

LINES

Wed 28 February -
Sat 9 March

A Sheffield Theatres, Roots Mbili
and Remote Theater Project
Production



**SHEFF!ELD
THEATRES**

PLAYHOUSE

WELCOME



Welcome to this performance of **Lines**.

We're delighted to see **Roots Mbili** return to Sheffield once again. Having been part of the inaugural Bank cohort of supported artists, **John Rwothomack** has been a regular collaborator, writing and performing in bold, new productions including **Far Gone** and **Never Look Back**. We also extend a warm welcome to **Remote Theater Project** who we are working with for the first time. **Lines** is receiving its world premiere in Sheffield before embarking on an international tour.

At the same time as **Lines**, over in the Crucible we present another exciting production. **The Crucible**, Arthur Miller's enduring masterpiece, directed by Associate Artistic Director **Anthony Lau** promises to bring the fizzing energy that Anthony and the team introduced to their productions of **Anna Karenina** and **The Good Person of Szechwan**.

As always, we thank you for supporting Sheffield Theatres in bringing bold and exciting theatre to Sheffield and beyond.

I hope you enjoy this performance of **Lines**.

Robert Hastie
Artistic Director, Sheffield Theatres

First performed at the Tanya Moiseiwitsch Playhouse, Sheffield on Wednesday 27 February, 2024.

**SHEFFIELD
THEATRES**

CAST

John Rwothomack

John Rwothomack

Fidaa Zidan

Fidaa Zidan

PRODUCTION TEAM

Writer and Creators

John Rwothomack

Fidaa Zidan

Writer, Creator and Producer
(US)

Alexandra Aron

Writer, Creator and Director

Junaid Sardeddeen

Additional writing

Asiimwe Deborah Kawe

Designer

Kevin Jenkins

Lighting Designer

K.J

Sound Designer

Lee Affen

Video and Projection
Designer

Tal Yarden

Movement Director

Robia Milliner

Producer (UK)

Sam Holland

Digital Director

Smart Banda

Production Manager

Tom Nickson

Stage Manager

Morgandy McKinnell

CAST AND CREATIVE BIOGRAPHIES



JOHN RWOTHOMACK

Playing John
Writer and Creator

John is a Ugandan-born, London trained, and Sheffield-bred and based writer, actor and director.

John trained as an actor at Rose Bruford School of Dramatic Arts and sits on the board of governors for Migration Matters Festival. John is also a member of Sheffield Theatres Bank alumni and was nominated by Sheffield Theatres to English Touring Theatre's Nationwide Voices scheme.

For Sheffield Theatres, credits include: As Playwright, Director and Actor: *Far Gone* (co-production with Roots Mbili Theatre). As Assistant Director: *The Last King of Scotland*, *Shadows in Different Shades*.

Other theatre credits include: As Playwright, Director and Actor: *Far Gone* (Theatre Deli). As Director: *Bad Blood Blues* (Theatre Deli); *I am David Oluwale* (Leeds Playhouse). As Assistant Director: *White Noise* (Bridge Theatre). As Actor: *Taxi* (Red Ladder Theatre); *I Wonder If...* (Young Vic); *On Missing* (The Cockpit Theatre); *Tales From The Playground* (Paper Finch Theatre); *The Emperor Jones* (The Lost Theatre); *The Low Road* (Stratford Circus).



FIDAA ZIDAN

Playing Fidaa
Writer and Creator

Fidaa is a Palestinian actress and writer from the Galilee region of Palestine. She received a BA in Social Theatre from Haifa University, and an MFA from Tel-Aviv University.

In 2018, Fidaa wrote and performed in her own production, *The Last Day of Spring*, a monodrama that explores the theme of personal loss in front of government rituals and the identity crisis between them.

Recently, Fidaa directed several student works and plays for children. She wrote and organised spoken word poetry events and went on to participate in several short films.

Credits include: *The Stone Is Our Sign* (The Freedom Theatre, Jenin); *The Walk With Amal* (International Tour); *Grey Rock* (New York / US / Australia Tour); *The Mountain* (Sard Theatre); *Last Ward* (Gibney, NYC / The Arts Centre, Abu Dhabi).

ALEXANDRA ARON

Writer, Creator and Producer (US)

Alexandra is a director and producer based in New York.

Alexandra is the founder of Remote Theater Project, she is also an affiliated artist of New Georges Theater, and an alumna of the Lincoln Center Directing Lab, and Women's Project Directors Forum.

Alexandra will direct *The Mulberry Tree* (La MaMa Theater) later this year.

Theatre credits include: *King of the Jews* (HERE Arts, NYC); *A Night in the Old Marketplace* (International Tour); *Naked Old Man* (Ensemble Studio Theatre); *Imagining Madoff* (Theater J, DC); *Salomé: Woman of Valor* (Chutzpah! Festival, Vancouver / Ashkenaz Festival, Toronto / American Repertory Theater's Oberon Theater).

Film credits include: *Two Altars and a Cave* (short).

JUNAID SARIEDDEEN

Writer, Creator and Director

Junaid is a theatre actor, director and dramaturg. He is a founding member of Beirut-based Zoukak Theatre Company and member of the Sundance board of trustees.

Junaid holds a BA in Theatre, a BA in Philosophy, and a Masters in Research in Theatre.

Junaid has directed several theatre plays and has performed in more than 30 productions in the past 22 years, touring in multiple cities and festivals around the world.

ASIIMWE DEBORAH KAWE

Additional Writing

Asiimwe is an award-winning playwright, producer, and performer. She is the founding Producing Artistic Director of Tebere Arts Foundation and the Artistic Director of the Kampala International Theatre Festival.

Asiimwe worked with the Sundance Theatre Program, leading the East Africa initiative for six years, dividing her time between New York and Kampala.

Asiimwe received a BA in Theatre from Makerere University, in Kampala-Uganda, and an MFA in Writing for Performance from the California Institute of the Arts. She's currently one of the playwrights in residency at The Residenz Theater in Munich.

KEVIN JENKINS

Designer

Kevin has been designing for theatre for 17 years after training on the Motley Theatre Design Course. He studied Engineering at the University of Durham and has been a secondary school teacher of Design and Technology.

For Sheffield Theatres, credits include: *Anna Hibiscus' Song*, *Far Gone* (co-production with Roots Mbili Theatre), *How a City Can Save the World*, *Songs from the Seven Hills*, *What We Wished For*, *A Dream*, *Hospital Food*, *The Beauty Inspector*, *Confessions of a City*, *Warrior Square*, *Topdog/Underdog*, *Hearts*.

Other theatres credits include: *Anna Hibiscus' Song* (Regional Tour); *Far Gone* (Theatre Deli); *Hearts* (National Theatre); *Constant Companions*, *Family Album*, *Seasons Greetings*, *A Brief History of Women*, *Taking Steps*, *The Girl Next Door*, *Birthdays Past Birthdays Present*, *No Knowing* (Stephen Joseph Theatre); *Cinderella*, *Home Girl* (Derby Theatre); *Are You As Nervous As I Am* (Greenwich Theatre); *Coram Boy* (Nottingham Playhouse); *The Frontline*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Shiv* (Leicester Curve); *The Adventures of Alice in Wonderland* (Wise Owl Theatre Co, UK Tour); *Jane Hair* (Buglight); *Beauty and the Beast*, *Private Lives* (Torch Theatre).

K.J

Lighting Designer

K.J is a lighting designer for Theatre, Dance and Opera. They are a graduate of the ALPD 20:20 scheme.

Theatre credits include: As Lighting Designer: *Jockstrap* (Barbican); *Traces Through Time* (Linbury Theatre / Royal Opera House); *FLIP!* (Fuel Theatre / Soho Theatre); *Black Sabbath: The Ballet, Hotel* (Birmingham Royal Ballet); *On The Nature of Rabbits* (Venice Biennale / Joyce Theater, NYC); *My Brother's Keeper* (Theatre503); *Who's Holiday* (HOME Manchester / Southwark Playhouse); *SHED* (UK Tour); *DOGS* (Liverpool Playhouse); *Illegal Dance* (UK Tour); *Happy Meal* (Edinburgh Fringe / Brixton House Theatre); *Celebrated Virgins* (Theatr Clwyd); *Black Is...* (Fubunation); *As You Like It* (UK Tour); *Decades* (Leeds Playhouse); *West Side Story: Symphonic Dances* (Opera North); *Black Waters* (Phoenix Dance Theatre). As Associate Lighting Designer: *The F*****s and Their Friends* (Manchester International Festival) and *Coming To England* (Birmingham Rep).

LEE AFFEN

Sound Designer

Lee is a global majority artist, a multi-instrumentalist composer and sound designer working on an extensive catalogue of projects in theatre, dance and film.

Lee is an associate artist with Imagine If Theatre and The Dukes Theatre.

For Sheffield Theatres, credits include: *Far Gone* (co-production with Roots Mbili Theatre).

Other theatre credits include: *Far Gone* (Theatre Deli); *Jadek* (UK Tour).

Television credits include: *Amazing Humans* (BBC 3).

TAL YARDEN

Video and Projection Designer

Tal produces visual content, specialising in work for live events. His work has been seen throughout Europe and the USA.

Tal has won a Molière Award (*Les Damnés*) and a Lucille Lortel Award (*Network*).

Theatre credits include: *Get Up, Stand Up* (Lyric); *Anna X* (Harold Pinter); *My Brilliant Friend, Network* (National Theatre); *Indecent* (Menier Chocolate Factory); *Hamlet* (Almeida); *Antigone, The Damned, Kings of War, The Fountainhead, Roman Tragedies* (Barbican); *Lazarus* (Kings Cross); *The Waverly Gallery* (John Golden); *Sunday in the Park with George* (Hudson, NYC); *The Crucible* (Walter Kerr); *Becky Nurse of Salem* (Lincoln Center Theater); *Grey Rock, King Lear* (The Public Theater); *Distracted* (Laura Pels); *Liberty City, The Misanthrope* (New York Theater Workshop); *A Walk on the Moon* (George Street Playhouse); *Ocean Filibuster* (American Repertory Theater); *Passing Strange* (Wilma); *Frost/Nixon* (Bay Street); *Exterminating Angel* (Royal Opera); *Between Worlds* (English National Opera); *Mahagonny, Salome* (Dutch National Opera); *Brokeback Mountain* (Teatro Real); *Macbeth* (Opera de Lyon).

Other credits include: *Alicia Keys* (UNAIDS25), *Snoop Dogg* (Amsterjam festival), *James Brown* (Downtown Alliance), *Patti Smith* (Saint John the Divine), *Pat McGrath* (PMG x Selfridges), *Rick Owens* (CFDA Award).

ROBIA MILLINER

Movement Director

Robia has been performing, choreographing and teaching in London for over 10 years.

She has worked with companies and choreographers such as Hofesh Schecter and ZooNation Kate Prince co., as well as creating work as a solo artist. Robia is a rehearsal director for FUBU Nation and assists in the commercial dance scene with the likes of Beyoncé, Raye and Royksopp.

SAM HOLLAND

Producer (UK)

Sam is a Sheffield-based theatre producer and festival director. Since 2016, he has been Artistic Director of the award-winning Migration Matters Festival, a multi-arts festival of sanctuary, identity and cultural heritage and the UK's largest Refugee Week festival. He is voluntary director of Arts on the Run, a Sheffield-based charity supporting refugee and migrant artists. Sam project managed Utopia Theatre's *Spirit of Africa Festival (So Africa Festival)* in 2018.

Sam is Executive Producer of Roots Mbili Theatre.

For Sheffield Theatres, credits include: *Far Gone* (co-production with Roots Mbili Theatre), *Never Look Back* (a sharing by Roots Mbili Theatre, WIP).

Other theatre credits include: *My Name is Rachel Corrie*, *There is No Planet B* (Theatre Deli), *The Pianist of Sarajevo* (R&D); *BONFIRE* (Regional Tour); *Benny and the Greycats* (Arcola Theatre / Disrupt 21 / Migration Matters Festival).

SMART BANDA

Digital Director

Smart works as Digital Director for Stand and Be Counted (SBC) Theatre, Migration Matters Festival and Roots Mbili Theatre.

Smart has also worked on projects commissioned by Historic England and Sheffield City Council. He is a trustee of The Montgomery Theatre, Sheffield.

TOM NICKSON

Production Manager

For Sheffield Theatres, credits include: *Coriolanus*, *Standing at the Sky's Edge*, *Everybody's Talking About Jamie*.

Other theatre credits include: *Operation Mincemeat*, *Ava* (Riverside Studios); *Dan Howell Doomed* (International Tour); *Mind Mangler* (UK Tour / Apollo / New World Stages / Virgin Voyages); *The Shark is Broken* (Ambassadors, Toronto); *Persuasion*, *Private Peaceful* (UK Tour); *Mischief Movie Night* (Vaudeville / Immersive / Riverside); *Groan Ups*, *Magic Goes Wrong* (Vaudeville / Apollo / UK Tour); *Patriots*, *Inheritance*, *Impossible* (Noël Coward Theatre); *The Birthday Party*, *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf*, *Nice Fish* (Harold Pinter Theatre); *Sunny Afternoon* (Harold Pinter Theatre / UK Tour); *Pressure* (Ambassadors, London); *Chariots of Fire*, *Ravens*, *Dry Powder*, *The Slaves of Solitude*, *Occupational Hazards*, *Filthy Business*, *Wild Honey*, *IHO*, *Ken*, *Reasons to be Happy*, *Rabbi Hole*, *Matchbox Theatre*, *Stevie*, *Hysteria*, *Hello Goodbye*, *Race*, *Death of a Blackman*, *Fever Syndrome* (Hampstead); *The Secret Garden* (Theatre by the Lake / York Theatre Royal); *Much Ado About Nothing* (Rose Theatre); *It's a Wonderful Life* (English National Opera); *Turn of the Screw* (Wiltons Musical Hall); *Midsummer Night Dream*, *Cenerentola*, *Manon Lescaut*, *Belshazzar*, *Falstaff*, *Le Nozze Di Figaro*, *Agrippina*, *The Barber of Seville*, *The Abduction of Seraglio*, *Il ritorno d'Ulisse in patria*, *Carmen*, *Albert Herring* (Grange Festival); *Idomeneo*, *L'Italiana in Algeri* (Garsington).

MORGANDY MCKINNELL

Stage Manager

Morgandy is a freelance stage manager, events coordinator, and production manager based in Yorkshire. She discovered stage management in 2013 and has since worked on over 20 productions across theatre, dance and immersive experiences.

In 2022, Morgandy began to work as a production manager alongside her stage management practice. She has worked for some of Montreal's biggest festivals such as the *Festival Transamériques*, *Montréal Fringe*, and the *Just for Laughs Festival*.

For Sheffield Theatres, credits include: *All Our Goals*.

Other theatre credits include: *Big Strong Man* (The Growth House); *Mayflies* (York Theatre Royal).

Other credits include: *Leeds 2023 Year of Culture*.

PRODUCTION CREDITS

Lighting Technician

Connor O'Neil

THANKS

We would like to thank the following people:

Special thanks to Jo Hookway.

Thanks to: Ellen Beardmore, Tom Robbins, Jana Bou Matar, Ruby Clarke, Mohamad Hamdan, Gomolemo Nyakale, Andy Watson and Geese Theatre.

ABOUT ROOTS MBILI THEATRE

Roots Mbili Theatre is a Dramatic Arts Production Company specialising in cross-cultural collaborative practice bringing artists together from across the world to create ground-breaking work.

Much of Roots Mbili's focus is platforming stories from Africa and about African diaspora in the UK, merging culturally distinct storytelling styles in order to create unique and challenging theatre which will have an enduring impact on audiences everywhere and forge creative exchanges for artists and organisations.

Roots Mbili Theatre's past work includes *Far Gone* co-produced with Sheffield Theatres, which has been toured across the UK, Kampala International Theatre Festival and the Edinburgh Fringe.

A work-in-progress of new project, *Never Look Back* was staged on the Crucible main stage in November 2023 and is undergoing development into a full production.

Roots Mbili Theatre is led by Artistic Director John Rwothomack, Creative Producer Sam Holland and Digital Director Smart Banda.

ABOUT REMOTE THEATER PROJECT

Remote Theater Project (RTP) was founded by producing Artistic Director, Alexandra Aron, in 2018, to develop and tour work by international artists not frequently seen in the US.

RTP commissioned and produced GREY ROCK by Amir Nizar Zuabi, presented at La MaMa Theatre in 2019, followed by a 2020 US tour (Public Theater, NY, Guthrie Theatre, Kennedy Center and Kimmel Center in Philadelphia) and also seen at the Melbourne and Adelaide Festivals.

RTP has created US-based events for Little Amal/The Walk Productions, as well as local community engagement projects in NYC.

In June RTP will present *Thank You For Listening* by Carmen Rivera based on workshops with migrant, homeless and Chinese senior citizens in Sara Roosevelt Park in Chinatown, NY.



Sheffield Theatres Crucible Trust is a registered Charity No. 1120640 and is a company limited by guarantee No. 6035820



Supported using public funding by
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