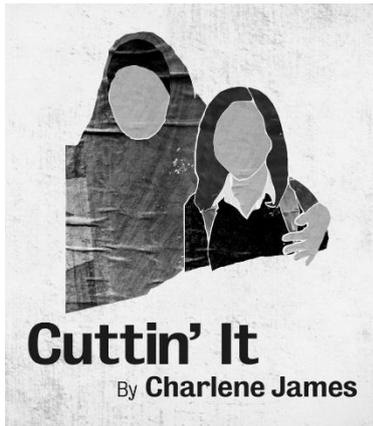


PRESS RELEASE  
WEDNESDAY 17 JANUARY 2018

**THE ROYAL COURT THEATRE ANNOUNCES A SECONDARY SCHOOLS TOUR OF *CUTTIN' IT*, WRITTEN BY CHARLENE JAMES AND DIRECTED BY ANASTASIA OSEI-KUFFOUR.**



The Royal Court Theatre announces a four-week secondary schools tour of *Cuttin' It*, written by Charlene James and directed by Anastasia Osei-Kuffour. The tour will visit a number of schools across London and Birmingham Monday 15 January 2018 – Friday 9 February 2018.

*Cuttin' It* tackles the urgent issue of Female Genital Mutilation in Britain.

Winner of the George Devine Award for Most Promising Playwright and the Alfred Fagon Award for Best New Play, *Cuttin' It* was performed at the Royal Court in 2016 as a Royal Court/Young Vic co-production with Birmingham Repertory Theatre, Sheffield Theatres and The Yard Theatre.

Each schools visit will involve a pre-show workshop followed by a post-show Q&A with the pupils led by Young Court. They have worked with the organisation Solace Women's Aid for training sessions on FGM and have also been supported by Louise Williams, Clinical Nurse Specialist at the women's division of University College Hospital, in order to fully prepare for the workshops.

The cast includes Marième Diouf and Jessica Kennedy. With design by Joanna Scotcher, lighting by Azusa Ono and sound by Ella Walthstrom.

*'We're opposites, even though we came from the same, she's nuttin like me, an that shames me.'*

Teenagers Muna and Iqra get the same bus to school but they've never really spoken. Muna wears Topshop and sits on the top deck gossiping about Nicki Minaj's latest beef, while Iqra sits alone downstairs in her charity shop hand-me-downs.

They were both born in Somalia but come from different worlds. But as they get closer, they realise that their families share a painful secret.

*This production is generously supported by the Wellcome Trust, with additional support from the Clifford Chance Foundation and John Thaw Foundation.*

## **Ends:-**

For press enquires please contact Jonathan Oakman at [jonathanoakman@royalcourttheatre.com](mailto:jonathanoakman@royalcourttheatre.com)

## **Notes to Editors:**

For cast head shots please see the below Dropbox link:

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/inc4I9x9sqq90q1/AABd9-fCv4oueqHsxJBsg9qJa?dl=0>

## **Biographies:**

### **Charlene James** (Writer)

For the Royal Court: **Cuttin' It (& Young Vic/UK tour).**

Theatre includes: **Tweet Tweet (Birmingham Rep/Tour)**

Awards include: **George Devine Award, Critics' Circle Award & Evening Standard Theatre Award for Most Promising Playwright; Alfred Fagon Award & UK Theatre Award for Best New Play (Cuttin' It).**

**Charlene is a playwright and actor who trained at Birmingham School of Acting and The School at Steppenwolf, Chicago. In 2008, she participated in the Royal Court's Young Writers Programme and in 2012 she was selected to be one of the 503 Five at Theatre503. In 2013 Charlene became a writer in residence at the Birmingham Rep for their season focusing on mental health. Her play, *Tweet Tweet*, was commissioned by the Birmingham Rep as part of Young Theatre Makers and premiered there before touring.**

### **Anastasia Osei-Kuffour** (Director)

As assistant director, for the Royal Court: **Cuttin' It (& Young Vic/UK tour), Plaques & Tangles.**

As director, other theatre includes: **Footprints on the Moon (Finborough); An Adventure, Here Comes the Bride (Black Lives Black Words, Bush); Cell, All the Ways To Say Goodbye, (Fresh Direction Project, Young Vic); Hosea's Girl (TALAWA FIRSTS); Dishonour (Theatre503); Pushers (Etcetera).**

As assistant director, other theatre includes: **Macbeth, Romeo & Juliet (National/Stratford Circus+ Schools tour); Idomeneus (Gate); A Doll's House (Boris Karloff Trainee Assistant Director, Young Vic).**

As associate director, other theatre includes: **Flowering Cherry (Finborough); Hackney Volpone (Rose Lipman Building).**

**Anastasia is currently Trainee Artistic Director at Tiata Fahodzi Theatre Company.**

### **Marième Diouf** (Iqra)

For the Royal Court: **Liberian Girl.**

Other theatre includes: **A Tale of Two Cities (Regents Park Open Air); Cymbeline, Hamlet, King Lear (RSC).**

Television includes: **Outlander.**

Film includes: **Tarzan.**

**Jessica Kennedy** (Muna)

Theatre includes: **Little Baby Jesus (Albany); House of Corrections (Riverside Studios); All Saints (Bussey Building)**

Television includes: **Murder in Successville, Doctors, Home from Home.**

Film includes: **The Intent.**