



YVETTE

By Urielle Klein Mekongo



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BROCHURE COPY

China Plate presents

Yvette

By Urielle Klein-Mekongo

Commissioned by Bernie Grant Arts Centre

In Association with Hull 2017

"I see the way that butters-fat-lipped-troll-Patrice looks at him, now she's the kinda lighty that finks she's too nice."

Evie is thirteen and lives in Neasden with her Mum. She wants to tell us about something... her crush on Lewis, trying to be a woman, friends, virginity, garage remixes, hello kitty underwear... an 'Uncle' lurking in the corner of her story.

She wants to make us laugh, she's pretty good at it. She wants to tell us something, but she daren't let it out.

Based a true story, Yvette is a one woman show with original music about a stolen childhood and growing up with a secret.

There will be a collection for Rape Crisis UK after every performance.

Winner, Young Harts Writing Fest Audience Favourite 2017, Kings Head Theatre Stella Wilkie Award 2017, The East15 Pulse Award 2017.

Yvette was first developed at East 15's Debut Festival, a pioneering and unique event dedicated to the staging of new plays written and directed as well as performed by graduating students on the acclaimed 'CT course' (BA in Acting and Contemporary Theatre) developed and led by Uri Roodner.

Running time: 55 minutes

Age range: 14+

Age warning: Contains themes of sexual violence

Brochure/lead image: Please contact kaya@chinaplatetheatre.com for high res versions.

ABOUT THE SHOW

Yvette is an autobiographical, one-woman show that fuses spoken word, original music and exceptional character performances to tell a story of survival, teenage angst and a stolen childhood. Urielle is an extraordinary writer and performer, as a debut piece, *Yvette* is mature and complex. It's structure, the dialogue and the characters she creates on stage are engaging and propel the audience directly into the world of a 13 year old, growing up in a single-parent family in north London. With original songs and fresh, exciting use of looped sound which forms a live garage-style soundtrack.

"This project tells a coming of age story, that asks questions about what it means to be a black girl from a single parent household. It's particularly important to me because its a story based on challenges I faced growing up with major daddy issues and trying rise from of ashes of sexual abuse. It took me a while to come face to face with it, like many other victims but I believe that this show could encourage more people to speak up." Urielle Klein Mekongo

Yvette is based on Urielle's personal experience and tells a powerful and moving story of surviving sexual abuse. Urielle fearlessly tells this story, drawing on her life and musical influences / inspirations to create something that is raw, powerful and uplifting. We have partnered with Rape Crisis UK and run a collection after every performance to support the incredible work they do with survivors of sexual abuse.

Background

Yvette is the first professional production from emerging writer/performer Urielle Klein-Mekongo. Initially presented at DEBUT Festival, through which it won the Kings' Head Stella Wilki Award, The Young Harts Audience Award and the East 15 Pulse Award. It was also subsequently commissioned by the Bernie Grant Arts Centre and supported by and presented as part of Hull City of Culture 2017. China Plate came on board as producers in April 2017 and teamed Urielle up with Rebecca Atkinson Lord to elevate the piece to the next level.

Yvette opened at the Edinburgh Festival Fringe in 2017 to critical and industry acclaim.

Creative Team

Written and Performed by **Urielle Klein-Mekongo**
Original Music and Lyrics by **Urielle Klein-Mekongo**

Rebecca Atkinson-Lord | Director
Meriel Hinsching | Assistant Director
Giorgia Lee Joseph | Designer
China Plate | Producer

TARGET AUDIENCES AND KEY MESSAGES / BENEFITS

- **Existing drama/theatre audiences** - quality new-writing from an award-winning emerging artist. Timely, relevant, funny and powerful piece about being young, black and teenage in today's society.
- **BAME audiences** – high-quality writing exploring what it means to be young and black in today's society. A new, fresh voice on the UK theatre scene.
- **Survivors of sexual abuse and their families** – an opportunity to experience a powerful theatre production about survival, told by a survivor with the aim of inspiring others to speak up about their experiences.
- **Students / recent graduates** – an exceptional example of new-writing from a recent graduate of East 15 Drama School.
- **Existing and potential drama/creative writing/devising groups** – quality new writing, developed in the rehearsal room by a young emerging writer/performer.
- **Existing spoken word audiences** – a theatre piece that fuses spoken word and loop peddle sound scapes to tell the story.
- **Arts professionals** – an opportunity to see a new emerging writer/performer, offering a new voice on the theatre scene and creating raw, powerful and uplifting work.
- **School / college / university students (studying drama)** – high quality, award-winning new writing from a recent graduate.
- **Student drama groups and theatre groups** – high quality, award-winning new writing from a recent graduate.
- **National Youth Theatre alumni** – high quality, award-winning new writing from NYT 'Playing Up' programme alumni.
- **Professionals working with or supporting survivors of sexual abuse** – a visceral performance from a survivor about their experiences of sexual abuse and the impact it had on their life.
- **Healthcare and social care professionals working with or supporting survivors of sexual abuse** – a visceral performance from a survivor about their experiences of sexual abuse and the impact it had on their life.
- **Service users and staff of youth support services and drop in centres** – raw and powerful story about growing up in a single parent household and their survival of abuse.

TECHNICAL DETAILS

Running Time

55 minutes – no interval

Cast & Crew

3 touring – 1 performer, 1 production manager, 1 personal assistant

Configuration

End on – 150 max capacity

Staging

4m (w) x 2m (d) x 3m (h) (minimum requirements)

There is very limited set. A central microphone on stand, a hat stand USR and a bath tub USL. A back drop is hung off a bar up stage across the width of the space. (All toured by company)

Lighting

Venue To provide:

- Open white front wash
- RGBW LED backlight or cold blue where this is not possible.
- 3 specials rigged on the closest FOH bar.
- A further special to back/top light the bath will be required, rigged far USL.
- Where possible, two profiles on booms DS left and right.

Sound

There is a significant musical element to the show performed live by Urielle. The company is touring a loop pedal, which outputs stereo XLR; this will need two channels (or one stereo channel) on venue mixing desk. We also require a SM58 on a tall stand and a short (3m) XLR. The company also tour a laptop, running Qlab. We require a minijack connection at the mix position for this. Venue to provide full stereo PA, mixing desk and on stage monitor.

Dressing rooms

1 dressing room required with shower / washing facilities and clean towels as performer ends show covered in paint.

Transport

Unloading access and parking for a Transit van or equivalent required. Please indicate if load in involves stairs, as bathtub is heavy.

A full tech spec is available upon request. Please contact kaya@chinaplatetheatre.com .

PERFORMANCE DATES

2017

BACK TO OURS FESTIVAL, HULL CITY OF CULTURE

Hymers College, Wed 31 May

Kingswood Academy, Thurs 1 Jun

Archbishop Sentamu Academy, Fri 2 Jun

www.hull2017.co.uk/backtoours

PULSE FESTIVAL, NEW WOLSEY THEATRE

Sun 3 Jun

www.pulsefringe.com

01473 295900

PLEASANCE COURTYARD, EDINBURGH FESTIVAL FRINGE

Wed 2 Aug – Sat 26 Aug

www.pleasance.co.uk

0131 556 6550

BERNIE GRANT ARTS CENTRE, LONDON

Fri 15 & Sat 16 Sept

www.berniegrantcentre.co.uk

020 8365 5450

PRESS

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

[The Fringe Review](#)

“Doesn’t just hit you in the heart but also pulls fire up into your belly...It’s a beautifully crafted piece of writing, with precise direction and just the right mixture of laughter, tears, and the desire to act that are what make for great theatre.”

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

[Ed Fest Mag](#)

“An emotional and poignant piece of artistry... Painfully honest and unequivocally anguished, Urielle Klein-Mekongo breaks into her debut at the Edinburgh Fringe with a performance that will not easily be forgotten.”

★ ★ ★ ★

[The Stage](#)

“Yvette is a winning and poignant work that deals with raging teenage hormones, racial identity and the lasting aftermath of sexual violation. It’s sad and defiant, laced with humour and music.”

★ ★ ★ ★

[Theatre Bubble](#)

“Writer and performer Urielle Klein-Mekongo is utterly compelling... The show ends on a note of empowerment ... and it is then that the performance achieves its full urgency.”

★ ★ ★ ★

[Fringe Guru](#)

“There’s a bold mix of styles and themes in *Yvette*, but it all cohere[s] into a convincing and compelling whole; and in telling a broad, multi-faceted story, it looks beyond a single abuser and challenges us all.”

★ ★ ★ ★

[The Wee Reviews](#)

“Urielle Klein-Mekongo is a bold and talented performer. With *Yvette* she has tackled important issues with heart and passion. The endearing quality of her vocals and the sheer talent in her performance makes *Yvette* a special and brilliant show that is powerful and compelling to experience.”

AUDIENCE FEEDBACK

Selina Thompson @SelinaNThompson

Hi, hey, how you doing everyone? I just saw my first fringe show! Yvette from @ukleinmekongo - so moving and heart-achey go see it xx

Louisa Hollway @louisahollway

#YvettePlay is raw, challenging+inspiring- brave+imp work w brilliant+searing writing+incredibly generous performance from @ukleinmekongo

Anonymous Is A Woman @AIAWTheatreCo

Untainted talent in @ukleinmekongo s #Yvette @ThePleasance. Brutal, beautiful, honest.#EdFringe17 #edfringe #theatre

Seiriol Davies @seirioldavies

Goodness #yvetteplay is great. @ukleinmekongo is an astonishing, powerful, fierce, delightful force. @YourOldChina @ThePleasance @edfringe

Andrew S Baker @AbsentBaker

'Yvette' by Urielle Klein-Mekongo. Raw, honest and brave story-telling done right. Her sincerity and talent are captivating. A must-see!

Fiona Whitelaw @FeeWhitelaw

Such brave work @ukleinmekongo @YourOldChina @ThePleasance loved the use of the mic & your powerful voice.

Grace Leeder @GraceLeeder

If you see nothing else at #edfringe just see @ukleinmekongo in #yvette at @ThePleasance Just go and see it. #bestthingiveseen

Richard Duffy @RichardDuffy

Def worth checking out exciting new talent Urielle Klein-Mekongo in Yvette @ThePleasance. Thanks @BexAtkinsonLord @YourOldChina

Katy Munro @KatyMunro1

@ukleinmekongo #yvetteplay was so powerful. Great recommendation by @allie_mun What a great performance. Don't miss if you are in #edfringe

Jamie Graham Tansley @dandysocpic

And then @ukleinmekongo 's #yvette had my heart stopping, racing and singing. Honestly brilliant.

Hannah @bannahenson

1/2)My top fringe watches- @ANTLERtheatre Lands, @WardrobEnsemble Education x3, @thepretendmen police cops in space, @ukleinmekongo Yvette

PRODUCTION IMAGES



CREATIVE TEAM

URIELLE KLEIN-MEKONGO – WRITER / PERFORMER

Urielle is a writer, theatre maker singer/songwriter and performer. After first entering training via the National Youth Theatre's Playing Up course in 2013, she went on to study Acting and Contemporary Theatre at East 15 where she graduated in 2017. *Yvette* marks Urielle's first professional outing as a writer/performer. Other credits include *Swipe* (The Arcola with NYT), *Three Sisters* (East 15). She has recently been selected as one of the writers for the Lyric Fest Gala 2017.

REBECCA ATKINSON-LORD - DIRECTOR

Rebecca trained at RADA and with the Royal Opera House and the Young Vic. Her work has taken her from major international companies like Shakespeare's Globe, Scottish Opera and the Royal Opera House, to intimate found spaces in London and beyond. She is Founding Artistic Director and Chief Executive of Arch 468 and from 2010-2016 was Director of Theatre at Ovalhouse in London.

MERIEL HINSCHING – ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

Meriel is an emerging theatre-maker in her graduating year at East 15 Acting School (BA Acting and Contemporary Theatre). She works as an actress on both stage and television and co-formed two theatre companies of her own, RedDeer Theatre and DeadLeaf Theatre. Her debut play "Attic", which she wrote and co-produced, is currently on at The King's Head Theatre London until July 2nd. Meriel also works a director; most recently having directed the original production of *Yvette* at Debut Festival at East 15 Acting School.

GIORGIA LEE JOSEPH - DESIGNER

Giorgia is a London based designer who grew up in Milan, Italy, and comes from a very broad, but classical artistic background. She studied Theatre Design at Wimbledon College of Arts, where she was able to broaden her knowledge and develop an interest in an un-conventional theatre and performance world. Her work aims to create an atmospheric space where the audience can connect with the environment and the circumstances narrated, and to be immersed in a chosen moment of time.

JESSE BRITON is a theatre-maker and performer. His work for Bear Trap and the Jones Collective includes Fringe First-winning *Bound*, *Enduring Song* and Welsh Theatre Award-winning *Hireath*. Freelance writing includes *Derailed* for HOME, Manchester, and Writers Guild-nominated *The Muddy Choir*. He is an associate artist at Oval House, Leverhulme Arts Scholar at the Theatre Royal in Bath and a visiting director at East 15 Acting School. His plays are published in the UK by Faber and Faber.

CHINA PLATE is an independent theatre studio that works with artists, venues, festivals and funders to challenge the way performance is made, who it's made by and who gets to experience it. The company is currently collaborating with Caroline Horton, Chris Thorpe / Rachel Chavkin, Contender Charlie, Dan Jones, Sarah Punshon, Rachel Bagshaw, Inspector Sands, Joan Clevillé, David Edgar, Katie Lyons / Ella Grace and Ben Wright.

BOX OFFICE NOTES

Dates and Times

[Your Dates and Times]

Company

China Plate present

Production

YVETTE

By Urielle Klein-Mekongo

Ticket Prices

[Your Ticket Prices]

Show Information

Yvette is a one-woman show, with original music about a stolen childhood and growing up with a secret. Mixing spoken word, loop pedal beats with a 90's garage soundtrack, writer/performer Urielle Klein-Mekongo presents a powerful and uplifting story of survival and teenage angst.

This is an autobiographical show and marks the debut piece from writer/performer Urielle Klein-Mekongo.

The show opened to critical acclaim at the Edinburgh Festival Fringe in 2017. After its first performances at East 15's Debut Festival the show went on to win the Young Harts Writing Fest Audience Favourite, Kings Head Theatre Stella Wilkie Award and The East15 Pulse Award 2017.

Tags

New writing, emerging artist, loop pedal

Key artists / writers

Sabrina Mahfouz, Charlotte Josephine (Bitch Boxer), Michaela Cole (Chewing Gum Dreams)

Images

High res images are available on request, please contact Kaya Stanley-Money.

Capacity

150

Age Guide

14+

Running Time

55 minutes

Twitter Hash tag

#Yvetteplay

@ukleinmekongo | @youoldchina

CONTACTS

CHINA PLATE

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