

Press release  
16 July 2026

## Royal Court Theatre announces full cast and creative team for World Premiere *Blood of my Blood*



From left to right top row Ronke Adékọlúéjọ, Jodie Campbell, Hannah Morrish  
From left to right Bottom row Karene Peter, Patrick Vaill

The Royal Court Theatre announces the full cast and creative team for the World Premiere of *Blood of my Blood* by **Joy Nesbitt** (*Scenes with Black Folk*), who makes her Royal Court playwriting debut as part of the theatre's 70th anniversary season.

At a former plantation now converted into an Airbnb, a pregnant Black woman communes with her ancestors, seeking answers to the questions she's afraid to ask anyone else. Set between 1862 and the present day, *Blood of my Blood* is a powerful exploration of family, history and belonging, directed by **Tatenda Shamiso**, who returns to the Royal Court following *A Good House* and *No I.D.*

The production runs in the Jerwood Theatre Upstairs from **Thursday 1 October** until **Saturday 7 November 2026**, with a Press Night on **Wednesday 7 October 2026**.

The full cast includes **Ronke Adékolúéjo** (*Twelfth Night*), **Jodie Campbell** (*Bitch Boxer*), **Hannah Morrish** (*The Brightening Air*), **Karene Peter** (*Rye Lane*), and **Patrick Vaill** (*Stranger Things: The First Shadow*).

The full creative team is Set & Costume Designer **Natalie Pryce**, Lighting Designer **Simisola Majekodunmi**, Movement and Intimacy Director **Ingrid Mackinnon**, and Sound Designer **Kayodeine**. The full team is completed by Royal Court Dramaturg **Laetitia Somé** and Casting Director **Saffeya Shebli**, alongside Dialect Coach **Aundrea Fudge**, Dramatherapist **Samantha Adams** and Assistant Director **Marley-Rose Liburd**.

*Bullock Creek, South Carolina, 1862. As war rages beyond the plantation, Ginnie Good raises her five children in a cabin that will outlast them all. Today: A woman rents the cabin on AirBnB to conjure her ancestors.*

*Joy Nesbitt makes her Royal Court debut with a haunting new play about inheritance, belonging, and what we hear when we listen to the voices of the past.*

Supported by the Concord Theatricals Unpublished Playwrights Award.

Recipient of the Clare McIntyre Bursary.

**Joy Nesbitt** and **Tatenda Shamiso** said: *We've assembled a phenomenally talented team to bring Blood of My Blood to life, and we can't wait for you to see it! It's such an honour to bring this work to the Royal Court, exploring and naming our heritage on our own terms.*

## ENDS

**For the Royal Court press team, please contact:**

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[Please find images here.](#)

### Upcoming press Performances:

|                          |                                                                                                           |                            |
|--------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Friday 11 September 2026 | <i>Man to Man</i> by Manfred Karge,<br>translated by Anthony Vivis,<br>revised by Stephen Unwin<br>(2026) | Jerwood Theatre Downstairs |
| Wednesday 7 October 2026 | <i>Blood of my Blood</i> by Joy<br>Nesbitt                                                                | Jerwood Theatre Upstairs   |

|                           |                                             |                            |
|---------------------------|---------------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Monday 23 November 2026   | <i>The Afronauts</i> by Ryan Calais Cameron | Jerwood Theatre Downstairs |
| Wednesday 9 December 2026 | <i>Monument</i> by Rhys Warrington          | Jerwood Theatre Upstairs   |

### **Listing info**

Royal Court Theatre presents

### **Blood of my Blood**

By Joy Nesbitt

Directed by Tatenda Shamiso

Jerwood Theatre Upstairs, Royal Court Theatre, Sloane Square, SW1W 8AS

Thursday 1 October - Saturday 7 November 2026

Press Night Wednesday 7 October 2026, 7pm

Monday - Friday, 7:45pm and 3pm

Saturday, 2pm and 6:45pm

Babes in Arms Thursday 5 November 2026, 3pm

Chilled Saturday 7 November 2026, 2pm

Post-Show Talk Tuesday 13 October 2026

Captioned Thursday 29 October 2026, 7:45pm

Age UK & Captioned Thursday 29 October 2026, 3pm

Standard Tickets £15 - £30

Concessions\*

Under 30s\*\*\*

Access £19 (plus a companion at the same rate)

\*ID required. All discounts subject to availability

### **Code of Conduct**

The Royal Court has devised a Code of Conduct intended for staff, freelancers, audiences, participants, supporters, independent companies and wider stakeholders. It sets out the fundamental principles for how we work together: guidelines and expectations which reflect our legal duties, as well as our values and ethics – including anti-racist and anti-oppressive practice. [Please read more here.](#)

### **Biographies**

#### **Ronke Adékoluéjo**

Ronke has most recently played Viola in *Twelfth Night* at Shakespeare's Globe (2025).

Ronke has received an Evening Standard Nomination for Best Actress for her performance as Delia in *Blues for an Alabama Sky* at the National Theatre and has appeared as Abosede in *Three Sisters* at the National Theatre, for which she received a Black British Theatre Awards nomination for Best Female Actor in a play. Ronke can also be seen in The National Theatre Live recording of *The Importance of Being Earnest* as Gwendolen Fox.

Ronke has worked extensively with theatres including Royal Court Theatre, Donmar Warehouse, Bush Theatre, Young Vic, Tricycle Theatre, Sheffield Crucible, and Filter Theatre.

A former Screen International Start of Tomorrow (2023), Ronke's lead performance in *Rain Dogs* earned her a Royal Television Programme Awards nomination for Leading Actor. Other lead television performances include *Alex Rider* and *Big Age*. Ronke has also starred in *Waiting for the Out* and *Doctor Who*, as well as Netflix musical *Been So Long*. Ronke's screen credits include productions by global organisations such as BBC, Channel 4, Channel 5, ITV, HBO, E4, Sky Atlantic, and Netflix.

She trained at RADA and graduated in 2013 with a BA in Acting.

#### Jodie Campbell (She/Her)

Jodie is currently filming *Reputation* for the BBC, opposite Naomie Harris and Christina Hendricks. She can currently be seen as the lead role of 'Leah' in the third and final season of BBC Three's hit new comedy drama *Boarders*.

She made her theatre debut in the one-woman play *Bitch Boxer* at Watford Palace Theatre, which has just finished a successful transfer at the Arcola Theatre.

Her previous television credits include *No Returns* for ITV opposite Sheridan Smith, and *Bulletproof* for Sky.

#### Hannah Morrish (she/her)

**For Theatre:** The Line Of Beauty (Almedia); The Brightening Air (Old Vic); The Confessions (A Zeldin Company); The Merchant Of Venice 1936 (West End/ RSC); The Darkest Part Of The Night (The Kiln); Cancelling Socrates, Hole, All's Well That Ends Well (Jermyn Street); Renaissance (Sotto Voice); Antony And Cleopatra (National); Coriolanus, Julius Caesar, Titus Andronicus (RSC/ Barbican); Arms And The Man (Watford Palace).

**For Television:** Boty: The Life And Times Of A Forgotten Artist, Father Brown, Ovid From The RSC: The World's Greatest Storyteller, Call The Midwife.

**For Film:** Magpie, Ceres.

#### Karene Peter

Karene most recently starred at the Lyric Hammersmith Theatre in Jocelyn's Bioh's JAJA'S AFRICAN HAIR BRAIDING. Prior to this, she was in HULU hit feature film, RYE LANE produced by BBC Films and directed by Raine Allen-Miller. RYE LANE was nominated for the BAFTA Outstanding British Film of the Year award, and received 16 nominations at the 2023 BIFA's, alongside numerous international festival nominations and wins.

Karene's other notable credits include a series regular on ITV primetime series, EMMERDALE; the PBS / BBC award-winning series, CALL THE MIDWIFE (where she recurred as Georgette Bains); and the award-winning ITV series, UNFORGOTTEN. Previously, Karene starred as a series lead in two seasons of THE SPARTICLE MYSTERY for the BBC.

Patrick Vaill (he/him)

Theatre includes: ELEKTRA, STRANGER THINGS: THE FIRST SHADOW, OKLAHOMA! (West End); I'M REVOLTING (Atlantic); OKLAHOMA! (Circle in the Square); OKLAHOMA! (St. Ann's Warehouse); MACBETH (Lincoln Center); PETER PAN (Bedlam); SONGBOOK (York); WHEN IN DISGRACE (Examined Man); THE BACCHAE (Public); DON'T FUCK WITH (Red Bull); MARY BRIGIT POPPY (NY Fringe); CABARET (Roundabout/National Tour); OKLAHOMA! (Bard SummerScape); CAMELOT, OTHELLO, HENRY IV Parts 1&2, HENRY V, RICHARD II, AS YOU LIKE IT (Shakespeare DC); HAMLET (Capital Rep, Albany).

Television includes: DASH & LILY.

Film includes: BLEECKER.

Awards include: Evening Standard Award for Best Musical Performance (OKLAHOMA!).