

## COMPLETE CAST AND CREATIVE TEAM ANNOUNCED FOR *YV UNPACKED: LOVE REIGN*

Tickets on sale 12 noon today

### *YV Unpacked: Love Reign*

Written by Shereen Jasmin Phillips

Directed by Stef O'Driscoll

On Tour in Lambeth and Southwark 4 – 15 October

Then Maria Theatre, Young Vic 18 – 23 October

Young Vic Taking Part today announce the complete cast and creative team for *Love Reign*, their 2021 *YV Unpacked* production. This professional production which will tour to venues in Lambeth and Southwark where theatre is not regularly performed, before a run at the Young Vic.

*Love Reign*, written by **Shereen Jasmin Phillips** and directed by **Stef O'Driscoll**, is an eclectic piece of new writing, fusing narrative and a live, soulful house soundtrack to create an exhilarating storytelling experience. Venues hosting the *YV Unpacked* tour of *Love Reign* will include schools, women's centres and a range of community spaces who provided focused support for different groups, including people who have experienced homelessness and those with learning disabilities, autism and mental health needs.

The cast of *YV Unpacked: Love Reign* includes **Hannah Ledwidge**, **Redd Lily Roche**, **Neeta Sarl**, **Shakira Malkani** and **Tanika Yearwood**.

*Love Reign* is Written by **Shereen Jasmin Phillips** and Directed by **Stef O'Driscoll**, with Musical Direction and Composition by **Neeta Sarl**, Movement Direction by **Rachael Nanyonjo** and Design Consultation by **Khadija Raza**, with Trainee Assistant Direction by **Tomi Adewusi**.

*Love Reign* follows the success of two *YV Unpacked* tours, which saw professionally performed productions of *Spring Awakening* and *She Ventures and He Wins* performed in venues in Lambeth and Southwark. *YV Unpacked* was established in 2018 by Kwame Kwei-Armah when he became the Young Vic Artistic Director, developed with the intention of reaching audiences who may find it more difficult to access theatre by taking professional work to them.

This year marks the first time Taking Part has toured an original work as part of *YV Unpacked*. By locating the world of the play in South London, with local references and audience interaction encouraged, the piece aims to centre the audiences it has been created for. At its core, *Love Reign* is a love letter to friendships; how we begin them, how we honour them and how preserve them against all odds in our lives. This show encapsulates the joyful expression of friendship delicately underscored by a live soundtrack from the band. This is ***theatre you can vibe to***.

Venues hosting *YV Unpacked: Love Reign* include **Dunraven School**, **South Bank University Academy**, **Women in Prison (Beth Centre) at East Hill Baptist Church**, **Blackfriars Settlement** and **Certitude London in partnership with Portico Gallery**, with more venues to be announced. At least 10% of tickets to the performance run in the Maria Theatre will be given free to schools, neighbours and early-career theatre makers.

### Listings

On Tour in Lambeth and Southwark 4 – 15 October

Maria Theatre, Young Vic 18 – 23 October

Socially Distanced Performances: 2.30pm and 7.30pm, 20 October

Streamed Performance: 22 October (further details to be announced)

BSL Performances: 7.30pm, 22 and 23 October

**The YV Unpacked: Love Reign tour concludes with a performance run at the Young Vic, 18 – 23 October. Tickets on sale from 12 noon on 26 August.**

#TheatreYouCanVibeTo

**ENDS**

### **About Taking Part**

Taking Part, the Young Vic's creative engagement department, delivers an ambitious programme each year, collaborating with the UK's leading theatre artists to create work for and with our local community. Taking Part work with thousands of participants each year, helping them to develop their creative skills, build meaningful relationships and connections, and tell compelling stories about the world we live in.

### **About the Young Vic**

For fifty years, the Young Vic has produced new plays, classics, musicals, adaptations of books, short films, digital projects, and game-changing forms of theatre, attracting large audiences from many different backgrounds. Based in London's Waterloo, we forge deep connections in our neighbourhood through our [Taking Part](#) programme, where we engage with over 15,000 people every year via a wide range of projects, from skills-based workshops to on-stage performances. We give 10% of our tickets free to schools and neighbours, irrespective of box office demand, and we are committed to keeping all ticket prices low.

Our [Directors Program](#), the only scheme of its kind, has been running for nearly twenty years and offers young directors a unique opportunity to develop their craft through skills workshops, peer-led projects, paid assistant directing roles through the [Genesis Fellow](#), the [Jerwood Assistant Director Program](#) and the [Boris Karloff Trainee Assistant Director Program](#), as well as access to the [Genesis Directors Network](#). Twice a year, the recipient of the [Genesis Future Directors Award](#) directs a show in The Clare theatre at the Young Vic with full support from the Young Vic's creative, administrative and production teams, enabling us to support and nurture an emerging director as a part of the Young Vic programme.

For many years, the Young Vic has been synonymous with inclusivity, accessibility, and creativity. We catalyse debate and channel our work into the digital world, to reach new audiences and continue conversations outside of our four walls. We foster emerging talent 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.

Artistic Director: **Kwame Kwei-Armah**

Executive Director: **Despina Tsatsas**

[youngvic.org](http://youngvic.org)

### **Public Support**



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**ARTS COUNCIL  
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Council**

### **Season Support**

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**The Young Vic's 2021-22 season is also supported by the Genesis Foundation and IHS Markit.**

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