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**Citizens  
Theatre**



**NORTHERN  
STAGE**



# OTHELLO

**WRITTEN BY WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE  
DIRECTED BY ANTHONY ALMEIDA**

**A NORTHERN STAGE, HOME MANCHESTER AND CITIZENS THEATRE CO-PRODUCTION,  
IN ASSOCIATION WITH ROYAL & DERNGATE, NORTHAMPTON**

# NOTE FROM THE DIRECTOR: ANTHONY ALMEIDA



A way in.

Everything began with questions.

**How do I want to be seen? How do others see me?**

We began with a simple idea: Othello is a tragedy of perception. Every character is trying to close the gap between who they are and who they think they should be. We all perform. Confidence. Competence. Loyalty. Love. Authority. We change depending on the room we're in, the people we're with and the expectations placed upon us.

As rehearsals went on, we became less interested in what the characters believed, and more interested in what they did. How they walked into a room. How they listened. What they hid. What they revealed. It turns out the smallest acts of restraint, adaptation, generosity and care are the very things that hold a community together. Sometimes, they quietly pull it apart.

# NOTE FROM THE DIRECTOR

## Why the early 1980s?

Shakespeare made theatre about the world around him. We wanted to do the same.

The Britain of the early 1980s is a country in transition. Institutions still carry enormous authority, but the world around them is changing. It's a society where professionalism, appearance and belonging matter deeply, making it a compelling home for Shakespeare's story. The play's conflict between Venice and Turkey over Cyprus also finds an unsettling echo in Britain's own military and political climate.

For some, the 1980s will be remembered. For others, the 80s exists through photographs, music, television and family stories. Either way, it's a world we recognise. A world where soldiers polish their shoes until they gleam, then wipe their noses on the sleeves of the very uniforms they've spent hours preparing.

Untidy humanity. Immaculate presentation. That's the contradiction at the heart of this production.

## What happens when intimacy comes under pressure?

Othello is full of war, politics and public life. Yet the real damage happens between people who love one another.

We've tried to keep our attention on those intimate encounters: the private conversations, the shared silences, the jokes, the misunderstandings, the moments when affection slowly gives way to suspicion. The most devastating violence in this play begins long before anyone reaches for a weapon.

## Why gather?

Nothing can replace the experience of sharing a story with other people, in the same room, at the same moment.

From the beginning, we asked how performance, design, movement, music, sound and light could work together to create one living world. Not a collection of separate ideas, but a single experience. We hope you don't simply watch this production but find yourself inside it. Sharing the same space. The same tension. Ultimately, the same questions as the people on stage.

More than four hundred years after it was written, Othello still feels uncannily close to us. Not because it gives us answers, but because it asks us to look more carefully. At how we behave. How we belong. And how easily the worlds we build together can be sustained, or quietly undone.

That's where the evening really begins.

The rest is in how we behave.

# CAST

|           |                            |
|-----------|----------------------------|
| Emilia    | <b>Rebecca Banatvala</b>   |
| Brabantio | <b>Chris Garner</b>        |
| Bianca    | <b>Grace Hodgett Young</b> |
| Desdemona | <b>Phoebe Smyth</b>        |
| Cassio    | <b>Will Stanton</b>        |
| Roderigo  | <b>Matthieu Sys</b>        |
| Iago      | <b>Maanuv Thiara</b>       |
| Othello   | <b>Dwane Walcott</b>       |

# CREATIVE TEAM

Director **Anthony Almeida**

Assistant Director **Ivan Hamshaw-Thomas**

Designer **Natasha Jenkins**

Lighting Designer **Jack Hathaway**

Sound Designer & Composer **Matthew Tuckey**

Video Designer **Erin Guan**

Movement Director **Giaele Mattioli**

Casting Director **Karishma Balani**

Costume Supervisor **Sara Mackenzie**

Video Programmer & Production Sound Engineer **Jamie Waters**

Re-lighter **Kevin Murphy**

Costume Maker **Lucy Minta Reeves**

Costume Support/Assistant **Katy Gardner**

Costume Support/Assistant **Phillip Brown**

Hair and Makeup Advisor **Jo-Anna Barton**

# PRODUCTION & STAGE MANAGEMENT

Production Manager **Suzie Normand**

Company Manager (Northern Stage) **Colin Holman**

Stage Manager (rehearsals)  
Company & Stage Manager (tour) **Wesley Carter**

Deputy Stage Manager **Robyn Clogg**

Technical ASM **Alexandra Ip Dos Santos**

Sound Number 1 **Alex Tate**

Assistant Stage Manager **Pimlabhas Unhasuta**

# ACCESS

BSL Interpreter **Clare Edwards**

Audio Describer **Louise Ainsley**

# MEET THE CAST

## REBECCA BANATVALA EMILIA



Theatre credits include: Summerfolk (National Theatre); Autumn (Park Theatre); Northanger Abbey (Orange Tree, Bolton Octagon, SJT and TBTL); Sap (Roundabout, Soho Theatre, UK Tour); I F\*cked You In My Spaceship (VAULT Festival); Much Ado About Nothing (RSC); Mrs Puntilla and her Man Matti (Royal Lyceum Theatre); Rotterdam (UK Tour); The Three Musketeers (The Dukes) and Trident Moon (Finborough Theatre).

Television credits include: Vigil (BBC); Grace (ITV); The Syndicate (BBC); Love, Death & Robots (Netflix); Eastenders (BBC) and Emmerdale (ITV).

Film credits include: The Princess Switch 3 (Netflix); Prima Facie premiering at the London Film Festival & Toronto International Film Festival 2026.

Radio: Snares (BBC Radio 4).

## CHRIS GARNER BRABANTIO



Theatre credits include: Macbeth Alone (National Tour); Calendar Girls (Frinton); War Horse (National Theatre); The School for Scandal (Bristol TF); The Country Girls, Antony and Cleopatra (Chichester); King Lear (Leeds Playhouse); 1984 (Northern Broadsides); Black Heart of Petty Malice (Soho, London); Observe the Sons of Ulster Marching Towards the Somme (Hampstead Theatre); Henry VI Part 3 (RSC National and International tour).

Film and TV credits include: Coronation Street; In From The Side; The Children Act; The Hunt for Raoul Moat; Emmerdale; Mistresses; The Royal; Medics; Casualty; Rich Tea and Sympathy; Made in Heaven; Eastenders.

Radio credits: Home Front III; War of the Worlds; Windscale; Abel's Law; The Radetsky March; If Not Now, When?; Hiawatha; Dear Little Burney; In a Summer Season; Going Clear; My Uncle Freddie.

# GRACE HODGETT YOUNG

## BIANCA



Grace graduated from Mountview Academy of Theatre Arts in 2023.

Credits include: Punch (UK Tour); Sunset Boulevard (Savoy Theatre/St James Theatre NYC); HadesTown (Lyric Theatre) and What It Feels Like For A Girl (BBC/HERA PICTURES).

Grace is the winner of The Stage 2024 Debut Awards 'Best Performer in a Musical' for her role as Betty Schaefer in Sunset Boulevard.

Winner of the What'sOnStage 2024 Award for 'Best Professional Debut' for her performance in Sunset Boulevard.

2024 Olivier Award nominee for 'Best Supporting Actress in a Musical' for her performance in Sunset Boulevard.

# PHOEBE SMYTH

## DESDEMONA

Phoebe has recently graduated from LAMDA.

She is a founding member of Mycelium Theatre Company, with whom she co-devised and performed A Microscopic Odyssey at Theatre503 and the Golden Goose Theatre. Mycelium has since been invited to perform at Theatre Networking Talents Festival in Romania and Pleasance Courtyard at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival.

She has also starred in Frayed, a short film nominated at the Independent Shorts Awards.

Theatre whilst training includes: Romeo & Juliet; Liolà; 1972: The Future of Sex and New Labour.

Othello marks Phoebe's professional stage debut.



# WILL STANTON CASSIO



Will trained at the London Academy of Music and Dramatic Art (LAMDA).

While his recent work has focused on screen, including an upcoming Disney+ production, returning to Shakespeare has been both a rewarding challenge and a reminder of why Will first fell in love with acting.

Originally from London and now based in Newcastle, Will is passionate about storytelling in all its forms.

Television credits include: Untitled Star Wars Project (Disney+).

Film credits include: Stargazers; The Candy Witch; Don't Speak; The Gardener.

Othello marks Will's professional stage debut.

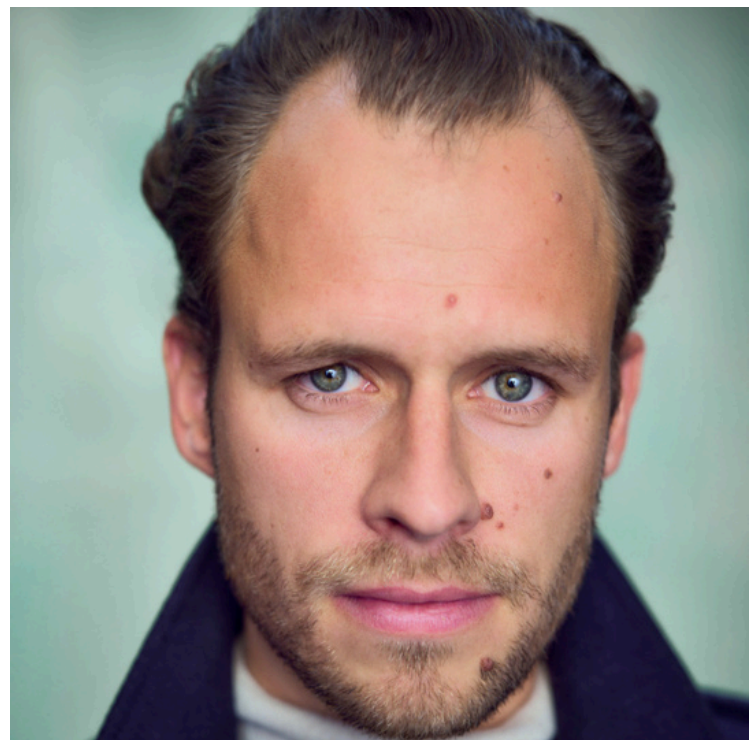
# MATTHIEU SYS RODERIGO

Matthieu Sys is an actor working across theatre, film and television.

Theatre credits include: 300el x 50el x 30el (FC Bergman); Speak! (Stand Up Tall Productions); A History of Everything (Ontroerend Goed/ Sidney Theatre Company); Audience (Ontroerend Goed); ATM or This is [not] New York (Sponsored by Nobody); Rennen (Kopergietery).

Television credits include: Hidden Assets (RTÉ); Under Fire (Netflix); Professor T (ITV); Blackout (VRT); A Good Year (VTM); 13 Commandments (Channel 4); Amigo's (VTM); In Flanders Fields (VRT).

Film credits include: The Pod Generation; Ventoux; Marry Me; Little Black Spiders; Ben X.



# MAANUV THIARA

## IAGO



Maanuv trained at Bristol Old Vic Theatre School. Theatre includes: Eclipse (Chichester Minerva Theatre); Boys on the Verge of Tears (Soho Theatre- winner of Olivier Award - Achievement in Affiliate Theatre); Guards at the Taj (Orange Tree Theatre); The Cherry Orchard (Yard Theatre); The Father and the Assassin (National Theatre); Love N Stuff (Oldham Coliseum); Approaching Empty (KILN); The Funeral Director (Southwark Playhouse); Trojan Horse (Summerhall- Fringe First Winner); A Passage to India (Park Theatre), Hamlet (Harold Pinter Theatre); True Brits (UK tour); Twelfth Night (Orange Tree Theatre).

Television includes: Trigger Point (ITV); Under Salt Marsh (Sky); Generation Z (Channel 4); Prime Target (Apple); DI Ray (ITV- nominated for Best Actor RTS Awards); Landscapers (HBO); Ted Lasso (Apple); Brassic S3 (Sky); Line of Duty (BBC); The Boy with the Topknot (BBC).

Film includes: The Unlikely Pilgrimage of Harold Fry. Audio includes: Peppa Pig; Mae Bee; Not the End of the World,; Our Friends in the North; The Mystery of Edwin Drood.

# DWANE WALCOTT

## OTHELLO

Theatre credits include: Hot Wing King ANNA, Damned by Despair (National Theatre); A Streetcar Named Desire (Almeida/West End/BAM Theatre, NYC); Machinal (Almeida); Romeo and Juliet (Shakespeare's Globe); Moonlight/Night School (Harold Pinter); One Night in Miami, Coriolanus (Donmar Warehouse); Henry V (Regent's Park); The Iphigenia Quartet (Gate Theatre); Hamlet (Barbican); The Twits (Royal Court); Titus Andronicus, A Mad World, My Masters & Candide (RSC); Romeo and Juliet (Stafford Shakespeare Festival); Torque (Bush Theatre); The Fiddler & Life on the Stairs (Faith Drama Productions).

Television credits include: Saviour (ITV); Believe Me (ITV); A Town Called Malice (Sky Max); Enterprise (BBC); Into the Badlands (AMC); Our Girl (BBC); Doctors (BBC); and Tut (Spike).

Film credits include: The Thing with Feathers and Mindhorn (Scott Free/BBC Film).





**CREDIT: MARC BRENNER**



CREDIT: MARC BRENNER

# WITH THANKS TO

Oliver Cook

Ivan Hamshaw-Thomas

Peter Robson

Leon Scott

Carol Rutter

National Theatre of Scotland

Scottish Opera

Citizens Theatre, Glasgow

Royal Lyceum Theatre, Edinburgh

Glad Rags Thrift, Glasgow

War Productions

SNC Productions

Richard Price

Perry Costello

Black Light

CalmIT

IngramAV

Pearce Hire

Stage Sound Services

# ABOUT THE PRODUCTION

Northern Stage reaches beyond the ordinary. From our home in the heart of Newcastle, we're part of a diverse creative community stretching from Tweed to Tyne and Tees. Our work is informed and transformed by the region so that we are an essential part of everyone's lives, making vital pieces of culture for the North East of today and tomorrow. Northern Stage produce, co-produce and support the production of great theatre for regional, national and international audiences in live and digital forms. Touring regionally, nationally and internationally with work that is popular, accessible, politically relevant and culturally diverse.

We promote creativity and creative practice and provide life-changing experiences for people who would not normally have access to such opportunities. Empowerment is at the heart of what we do, constantly evolving and collaborating with artists, practitioners and communities in the North East and beyond.

[northernstage.co.uk](http://northernstage.co.uk)



## HOME

HOME is Manchester's premier arts centre and a registered charity, welcoming over 7 million visitors since opening. HOME features two theatres, five cinemas, an art gallery, and a popular restaurant. HOME collaborates with artists from both the UK and around the world to produce and present exceptional visual art, cinema, and theatre experiences.

Placing a strong focus on UK theatre, international works, new commissions, and artist development, HOME is deeply rooted in the community, pushing creative boundaries, embracing experimentation, and sharing bold, exciting art with as wide an audience as possible. Patrons include director Danny Boyle, actress Suranne Jones, playwright and poet Jackie Kay CBE, and artist Rosa Barba.

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

The Citizens Theatre is Glasgow's major producing theatre and one of the UK's most influential theatre companies. Celebrated internationally for its bold, groundbreaking productions, the theatre also champions pioneering participatory and community programmes. Co-led by Executive Director Kate Denby and Artistic Director Dominic Hill - hailed by the Daily Telegraph for "a talent for classical drama which is genuinely world class" - the Citizens Theatre presents bold new interpretations of classic texts alongside new writing.

Rooted firmly in the Gorbals, at the heart of Glasgow's cultural life, the Citizens Theatre combines a deep local connection with an international outlook. Following the transformation of its historic home, the theatre reopened in 2025 with a critically acclaimed programme that continued to build on its rich heritage.

[citz.co.uk](http://citz.co.uk)

## Citizens Theatre

## ROYAL DERNGATE & NORTHAMPTON

Royal & Derngate, Northampton is proud of its reputation as a thriving regional theatre. An entertainment hub for communities across Northamptonshire and beyond, the three-stage and cinema complex is home to the acclaimed Made In Northampton self-produced programme, as well as welcoming the most well-known acts and shows touring the UK.

Recent accolades include a prestigious win for Best Family Show at the 2020 Oliviers and, in 2025, the title of the UK's Most Welcoming Theatre. Its nationally recognised Creative Engagement programme works with schools, families and communities, while the Generate development programme supports hundreds of regional artists each year.

[royalandderngate.co.uk](http://royalandderngate.co.uk)

## TOURING TO:

HOME Manchester Wed 30 Sep - Sat 10 Oct  
Royal & Derngate, Northampton Tue 13 - Sat 17 Oct  
Theatr Clwyd Tue 20 - Sat 24 Oct  
The Citizens Theatre Glasgow Tue 27 Oct - Sat 7 Nov  
Derby Theatre Tue 10 - Sat 14 Nov  
New Theatre, Peterborough Tue 17 - Fri 20 Nov