

PRESS RELEASE Friday 28 January 2022

ROYAL COURT THEATRE ANNOUNCES NEW DIORAMA THEATRE AND NOUVEAU RICHE TRANSFER OF *FOR BLACK BOYS WHO HAVE CONSIDERED SUICIDE WHEN THE HUE GETS TOO HEAVY*, WRITTEN AND DIRECTED BY RYAN CALAIS CAMERON, CO-DIRECTED BY TRISTAN FYNN-AIDUENU RUNNING IN THE ROYAL COURT JERWOOD THEATRE DOWNSTAIRS THURSDAY 31 MARCH 2022 – SATURDAY 30 APRIL 2022

- Tickets go on sale for Priority bookers on Monday 31 January 2022 at 12 noon.
 - General on sale will be from Wednesday 2 February 2022 at 12 noon.



Original cast, left to right, first row: Mark Akintimehin, Emmanuel Akwafo, Nnabiko Ejimofor; second row: Darragh Hand, Aruna Jalloh, Kaine Lawrence.

The Royal Court Theatre will present *For Black Boys Who Have Considered Suicide When The Hue Gets Too Heavy* by Ryan Calais Cameron in association with New Diorama Theatre and Nouveau Riche in the Jerwood Theatre Downstairs from Thursday 31 March 2022, with press night on Thursday 7 April 2022, 7pm.

Ryan Calais Cameron is the director and Tristan Fynn-Aiduenu is the co-director/original director. They will be directing the original cast who include; Mark Akintimehin, Emmanuel Akwafo, Nnabiko Ejimofor, Darragh Hand, Aruna Jalloh and Kaine Lawrence.



The play was originally conceived by Ryan Calais Cameron in the wake of the killing of Trayvon Martin in 2013. Rich with honesty and insight, the show was developed over several years, with further support from co-commissioner Boundless Theatre, including workshops with young black men and mental health groups. Over 100 men auditioned for the production in 2021, and after a four-week rehearsal period in Nouveau Riche's studio at NDT Broadgate, the production, originally directed by Tristan Fynn-Aiduenu, saw a sell-out run at New Diorama Theatre in October - November 2021, with returns queues at the theatre every night.

For Black Boys Who Have Considered Suicide When The Hue Gets Too Heavy was one of the first shows to be made at New Diorama Theatre's revolutionary Post-Lockdown artist recovery hub NDT Broadgate, where Nouveau Riche are an Associate Company. Launched in 2021, NDT Broadgate is a brand new 20,000 square foot rehearsal and development complex offered entirely free as a radical gesture to support independent artists get back on their feet. To date the project has gifted over 50,000 hours of free space to more than 180 groups and companies.

Set and costume design by Anna Reid, lighting design by Rory Beaton, sound design by Nicola Chang, movement direction by Theophilus O. Bailey and musical direction and vocal coaching by John Pfumojena. Wabriya King is the Production Dramatherapist.

*"I found a king in me and now I love you
I found a king in you and now I love me"*

Father figures and fashion tips. Lost loves and jollof rice. African empires and illicit sex. Good days and bad days. Six young Black men meet for group therapy, and let their hearts – and imaginations – run wild.

For Black Boys Who Have Considered Suicide When The Hue Gets Too Heavy, inspired by Ntozake Shange's seminal work *For Colored Girls Who Have Considered Suicide / When the Rainbow Is Enuf*, is located on the threshold of joyful fantasy and brutal reality: a world of music, movement, storytelling and verse – where six men clash and connect in a desperate bid for survival.

Commenting on the transfer Vicky Featherstone, Artistic Director of the Royal Court Theatre, said;

*"For Black Boys Who Have Considered Suicide When The Hue Gets Too Heavy is a piece of work that demands to be seen. It is a real privilege to be able to give this complex, joyful, brilliant play a further life and to open up the opportunity for more people to experience it.
Ryan Calais Cameron is a writer and theatre-maker who has close associations with the Royal Court and we are all in awe of what he, Tristan and the team have created. It reminds us of what theatre is for."*

David Byrne, Artistic Director of New Diorama Theatre added;

"Nouveau Riche and Artistic Director Ryan Calais Cameron broke all our box office records with our co-production of For Black Boys Who Have Considered Suicide When The Hue Gets Too Heavy, so it feels right they break even more records - being the few show ever to transfer straight from an Off-West End theatre to Downstairs at the Royal Court. I'm delighted NDT is going along for the ride, with a front row seat to watch this exceptional company take over the world."

Ryan Calais Cameron, playwright and Nouveau Riche Artistic Director, said;



"After 10 years of writing and developing 'For Black Boys Who Have Considered Suicide When The Hue Gets Too Heavy' it was remarkable to experience these stories at NDT. This transfer will be a huge cultural event and landmark for Nouveau Riche and our community, to see the words 'For Black Boys... in bright lights in the centre of Sloane Square.'"

There will be a post-show talk with Ryan Calais Cameron on Tuesday 26 April 2022.

For Black Boys Who Have Considered Suicide When The Hue Gets Too Heavy was originally commissioned by New Diorama Theatre, co-commissioned by Boundless Theatre.

To book tickets [see here](#).

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Notes to Editors:

For more information please contact Anoushka Warden, Head of Press, on AnoushkaWarden@royalcourttheatre.com

For Images [click here](#).



Image by Guy J Sanders

Press Performance:



Thursday 7 April 2022, 7pm	<i>For Black Boys Who Have Considered Suicide When The Hue Gets Too Heavy</i> by Ryan Calais Cameron	Jerwood Theatre Downstairs
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Biographies:

Ryan Calais Cameron (Writer/Director)

For the Royal Court: **Living Newspaper, My White Best Friend (and Other Letters Left Unsaid).**

As writer, other theatre includes: **Human Nurture (Theatre Centre/Sheffield Crucible/UK tour); For Black Boys Who Have Considered Suicide When the Hue Gets Too Heavy (Nouveau Riche/Boundless/New Diorama); Queens of Sheba [co-writer] (Nouveau Riche/Edinburgh Festival Fringe/New Diorama/UK tour); Typical (Nouveau Riche/Edinburgh Festival Fringe/Soho); Rhapsody (Arcola); Timbuktu (Black Lives Black Words Festival, Bush/Theatre Royal, Stratford East).**

Awards include: **Edinburgh Untapped Award, The Stage Edinburgh Award, Offie Award for Best Performance Piece (Queens of Sheba), Off West End Adopt A Playwright Award (Rhapsody).**

Ryan is the co-founder of Nouveau Riche Theatre Company.

Tristan Fynn-Aiduenu (Co-director/Original Director)

As director, theatre includes: **Sundown Kiki (Young Vic); For Black Boys Who Have Considered Suicide When the Hue Gets Too Heavy (Nouveau Riche/Boundless/New Diorama); Little Baby Jesus (Orange Tree); Twilight (St. Mary's University); The Spalding Suite (LAMDA); Gone Too Far! (Guildhall).**

As writer/director, theatre includes: **Sweet Like Chocolate Boy (Jack Studio/BAC/Tobacco Factory/Theatre Peckham).**

As assistant director, theatre includes: **The Brothers Size (Young Vic).**

Awards include: **2019 JMK Young Director Award.**

CAST

Mark Akintimehin (Onyx)

Theatre includes: **For Black Boys Who Have Considered Suicide When the Hue Gets Too Heavy (Nouveau Riche/Boundless/New Diorama); Excluded (Intermission Youth Theatre); Shakespeare Within The Abbey (Globe); Tribal (2far Media); Anansi & the London Girl (Project 1957).**

Media includes: **Somewhere in London [web series].**

Film includes: **Little Monster [short].**

Emmanuel Akwafo (Pitch)

Theatre includes: **For Black Boys Who Have Considered Suicide When the Hue Gets Too Heavy (Nouveau Riche/Boundless/New Diorama); Whisper Me (Dugdale); The Bald Soprano (Out of the Box); Can't Pay? Won't Pay! (Windsor); The Spalding Suite (Southbank); Scenes from the Ecstatic Bible, The Bacchae (Melton); Forever Cuckoo (Bush); A Midsummer**



Night's Dream (Menier Chocolate Factory); **The Cradle Will Rock**, **Agamemnon** (Miskin); **Beauty & the Beast (BAC)**; **West Side Story** (Curve, Leicester).

Television includes: **The Crown**, **24: Live Another Day**, **Switch**, **The Surgery: MTV**, **Grange Hill**.

Film includes: **Now You See Me 2**, **Tarzan**, **Breaking the Bank**, **Set the Thames on Fire**.

Nnabiko Ejimofor (Jet)

Theatre includes: **For Black Boys Who Have Considered Suicide When the Hue Gets Too Heavy** (Nouveau Riche/Boundless/New Diorama).

Radio includes: **Sarah Walker's Sunday Morning Show**.

Film includes: **Attercoppe** [short], **Tingles** [short], **Figure** [short].

Nnabiko has previously been a dancer for Boy Blue Entertainment.

Darragh Hand (Sable)

Theatre includes: **The Land Of Lost Content (Pleasance)**; **For Black Boys Who Have Considered Suicide When the Hue Gets Too Heavy** (Nouveau Riche/Boundless/New Diorama).

Aruna Jalloh (Obsidian)

Theatre includes: **Much Ado About Nothing (RSC)**; **For Black Boys Who Have Considered Suicide When the Hue Gets Too Heavy** (Nouveau Riche/Boundless/New Diorama); **Impact, Could Never Be Me (Little Fish)**; **Glockenspiel (Old Sole)**.

Media includes: **C Biz: Obsession** [music video].

Kaine Lawrence (Midnight)

Theatre includes: **For Black Boys Who Have Considered Suicide When the Hue Gets Too Heavy** (Nouveau Riche/Boundless/New Diorama).

Listings Information:

Captioned Performances Wednesday 20 April 2022, 7.30pm & Saturday 27 April 2022, 7.30pm

Audio Described Performance Saturday 30 April 2022, 2.30pm, Touch Tour at 1pm

Relaxed Environment Performance Saturday 23 April, 2.30pm

Press Performance Thursday 7 April 2022, 7pm

Post Show Talk Tuesday 26 April 2022

Standard Tickets £35, £30, £27, £23, £18.50, £14, £12

Concessions*

Tickets: Ways to Save

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

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 preview and matinee 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.



New Diorama Theatre

"New Diorama is a crucial part of the wider UK theatre ecology and an under-sung hero."
Lyn Gardner, The Guardian

Since 2010, New Diorama has built an unrivalled reputation for supporting and platforming the best early to mid-career theatre companies and ensembles working in the UK. Supporting each with both their organisational and artistic development, productions commissioned at NDT regularly tour nationally and internationally.

Welcoming 24,000 audience members a year to our studio theatre on the corner of Regent's Park, New Diorama has previously won Off-West End Theatre of the Year at The Stage and Off-West End awards, the prestigious Peter Brook Empty Space Award and the 2019 Stage Innovation Award for our work with artists. Recent successes have included a sold-out Off-Broadway season presenting six emerging companies' New York debuts in 2019; Kandinsky Theatre's *Trap Street* touring to Berlin's renowned Schaubühne Theatre to international acclaim; and Breach Theatre's *It's True It's True It's True* being filmed and broadcast on BBC Television in 2020.

Our community programme reaches 11,000+ people across the local area annually. This vital engagement work ranges from original commissions touring school and community venues to the year-round Camden Youth Theatre and regular partnerships with local groups including the Third Age Project, hosting special events for isolated and elderly residents.

New Diorama was ranked number 33 on The Stage 100 list in 2019/20, a list of the most influential people and organisations working in UK theatre.



NOUVEAU RICHE[©]

Nouveau Riche is a multi award-winning creative movement, aiming to discover, nurture and produce unique stories with a keen scope on work that is both educational and entertaining. Nouveau Riche have set out to create and nurture new writing that is thought provoking, challenging and culturally inclusive.

The most common theme in our work is that we tend to depart from traditional Western storytelling, experimenting with fresh, contemporary, and unconventional methods. Our mission is to programme shows and events of the highest possible quality and to develop new ways of engaging audiences and artists.

**boundless
+theatre**

Boundless Theatre supports a community of young adults to be creative. Their work is exhilarating, shareable and promotes meaningful social experiences around culture. Boundless Theatre is in dialogue with a vibrant and diverse youth culture. By investing in and being inspired by early career artists they promote conversation with a global community of 15-25 year olds