



# 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](mailto: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**

**Gbolahan Obisesan** | Director  
**Rebecca Atkinson-Lord** | Director (Original Production)  
**Meriel Hinsching** | Director (Original Production)  
**Giorgia Lee Joseph** | Set & Costume Designer  
**Azusa Ono** | Lighting 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](mailto: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

**PULSE FESTIVAL, NEW WOLSEY THEATRE**

Sun 3 Jun

**PLEASANCE COURTYARD, EDINBURGH FESTIVAL FRINGE**

Wed 2 Aug – Sat 26 Aug

**BERNIE GRANT ARTS CENTRE, LONDON**

Fri 15 & Sat 16 Sept

2018

**WOW FESTIVAL, SOUTHBANK CENTRE LONDON**

Sat 10 & Sun 11 Mar

**OXFORD PLAYHOUSE**

Mon 16 Apr

**HARLOW PLAYHOUSE**

Mon 24 Apr

**NORWICH ARTS CENTRE**

Tues 25 Apr

**MAC BIRMINGHAM**

Tues 1 May

**EXETER PHEONIX**

Wed 3 – Fri 5 May

**CAMDEN PEOPLE'S THEATRE, LONDON**

Tues 8 – Wed 9 May

**SHOREDITCH TOWN HALL, LONDON**

Thur 10 – Sat 12 May

**BATTERSEA ARTS CENTRE, LONDON**

Mon 14 – Wed 16 May

**ALBANY, LONDON**

Thur 17 – Sat 19 May

**BUSH THEATRE, LONDON**

Mon 21 – Wed 23 May

# 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. Since Graduating from East 15 Acting School, Urielle has written for Young Hearts Company and Jude Law performed her work as part of the Lyric Gala. Urielle has also been working with the Soho Writer's group and BBC Writers London Voices. Urielle's one woman show, *Yvette*, which she performed at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival in 2017 received 5 star reviews and won the Young Harts Writing Fest Audience Favourite, the Kings Head Theatre Stella Wilkie Award and The East15 Pulse Award 2017. Other theatre credits include: *The Croydon Avengers* (Southbank Centre).

## **GBOLAHAN OBISESAN - DIRECTOR**

Gbolahan Obisesan recently held the role of Genesis Fellow/Associate Director at the Young Vic Theatre. In 2018, Gbolahan's adaptation of the Booker Prize-nominated novel *The Fisherman* will premiere at HOME, Manchester (New Perspectives Theatre). Previous directing credits include 2017 Olivier nominated *Cuttin it* (Young Vic, Birmingham Rep, Sheffield Crucible, Royal Court, Yard Theatre) *Off The Page*, a short film for the Royal Court/Guardian's microplays season, *We are Proud to Present...* (Bush Theatre), and *The Web* (Young Vic).

## **REBECCA ATKINSON-LORD – DIRECTOR (ORIGINAL PRODUCTION)**

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 – DIRECTOR (ORIGINAL PRODUCTION)**

Meriel is an emerging theatre-maker and graduate of the prestigious East 15 Acting and Contemporary Theatre Course, mentored by Uri Roodner. She works as an actress on both stage and television and co-formed two theatre companies, RedDeer Theatre and Dead Leaf Theatre. She has written and co-written several plays of her own; most notably her work has been staged at the Courtyard Theatre, The Camden People's Theatre and The Kings Head Theatre. 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 – SET & COSTUME DESIGNER**

Giorgia Lee Joseph is a young Italian designer who graduated in theatre design from Wimbledon College of Arts (UAL). Her work aims to create an immersive atmosphere for both actors and audience to share and connect within it.

Beside traditional theatre, Giorgia explores immersive and site-specific performances and events design. In her designs, Giorgia aspires to captivate the audience in an un-conventional world and circumstances.

## **AZUSA ONO – LIGHTING DESIGNER**

Azusa has been creating lighting design for theatre, dance, opera, concert, art exhibition, architecture, site-specific projects, experimental projects etc. Azusa also works as a freelance lighting designer for a range of companies and theatres, these include; Southbank Centre, Barbican Theatre, Sadler's Wells, Tate Modern, Gate Theatre, Laban, Crucible Theatre Sheffield, Ninagawa Company and Yamato Japanese Taiko Company.

**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

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## CHINA PLATE

**Kaya Stanley-Money - Producer**  
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077 4307 2199

**Ed Collier – Co-Director**  
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[www.chinaplatetheatre.com](http://www.chinaplatetheatre.com)

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