

Young Vic

Press Release – Thursday 29 June 2023

Images available [here](#)

FIRST LOOK AT PRODUCTION PHOTOS FOR UK PREMIERE OF BENEATHA'S PLACE



- A blistering new drama written and directed by Young Vic Artistic Director Kwame Kwei-Armah, inspired by the modern classic *A Raisin in the Sun*, starring Cherrelle Skeete, Zackary Momoh, Sebastian Armesto, Jumoké Fashola, Tom Godwin and Nia Gwynne
- On now in the Young Vic Main House until 5 August, with press night on 5 July. Tickets via www.youngvic.org

Production photos are released today for the UK premiere of *Beneatha's Place*, a razor-sharp satire from Young Vic Artistic Director Kwame Kwei-Armah about power, politics and race, set in 1950s Nigeria and present day. The production is now in previews in the Young Vic Main House with opening night on 5 July and running until 5 August.

Cherrelle Skeete (*Harry Potter and the Cursed Child*, *Hanna*) stars in the title role as Beneatha Younger, **Zackary Momoh** (*Seven Seconds*, *The Nevers*) plays Joseph Asagai/Wale Oguns, with **Sebastian Armesto** (*Leopoldstadt*) as Daniel Barnes/Prof Mark Bond, **Jumoké Fashola** (*The High Table*) as Prof Shirley Jones/Aunty Fola, **Tom Godwin** (*Best of Enemies*) as Mr Nelson/Prof Gary Jacobs, and **Nia Gwynne** (*Tolkien*) as Mrs. Nelson/Dr Harriet Banks.

1959. The first wave of independence is sweeping across Africa and Beneatha has left the prejudice of 1950s America for a brighter future with her Nigerian husband in Lagos. But on the day they move into their new house in the white suburbs, it doesn't take long for cracks to appear, changing the course of the rest of their lives.

Present day. Now a renowned Dean whose colleagues are questioning the role of African American studies for future generations, Beneatha returns to the same house in search of answers.

Inspired by the groundbreaking civil rights drama, *A Raisin in the Sun*, ***Beneatha's Place*** challenges today's culture wars about colonial history and reckoning with the past.

Set and Costume Design is by **Debbie Duru**, Lighting Design by **Mark Henderson**, Sound Design by **Tony Gayle**, Voice and Dialect Coach **Esi Acquah-Harrison**, Movement Director **Shelley Maxwell**, Casting Director **Heather Basten CDG**, Jerwood Assistant Director **Ellis** and Jerwood Trainee Assistant Director **Tia-zakura Camilleri**.

Tickets are on sale at www.youngvic.org

Relaxed Performances: Fri 21 July, 7.30pm & Sat 22 July, 2:30pm

BSL Performance: Fri 28 July, 7.30pm

Audio Described Performances: Thu 13 July, 7.30pm & Thu 20 July, 7.30pm

Captioned Performances: Mon 17 July, 7.30pm & Thu 3 August, 7.30pm

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https://www.dropbox.com/sh/9o8x05np7uwganv/AABx2cKzRVLxK_aYmkAjss1ca?dl=0

About the Young Vic Theatre

Founded in 1970 as a space for world-premiere productions as well as innovative and unexpected takes on classic plays, boldly conceived, that speak urgently to our present, the Young Vic Theatre has been one of London's leading theatres for more than fifty years. We foster future artists and collaborate with some of the world's finest directors, performers and creatives; creating award-winning productions which engage with the world we live in.

Built upon the principles of access, innovation, and community, the Young Vic stands out for balancing commercial success, drive and artistic flair with genuine grassroots social impact change in our neighbourhood.

Recent productions in the West End and on Broadway include: *Best of Enemies* at the Noël Coward Theatre and *Rodgers & Hammerstein's Oklahoma!* at Wyndham's Theatre; and on Broadway, *Death of a Salesman* at the Hudson Theatre and *The Collaboration* at Manhattan Theatre Club's Samuel J. Friedman Theatre. Bringing together artists and audiences on a global scale and using the power of stories to change our world, the Young Vic extends well beyond the boundaries of its walls.

Artistic Director: Kwame Kwei-Armah
Executive Director: Lucy Davies
www.youngvic.org

The Young Vic's annual activities are made possible with public funding from Arts Council England.

Additional support is provided by The Black Heart Foundation and the Genesis Foundation.

***Beneatha's Place* is generously supported by The Charlotte Aitken Trust.**

We gratefully acknowledge Ian Burford and Alec Cannell for generously supporting the Young Vic's mission.

About The Charlotte Aitken Trust

The Charlotte Aitken Trust is a charitable foundation set up by the celebrated literary agent Gillon Aitken in his daughter's name. The purpose of the Trust, as defined by Gillon, is to support, encourage, sustain and promote literary creativity in all its forms. The Trust was established in 2020 and since then has given grants and created associations with the Young Vic, The Brontë Parsonage, the Forward Poetry Prize and The Sunday Times Young Writer of the Year Award, among others.