

Young Vic Associate Company Crying in the Wilderness Productions present *Conundrum*

Tickets on sale to YV Friends today / Public booking opens tomorrow

A *Crying in the Wilderness* Production in Association with the Young Vic
Conundrum - An intimate tale of self-discovery, liberation and bliss
Written & Directed by Paul Anthony Morris
From 14 January – 4 February 2022, Maria Theatre, Young Vic
Press Night 19 January

The Young Vic is delighted to present *Conundrum*, the debut production from **Crying in the Wilderness Productions** as a Young Vic Associate Company. This evocative new drama, written and directed by **Paul Anthony Morris**, dives headlong into a powerful exploration of one man's trajectory of embracing then owning self-acceptance. *Conundrum* opens in January 2022, having been delayed due to the pandemic.

Anthony Ofoegbu (*Barber Shop Chronicles*) plays Fidel, who prompted by old diary entries, conducts a personal life review to identify his greatest challenges. Possessing an unusually high IQ and initially critiquing society, Fidel becomes alarmed by the prospect that he too, is responsible for undermining his own wellbeing. Perplexed by this conundrum, Fidel embarks on a reflective journey seeking answers to some of life's most relatable questions: *Who am I and why am I here?*

Kwame Kwei-Armah, Artistic Director of the Young Vic, said: *"I am delighted that Crying in the Wilderness Productions are finally getting to bring their debut piece to our stage, having been delayed by the pandemic. The show's introspective and philosophical nature asks urgent questions that we as a country are grappling with – arguably more than ever before"*.

Paul Anthony Morris, Writer, Director and Artistic Director of Crying in the Wilderness Productions said: *"Performing Conundrum at the Young Vic, provides us with a great opportunity to showcase our theatrical style which we call 'Theatre of the Soul' in its entirety, for the very first time. The prospect of being able to finally share our creative ideas, especially after the past 18 months, to a live and new audience is very exciting"*.

Anthony Ofoegbu said: *"Playing Fidel will be a tremendous undertaking. Not only will it nourish me as an actor, but also we hope nourish the audience coming to share the experience of his story"*.

Written and directed by **Crying in The Wilderness Productions'** Artistic Director **Paul Anthony Morris**, *Conundrum* utilises Ofoegbu's verbal and physical dexterity to full effect in this tightly woven 70-minute performance.

The cast includes **Anthony Ofoegbu**, with **Filip Krenus** and Voice Work by **Rachel Summers**. *Conundrum* is Designed by **Sean Cavanagh**, with Lighting Design by **Jack Weir**, Choreography by **Shane Shambhu** and Associate Direction by **Angela Ekaette Michaels**.

**Conundrum goes on sale to Young Vic Friends today, 12 October at 12noon.
Public Booking opening tomorrow, 13 October at 12noon.**

ENDS

[For images, click here.](#)

For press enquiries please contact: **Anna Goodman, ABSTRAKT Publicity**
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For further information about the Young Vic, please contact **Emma Hardy, Head of Press and Communications, Young Vic** emmahardy@youngvic.org

Listings

[Conundrum, Maria Theatre, Young Vic](#)

From 14 January – 4 February 2022, 7.45pm. Matinee performances, 2.45pm.

Press Night 19 January, 7pm

Tickets: Unreserved £18, Concessions £16

Audio described performance: 2.45pm 27 January

Captioned performance: 2.45pm 29 January

Socially Distanced Performances: 2.45pm 27 January; 29 January and 3 February 7.45pm

Notes to Editors

About Crying in the Wilderness Productions

Crying in The Wilderness Productions (CITWP) became a Young Vic Associate Company in 2018. The company is dedicated to enriching the cultural landscape of the UK via its theatrical practice, '*Theatre of The Soul*'. CITWP is also committed to increasing greater access for marginalised communities to the arts through partnerships, training and employment. Previous productions include *35 Cents* (Blue Elephant Theatre); *Invisible Man* (Bush Theatre & Rich Mix); *Sarai* (Arcola Theatre); *Click* (Stratford Circus Theatre). Artistic Director Paul Anthony Morris is the recipient of an Edinburgh Fringe First, The Adopt A Playwright Award as well as a two-time recipient of the Peggy Ramsay Award.

CITWP is dedicated to producing ground-breaking work which is anchored to an intercultural philosophical practice. Their goal is to form a diverse conglomeration of partnerships that will increase the connectivity between the company and its audience. CITWP's mission is to foster, through its unique theatrical style, '*Theatre of the Soul*', a greater philosophical appreciation of the art and culture of indigenous communities and their artists.

cryinginthewildernessproductions.com

CITWP and this production of *Conundrum* is supported by Arts Council England.

***Conundrum* has also been supported by Black Thrive Global, Thrive London, Certain Blacks, Creative Elements, Honey Tongued Productions, NDT Broadgate, Nomad Creative Consultancy, Royal Victoria Hall Foundation and Adopt A Playwright Award, as well as our generous team of crowdfunders and donors.**



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About the Young Vic

For fifty years, the Young Vic has produced new plays, classics, musicals, adaptations of books, short films, digital projects, and game-changing forms of theatre, attracting large audiences from many different backgrounds. Based in London's Waterloo, they forge deep connections in their neighbourhood through their Taking Part programme, where they engage with over 15,000 people every year via a wide range of projects, from skills-based workshops to on-stage performances. They give 10% of our tickets free to schools and neighbours, irrespective of box office demand, and are committed to keeping all ticket prices low.

The Young Vic's Director's Programme, the only scheme of its kind, has been running for nearly twenty years and offers young directors a unique opportunity to develop their craft through skills workshops, peer-led projects, paid assistant directing roles through the Genesis Fellow, the Jerwood Assistant Director Programme and the Boris Karloff Trainee Assistant Director Programme as well as access to the Genesis Director's Network. Twice a year, the recipient of the Genesis Future Director's Award directs a show in The Clare theatre at the Young Vic with full support from the Young Vic's creative, administrative and production teams, enabling them to support and nurture an emerging director as a part of the Young Vic programme.

For many years, the Young Vic has been synonymous with inclusivity, accessibility, and creativity. They catalyse debate and channel our work into the digital world, to reach new audiences and continue conversations outside of our four walls. They foster emerging talent and collaborate with some of the world's finest directors, performers and creatives; creating award-winning productions which engage with the world we live in.

Artistic Director: **Kwame Kwei-Armah**

Executive Director: **Despina Tsatsas**

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Public Support



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Season Support

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The Young Vic's 2021-22 season is also supported by the Genesis Foundation and IHS Markit.

We gratefully acknowledge Ian Burford and Alec Cannell for generously supporting the Young Vic's mission.