

# ALMEIDA THEATRE

Press release: 13 February 2020

The Almeida Theatre announces the full cast for the UK Premiere of “Daddy”, by Jeremy O. Harris, directed by Danya Taymor.

UK Premiere

**“DADDY”**

**A Melodrama**

by **Jeremy O. Harris**

Direction: **Danya Taymor**; Design: **Matt Saunders**; Costume: **Montana Levi Blanco**

Light: **Isabella Byrd**; Sound: **Lee Kinney**; Movement: **Anjali Mehra**

Musical Direction: **Tim Sutton**; Intimacy and Fight Direction: **Yarit Dor**; Casting: **Amy Ball**

Monday 30 March – Saturday 9 May 2020

**Press night: Thursday 9 April 7pm**

*I will be your father figure. Put your tiny hand in mine.*

*I will be your preacher teacher. Anything you have in mind.*

A young black artist meets an older white art collector.

A gospel choir emerges from an infinity pool.

A mother stops at nothing to save her son’s soul.

When it’s summer every day...when even is it?

In this Bel Air tale of love and family, intimacy is a commodity and the surreal gets real.

The cast includes **Keisha Atwell, Rebecca Bernice Amissah, Jabari Braham, Katie Brayben, Alexander Hanson, David Jonsson, Ioanna Kimbook, John McCrea** and **Tanya Moodie**.

Danya Taymor directs the UK premiere of *"Daddy"*, an explosive and blistering melodrama from Jeremy O. Harris (*Slave Play*) – "one of the most exciting new voices of his generation" GQ.

**Jeremy O. Harris'** plays include *Slave Play* (Golden Theatre, New York Theatre Workshop, Winner of the 2018 Kennedy Center Rosa Parks Playwriting Award, the Lorraine Hansberry Playwriting Award, and The Lotos Foundation Prize in the Arts and Sciences); *Xander Xyst*; *Dragon: 1* and *WATER SPORTS; or insignificant white boys*. His film writing work includes A24's film *Zola* which premiered at the 2020 Sundance Film Festival. He is the eleventh recipient of the Vineyard Theatre's Paula Vogel Playwriting Award, a 2016 MacDowell Colony Fellow, an Orchard Project Greenhouse artist, a resident playwright with Colt Coeur, and is under commission from Lincoln Center Theater and Playwrights Horizons. He is a graduate of the Yale MFA Playwriting Programme.

**Danya Taymor** is a New York-based director and translator. Her recent directing work includes Will Arbery's *Heroes of the Fourth Turning* (Playwrights Horizons), Jeremy O. Harris' *"Daddy"* (Vineyard, The New Group), Antoinette Nwandu's *Pass Over* (Lincoln Center/Steppenwolf), korde arrington tuttle's *Graveyard Shift* (Goodman Theater), Martyna Majok's *queens* (LCT3/Lincoln Center), Danai Gurira's *Familiar* (Steppenwolf), Justin Kuritzkes' *The Sensuality Party* (The New Group), Brian Watkins *My Daughter Keeps Our Hammer* and *Wyoming* (Flea/Lesser America) and Luis Enrique Gutierrez Ortiz Monasterio's *I Hate Fucking Mexicans* (The Flea). Her production of Antoinette Nwandu's *Pass Over* was filmed by Spike Lee and premiered at the 2018 Sundance Film Festival and is streaming on Amazon Prime. Her co-translations include Alejandro Ricano's *We Are Getting Better at Saying Goodbye*, LEGOM's *I Hate Fucking Mexicans* and Ettore Scola's *Working on a Special Day*. An alumna of the Women's Project Lab, Sundance Theatre Lab, Lincoln Center Theater Directors Lab, Van Lier Fellowship and the 2050 Fellowship at NYTW. She is a Usual Suspect at NYTW, an artist in residence at TFANA, a member of Ensemble Studio Theatre, an associate artist at the Flea, and a recipient of the Cullman Award for Extraordinary Creativity from Lincoln Center.

**ENDS**

**For all press enquiries and images, contact Alexander Milward, Press and Media Relations Manager, on 020 7288 4911 or [amilward@almeida.co.uk](mailto:amilward@almeida.co.uk)**

## **ALMEIDA LISTINGS INFORMATION**

Monday 30 March – Saturday 9 May 2020

**“Daddy”**

by **Jeremy O. Harris**

Directed by **Danya Taymor**

**Press night: Thursday 9 April 2020**

|                          |   |
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| <b>Address</b>           | Almeida Theatre, Almeida Street, London, N1 1TA   |
| <b>Café Bar</b>          | The Almeida Café and Bar is open from 11.00am -11.00pm, Monday to Saturday  |
| <b>Box Office</b>        | <b>Online</b> <a href="http://almeida.co.uk">almeida.co.uk</a><br><b>Phone</b> 020 7359 4404 (10am – 7.30pm, Monday – Saturday)<br><b>In person</b> 10am – 7.30pm, Monday – Saturday<br><b>Nearest Tube:</b> Angel / Highbury & Islington |
| <b>Website</b>           | <a href="http://almeida.co.uk">almeida.co.uk</a>  |
| <b>Twitter</b>           | @AlmeidaTheatre   |
| <b>Facebook</b>          | <a href="https://facebook.com/almeidatheatre">facebook.com/almeidatheatre</a>   |
| <b>Instagram</b>         | @almeida_theatre  |
| <b>Access</b>            | Captioned performance:<br>Thursday 30 April 7:30pm<br>Audio Described performance:<br>Saturday 2 May 2:30pm (Touch Tour at 12.45pm)   |
| <b>Talkback</b>          | Post-show discussion with members of the company<br>Free to same performance ticket holders<br>Thursday 30 April  |
| <b>Almeida Questions</b> | An eclectic programme of pre-show discussions, which consider some of the questions raised by the work on our stage<br>Monday 20 April 6pm – Does patronage imply ownership?  |

## Notes to Editors

### CAST BIOGRAPHIES

**Keisha Atwell** is in the gospel choir. Her theatre credits include *An Officer and a Gentleman* (UK Tour); *Peter Pan* (Richmond Theatre); *Annie* (West End); *Grease* (Curve Theatre/ Dubai); *Clocks 1888 The Greener* (Hackney Empire); *Memphis - The Musical*; *Ghost - The Musical*; *Hairspray*; *Guys & Dolls*; *Chicago - The Musical* (West End); *Hello Dolly* (Curve Theatre); *Annie Get Your Gun* and *Saturday Night Fever* (UK Tour).

**Rebecca Bernice Amissah** is in the gospel choir. Her theatre credits include *Guys and Dolls* (The Mill at Sonning); *King in Concert* (Hackney Empire); *Suffrageddon* (Barbican/ Roundhouse/ West End) and *Aladdin* (Bristol Hippodrome).

**Jabari Braham** is in the gospel choir. His theatre credits include *Mame* (Hope Mill Theatre); *Snow White & the Seven Dwarfs* (Richmond Theatre); *Dreamgirls* (West End) and *Mary Poppins* (International/ UK Tour).

**Katie Brayben** plays Alessia. She returns to the Almeida having previously appeared in *King Charles III* and *American Psycho*. She won the 2015 Olivier Award for Best Actress in a Musical for *Beautiful – The Carole King Musical* (Aldwych Theatre). Her other theatre credits include *Girl From The North Country* (West End); *Honour* (Park Theatre); *The Spoils* (Trafalgar Studios); *My Mother Said I Never Should* (St James Theatre); *A Midsummer Night's Dream* and *Ragtime* (Regent's Park Open Air Theatre); *13* (National Theatre); *Company* (Southwark Playhouse) and *Mamma Mia!* (West End/ tour). Her television credits include *Luther*, *The Alienist* and *King Charles III*. For film, her work includes *A Serial Killer's Guide to Life*.

**Alexander Hanson** plays Andre. His theatre credits include *Follies*; *The Merchant of Venice*; *Troilus and Cressida*; *The London Cuckolds* (National Theatre); *Committee* (Donmar Warehouse); *The Lie, The Truth* and *A Little Night Music* (Menier Chocolate Factory and West End); *The Wars of the Roses* (Rose Theatre Kingston); *Accolade* (St James Theatre); *Stephen Ward* (Aldwych Theatre); *Jesus Christ Superstar* (O2 London/ Arena Tour); *Uncle Vanya* and *Tonight at 8:30* (Chichester Festival Theatre); *An Ideal Husband*; *We Will Rock You*; *Marguerite* and *Sound of Music* (West End). His television work includes *Pandora*; *The Feed*; *Endeavour*; *Lewis*; *The Man who Crossed Hitler*; *Party Animals*; *Auf Wiedersehen Pet*; *Murder City*; *The Fugitives*; *Rosemary & Thyme*; *The Last Detective* and *Beech is Back*.

**Ioanna Kimbook** plays Bellamy. She returns to the Almeida having previously appeared in *The Duchess of Malfi*. Her theatre credits include *Bitter Wheat* (Garrick Theatre) and her television work includes *Inside No. 9*.

**David Jonsson** plays Franklin. He returns to the Almeida having previously appeared in *Mary Stuart* (also West End). His other theatre credits include *Don Juan on Soho* (Wyndham's Theatre); *Pigeon English* (Bristol Old Vic / Edinburgh Fringe) and *Romeo and Juliet* (Riverside Studios). For television, his work includes *Industry*, *Deep State* and *Endeavour*.

**John McCrea** plays Max. His theatre work includes *Everybody's Talking About Jamie* (Sheffield Crucible and West End), for which he won the Critics' Circle Most Promising Newcomer Award, the WhatsOnStage Award for Best Actor in a Musical and was nominated for an Olivier Award. His other theatre credits include *Peter Pan the Musical – In Concert* (Adelphi Theatre). For television his work includes *Dracula* and *Girl/Haji* and his film credits include *God's Own Country* and *Everybody's Talking About Jamie*.

**Tanya Moodie** plays Zora. Her theatre credits include *Rasheeda Speaking* (Trafalgar Studios); *Trouble in Mind* and *Intimate Apparel* (Ustinov Studio); *Terror*, *The Chair Plays*; *A Thousand Stars Explode in the Sky* (Lyric Hammersmith); *Hamlet*, *Measure For Measure*; *Peer Gynt*, *The Prince of Homburg*; *The School for Scandal*; *Trade*; *Valeria* (RSC); *King John* (Shakespeare's Globe); *The House that Will Not Stand* (Tricycle Theatre); *Fences* (West End); *ACDC*; *Catch*; *Fewer Emergencies*; *Incomplete and Random Acts of Kindness* (Royal Court); *Oedipus Rex and Oedipus at Colonus*; *The Darker Face of the Earth*; *The Overwhelming* (National Theatre). Her television work includes *Tin Star*; *Forest 404*; *The Mallorca Files*; *The Feed*; *Motherland*; *Tin Star*; *A Discovery of Witches*; *Absentia*; *Clink*; *Care*; *Enterprise*; *Sherlock* and *The Clinic*. Her film credits include *Star Wars: Episode IX – The Rise of Skywalker*, *Legacy* and *Rabbit Fever*.

## ABOUT THE ALMEIDA

The Almeida Theatre makes brave new work that asks big questions: of plays, of theatre and of the world around us. It brings together the most exciting artists to take risks; to provoke, inspire and surprise audiences; to interrogate the present, dig up the past and imagine the future. The Almeida makes argument for theatre as an essential force in an increasingly fragmented society.

Since 2013, the Almeida has been led by Artistic Director Rupert Goold. During his tenure, notable productions have included *American Psycho: a new musical thriller* (transferred to Broadway); *Ghosts* (transferred to the West End and won three Olivier Awards); *Chimerica* (transferred to the West End and won five Olivier Awards); *1984* (transferred to West End, Broadway and Australia); *King Charles III* (transferred to the West End, won the Olivier Award for Best New Play, transferred to Broadway, toured the UK and Sydney, and was adapted for BBC television); *Oresteia* (transferred to the West End and won the Olivier Award for Best Director) and *The Hunt*. Recently, there have been West End transfers for *Ink* directed by Goold (also Broadway), Associate Director Rebecca Frecknall's production of *Summer & Smoke* (winner of Best Play Revival and Best Actress at the 2019 Olivier Awards) and Robert Icke's productions of *Hamlet* (also screened on the BBC) and *Mary Stuart* and his production of *The Doctor* transfers to the Duke of York's Theatre in April 2020. The Almeida was named London Theatre of the Year at The Stage Awards in both 2015 and 2018.

3000 £5 tickets are available to audiences aged 25 and under each year for Almeida productions.

The Almeida Theatre is a registered charity and is dependent on the support of individuals, companies, trusts and foundations. The small auditorium, even when sold out, only provides 40% of the funding we need to operate. Therefore, more than £2m each year needs to be raised in order to realise our artistic ambitions, reach new audiences, and secure the financial future of the theatre.

The Almeida is grateful to its Principal Partner Aspen, in its third term as the Almeida's most significant corporate supporter. Aspen was established in 2002 and is a leading global insurance and reinsurance company. [www.aspen.co](http://www.aspen.co)

The Almeida is grateful for the support of Arts Council England.