



IN THE WEST END



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**PRESS RELEASE - Wednesday 22 November 2023**

## **IN RESPONSE TO AUDIENCE DEMAND FOR *BLACK BOYS WHO HAVE CONSIDERED SUICIDE WHEN THE HUE GETS TOO HEAVY* RETURNS TO THE WEST END IN 2024**

- **DUE TO PHENOMENAL DEMAND RYAN CALAIS CAMERON'S AWARD-WINNING PRODUCTION RETURNS TO LONDON'S WEST END FOR A LIMITED NINE WEEK RUN AT THE GARRICK THEATRE FROM 29 FEBRUARY - 4 MAY 2024.**
- **DIRECTED BY CALAIS CAMERON, THE CRITICALLY ACCLAIMED PLAY IS INSPIRED BY NTOZAKE SHANGE'S SEMINAL WORK *FOR COLOURED GIRLS WHO HAVE CONSIDERED SUICIDE / WHEN THE RAINBOW IS ENUF.***
- **TICKETS GO ON GENERAL SALE FROM 2PM ON WEDNESDAY 22 NOVEMBER 2023 WITH TICKETS AVAILABLE FROM £15.**

The Royal Court Theatre and Nimax Theatres have today announced that Ryan Calais Cameron's Olivier-Award nominated *For Black Boys Who Have Considered Suicide When The Hue Gets Too Heavy* will return to London's West End in 2024 following three previous sold-out runs, the latest at the Apollo Theatre earlier this year.

The production will run for a strictly limited season of nine weeks at the Garrick Theatre with previews from Thursday 29 February and Press Night on Thursday 7 March 2024. Tickets will go on general sale at 2pm on Wednesday 22 November 2023, with 25% of all tickets available at £25 or under throughout the run. Priority booking is now open.

The play, which was nominated for Best New Play and Best Actor in a Supporting Role at the 2023 Olivier Awards sold out its original run at the New Diorama Theatre, its subsequent transfer to the Royal Court Theatre and its initial West End run at the Apollo Theatre. The production has received widespread critical and public acclaim garnering notable fans such

as John Boyega, David Harewood, Daniel Kaluuya, Beverley Knight, Rapman, Stormzy and Letitia Wright.

Inspired by Ntozake Shange's seminal work *For Colored Girls Who Have Considered Suicide / When the Rainbow Is Enuf*, *For Black Boys Who Have Considered Suicide When The Hue Gets Too Heavy* 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. 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.

The play was originally conceived by Ryan Calais Cameron in the wake of the killing of Trayvon Martin in 2012 and has been developed over the course of the last decade with young Black men and mental health groups.

**Ryan Calais Cameron, playwright and Nouveau Riche Artistic Director, said:** *"I am thrilled by the prospect of For Black Boys... gracing the stage once more, delivering a compelling and thought-provoking narrative that has deeply resonated with both audiences and critics. It is truly humbling to witness how this production has also propelled the careers of the first remarkable actors who breathed life into these characters. Observing their excellence on renowned stages and in high-profile projects is a source of immense pride.*

*The opportunity to offer the roles to a new generation of actors brings profound joy. It is a testament to the ongoing dialogue sparked by "For Black Boys..." and a commitment to providing emerging talents with the chance to shine."*

**Nica Burns said:** *"For Black Boys... is the most extraordinary piece of theatre balancing pain and heartbreak with joy and laughter. Life! Responding to audiences who have roller-coasted it to this fourth production, we are delighted to give everyone another chance to join the conversation. Strictly limited season!"*

Set and costume design by Anna Reid, lighting design by Rory Beaton, Sound Design and Composition by Nicola T Chang, movement direction by Theophilus O. Bailey, musical direction and vocal arrangement by John Pfumojena and casting by Isabella Odoffin. Tristan Fynn-Aidueni directed the show's original run at the New Diorama Theatre. Casting will be announced in due course.

*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. The West End production is presented by the Royal Court Theatre, Nimax Theatres, Nouveau Riche and the New Diorama Theatre.

### **Outreach and Community Tickets**

The Royal Court continues with the West End partners to remain committed to diversifying and providing accessible ticket prices for every performance. They are offering 50 tickets at £15 or less to individuals, youth groups, community groups and charities who would like to experience the

show and otherwise would not be able to afford to. For more information, email [FBB@royalcourttheatre.com](mailto:FBB@royalcourttheatre.com).

## ENDS

### For further information please contact

Kate Hassell [kate@breadandbutterpr.uk](mailto:kate@breadandbutterpr.uk)  
Chloe Heard - [chloe@breadandbutterpr.uk](mailto:chloe@breadandbutterpr.uk)  
Ella Gold - [ellagold@royalcourttheatre.com](mailto:ellagold@royalcourttheatre.com)  
Diana Whitehead - [diana@fourthwallpr.co.uk](mailto:diana@fourthwallpr.co.uk)

## IMAGES

For images see [here](#).

## LISTINGS

Royal Court Theatre, Nica Burns, Hackney Empire, Sarah Verghese Production  
Present

The Royal Court Theatre, Nouveau Riche and New Diorama Theatre production

***For Black Boys Who Have Considered Suicide When The Hue Gets Too Heavy***

**Written and Directed by Ryan Calais Cameron**

**Original Direction by Tristan Fynn-Aiduenu**

**Garrick Theatre,  
2 Charing Cross Rd,  
London  
WC2H 0HH**

**First Performance Thursday 29 February 2024**

**Final Performance Saturday 4 May 2024**

**Press Performance Thursday 7 March 2024, 7pm**

<https://nimaxtheatres.com/shows/for-black-boys-garrick/>

Box Office

Booking Line: 0330 333 48011

Group Bookings: 0330 333 4817 | [groups@nimaxtheatres.com](mailto:groups@nimaxtheatres.com)

Access Bookings: 0330 333 4815 | [access@nimaxtheatres.com](mailto:access@nimaxtheatres.com)

Tickets from £15 and under available for community groups

Standard Tickets: £15, £20, £35, £49.50, £69.50 (Premium)

## BIOGRAPHIES

**Ryan Calais Cameron** (Writer/Director)

Ryan Calais Cameron's *Retrograde*, was produced at Kiln Theatre, April/May 2023, is nominated for Evening Standard Award, 'Best Play' 2023. *For Black Boys Who Have Considered Suicide When The Hue Gets Too Heavy* premiered at New Diorama Theatre, transferring to Royal Court, then Apollo Theatre, West End in March 2023 (producers: Nouveau Riche/Boundless/New Diorama/Royal Court Theatre). At Black British Theatre Awards 2022 it won Best Production Play Award and Best Director Award [co-director]; at The Stage Debut Awards 2022 the ensemble were joint-winners of Best Performer in a Play.

Other productions include *Living Newspaper, My White Best Friend (and Other Letters Left Unsaid)*, (Royal Court Theatre); *Human Nurture* (Theatre Centre/Crucible Sheffield co-produced UK tour); *Queens of Sheba* [co-writer] (producers: Nouveau Riche/New Diorama/Soho Theatre) premiered at Edinburgh Festival Fringe and New Diorama, won Edinburgh Untapped Award, The Stage Edinburgh Award, Offie Award for Best Performance Piece. It toured the UK and was revived twice at Soho Theatre before its 2023 run at Chelsea Factory, New York.

Also, *Typical* (Nouveau Riche/Soho Theatre) at Edinburgh Festival Fringe and Soho Theatre; *Rhapsody* won Off West End Adopt A Playwright Award 2018 and was produced at Arcola Theatre (Nouveau Riche); *Timbuktu* produced at Black Lives Black Words Festival, Bush/Theatre Royal, Stratford East (Nouveau Riche). Ryan is the Co-Founder and Artistic Director of Nouveau Riche Theatre Company. He also writes for film and television.

## **NOTES TO EDITORS**

### **About The Royal Court**

The Royal Court Theatre is the writers' theatre. It is a leading force in world theatre for cultivating and supporting writers - undiscovered, emerging and established.

Since 1956, we have commissioned and produced hundreds of writers, from John Osborne to Mohamed-Zain Dada. Royal Court plays from every decade are now performed on stages and taught in classrooms and universities across the globe.

Through the writers, the Royal Court is at the forefront of creating restless, alert, provocative theatre about now. We open our doors to the unheard voices and free thinkers that, through their writing, change our way of seeing.

We strive to create an environment in which differing voices and opinions can co-exist. In current times it is becoming increasingly difficult for writers to write what they want or need to write without fear, and we will do everything we can to rise above a narrowing of viewpoints.

Through all our work we strive to inspire audiences and influence future writers with radical thinking and provocative discussion.

The Royal Court Theatre is supported using public funding by Arts Council England.

### **Nimax Theatres**

Nimax Theatres is an entrepreneurial and innovative company that owns and operates 6 prestigious theatres in the heart of London's West End: the Palace, Lyric, Apollo, Garrick, Vaudeville and Duchess and operates @ sohoplacé, an exciting new theatre on Charing Cross Road. Nimax was founded in 2005 and is co-owned by Chief Executive Nica Burns OBE, an award-winning producer of over 100 productions, and Max Weitzenhoffer, a veteran American theatre producer. The theatres have a combined capacity of 5,600 seats and in addition to hosting some of the UK's most critically acclaimed plays and musicals, present a busy and varied programme of comedy, concerts and children's theatre. Current productions at the group include *Harry Potter and the Cursed Child* at the Palace, *Six* at the Vaudeville and *The Little Big Things* musical @ sohoplacé. The Apollo theatre hosted the first, sell-out and critically acclaimed West End season of *For Black Boys Who Have Considered Suicide When The Hue Gets To Heavy* from March to May 2023.

### **New Diorama**

New Diorama Theatre is a pioneering London studio, home to the country's best independent theatre companies and ensembles, recently winning both the Critic's Circle Venue Award 2023 and The Stage Fringe Theatre of the Year 2022. Since opening in 2010, New Diorama's work has also received three prestigious Peter Brook Awards, ten Off-West End Awards including Off-West End Artistic Director of

the Year and The Stage Innovation Prize. Work commissioned and produced at NDT frequently tours nationally and internationally, including regular transfers Off-Broadway. In 2022, NDT's premiere production of *For Black Boys Who Considered Suicide When The Hue Gets Too Heavy* transferred to the Royal Court Theatre Downstairs for an extended, sold-out run before moving to the West End; while previous NDT commission *Operation Mincemeat* also made their West End transfer in 2023 and continues to play at the Fortune Theatre

### **Nouveau Riche**

Nouveau Riche is a multi award-winning creative movement, making art that has the power and potential to change lives. Our objective is to discover, nurture and produce unique stories with a keen scope on work that is both educational and entertaining. The most common theme in our work is that we tend to depart from traditional Western storytelling, and nurture new writing that is thought provoking, challenging and culturally inclusive.

*For Black Boys Who Have Considered Suicide When The Hue Gets To Heavy* by Ryan Calais Cameron premiered at New Diorama Theatre in 2021, it then transferred to the Royal Court in 2022 and made its West End transfer to the Apollo Theatre in 2023. We have been nominated for Best New Play Olivier 2023, won Best Director and Best New Play at the Black British Theatre Awards in 2022 and the entire cast won Best Actor at The Stage Debut Awards 2022.

*Queens of Sheba* received the Off West End Award, 2020 for Best Performance Piece and both the Edinburgh Untapped Award plus The Stage Edinburgh Festival Award in 2018. It has sold-out multiple times at Soho Theatre and sold-out a 10 venue regional tour. In January 2023 we premiered the show in New York at the Under the Radar Festival.