELUFOWOJU**

DIRECTOR AND ADAPTOR

Mojisola Kareem-Elufowoju is the Founder, CEO and Artistic Director of Utopia Theatre, a leading African Theatre company resident at Sheffield Crucible Theatre. She was staff director at The National Theatre and recipient of the 2017 Opera Awards Foundation bursary. Mojisola is a founding member of Mosaic Opera Collective, guest director at London Academy of Dramatic Arts, East 15, London South Bank University and University of the West of Scotland.

Her work is to raise awareness and increase appreciation of African culture. She commissions and produces new writing and presents established classics within a strong African context, and in so doing, dispelling stereotypes and encouraging authentic voices from the African diaspora.

**For Sheffield Theatres, credits include:** *Here's What She Said to Me* (co-production with Utopia Theatre); *Far Gone* (co-production with Roots Mbili Theatre).

**For Utopia Theatre, credits include:** *All Our Goals*, *Shadows in Different Shades*, *Iyalode of Eti*

**Other theatre credits include:** As Staff Director: *Three Sisters* (National Theatre); *Silkworm* (Assembly Roxy, winner Scotsman Fringe First Award); *How Far Apart?* (Arcola Theatre / Sheffield Hallam Performance Lab); *Far Gone* (Theatre Deli, Sheffield); *The Bogus Woman* (Camden People's Theatre); *On Missing* (The Cockpit Theatre); *The Pied Piper Of Chibok Opera* (Opera North / Arcola Theatre); *I am David Oluwale* (Leeds Playhouse); *Iyalode of Eti* (Leeds Playhouse / Cast, Doncaster / Ake Festival, Nigeria); *London Tales* (Rich Mix / 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).



**KEVIN JENKINS**  
DESIGNER

Kevin has been designing for theatre for 17 years after training on the Motley Theatre Design Course. He studied Engineering at the University of Durham and has been a secondary school teacher of Design and Technology.

**For Sheffield Theatres, credits include:** *How a City Can Save the World, Songs from the Seven Hills, What We Wished For, A Dream, Hospital Food, The Beauty Inspector, Confessions of a City, Warrior Square, Topdog/Underdog, Hearts.*

**For Utopia Theatre, credits include:** *All Our Goals.*

**Other theatre credits include:** *Hearts* (National Theatre); *Family Album, Seasons Greetings, A Brief History of Women, Taking Steps, The Girl Next Door, Birthdays Past Birthdays Present, No Knowing* (Stephen Joseph Theatre); *Far Gone* (Roots Mbili Theatre Company, UK Tour); *Home Girl* (Derby Theatre); *Are You As Nervous As I Am* (Greenwich Theatre); *Coram Boy* (Nottingham Playhouse); *The Frontline, A Midsummer Night's Dream, Shiv* (Curve); *The Adventures of Alice in Wonderland* (Wise Owl Theatre Co, UK Tour); *Jane Hair, The House Behind the Lines* (Buglight Theatre Company); *Trailer Trash* (Quarry Theatre); *1936* (Lilian Baylis Studio / Arcola Theatre); *Troublesome People* (Ashrow Theatre Company); *Hamlet* (Blue Apple Theatre Company); *Hypothermia* (Full Body and The Voice); *Colony* (Dark Horse); *The Pendulum* (Jermyn Street); *200 Years* (Watford Palace Theatre); *Sonata* (Tara Theatre).

**LEE AFFEN**  
SOUND DESIGNER

Lee is a composer, music producer, sound designer and theatre maker from Manchester, now based in Sheffield. Lee composes for theatre, dance and film with sonic storytelling and collaboration are at the heart of his practice. He is a company member of The Bare Project and an Associate Artist with Imagine If Theatre and Box of Tricks Theatre.

**For Sheffield Theatres, credits include:** *Birds and Bees*, *Human Nurture*, *Far Gone* (co-production with Roots Mbili Theatre), *On The Outskirts of a Large Event*.

**Other theatre credits include:** *Too Much World at Once* (UK Tour); *Who Are Yer?* (Cardboard Citizens); *Jadek* (UK Tour); *The War Within* (Fallen Angels and Birmingham Royal Ballet, UK Tour); *On The Outskirts of a Large Event* (Northern Tour); *The Fairytale Detectives* (Theatr Clwyd); *Metropolis*, *Nosferatu*, *The Passion of Joan of Arc* (The Dukes).

**Film credits include:** *Where Two Rivers Meet* (British Libraries).

**Radio credits include:** *Love is a Battlefield* (New Voices, BBC Radio 3).

## **ALEXANDRA STAFFORD**

LIGHTING DESIGNER

**Theatre credits include:** *Robin Hood, The Wind in the Willows, Home Girl* (Derby Theatre); *Around The World in Eighty Days* (York Theatre Royal / UK Tour); *Mugabe, My Dad and Me* (UK Tour); *The Swearing Jar, The Great Almighty Gill, Harvest, Finding Nana* (New Perspectives Theatres, UK Tour); *Peter Pan, Cinderella* (York Theatre Royal); *Into Battle* (In Soft Wings Productions, Greenwich Theatre); *Bubble, Skellig, Kindertransport* (Nottingham Playhouse); *Around the World in 80 Days* (New Vic Theatre / UK Tour / US Tour); *Oh, No George!* (Can't Sit Still Theatre Company, Redgrave Theatre / Polka Theatre / Pavilion Theatre); *Babe, The Sheep Pig* (Mercury Theatre, Colchester); *Lava* (Nottingham Playhouse / UK Tour); *All The Little Lights* (Derby Theatre / Old Library, Mansfield / Nottingham Playhouse / UK Tour / Arcola Theatre); *Playhouse Creatures, Proof, The Rivals* (The New Vic); *A Thing Mislaid* (Maison Foo); *Aidy the Awesome, Tarzanna* (The Gramophones Theatre Company, UK Tour); *Sherlock Holmes and the Hound of the Baskervilles, Betrayal* (York Theatre Royal); *Hard Times* (Oldham Coliseum); *Outsiders, Antigone* (Pilot Theatre); *Mirror Mirror, Emil and the Detectives* (Red Earth Theatre, UK Tours); *A Tender Thing, The Kreutzer Sonata* (Chipping Norton Theatre); Family Pantomimes 2005 – 2021 including *Cinderella, Dick Whittington, Aladdin, Jack and the Beanstalk* (Harrogate Theatre); *My Dad's Corner Shop, Educating Rita, Up 'n' Under, The Blue Room, Bouncers, Three Viewings, A Life in the Theatre, A Slice of Saturday Night*, and Family Pantomimes 1993-2002 including *Cinderella, Dick Whittington, Aladdin, Jack and the Beanstalk, Sleeping Beauty* (Derby Playhouse).

## **MARIA CASSAR**

MOVEMENT DIRECTOR

Maria is a movement director, choreographer and an inclusive dance practitioner. She graduated from Trinity Laban Conservatoire of Music and Dance with a BA(Hons) Dance Theatre. Maria works as an inclusive dance practitioner with Royal Academy of Dance and Tavaziva Dance Company. She is a founder and director of Tip Top Dance School. She is also a Laban movement tutor at Rose Bruford College and BADA. She is an associate artist at Utopia Theatre as movement director. From 2008 to 2015 Maria was Artistic Director of RedTape Dance Company in Malta.

**For Sheffield Theatres, credits include:** *Here's What She Said to Me* (co-production with Utopia Theatre).

**Performance credits include:** *Roam* (Tom Dale Company, Bonnie Bird Theatre); *Indexical* (Kerry Nicholls, Bonnie Bird Theatre); *Boo-Iky-Boo, Karli, Mustafa and the Crocodile Club, Making Dances* (Kristina Sommerlade, UK Tour); *Meditation* (James Wilton, Step Live Festival, Sadler's Wells).

**Production credits include:** *Walk the Plank, Excuse me? May I?* (Notte Bianca, Malta); *Sync in Progress, Pensar é Destruir* (Resolutions!, The Place, London); *Zikk Zakk Flick Flack, Sync in Progress, SeaQuatic* (Ziguzajg International Youth Festival, Malta); *Step Live Festival 2015* (Sadler's Wells); *Dance: Make you Move* (Albany Theatre); *Reverie, Step Live Festival 2017* (Royal Festival Hall); *Mavin Khoo-Who am I?* (Malta International Arts Festival); *Park Life* (Intransit Festival); *Fairie Queen* (Ashmolean Museum); *LDA Site Specific Performances* (Hampton Court Palace); *LDA Live Interventions* (Tower of London).



**STEPHEN TIPLADY**  
PUPPETRY DIRECTOR

Steve has been working with puppets since 1987. He formed Indefinite Articles with his partner, Sally Todd, in 1995.

**Theatre credits include:** As performer: *70 Hill Lane* (The Brewery Arts Centre / International Tours, winner, OBIE for Outstanding Achievement in Off Broadway Theatre); *Houseworks* (London International Festival of Theatre); *Dust* (Lyric Theatre, winner, Time Out Live Award, Most Inventive Show); *Queen of Spades* (Welsh National Opera); *Claytime* (Unicorn Theatre); *The Firework-Maker's Daughter* (Royal Opera House); *El Niño* (Spoleto Festival, South Carolina). As Director: *The Mouse Queen* (Unicorn Theatre / UK Tour / New Victory Theatre, New York); *Journey Home* (China Tour). As a puppet director: *Venus and Adonis*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Fantastic Mr Fox*, *Cymbeline*, *The Winter's Tale*, *Morte d'Arthur* (Royal Shakespeare Company); *Seven Seeds* (Royal National Theatre); *Dark Philosophers* (National Theatre of Wales); *Ménage à Trois* (National Theatre of Scotland); *Complicité*, *Love's Labour's Lost*, *Dr Faustus* (Shakespeare's Globe); *Dream Thief* (National Theatre of Iceland).

**Television credits include:** *The Mighty Boosh* (BBC).

# PRODUCTION CREDITS

Producer	<b>Tom Dixon</b>
Production Manager	<b>Natalie Welch</b>
Stage Manager	<b>Holly M Wright</b>
Assistant Stage Manager	<b>Miriam Baalcke</b>
Lighting Programmer	<b>Connor O'Neil</b>
Production LX	<b>Karl at Limelight</b>
Wardrobe Assistants	<b>Hannah Dumm</b>
Set Construction	<b>Square Pebble</b>
Audio Describer	<b>Chris Berry</b>
Captioner	<b>Cara Lawless</b>
Sign Language Interpreter	<b>Helen Dollimore</b>



# UTOPIA THEATRE

Marketing Manager  
**Suzanne Moore**

Public Relations  
**Kayley Worsley**

A National Portfolio Funded Organisation with Arts Council England, **Utopia Theatre** is a leading voice for African Theatre in the UK.

Formed in 2012 by director **Mojisola Kareem-Elufowoju**, with a mission to bring contemporary work celebrating elements of life, culture, language and traditions from Africa to the British stage. The company is based in Sheffield and was provided with residency premises at **Sheffield Theatres** in 2016.

We present productions there and tour nationally and internationally. We also pride ourselves on our ability to deliver our work both live and digitally, the latter enabled through the creation of a wealth of online resources and digital events.

Our mission is to actively engage African communities, facilitate the development of emerging artists and foster dialogue and creative exchanges.

[www.utopiatheatre.co.uk](http://www.utopiatheatre.co.uk)



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