

# Young Vic

Press Release – Tuesday 8 November 2022

Images and video can be downloaded [here](#)

Rehearsal YouTube link available [here](#)

## FIRST IMAGES AND VIDEO RELEASED FOR THE WORLD PREMIERE MUSICAL *MANDELA*

**Michael Luwoye (*Hamilton*) plays the title role of Nelson Mandela, with Danielle Fiamanya (*Frozen*) as Winnie Mandela**

**At the Young Vic Theatre from 29 November 2022 – 4 February 2023  
Broadcast live via Best Seat In Your House from 19 – 23 January 2023**

Young Vic Theatre

*Mandela*

Book by Laiona Michelle

Music and Lyrics by Greg Dean Borowsky and Shaun Borowsky

Directed by Schele Williams

In proud partnership with Nandi Mandela, Luvuyo Madasa and the Mandela family

Co-produced by special arrangement with Nandi Mandela, Luvuyo Madasa, Shaun

Hurwitz, Ronen Zekry, Greg Dean Borowsky, Shaun Borowsky and Brian & Dayna Lee

Main House

29 November – 4 February 2023

Press Night 8 December, 7pm

The world premiere musical *Mandela* releases the first images and video from the rehearsal room today, featuring a first glimpse and early listen of the soaring new musical ahead of its opening at the **Young Vic Theatre**. Infused with the rhythms of South Africa, *Mandela* tells the extraordinary story of a man who changed the course of modern history - the sacrifices he made as a husband and father, and the global movement that inspired him and his comrades to keep fighting. Featuring a book by **Laiona Michelle**, music and lyrics by **Greg Dean Borowsky** and **Shaun Borowsky**, and directed by **Schele Williams**, *Mandela* is presented in proud partnership with **Nandi Mandela**, **Luvuyo Madasa** and **the Mandela family**. The production previews at the Young Vic from 29 November, with opening night for press on 8 December, and will run until 4 February 2023.

*"A new spirit has gripped our nation!"*

*"Together is where tomorrow's promise lies"*

It's 1960. Young activist, Nelson Mandela, rallies the people of South Africa to protest against the racial segregation of apartheid. In 1962 he is arrested and sentenced to life in prison, where he will spend the next 27 years, taken from his wife and children, as the fight for freedom sweeps his country.

The cast is **Michael Luwoye** and **Danielle Fiamanya** as Nelson Mandela and Winnie Mandela with **Gregory Armand** as Vusi, **Zion Battles** as Bongani, **Earl Carpenter** as the Prime Minister, **Stewart Clarke** as the Warden, **Hanna Dimtsu** as Nomsa, **Lerato Gwebu** as Adelaide Tambo / Evelyn Mase, **Prudence Jezile** as Praise Singer, **Akmed Junior Khemalai** as Walter Sisulu, **Blue Makwana** as Gugu, **Kayleigh McKnight** as Susan / Erika, **Posi Morakinyo** as Thembi Mandela, **Snezey Msomi** as Albertina Sisulu / Maki Mandela, **Nomfusi Ngonyama** as Zeni Mandela, **Ryan O'Donnell** as Joe Slovo, **Adam Pearce** as Kobus, **Bolthale Phora** as Kgatho Mandela, **Shiv Rabheru** as Ahmed Kathrada, **Will Richardson** as Piet, **Leanne Robinson** as Zindzi Mandela, and **Ntsikelelo Nicholas Vani** as Oliver Tambo.

*Mandela* features additional music & lyrics by **Bongi Duma**, with choreography by **Gregory Maqoma**, set design by Academy Award winner **Hannah Beachler**, costume designs by **Fay Fullerton**, lighting design by Tony Award and Olivier Award winner **Jon Clark**, sound design by **Paul Gatehouse**, projection and video design by **Akhila Krishnan**, orchestration by **Sam Young**, musical supervision by **Benjamin Kwasi Burrell**, musical direction by **Sean Mayes** and casting by **Pippa Ailion CDG** and **Natalie Gallacher CDG**. Completing the creative team are Associate Choreographer **Dickson Mbi**, Associate Set Designer **Debbie Duru**, Associate Music Director **Sam Young**, Associate Casting Director **Richard Johnston**, and Associate Directors **Becca Chadder** and **Rochelle Wilson**.

The band is **Will Fry** percussion/djembe, **Andy Findon** woodwind, **Peter Martin** bass/electric, **Zach Okonkwo** drums, **Wayne Plummer** guitar/kora and **Craig Wild** trumpet/flugel.

*Mandela* will be broadcast live for four performances from 19 – 23 January as part of [Best Seat in Your House](#) the Young Vic's immersive multi-camera play that allows audience members to pick their preferred camera angle during the live show. The broadcast experience is designed uniquely for the production, with multiple cameras positioned to offer unique perspectives of the show. Captions, audio description and BSL-interpretation will be available for every stream. Tickets for Best Seat in Your House broadcasts of *Mandela* are on sale at [www.youngvic.org](http://www.youngvic.org)

*The development of Best Seat in Your House was made possible with public support from the UK Government's Culture Recovery Fund. Additional generous support was provided by the Genesis Foundation's Genesis Kickstart Fund.*

*Mandela is generously sponsored by MultiChoice.*

**Relaxed Performance:** 4 January 2023, 7.30pm

**Socially Distanced Performance:** 21 December 2022, 7.30pm

**BSL Performance:** 13 December 2022 & 12 January 2023, 7.30pm

**Audio Described Performance:** 19 December 2022, 10 & 24 January 2023, 7.30pm

**Captioned Performance:** 15 December 2022 & 5 January 2023, 7.30pm

**Best Seat in Your House broadcasts:** 19, 20, 21 & 23 January 2023, 7.30pm and 21 January 2023, 2.30pm

**ENDS**

**For more information, please contact:**

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### **About the Young Vic**

For over 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 ticket prices low.

The Young Vic's [Creators Program](#) is our space for multi- and anti-disciplinary artists, and is the only scheme of its kind. Launched in 2001 and formerly known as the Directors Program, we offer artists and producers a unique opportunity to develop their craft through skills workshops, peer-led projects, and paid work opportunities that range from trainee and assistant director roles to a two year residency through the [Genesis Fellow/ Associate Director](#) position. The [Genesis Network](#) provides an online community to over 2,000 artists and producers. Each year, the recipient of the [Genesis Future Directors Award](#) directs a show in The Clare Theatre with full support from the Young Vic's creative, administrative and production teams, enabling us to support and nurture an early career director as part of our season of work.

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: **Lucy Davies**

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

### **Public Support**



### **Season Support**



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