

Young Vic

Press Release - 29 September 2022

YOUNG VIC THEATRE'S 25TH ANNIVERSARY SEASON OF TAKING PART CONTINUES WITH A NEW TOURING PRODUCTION AND IMMERSIVE EXHIBITION

- ***YV Unpacked: I Wonder If...*** a new play directed by Daniel Bailey and devised by the Company exploring human relationships through dance, music and dialogue, will run at the Young Vic's Maria Theatre from 24-29 October following a tour with 10 organisations at eight community venues. Rehearsal images available [here](#)
- ***The Twenty Thrive Exhibition***, a free, interactive exhibition on the Young Vic's role in the community over the past 25 years, will open in the Maria Theatre from 14-21 October
- New episode released for ***Journeys: the Podcast*** celebrating Taking Part 25 and featuring past and current members of the Neighbourhood Theatre Company

Taking Part 25, a series of events celebrating the 25th anniversary of the Young Vic's creative engagement department continues with ***YV Unpacked: I Wonder If...***, ***The Twenty Thrive Exhibition*** and new episodes of ***Journeys: the Podcast***.

I Wonder If..., directed by Daniel Bailey (*Red Pitch*, Bush Theatre), is the fourth YV Unpacked production which sees Taking Part tour professional work to local community venues across Lambeth and Southwark, before a run at the Young Vic. *The Twenty Thrive Exhibition* provides a retrospect of the department's work since its inception. *Journeys: the Podcast* spotlights the local voices of Lambeth and Southwark while amplifying the legacy and impact of Young Vic's community work.

Every year [Taking Part](#) engages with more than 15,000 people through its three strands, **Learning, Participation**, and **Neighbourhood Theatre**, providing free tickets to Main House productions and free creative and artistic opportunities to its participants.

Taking Part 25 shines a light on stories from the vibrant community in Lambeth and Southwark and the role the Young Vic has played over the last quarter of a century. The birthday season launched in spring 2022 with **Communities of Resistance** exploring ballroom's political heritage and connecting local young people with the queer community in New York, followed this summer by **Of The Cut**, a promenade production featuring a 30 strong intergenerational community ensemble cast. Taking Part is committed to continuing joyous and thought-provoking work for, with and by the local community over the next 25 years and beyond.

YV Unpacked: I Wonder If...

Devised by the Company

Directed by Daniel Bailey

On Tour in Lambeth and Southwark 10-20 October

Maria Theatre, Young Vic 24-29 October

Two people meet. The rest is infinite.

YV Unpacked: I Wonder If... is a new play fusing dance, music and dialogue to explore the human relationship in its many forms. Directed by **Daniel Bailey** and devised by the YV Unpacked Company, *I Wonder If...* is set in a world of limitless possibilities where two people meet, but how they meet changes with the beat of the drum.

Established in 2018 by Artistic Director Kwame Kwei-Armah, YV Unpacked was developed to reach audiences who may find it difficult to access theatre by taking professional work directly to them. Following the success of three YV Unpacked tours, *I Wonder If...* will work with 10 organisations to tour to eight locations in Lambeth and Southwark from **10-20 October** including community centres, specialist schools, a mother's group and women's centre before performances at the **Young Vic's Maria Theatre** from **24-29 October**. The production will also have a livestreamed and BSL performance on **28 October**.

Venues and organisations hosting *YV Unpacked: I Wonder If...* are **Phoenix Place, St Johns Waterloo, The Woodlawn Centre, Blackfriars Settlement, South London Women's Hub/Beth Centre** and **Draper Together** at **Draper Hall, Southwark Inclusive Learning Service, Espacio Mamá**, and **IRMO** and **High Trees** (a part of **Building Young Brixton**) at **Tulse Hill Adventure Playground**.

Director Daniel Bailey says: "It's amazing to work on another *Young Vic Taking Part* production and bring a quality show into the community. It's incredibly important to meet people where they are. I hope *I Wonder If...* inspires people to bring creativity into their everyday lives."

The company includes: **Danielle Kassaraté, John Rwothomack** and **Shakira Stellar**.

Daniel Bailey's previous *Young Vic Taking Part* directing credits include *The American Dream 2.0*. He also directed *Red Pitch* and *The High Table* at the Bush Theatre where he is Associate Artistic Director.

The creative team is complete with co-production by **Shereen Jasmin Phillips** and **Alisha Artry**, movement direction by **Ricardo Da Silva**, design consultation by **QianEr Jin**, musical direction and composition by **Shakira Stellar** and dramaturgy by **Shereen Jasmin Phillips**. The production manager is **James Dawson** company stage manager is **Sylvia Darkwa-Ohemeng**, the deputy stage manager is **Emily Behague**, the sound operator is **Lateef Salvador Oshinowo**, trainee assistant director is **Sahana Rackal**, and BSL Interpreter is **Sumayya Si-Tayeb**.

On Tour in Lambeth and Southwark: 10-20 October

Maria Theatre, Young Vic: 24-29 October

Streamed Performance: 28 October

BSL Performance: 28 October

More than 300 tickets on the run in the Maria Theatre will be given to Taking Part's community of schools, neighbours and early-career theatre makers.

Tickets for the [in-person](#) and [livestreamed](#) performances are on sale now.

The Twenty Thrive Exhibition: Celebrating 25 years of creating, exploring and Taking Part in our community

Creatives: Myah Jeffers and QianEr Jin

Maria Theatre, Young Vic 14-21 October

Explore *The Twenty Thrive Exhibition*, an immersive and interactive exhibition that celebrates the last 25 years of the Young Vic's outreach and engagement work. Curated and designed by **Myah Jeffers** and **QianEr Jin**, and young people from Southwark and Lambeth.

The Twenty Thrive Exhibition will combine music, lighting and soundscapes with archive materials, photography, storytelling and testimonies from Taking Part participants past and present to explore the role the Young Vic has played in the community over the past 25 years and celebrate how the community has helped to shape the Young Vic today.

***The Twenty Thrive Exhibition* is free and open to the public with hourly [tickets](#) required for entry.**

Journeys: the Podcast

Led by Neighbourhood Theatre Company

25 July-25 December

Online

A six-part podcast series celebrating local voices in Lambeth and Southwark, ***Journeys*** uncovers stories about the community over the past 25 years and looks ahead to the next 25 years. This series is a tribute to the legacy of Taking Part's community work and its long-lasting impact. Episodes are published on the 25th of each month, continuing to the end of the year.

In the third and latest episode, **Neighbourhood Theatre Company** participants John Watts, Pixie Maddison, Thelma Purcell, Alissa Christie and former Taking Part Assistant, Dan de la Motte reflect on Taking Part's past work and the variety of production and creative projects they have been part of over the years and the legacy of that work.

Previous episodes have featured the creative team for *Of The Cut*, a multi-disciplinary promenade performance in the **Taking Part 25** season, and **Neighbourhood Theatre Company** members discussing their international journeys.

The next episode, to be released on 25th October will be a reflection on the life of East Street Market in Southwark, how it's changed over the past 25 years and stall owners' hopes for the future.

Current episodes of *Journeys: the Podcast* are available on [Soundcloud](#), [Spotify](#) and [Apple Podcasts](#).

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Images available [here](#)

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About Taking Part

Taking Part, the Young Vic's creative engagement department, delivers an ambitious programme each year, collaborating with the UK's leading theatre artists to create work for and with our local community. Taking Part work with thousands of participants each year, helping them to develop their creative skills, build meaningful relationships and connections, and tell compelling stories about the world we live in.

About the Young Vic

For over 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, we forge deep connections in our neighbourhood through our [Taking Part](#) programme, where we engage with over 15,000 people every year via a wide range of projects, from skills-based workshops to on-stage performances. We give 10% of our tickets free to schools and neighbours, irrespective of box office demand, and we are committed to keeping ticket prices low.

The Young Vic's [Creators Program](#) is our space for multi- and anti-disciplinary artists, and is the only scheme of its kind. Launched in 2001 and formerly known as the Directors Program, we offer artists and producers a unique opportunity to develop their craft through skills workshops, peer-led projects, and paid work opportunities that range from trainee and assistant director roles to a two-year residency through the [Genesis Fellow/ Associate Director](#) position. The [Genesis Network](#) provides an online community to over 2,000 artists and producers. Each year, the recipient of the [Genesis Future Directors Award](#) directs a show in The Clare Theatre with full support from the Young Vic's creative, administrative and production teams, enabling us to support and nurture an early career director as part of our season of work.

For many years, the Young Vic has been synonymous with inclusivity, accessibility, and creativity. We catalyse debate and channel our work into the digital world, to reach new audiences and continue conversations outside of our four walls. We 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: **Lucy Davies**

Youngvic.org

Public Support



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Season Support



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