

PRESS RELEASE Tuesday 24 January 2023

ROYAL COURT THEATRE ANNOUNCES CAST FOR BLACK SUPERHERO BY
DANNY LEE WYNTER DIRECTED BY DANIEL EVANS:

**BEN ALLEN, DYLLÓN BURNSIDE, DOMINIC HOLMES, ELOKA IVO,
DANNY LEE WYNTER, AKO MITCHELL AND ROCHENDA SANDALL**

NEW PHOTOGRAPHY BY AJAMU X

TUESDAY 14 MARCH 2023 – SATURDAY 29 APRIL 2023



Danny Lee Wynter as David in BLACK SUPERHERO
Photography by Ajamu X

Casting has been announced for Danny Lee Wynter's new play *BLACK SUPERHERO*, directed by Co-Artistic Director Designate of the RSC Daniel Evans. Ben Allen, Dyllón Burnside, Dominic Holmes, Eloka Ivo, Danny Lee Wynter, Ako Mitchel and Rochenda Sandall will perform in the production which will run at the Royal Court Jerwood Theatre Downstairs from Tuesday 14 March to Saturday 29 April 2023, with press night on Tuesday 21 March 2023, 7pm.

Emmy Award-winner Dyllón Burnside, star of Netflix's *Pose* and *Dahmer - Monster: The Jeffrey Dahmer Story*, will make his London debut as the eponymous black superhero of Lee Wynter's play.

A new publicity photo has also been released today featuring Danny Lee Wynter. Ajamu X is a dark room/fine art photographer who exhibits in museums, galleries and alternative spaces worldwide. His work unapologetically celebrates black queer bodies, the erotic senses, pleasure as activism and difference. He is the co-founder of rukus! Black LGBTQ+ Archive and a leading specialist in Black LGBTQ+ history, heritage and queer cultural memory in the UK. His work can currently be seen at Tate Britain and Charleston.

This debut play by Danny Lee Wynter, known for his Olivier Award-nominated acting career, is a brutal, unflinching and funny portrait of one man's life spiraling out of control, in an age where our idols are Kings and our superheroes Gods. Daniel Evans' direction sees the culmination of a 20-year working relationship between himself and Danny Lee Wynter, and his first time directing for the Royal Court Theatre.

Danny Lee Wynter said: *"I am deeply honoured that the Royal Court has chosen to stage my debut play, BLACK SUPERHERO. I feel lucky to have this extraordinarily accomplished group of artists come together to tell this story about a messy, funny, complicated, often savage group of queer friends who drive a man towards his own journey of healing and self acceptance. I wanted to write a big, epic story that asks difficult questions about who and where we are.*

BLACK SUPERHERO is a love letter to the theatre. A subversion of the historical notion that a black, gay man - both in art and the world - is merely an adjunct, a side-note, an unserious man or a source only of amusement. He can, of course, be fun, but he's also many other things; things the world has made him; things he has learnt to be for his own survival. I wanted to place him front and centre at the heart of the kind of narrative that many of us brown boys who like men have, for the most part, been culturally starved of since we entered the world. I have tried to present his myriad flaws, his fears, his sensuality, his intimate desires. To celebrate him, and those like him, by ultimately allowing him to own all of it; by becoming the hero of his own story.

BLACK SUPERHERO is designed by Olivier Award-winner Joanna Scotcher, with costume design by Kinnetia Isidore, lighting design by Ryan Day and sound design by Tingying Dong. The movement director is Gerrard Martin, the intimacy director is Yarit Dor and the assistant director is Matthew Iliffe. The associate costume designer/costume supervisor is Zoë Thomas-Webb. Casting directors are Amy Ball and Arthur Carrington, US casting director is X Casting, Victor Vazquez, CSA.

There will be a post-show talk with Danny Lee Wynter on Tuesday 28 March 2023.

ENDS

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Images:

Please download images [here](#). Photography by Ajamu X.

Ajamu X is a fine art photographic artist specialising in portraits, nudes, kink and erotica seeks one-off /short-term commissions.

Press Performance:

7pm Tuesday 21 March 2023	<i>BLACK SUPERHERO</i> by Danny Lee Wynter	Jerwood Theatre Downstairs
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Biographies:**Danny Lee Wynter** (Playwright)

Danny is a playwright, Olivier nominated actor, activist and columnist. He is the founder of Act For Change, the UK campaign group that helped change representation across the live and recorded arts.

This is Danny's debut play.

He is currently under commission to the Donmar Warehouse Theatre for his second play.

As actor:

For the Royal Court: **Living Newspaper, The Changing Room.**

Other theatre includes: **The Normal Heart (National); Faustus: That Damned Woman (Lyric); The Maids (HOME, Manchester); Cell Mates (Hampstead); Forty Years On (Chichester Festival Theatre); Comus, Bedlam, Henry IV Part II, Henry IV Part I, King Lear, The Frontline (Globe); Deathwatch (The Print Room); The Glass Menagerie (Nuffield, Southampton); Much Ado About Nothing (Old Vic); St John's Night (Jermyn Street); The Miser (Royal Exchange, Manchester).**

Television includes: **Luther, Walliams and Friend, Trial and Retribution, Partners in Crime, Mr. Stink, Episodes, Holby City.**

Film includes: **Joe's Palace & Capturing Mary, Censor, Hot Fuzz, The Dreams of Bethany Mellmouth, Beat Girl.**

Awards include: **Nominated for the Olivier Award for Best Supporting Actor (The Normal Heart).**

Daniel Evans (Director)

As director, theatre includes: **Our Generation (& National), Local Hero, South Pacific (& Sadler's Wells), Quiz (& Noel Coward), Fiddler on the Roof, Forty Years On (Chichester Festival Theatre); American Buffalo (Wyndham's); Show Boat (& New London), Flowers for Mrs Harris, Oliver!, My Fair Lady, Anything Goes, The Sheffield Mysteries, Macbeth, Racing Demon, Othello, An Enemy of the People, The Effect, This is My Family, The Full Monty (Sheffield Theatres); The Light in the Piazza (RFH/LA Opera/Chicago Lyric Opera); Esther (Theatr Genedlaethol Cymru); Lovely Evening/In The Blue (Young Vic at Theatre 503).**

As an actor, theatre includes: **Cleansed, 4.48 Psychosis, Other People, Where Do We Live? (Royal Court); Cardiff East, Peter Pan, Candide, Troilus and Cressida, The Merchant of Venice (National); A Midsummer Night's Dream, Coriolanus, Henry V, Cymbeline, Measure For Measure (RSC); Ghosts (ETT); Merrily We Roll Along (Donmar); Sunday in the Park with**

George (Menier).

Awards include: **Olivier Awards for Best Actor in a Musical (Merrily We Roll Along and Sunday in the Park with George); UK Theatre Awards for Best Musical Production (Show Boat and Flowers for Mrs Harris); WhatsOnStage Awards for Best Regional Production (Oliver! and My Fair Lady).**

Daniel is Artistic Director of Chichester Festival Theatre. Previously, he was Artistic Director of Sheffield Theatres (2009-2016). In June 2022, he will take up post as Co-Artistic Director of the Royal Shakespeare Company.

Cast:

Ben Allen

Theatre includes: **Folk, Canary (& Liverpool Playhouse/ETT Tour) (Hampstead); The Cherry Orchard, Hamlet (Theatre Royal Windsor); Gently Down The Stream (Park); Measure for Measure (Donmar); Present Laughter (Chichester Festival Theatre); Antony and Cleopatra, Julius Caesar, Oppenheimer, The Shoemaker's Holiday (Royal Shakespeare Company); The Seagull (Manchester Library Theatre Company); Twelfth Night, The Taming of the Shrew, The Merchant of Venice, The Winter's Tale, Henry V (Propeller); All's Well That Ends Well, The History Boys (National); Noises Off (Ambassador Theatre Group).**

Television includes: **World On Fire, Casualty, Breeders, Soul Mates, Cursed, Doctors, Barbarians Rising, Coronation Street, Bonekickers.**

Film includes: **Another End, The Haircut, The Foreigner.**

Dyllón Burnside

Theatre includes: **Thoughts of a Colored Man, Holler if Ya Hear Me (Broadway).**

Television includes: **Dahmer, Pose, Prideland.**

Awards include: **Daytime Emmy Award for Outstanding Short Form Non Fiction Program (Prideland).**

Dyllón is an actor, musician and creator. As a singer/songwriter, he has released three chart-topping solo singles. He is currently finishing his debut album. His work as a producer includes film, theatrical and musical events that serve and/or shed light on marginalized communities.

Dominic Holmes

Theatre includes: **Cock (Elliott & Harper); Vincent River (Hope Mill); Henry IV (Waterloo East/ Ivy Arts Centre); Macbeth (Out of Joint).**

Television includes: **Hullraisers, F U Martin Parker, Industry, War of the Worlds, Two Weeks to Live, Jinx, Coronation Street, Heartbeat.**

Film includes: **Role Play.**

Eloka Ivo

Theatre includes: **The Glass Menagerie (Royal Exchange); The Gods Are Not to Blame (Almeida); The End of Eddy (BAM New York); One Night in Miami (Bristol Old Vic/Nottingham Playhouse); The Son (Kiln); To Kill a Mockingbird (Lyric); Victoria's Knickers (Soho Theatre).**

Television includes: **Avenue 5.**

Film includes: **Four Mothers.**

Danny Lee Wynter

Biography as above, under 'Playwright'.

Ako Mitchell

Theatre includes: **The Light In The Piazza** (Alexander Palace); **The Color Purple** (Leicester Curve/Birmingham Hippodrome & UK National Tour); **Chess** (Theatre Royal Drury Lane); **Bonnie & Clyde** (Arts Theatre, West End); **Indecent Proposal** (Southwark); **Bernstein's Wonderful Town** (Opera Holland Park); **Far From Heaven** (MTFest 2021); **Europa Projekt Season: Europeana and Peer Gynt** (RSC); **Caroline, Or Change** (Chichester, Hampstead and West End); **Guys And Dolls**, **Little Shop of Horrors** (Manchester Royal Exchange); **The Wild Party** (The Other Palace); **Ragtime** (Charing Cross); **The Trial Of Jane Fonda**, **Klook's Last Stand** (Park); **Grey Gardens** (Southwark); **Misanthropes** (Old Vic New Voices); **How To Succeed In Business Without Really Trying** (Royal Festival Hall); **Fences** (Duchess); **The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee** (Donmar); **Sweaty Eddie in Sister Act** (London Palladium); **Mufasa in The Lion King** (Lyceum); **Dr. Dolittle** (UK Tour); **The Mystery Plays** (Bath Music Festival); **Broadway in the Shadows** (Luxembourg National Theatre and Arcola).

Television credits include: **FBI: International**, **The Grinch That Stole Christmas**, **Hilda**, **Gameface**, **Avenue 5**, **Best & Bester**, **Silent Witness**, **Berlin Station**.

Film includes: **Marvel's Doctor Strange in the Multiverse of Madness**, **The Lion Vs The Little People**, **Lake Placid: The Final Chapter**, **Johnny English Strikes Again**.

Ako directed and co-wrote the short I'm in the corner with the bluebells which premiered at the Toronto International Film Festival and won Best Director at the Mica Film Festival in Brazil. **Ako also wrote and directed the short I Promise** -winner of the Cineuropa Shorts / Filminute Audience Award.

Radio includes: **Mueller: Trump Tower Moscow**, **Strangest Weather on Earth**.

Rochenda Sandall

For the Royal Court: **Maryland**, **Gundog**.

Other theatre includes: **Talking Heads – The Outside Dog** (Bridge); **The Playroom** (Young Vic); **The Nap** (Sheffield Crucible); **Pomona** (& Manchester Royal Exchange), **Scenes from an Execution** (National); **Little Malcolm and his Struggle Against the Eunuchs** (Southwark); **Coriolanus** (Donmar).

Television includes: **The Rig**, **Great Expectations**, **Doctor Who**, **Deceit**, **Small Axe**, **Talking Heads – The Outside Dog**, **Line of Duty S5**, **Unprecedented**, **Criminal**, **Black Mirror**.

Film includes: **Star Wars – The Rise of Skywalker**, **Bufflehead**.

Radio includes: **Lady Macbeth of Mtsensk**.

Listings Information:

Captioned Performances Wednesday 12, Wednesday 19 2023 at 7.30pm, Thursday 27 April 2023 at 2.30pm

Relaxed Environment Performance Saturday 22 April 2023, 2.30pm

Audio Described Matinee Saturday 29 April 2023, 2.30pm and Touch Tour at 1pm

Press Performance Tuesday 21 March 2023, 7pm

Post-show talk Tuesday 28 March 2023

Standard Tickets £12 - £49

Concessions*

First Look Tickets
Under 27s*****

Access £17.50 (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.