

**PRESS RELEASE**  
**THURSDAY 12 DECEMBER 2019**

## **POET IN DA CORNER CASTING NEWS AND ALBUM LAUNCH**

- New cast member Stacy Abalogun to join Jammz, Kirubel Belay and Debris Stevenson.
- Poet in da Corner The Album released 31 January 2020 on Accidental Records in partnership with the Royal Court Theatre



*Debris Stevenson (credit: Benji Reid)*

Stacy Abalogun will join the previously announced cast of *Poet in da Corner* for its return to the Royal Court Theatre in January 2020.

Written and performed by Debris Stevenson feat Jammz and directed by Royal Court Associate Director Ola Ince, *Poet in da Corner* features music and composition from Michael 'Mikey J' Asante, co-founder and co-artistic director of Boy Blue.

With design by Jacob Hughes, lighting by Anna Watson, sound by Tony Gayle and choreography by Aaron Sillis *Poet in da Corner* will run from Thursday 30 January 2020 to Saturday 22 February 2020 with press welcome from Tuesday 4 February 2020, 7.30pm.



The production will then tour to (in date order) The MAC, Belfast, Leicester Curve, Birmingham Rep, Nottingham Playhouse, Manchester HOME and Hackney Empire.

*In a strict Mormon household somewhere in the seam between East London and Essex, a girl is given Dizzee Rascal's ground-breaking grime album *Boy in da Corner* by her best friend SS Vyper.*

*Precisely 57 minutes and 21 seconds later, her life begins to change – from feeling muted by dyslexia to spitting the power of her words; from being conflicted about her sexuality to finding the freedom to explore; from feeling alone to being given the greatest gift by her closest friend.*

In this semi-autobiographical piece, featuring grime MC Jammz as SS Vyper, step into a technicolour world where music, dance and spoken word collide, and discover how grime allowed Debris Stevenson to redefine herself.

#### **ALBUM INFORMATION:**

*Poet in da Corner* the album will be released on Friday 31 January 2020 on Accidental Records in partnership with the Royal Court Theatre. Whilst the album is made up from songs from the stage show it is more than simply a soundtrack release, with the tracks having been re-edited and mastered to produce an album that very much stands in its own right as one of the most compelling grime records of today. The release will be made available as a limited edition USB keychain as well as across all streaming and download stores.

*Poet in da Corner* was originally co-produced by 14-18 NOW and the Royal Court Theatre, supported by Jerwood Charitable Foundation, in association with Nottingham Playhouse and Leicester Curve.

#### **ENDS-**

For more information or images please contact Anoushka Warden at Royal Court Theatre on [AnoushkaWarden@royalcourttheatre.com](mailto:AnoushkaWarden@royalcourttheatre.com)

For tour press information please contact Elin Morgan at Mobius PR on [elin@mobiusindustries.com](mailto:elin@mobiusindustries.com)

#### **Notes to Editors:**

#### **Press Performance:**

|  |  |                            |
|--|--|----------------------------|
| 7.30pm Tuesday 4 February 2020 (Press in from) | <i>Poet in da Corner</i> by Debris Stevenson feat. Jammz | Jerwood Theatre Downstairs |
|--|--|----------------------------|

#### **Additional press performance access for tour venue related media**

Thursday 6 February 2.30pm and 7.30pm





For images: [click here](#).

### Tour dates

26 February 2020 – 1 March 2020  
The MAC, Belfast [More details](#)

6 - 7 March 2020  
Leicester Curve [More details](#)

10 – 14 March 2020  
Birmingham Repertory Theatre [More details](#)

19 – 21 March 2020  
Nottingham Playhouse [More details](#)

24- 28 March 2020  
HOME, Manchester [More details](#)

31 March 2020 – 4 April 2020  
Hackney Empire, London [More details](#)

### Biographies:

#### **Debris Stevenson (Writer/Cast)**

As writer/performer, for the Royal Court: **Poet in da Corner (& 14-18 NOW).**

**Dyslexic writer, Grime poet, working-class academic, pansexual ex-Mormon and Bashment dancing social activist from the seam between East London and Essex: it's not simple. Debris has no choice but to explore the intersectional, unexpected and unjust – it's not just who she is, it's her responsibility in a world that all too often summarises us into a caption.**

**Educated through the evolution of Grime in East London and nurtured by the Roundhouse in Camden, at just 18 Debris organised and hosted Turning Point Festival whilst followed by Channel 4 (Yeardot). Since then she has founded Mouthy Poets, an organisation teaching thousands of young people poetry as a life skill, with which she has raised over £300,000 to develop young artists and worked in over 25 countries. She has designed and delivered foundation poetry and performance modules at Nottingham University and had her debut poetry pamphlet, Pigeon Party, published by Flipped Eye.**

**When Debris isn't writing, speaking, teaching or performing, she can also often be found dancing to Grime, Soca, Afrobeats and Dancehall for organisations such as The Heatwave and Red Bull Music Academy.**

#### **Jammz (Feature Writer/ Cast)**

**Jammz came up studying grime and in 2019 finds himself at the forefront of it. Born and bred in East London, Jammz started to make a name for himself on London's radio circuit in 2014 and 2015 appearing regularly on Rinse FM, Radar Radio, NTS,**





Mode FM and BBC 1xtra, teaming up with established DJs like Slimzee, Spooky, Bok Bok and Spyro as well as newcomers like Moleskin and Finn. His free EP *Hit Then Run* became a cult classic: the title track was playlisted on BBC 1Xtra and Noisey's #3 grime track of 2015, and the remix was Sian Anderson's #1 Remix of the Week six weeks on the spin.

Subsequent singles *Final Warning* and *London Living* further established Jammz as one of grime's best new hit-makers, while his live reputation is also quickly on the rise: he's been booked for Glastonbury, Eskimo Dance, Outlook, Night Slugs and Bestival, has headlined FWD>> and in March 2016 was the support act on Kano's UK tour. Jammz has been supported heavily by Fader, Noisey, FACT, GQ, Mixmag, SBTv, MTV and more, and featured on the front cover of the Observer Music's British MCs special.

Jammz's first release of 2016, *Mr. Wait* (a collaboration with Trends & Mr. Dubz) was recently featured on Channel 4 and picked as one of Sleaford Mods' favourite tracks. He followed that with the acclaimed *Underdog Season Vol. 1* mixtape (with Jack Dat), a self-released instrumental 12" (which sold out in four days) and a collaboration with Dread D on *Local Action*, *10 Missed Calls*. 2017 saw the release of the DJ Q produced smash, *Who's that girl?* featuring Aleisha Lee, which received constant airplay across all mainstream stations including BBC Radio 1Xtra, Rinse FM and more. Jammz recently dropped *Get What I Mean?* through Annie Mac's Free Music Mondays and has EPs on *I Am Grime* and *Local Action* scheduled after the summer.

#### **Ola Ince (Director)**

For the Royal Court: **Poet in da Corner**, **White Sky** (& RWCMD/Gate).

As director, other theatre includes: **The Convert**, **Start Swimming** (& Summerhall), **Dutchman**, **One Million Tiny Plays About Britain** (Young Vic); **Twilight: Los Angeles 1992** (Gate); **Rachel**, **The Soft of Her Palm** (Finborough).

As associate director, other theatre includes: **Tina: The Musical** (West End/Broadway/Hamburg/Utrecht); **Tipping the Velvet** (& Royal Lyceum, Edinburgh), **Bugsy Malone** (Lyric, Hammersmith); **Fog** (UK tour).

As assistant director, other theatre includes: **Shakespeare Trilogy** (Donmar/St. Ann's Warehouse, New York); **Ma Rainey's Black Bottom**, **Dara**, **A Taste of Honey** (National); **Porgy & Bess** (Regent's Park Open Air); **Josephine & I** (Bush); **Wild Swans**, **Disco Pigs**, **Electra** (Young Vic); **Fanta Orange**, **Blue Serge** (Finborough).

Awards include: **Genesis Future Director Award**.

Ola has been Resident Assistant Director and Senior Reader at the Finborough Theatre, and was recipient of the Rose Bruford Directing Bursary and the Boris Karloff Bursary. In 2015 Ola became a BBC Performing Arts Fellow & Resident Associate Director at the Lyric, Hammersmith. In 2016 she became an Artistic Associate at the Lyric Hammersmith & Theatre Royal Stratford East. Ola is an Associate Director at the Royal Court.

#### **Kirubel Belay (Cast)**

Music videos include: **Like Sugar** (Chaka Khan); **Back for More** (Example); **Needing U** (Desta French); **Go Low** (Jelani Blackman); **Only** (DJ Snake); **What Is a Man?** (iD Magazine).

Concerts & live events include: **Peter Andre** (UK Tour); **Leona Lewis** (Glassheart Tour); **Kanye West** (Brit Awards); **Leah McFall** (The Voice UK); **Diversity Live** (ITV); **Michael Jackson** (MTV); **Omarion** (KOKO Camden);

**Paloma Faith** (Diageo Anniversary, Battersea Power Station).

As choreographer, music videos include: **Moving Too Fast** (Kyle Lettman ft. Scorchers).

Concert & live events include: **Klickz Entertainment** at Victoria & Albert Museum (Zibrant Events).

#### **Stacy Abalogun (Cast)**





Theatre includes: **As You Like It (Globe); Ivory Tower (Sankof Festival).**

Opera includes: **Les Dialogues des Carmelites (Royal Opera House); The Adventures of Pinocchio (Opera North); Seven Deadly Sins (Welsh National Opera).**

Television includes: **Casualty, Coleen's Real Women, Belle de Jour, Double Trouble, Burn It.**

Film includes: **Death on the Nile, Just Desserts.**

#### Listings Information:

##### *Poet in da Corner*

Written by Debris Stevenson

Feat. Jammz

Directed by Ola Ince

Jerwood Theatre Downstairs, Royal Court Theatre, Sloane Square, SW1W 8AS

Thursday 30 January 2020 – Saturday 22 February 2020

Monday – Saturday 7.30pm

Thursday & Saturday matinees 2.30pm from Thursday 6 February 2020

Captioned Performances Wednesday 12 & 19 February 2020

Relaxed Environment Performance Saturday 8 February 2:30pm

Press Performance Press in from Tuesday 4 February 2020, 7.30pm

The Big Idea: In Conversation with Debris Stevenson and Jammz Tuesday 11 February 2020 post-show

Standard Tickets £12-£35 (Mondays all seats £12 available from 9am online on the day of performance)

First Look Tickets\*\*

Concessions\* £5 off Band A-C seats for previews and matinees

Under 26s\*\*\*

Access £15 (plus a companion at the same rate)

\*ID required. All discounts subject to availability.

# accidental



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