

Wednesday 13 July 2022

TRP Press Contact: Megan Stone, megan.stone@theatreroyal.com

For Immediate Release

A Frantic Assembly Production
announces its casting for award-winning
Othello

Frantic Assembly is delighted to announce casting for its acclaimed production of Shakespeare's *Othello* which will tour from this autumn, opening at Curve Theatre Leicester on 19 September. A new video about the production featuring Frantic Assembly Artistic Director and Co-Founder Scott Graham is also released today alongside a trailer (featuring previous cast). Both are available to [download here](#).

Michael Akinsulire (Trigger Point, Stephen, both ITV) will play Othello, **Joe Layton** (The Unreturning, Frantic Assembly; Young Wallander, Netflix) will play Iago, **Chanel Waddock** (Rock, Paper, Scissors, Sheffield Crucible; Hamlet, National Theatre) will play Desdemona, **Oliver Baines** (I Like The Way You Move, Frantic Ignition 2019, Theatre Peckham) will play Montano, **Tom Gill** (Vigil, BBC; Britannia, Sky) will play Cassio, **Felipe Pacheco** (Brassic, Sky; The Responder, BBC) will play Roderigo, **Hannah Sinclair Robinson** (The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time, UK and Ireland Tour; Rockets, Blue Lights, both National Theatre) will play Bianca, **Kirsty Stuart** (I Think We Are Alone, Frantic Assembly; Call the Midwife, BBC) will play Emilia, and **Matthew Trevannion** (War Horse, National Theatre; The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time, West End) will play Brabantio.

Five members of the Othello cast and creative team are past graduates of Frantic Assembly's Ignition programme including Associate Director **David Gilbert**, Co-Choreographer **Perry Johnson**, **Joe Layton** (Iago), **Oliver Baines** (Montano) and **Felipe Pacheco** (Roderigo), proving that Frantic Assembly is at the forefront of finding,

developing, and providing opportunity for new talent from all over the UK.

Ignition is a free, nationwide talent development programme for young people aged 16-24. It seeks out underrepresented talent in unexpected places, playing a vital role in dismantling barriers that can prevent fresh perspectives from revitalising the Arts. Ignition continues to transform lives, open doors and allows young people to reach beyond what they thought they were capable of.

Frantic Assembly Co-Founder and Artistic Director **Scott Graham** said: “It is wonderful to be able to take our work back out on tour, to connect and demonstrate the talent of this brilliant cast within a story that feels as urgent and thrilling as ever”.

Blisteringly relevant today, *Othello* exposes the tension, fear and insecurity buried beneath the veneer of our relationships and how easily that can be maliciously exploited. Lies and truths are blurred to create a poison paranoia that eats away from the inside, manipulating and destroying, turning a community upon itself.

Frantic Assembly takes Shakespeare’s muscular and beautiful text, combines its own bruising physicality, and presents an *Othello* firmly rooted in a volatile 21st century. This is a world of broken glass and broken promises, of poisonous manipulation and explosive violence. *Othello*’s passionate affair with Desdemona becomes the catalyst for jealousy, betrayal, revenge and the darkest intents.

Originally presented to great acclaim in 2008 and 2014, this updated version in co-production with Curve Theatre Leicester, will tour to Curve Leicester, Liverpool Playhouse, Theatre Royal Plymouth, Theatre Royal York, Yvonne Arnaud Guildford, Oxford Playhouse, The Lowry Salford Quays, MAST Mayflower Studios Southampton, Connaught Theatre, Worthing and the Lyric Hammersmith Theatre London.

ENDS

For further information please contact the Media and Communications team on public.relations@theatreroyal.com / 01752 230439

Theatre Royal Plymouth (TRP) is a registered charity providing art, education and community engagement in Plymouth and across the region. It engages and inspires with the aim of touching lives. Theatre Royal Plymouth presents a year-round



Supported using public funding by
**ARTS COUNCIL
ENGLAND**



Plymouth
Britain's Ocean City

programme of world class productions on all scales as the South West's principal centre for performing arts.

Theatre Royal Plymouth works with partners to understand the challenges people face accessing the arts, especially vulnerable and disadvantaged people. It creates pathways that are genuinely accessible to those who might otherwise never get to engage with the arts. They collaborate to co-create and co-author work that represents the community, creating the space needed for people to tell their story in their own way.

Theatre Royal Plymouth is the UK's largest regional producing theatre. With a focus on embracing the vitality of new talent and supporting emerging and established artists. It collaborates with a range of partners to provide dynamic cultural leadership for the city of Plymouth.



Supported using public funding by
**ARTS COUNCIL
ENGLAND**



Plymouth
Britain's Ocean City