

7 September 2018

FULL CASTING ANNOUNCED FOR THE NATIONAL THEATRE'S PRODUCTION OF NINE NIGHT AT THE TRAFALGAR STUDIOS

NINE NIGHT

by **Natasha Gordon**

Trafalgar Studios

1 December 2018 – 9 February 2019, Press night 6 December

The National Theatre have today announced the full cast for **Nine Night**, **Natasha Gordon's** critically acclaimed play which will transfer from the National Theatre to the Trafalgar Studios on 1 December 2018 (press night 6 December) in a co-production with Trafalgar Theatre Productions. **Natasha Gordon** will take the role of Lorraine in her debut play, for which she has recently been nominated for the *Best Writer Award* in The Stage newspaper's 'Debut Awards'. She is joined by **Oliver Alvin-Wilson** (Robert), **Michelle Greenidge** (Trudy), also nominated in the Stage Awards for *Best West End Debut*, **Hattie Ladbury** (Sophie), **Rebekah Murrell** (Anita) and **Cecilia Noble** (Aunt Maggie) who return to their celebrated NT roles, and **Karl Collins** (Uncle Vince) who completes the West End cast.

Directed by **Roy Alexander Weise** (*The Mountaintop*), **Nine Night** is a touching and exuberantly funny exploration of the rituals of family. Gloria is gravely sick. When her time comes, the celebration begins; the traditional Jamaican Nine Night Wake. But for Gloria's children and grandchildren, marking her death with a party that lasts over a week is a test. Nine rum-fuelled nights of music, food, storytelling and laughter – and an endless parade of mourners.

The production is designed by **Rajha Shakiry**, with lighting design by **Paule Constable**, sound design by **George Dennis**, movement direction by **Shelley Maxwell**, company voice work and dialect coaching by **Hazel Holder**, and the Resident Director is **Jade Lewis**.

Nine Night is **Natasha Gordon's** first play as a writer and this transfer will make her the first black British female playwright to have a play staged in the West End. As an actor, her work in theatre includes *Red Velvet* (Tricycle); *The Low Road* and *Clubland* (Royal Court); *Mules* and *Exception and the Rule* (Young Vic); *Luce* (Southwark Playhouse); and *As You Like It* (RSC). Film includes *No Dogs* and *Dough*. TV includes *Class*;

Eastenders; Line of Duty; Danny and the Human Zoo; You, Me and the Apocalypse; Secret Words; and Law and Order: UK.

Oliver Alvin-Wilson's work in theatre includes *The Red Barn, Emperor and Galilean* and *All's Well That Ends Well* at the National; *Seven Ages of Poetry* for the RSC; *The Twilight Zone* at the Almeida; *Hamlet* for Hamletscenen; *A Midsummer Night's Dream* for the Young Vic; *Othello* at the Stafford Gatehouse; *A Midsummer Night's Dream, The Merchant of Venice* and *Henry V* for Propeller; *Antigone, Romeo and Juliet* and *This Child for Pilot*; *Doctor Faustus* for West Yorkshire Playhouse; *Blue/Orange* on UK tour for ATG; *Antony and Cleopatra* for Nuffield; *To Kill a Mockingbird* for Theatr Clwyd and on tour; *Pigeon Lover* at The Space; and *Much Ado About Nothing* for Derby Live. TV includes *The Rebel, Collateral, Lovesick, From Cradle to the Grave, Misfits, Hollyoaks* and *Casualty*.

Karl Collins' work in theatre includes *Fuente Ovejuna* at the National Theatre; *Shebeen* at Nottingham Playhouse and Theatre Royal Stratford East; *One Monkey Don't Stop No Show, Category B, Seize the Day, Detaining Justice, Fabulation* and *How Long is Never? Darfur* at the Tricycle; *The 11th Capital* at the Royal Court; *The Measles* at Gate, Notting Hill; and *Chimerica* at the Almeida and in the West End. TV includes *Hollyoaks, This is England 90, Transporter, Our Zoo, The Driver, By Any Means, The Doors, Youngers, Blackout, Holby City, Black Mirror: The Entire History of You, The Fades, Death in Paradise, Come Fly with Me, 2012, Excluded, Shelfstackers, Casualty, Doctor Who, Silent Witness, New Street Law, The Visit, 55 Degrees North, A Thing Called Love, Grease Monkeys, The Bill* and *Metrosexuality*. Films include *The Ones Below, The Unloved, Life and Lyrics, Greenwich Mean Time, TwentyFourSeven* and *Robert Rylands' Last Journey*.

Michelle Greenidge's work in theatre includes *At the Feet of Jesus* and *Super Skinny Bitches* for Angelic Tales at Theatre Royal Stratford East; *House for Clean Break* at the Edinburgh Festival and The Yard; *All Saints* for Furious Theatre at the King's Head; *Stopcock* and *Do You Pray?* at Southwark Playhouse and Theatre503; *The Distance Between Us* at Park Theatre; *People Who Need People* for Out of Spite at Vault Festival; and *The House They Grew Up In* for Headlong and Chichester. TV includes *Casualty, Doctors, Invaders, Venus Vs Mars* and *All About the McKenzies*. Film includes *The Intent, The Come Up, Perceptions* and *Free* (for Stonewall charity), and the short films *Sorry We Don't Help Darkies, Class 15, Crude, Nadia* (for Centrepoint), *The Inventor* and *Red Room*. She also attended Sundance 2018 as the lead in one of its screened shorts. Michelle is a regular performer and ambassador for Clean Break.

Hattie Ladbury trained at Guildhall School of Music and Drama. Her work in theatre includes *The Norman Conquests, Canvas* and *An Ideal Husband* at Chichester; *Running Wild, A Midsummer Night's Dream, Macbeth, Lady Be Good* and *To Kill a Mockingbird* at Regent's Park; *Much Ado About Nothing* at Queen's, Hornchurch; *The Deep Blue Sea* at the Watermill, Newbury; *The Comedy of Errors* at Shakespeare's Globe; *The Web Project* at the Young Vic; *The Seven Year Itch, The Game of Love and Chance, The Winslow Boy* and *The Mayor of*

Casterbridge at Salisbury Playhouse; *Private Lives* at the New Wolsey; *Tejas Verdes* at Gate, Notting Hill; *The Comedy of Errors* at Sheffield Crucible; *The Importance of Being Earnest* at Theatre Royal, Bath; *Candida*, *After the Dance* and *A Midsummer Night's Dream* for Oxford Stage Company; *After Mrs Rochester* for Shared Experience at the Duke of York's; *Top Girls* at Battersea Arts Centre and at the Aldwych; *Romeo and Juliet* for Wild Thyme; *The Fire Raisers* at Southwark Playhouse; *Tess of the D'Urbervilles* for Forest Forge; and *Absent Friends* at Harrogate. TV includes *Sherlock*, *EastEnders*, *Call the Midwife*, *Holby City*, *Doctors*, *Hollyoaks*, *Casualty 1906*, *Midsomer Murders*, *The Worst Week of My Life*, *Family Affairs* and *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. Film includes *The Black Forest*, *A Street Cat Named Bob*, *Mrs Brown*, *Death of a Pet* (short) and *Emily* (short).

Rebekah Murrell trained at the National Youth Theatre, Tricycle Young Company, The Actors Class and ALT. Her work in theatre includes *The Host* for the National Youth Theatre; *Puppy* for Little Bit Fierce at the Vaults; *Switch* at the Tricycle; and *Exotic Tastes* at the Arcola. TV includes *Being Victor*, *Myths* and *The Roman Mysteries*.

Cecilia Noble trained at Royal Central School of Speech and Drama. Her work in theatre includes *The Amen Corner* (for which she was nominated for the Olivier Award for Best Supporting Actress; Evening Standard Award for Best Supporting Actress; WhatsOnStage Award for Best Supporting Actress), *His Dark Materials*, *Henry V* and *The Recruiting Officer* at the National; and *The Comedy of Errors*, *Twelfth Night* and *The Tempest* for the RSC. TV includes *Black Mirror*, *Call the Midwife*, *Undercover*, *Together*, *Nurse*, *Our Girl*, *Silent Witness*, *Death in Paradise*, *Waking the Dead*, *EastEnders*, *Doctors* and *Holby City*. Film includes *Dead in a Week*, *The Lady In The Van*, *Danny and the Human Zoo* (MViSA Award for Best Actress), *Kaleidoscope*, *Of Mary*, *New Year's Day*, *Native* and *Mrs Caldicott's Cabbage War*.

Director **Roy Alexander Weise** is the 19th annual winner of the James Menzies-Kitchin Award. His work for the NT includes *Dead Don't Floss*. Other theatre includes *Br'er Cotton* (Theatre 503); *The Mountaintop* (Young Vic); *Jekyll and Hyde* (National Youth Theatre); *Heretic Voices* (Arcola); *The Ugly One* (Park Theatre, Buckland Theatre Company); *The Dark* (Fuel and Ovalhouse); *Zero for the Young Dudes* (Young & Talented in association with NT Connections); *Primetime* (Royal Court); and *Stone Face* (Finborough Theatre). Other theatre as assistant director includes: *X*, *Escaped Alone*, *Hangmen* (also West End); *Violence and Son*, *You for me for you*, *Primetime 2015*, *Who Cares*, and *Liberian Girl* (Royal Court); *Albion*, and *We are Proud to Present...* (Bush Theatre); *The Serpents Tooth* (Talawa / Almeida Theatre). For television, Roy was Trainee Director on *Invisible* for Channel 4. Roy is Associate Director at the Harts Theatre Company and lead acting tutor at Young and Talented School of Stage and Screen.

ENDS

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Images of the *Nine Night* at the National Theatre by Helen Murray - [here](#)

Cast images - [here](#)

BOOKING INFORMATION

NINE NIGHT

a new play by Natasha Gordon

1 December 2018 – 23 February 2019

Trafalgar Studios, 14 Whitehall, Westminster, London SW1A 2DY

nationaltheatre.org.uk / 020 7452 3000

www.atgtickets.com/venues/trafalgar-studios / 0844 871 7632

NOTES TO EDITORS

- *Nine Night* premiered in the Dorfman Theatre on 30 April finishing its sold-out run on 26 May 2018.
- **About the National Theatre**

At the National Theatre, we make world-class theatre that is entertaining, challenging and inspiring. And we make it for everyone.

We aim to create work for the widest possible audiences with new plays, musicals, re-imagined classics and new work for young audiences. Our productions are seen in the West End, on tour throughout the UK, on Broadway, internationally, and in collaborations and co-productions with partners around the world. Through NT Live, we broadcast some of the best of British theatre to over 2,500 venues in 65 countries.

In 2017-2018, we opened 20 productions in our three theatres on London's South Bank. On top of that, we toured more work across the UK than at any other point in our history, with 10 productions visiting 52 venues in 44 towns and cities. Worldwide, 3.3 million people bought tickets to our award-winning productions, and a further 4.7 million people engaged with us through our free work, learning and participation activity, and in-depth digital content.

Our extensive learning and participation programme opens up theatre to adults, families and young people across the UK. We support drama and creative education in schools through our performance and writing programmes like Connections, New Views and Let's Play. Over 58% of UK state secondary schools have signed up to our free streaming service, On Demand In Schools since launching in 2015. Public Acts, our new initiative to create extraordinary acts of theatre and community, launched in 2017 in partnership with eight visionary community organisations and the Queen's Theatre Hornchurch.

The National Theatre is an Arts Council England National Portfolio Organisation.

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- **Howard Panter and Rosemary Squire for Trafalgar Theatre Productions**

Howard Panter and Rosemary Squire built from scratch one of the world's largest and most successful live theatre businesses - the Ambassador Theatre Group. Under their leadership, ATG became a premier international theatre owner and prolific successful global producer. ATG has more theatres than any other group worldwide.

Productions and co-productions at ATG in their period included *The Ruling Class* starring James McAvoy, *The Homecoming* starring John Simm, *Oresteia*, Pedro Almodovar's *Women on the Verge of a Nervous Breakdown* starring Tamsin Greig, *East is East* starring Jane Horrocks, *Richard III* starring Martin Freeman, *Jersey Boys*, *Macbeth* starring James McAvoy, *The Hothouse* starring Simon Russell Beale, *Posh*, *Jumpy* and *Constellations* (Royal Court at the Duke of York's), *Legally Blonde the Musical*, *Monty Python's Spamalot*, *The Rocky Horror Show*, *South Pacific* at The Barbican, Matthew Bourne's *Nutcracker!*, *The Misanthrope* starring Damian Lewis and Keira Knightley, *West Side Story*, *Guys and Dolls* starring Ewan McGregor and multi award-winning West End musical *Carmen Jones*.

Productions on Broadway include: *The Mountaintop* starring Samuel L Jackson and Angela Bassett; *Exit the King* starring Geoffrey Rush and Susan Sarandon and John Doyle's award-winning production of Stephen Sondheim's *Sweeney Todd: the Demon Barber of Fleet Street*.

Howard and Rosemary have now created a new company Trafalgar Entertainment Group, which owns and operates Trafalgar Studios, two theatres under one roof in the West End, which recently presented *Killer Joe* starring Orlando Bloom and is about to present the transfer of The Bush Theatre's sold-out production of *Misty*, written and performed by Arinzé Kene. The company also owns Trafalgar Releasing (formally Picturehouse Entertainment) who broadcast productions live worldwide, including The RSC, Glyndebourne, Met Opera, Bolshoi Ballet to David Gilmore, Muse and more.

The production arm of their new company, Trafalgar Theatre Productions, is producing a group of new shows in London and internationally including the Lincoln Center's award-winning production of *The King and I* at the London Palladium, the transfer of the Bush Theatre's *Misty* at Trafalgar Studios, *The Rocky Horror Show* worldwide and last year produced Tom Morris' *The Grinning Man* and Stockard Channing in *Apologia* both at Trafalgar Studios. Recent co-productions include *Mary Stuart* starring Juliet Stevenson and Lia Williams at the Duke of York's and *Jersey Boys* UK Tour. Trafalgar Theatre Productions is delighted to be co-producing the National Theatre's ground-breaking production of *Nine Night* at Trafalgar Studios later this year as well as *The Height of the Storm* starring Dame Eileen Atkins and Jonathan Pryce at the Wyndham's this Autumn.

- **Trafalgar Studios**

"A venue that's changing the shape of the West End." The Times

Trafalgar Studios opened on 26 May 2004 and, with two auditoria under a single roof, was the first theatre of its kind in the heart of London's West End.

Offering audiences a chance to see theatre that would not otherwise have found a place in the West End, Trafalgar Studio 1 opened with the Royal Shakespeare Company's *Othello*, starring Antony Sher as Iago. This was followed by John Doyle's acclaimed Watermill production of Sondheim's *Sweeney Todd*, the jazz and blues musical *Simply Heavenly* from the Young Vic, *Losing Louis* starring Alison Steadman and *Shoot The Crow* starring James Nesbitt. The following year, the RSC returned with their Gunpowder Season before Alan Cumming made his return to the London stage in the first major revival of *Bent*. Over the following years highlights have included Rik Mayall in the title role

of *The New Statesman*: Alan B'stard's *Extremely Secret Weapon*; Lee Evans and Jason Isaacs in the 50th Anniversary production of Harold Pinter's *The Dumb Waiter*; the dramatization of the abolition of the slave trade, *African Snow*; the hit comedy *Elling*, starring John Simm and Adrian Bower; *A Night in November* starring Warren Mitchell; *Riflemind* directed by Philip Seymour Hoffman; *Entertaining Mr Sloane*, starring Imelda Staunton and Mathew Horne; *The Mountaintop* and *Othello* starring Lenny Henry.

With a reputation for fresh and challenging new work, Trafalgar Studios started to build a loyal following. In 2013 James McAvoy took to the Studio 1 stage in Jamie Lloyd's ground breaking production of *Macbeth*, which launched the much anticipated first season of Trafalgar Transformed. The season also featured Simon Russell Beale and John Simm in *The Hothouse*, and *The Pride* starring Hayley Atwell. Sir Richard Eyre's award-winning production of Ibsen's *Ghosts*, with Lesley Manville, followed, before the second season of Trafalgar Transformed with Martin Freeman in the title role of Jamie Lloyd's production of *Richard III*. This was followed by *East is East*, with Jane Horrocks, before James McAvoy returned in *The Ruling Class*. The critically acclaimed *Golem* and Robert Icke's stunning production of *Oresteia* then graced the Studio 1 stage in 2015 with Jamie Lloyd making his directorial return to the venue that year with *The Homecoming* and his contemporary adaptation of Jean Genet's masterpiece *The Maids*, starring Uzo Aduba. Studio 1 has recently been home to the hugely successful razor-sharp comedy *The Spoils*, written by and starring Jesse Eisenberg, Sam Shepard's American classic *Buried Child*, starring Olivier Award nominee Ed Harris and Amy Madigan, Alexi Kaye Campbell's acclaimed drama *Apologia*, directed by the multi-award winning Jamie Lloyd and starring Tony Award winner and Hollywood icon Stockard Channing, the extraordinary new British musical *The Grinning Man* directed by Tony Award winner Tom Morris and Tracy Letts' tense thriller *Killer Joe* starring Orlando Bloom.