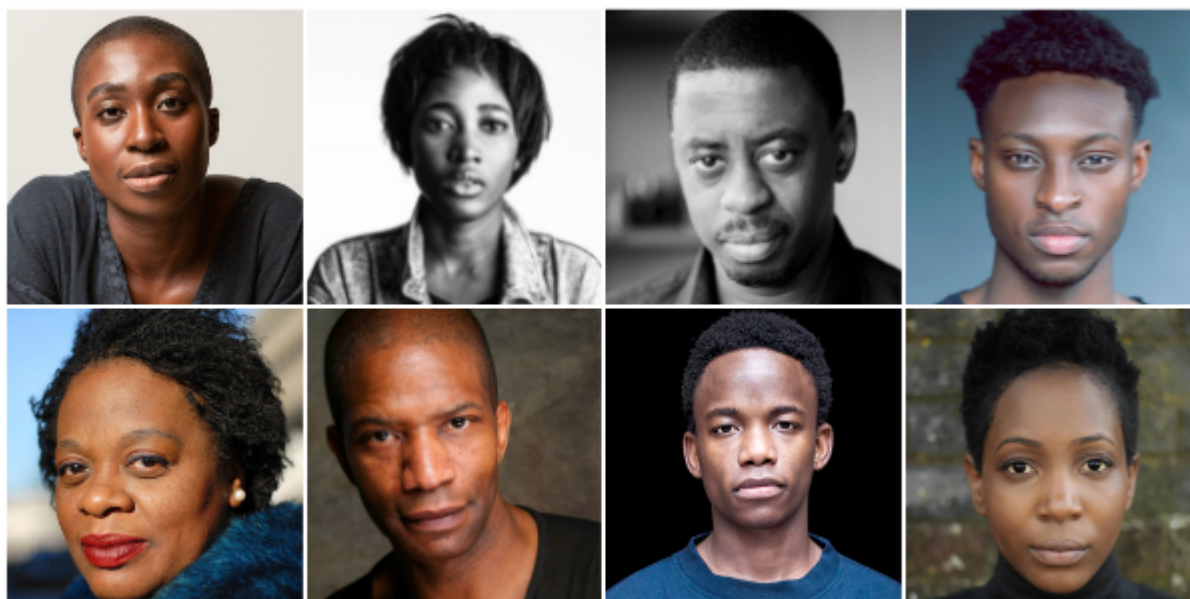


**PRESS RELEASE**  
Friday 30 July 2021

**ROYAL COURT THEATRE ANNOUNCE CAST FOR *IS GOD IS* BY ALESHEA HARRIS, DIRECTED BY ROYAL COURT ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR OLA INCE, RUNNING IN THE ROYAL COURT JERWOOD THEATRE DOWNSTAIRS FRIDAY 10 SEPTEMBER 2021 – SATURDAY 23 OCTOBER 2021**



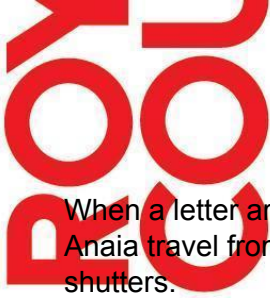
*Photo credit (clockwise from top left):  
Vivienne Acheampong, Adelayo Adedayo, Ray Emmet Brown, Ernest Kingsley Jnr, Tamara Lawrance, Rudolphe Mdlongwa, Mark Monero, Cecilia Noble*

Vivienne Acheampong, Adelayo Adedayo, Ray Emmet Brown, Ernest Kingsley Jnr, Tamara Lawrance, Rudolphe Mdlongwa, Mark Monero and Cecilia Noble have been cast in the UK premiere of *Is God Is* written by Aleshea Harris and directed by Royal Court Associate Director Ola Ince.

*Is God Is* by Aleshea Harris will run in the Royal Court Jerwood Theatre Downstairs from Friday 10 September 2021 – Saturday 23 October 2021 with press night on Thursday 16 September 2021, 7pm.

With set design by Chloe Lamford, costume design by Natalie Pryce, lighting design by Simisola Lucia Majekodunmi, composition by Renell Shaw, sound design by Max Perryment, movement direction from Imogen Knight, choreography by Jordan 'JFunk' Franklin and special effects design by Susanna Peretz. The associate designer is Shankho Chaudhuri, the assistant director is Leian John-Baptiste, the dialect coach is Dawn-Elin Fraser and the fight director is Philip D'Orléans.

*"I wanna step on somethin for once. See what it feel like. Must feel good."*



When a letter arrives from the mother they thought was dead, 21 year old twins Racine and Anaia travel from the Dirty South to the California desert and a yellow house with teal shutters.

They are on a mission to avenge her past and ready to take down anyone who stands in their way.

*"We ain't killers"*

*"How you figure that? ... Iss in the blood."*

Aleshea Harris' revenge tale about two women seeking justice and taking control of their own narratives, has received the Relentless Award and Obie Award for Playwriting.

There will be a post-show talk with Aleshea Harris on Wednesday 15 September 2021.

## ENDS-

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

### Notes to Editors:

### Press Performance:

7pm Thursday 16 September 2021	<i>Is God Is</i> by Aleshea Harris	Jerwood Theatre Downstairs
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For images [click here.](#)

### Biographies:

#### **Aleshea Harris** (Writer)

Theatre includes: **Is God Is** (Soho Rep., NYC); **What to Send Up When It Goes Down** (Movement Theatre Company, NYC).

Awards include: **Relentless Award**, **Helen Merrill Playwriting Award**, **Obie Award for Playwriting** (*Is God Is*); **Windham-Campbell Literary Prize**, **Hermitage Greenfield Prize**, **Steinberg Playwriting Award**, **Samuel French Award**.

**Aleshea has completed residencies at Hermitage Artists Retreat, MacDowell Colony, Hedgebrook, Djerassi & SPACE on Ryder Farm.**

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

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

Other theatre includes: **Romeo & Juliet** (Globe); **Appropriate** (Donmar); **Twilight: Los Angeles 1992** (Gate); **Start Swimming** (& Summerhall), **The Convert**, **Dutchman**, **One Million Tiny Plays About Britain** (Young Vic); **Broad Shadow**, **Access Denied**, **Cutting It**





(National Theatre); Rachel, The Soft of Her Palm (Finborough); Pets Corner (Arcola); Games (Pleasance).

As associate director, 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, theatre includes: Shakespeare Trilogy (Donmar/St. Ann's, NYC); 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); Secret Thoughts, The Demolition Man (Octagon, Bolton).

Awards include: Genesis Future Director Award, Theatre & Performance Award (H 100 Club Awards), 50 Game Changers Of Now (The Elle List).

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 and Resident Associate Director at the Lyric, Hammersmith. She is currently an Associate Director at the Royal Court and Artistic Associate at the Lyric and Theatre Royal, Stratford East.

## CAST

**Vivienne Acheampong** (Angie)

Theatre includes: Nassim (Bush); City of Glass (HOME, Manchester/Lyric, Hammersmith); Rainbow Class (Edinburgh Festival Fringe/Camden Fringe); Monster Raving Loony (Soho); Elegies for Angels, Punks & Raging Queens (First Light/Criterion); The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time (West End); Julius Caesar (Donmar/St. Ann's Warehouse, Brooklyn).

Television includes: The Sandman, Famalam, The Emily Atack Show, The One, The Other One, Class Dismissed, Death in Paradise, Rose Matafeo's Comedy Blap, Lenny Henry: Yay I'm 60!, Turn Up Charlie.

Radio includes: Sketchtopia, Ankle Tag, V.I.P R.I.P, Academy of Joy, Newsjack, Penny Dreadfuls: Don Quixote.

Film includes: The Witches.

**Adelayo Adedayo** (Anaia)

For the Royal Court: We Anchor in Hope, Cuttin' It (& Young Vic).

Other theatre includes: The Seagull (Lyric, Hammersmith); Klippies (Southwark Playhouse); Rachel (Finborough); The Dead Wait (Park).

Television includes: The Responder, The Capture, Origin, Timewasters, Enterprice, In The Long Run, Houdini & Doyle, Stan Lee's Lucky Man, Law & Order UK, Some Girls.

**Ray Emmet Brown** (Chuck Hall)

Theatre includes: Two Trains Running (ETT/Royal & Derngate); Moon on a Rainbow Shawl (National); A Raisin in the Sun (Royal Exchange, Manchester); Les Negres (Young Vic Studio); Generations Dead in Abyss of Coney Island Madness, Romeo & Juliet (Contact, Manchester); The Wicked Old Man (Leeds Playhouse); A Midsummer Night's Dream (Library Theatre); Rough (Birmingham Rep); A Taste of Honey (Nottingham Playhouse); Jack & the Beanstalk (Hackney Empire).

Television includes: Endeavor, The Stranger, Life on Mars, Doctors, Mum, The Job Lot, Hollyoaks, The Dumping Ground, Prey, Coronation Street, Emmerdale, Bodyfarm, Casualty, EastEnders, Breeders, Family, Prime Suspect, Outlaws, The Second





**Coming, Judge John Deed, Butterfly Collectors, Born to Run, Holby City, A Touch of Frost, Stay Lucky, A&E, & GBH.**

Radio includes: **The Museum, House of Blue Fire, Shells On A Woven Chord, Opera Do Malandro, The Banza.**

Film includes: **Looking For Eric, Blowdry.**

Awards include: **The Manchester Evening News Award for Best Actor in a Supporting Role (Generations Dead in Abyss of Coney Island Madness).**

**Ernest Kingsley Jnr (Scotch)**

Television includes: **The Sparticle Mystery.**

***Is God Is* is Ernest's professional theatre debut.**

**Tamara Lawrance (Racine)**

For the Royal Court: **Unreachable.**

Other theatre includes: **The Tell-Tale Heart, Twelfth Night, Ma Rainey's Black Bottom (National); King Lear (Chichester Festival).**

Television includes: **Invasion, Small Axe, The Long Song, No Offence, The Split, King Charles III, Undercover.**

Film includes: **Boxing Day, The Silent Twins, Kindred, On Chesil Beach.**

**Rudolphe Mdlongwa (Riley)**

Theatre includes: **Barbershop Chronicles (UK Tour); The Convert (Young Vic); No One Is Coming To Save You (Edinburgh Festival Fringe).**

Film includes: **Crews.**

**Mark Monero (Man)**

Theatre includes: **The Healing (Omnibus); Antigone (Pilot/Theatre Royal, Stratford East); Idomeneus (Gate); One Man, Two Guvnors (National); The Wheel (NTS); Angelhouse (Eclipse/UK Tour); Measure for Measure (Almeida); Pure Gold, Animal (& UK Tour), The Christ of Cold Harbour Lane (Soho); Sing Yer Heart Out for the Lads (Pilot/UK Tour); The Country Wife (Watford Palace); A Taste of Honey (Liverpool Playhouse); Abyssinia (Southwark Playhouse); Adrenalin Heart (Bush); Local Boy (Hampstead); Talking About Men (Green Room, Manchester/Ovalhouse); Pepper Soup (Lyric, Hammersmith); Cinderella (Oxford Playhouse).**

Television includes: **King Gary, Coronation Street, Suspects, Coming Up, Dark Matters, Casualty, Doctor Who, The Bill, Skins, Trial & Retribution, Doctors, Murphy's Law, Waking the Dead, Gimme, Gimme, Gimme, The Bill, EastEnders, The Firm, Young, Gifted & Broke, King & Castle.**

Film includes: **Pretty Red Dress, In the Earth, Villain, Happy New Year, Colin Burstead, Free Fire, Wild Bill, Somers Town, Sid & Nancy.**

**Cecilia Noble (She)**

For the Royal Court: **Liberian Girl, Truth & Reconciliation, This is a Chair, The Sacred Heart.**

Other theatre includes: **The Welkin, Faith, Hope & Charity, Nine Night, (& West End), The Amen Corner, The Recruiting Officer, Henry V, His Dark Materials (National); The Comedy of Errors, Twelfth Night, The Tempest (RSC); The Vagina Monologues (Arts); Yellowman (Hampstead); In The Red & Brown Water, A Raisin in the Sun (Young Vic).**





Television includes: **Small Axe, Semi-Detached, Black Mirror, Call the Midwife, Undercover, Nurse, Our Girl, Coming Up, Doctors, Waking the Dead, EastEnders, Silent Witness, The Bill, Holby City, Resnick, Casualty, Killing Eve, Teacher.**

Film includes: **The Lady in the Van, Danny & the Human Zoo, Kaleidoscope, Of Mary [short], New Year's Day, Mrs Caldicott's Cabbage War, Storm Damage.**

### Listings Information:

**Captioned Performances** Wednesday 6 October 2021, 7.30pm; Wednesday 13 October 2021, 7.30pm; Wednesday 20 October 2021, 7.30pm

**Audio Described Performance** Saturday 23 October 2021, 3pm, Touch Tour at 1.30pm

**Relaxed Environment Performance** Saturday 16 October 2021, 3pm

**Press Performance** Thursday 16 September 2021, 7pm

**In Conversation:** with Aleshea Harris, post-show **Wednesday 15 September 2021**

**Standard Tickets** £12 - £45

**Concessions\***

**First Look Tickets\*\***

**Under 27s\*\*\***

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

\*ID required. All discounts subject to availability.

### Tickets: Ways to Save

**Concessions\*** - available for previews and matinees. Limited to Band A – B in the Jerwood Theatre Downstairs. Concessions are available for Over 65s, Students, recipients of Jobseekers Allowance, and members of Equity, BECTU, Stage Directors UK or the Writers' Guild of Great Britain.

**First Look Tickets\*\*** - as most of the plays we stage at the Royal Court have never been seen before, the first few performances in front of an audience are the final part of a long creative process that starts with the playwright. Our First Look Performances, which are sold at a reduced price, are an integral part of the process. If you book tickets for a First Look Performance (usually the first three previews of a new play), you'll be asked for your feedback which is then shared with the artistic team during the preview period, potentially influencing the final piece.

**Under 27s Tickets\*\*\*** – We have extended our Under 26s ticket offer to Under 27s due to a year of missed discounts during the Covid-19 pandemic. We offer a limited number of £12 tickets for all performances in the Jerwood Theatre Downstairs. Available on Band B tickets, subject to availability.

**Mondays** – all tickets £12. Available on the day of the performance from 9am online. A limited number are available in advance, subject to availability, to Friends and Supporters.

**Standing Tickets** – A limited number of 10p standing places go on sale one hour before each Jerwood Theatre Downstairs performance. The places are production dependent and may not always be available so please check in advance, no sooner than 9 September.

