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9 January
– 1 February 2020



Cuttin' It

By **CHARLENE JAMES**

Directed by **NICKIE MILES-WILDIN**



Supported using public funding by
**ARTS COUNCIL
ENGLAND**



Cuttin' It

On the second day of our rehearsals for CUTTIN' IT there was a sharp intake of breath from everyone in the room as we learnt that there are over 200 million women globally who have experienced female genital mutilation. From Africa to Asia, the UK to America, it affects many more women than we thought.

In the UK during the nineteenth century and up until 1950 in Western Europe and US, it was even believed to be a cure for hysteria, epilepsy and for behaviour considered 'unfeminine' and as a threat to marriage.

For some cultures it's a socio-economic tool.

Our company are an eclectic group of women; Eritrean, Somali, White British, Deaf, disabled, aged 19 to 55 years old - wiped away tears as Peggy from local charity NESTAC talked us through these facts and the four different types of FGM. This was the start of our journey together.

I had realised the importance of CUTTIN' IT when I first read it but after hearing Peggy speak, it resonated even more.

FGM is a complex issue.

It is not one particular culture. It is not a women only issue. It's global. A human issue. A parenting issue. The way to eradicate it is to educate, talk to people, debunk the myth, explain the risks and share knowledge.

Through art we have the power to make change.

Nickie Miles-Wildin, Director

CHARLENE JAMES Writer

NICKIE MILES-WILDIN Director

AMANDA MASCARENHAS Designer

LOUISE ANDERSON Lighting Designer

MUNOTIDA CHINYANGA Sound Designer

TERESA GARRATTY AV and Caption Designer

REBECCA WITHEY BSL Consultant

JENNIFER JACKSON Movement Director

LOUISE MARTIN Stage Manager

SARAH BARNES Deputy Stage Manager

WYLLIE LONGMORE Voice Coach

CHRISTOPHER HOLT Voice Coach

ANNE HORNSBY Audio Description Consultant

SARA ABANUR Audio Description Voice Artist

**JUDE MAHON, SARAH GLENDENNING,
SIOBHAN ROCKS, VIKKI GEE, BEV ROBERTS,**

JAN GUEST, ANDREA SCOTT BSL Interpreters

JERRY KNIGHT-SMITH Casting Director

Thanks to Peggy Mulongo
(NESTAC Manchester),
Sign Health, Integrate Bristol,
Yusra Warsama, Roxy Moores.



HERMON BERHANE (Iqra) has previously appeared at the Royal Exchange Theatre in THE HOUSE OF BERNARDA ALBA (Graeae Theatre). Other theatre credits include: MATHILDA AND THE ORANGE BALLOON, PEOPLE OF THE EYE (The DH Ensemble/ UK tour); THE TWO FRIDAS (Handprint Theatre); SCENES FROM A SUITCASE (Taking Flight/ Ramsbottom Festival); YOU'VE GOT DRAGONS (Taking Flight Theatre/ UK tour); TOO LONG GIRL (Amplified Theatre). Film credits include: TO KNOW HIM, SCREAM QUEENS, WHAT NOT TO DO, YES!. Television credits include: DOCTORS. Radio credits include: MIDWICH CUCKOOS.



ASHA HASSAN (Muna) is making her first appearance for the Royal Exchange Theatre. Other theatre credits include: CHAOS (National Theatre Connections); EXTREMISM (Theatre Peckham); OPEN MIC NIGHT – GRENFELL PLAY, MONOLOGUE SLAM 2018, KENSINGTON GAME CHANGER, FOR COLOURED GIRLS and WHEN THEY GO LOW (National Theatre Connections). Film credits include: ROCKS. Television credits include: TRUE TUBE.

NICKIE MILES-WILDIN (Director) is Associate Director at Graeae Theatre Company. Previously she was Resident Assistant Director at the Royal Exchange Theatre as part of the Regional Theatre Young Directors Scheme. Directing credits include: THE IRON MAN (Graeae/Spark Arts); BUCK A BRENDA, BINGO LINGO (co-director/Wild N Beets); THE FOREST OF FORGOTTEN DISCOS (Contact at Hope Mill Theatre); THE TEMPEST AT ABRAHAM MOSS (Royal Exchange Theatre); DISABILITY SEX ARCHIVES, TWO CAN TOUCAN (TwoCan Theatre); NANA'S JUMBLE (Kazzum). Assistant Director credits for the Royal Exchange Theatre include: MOTHER COURAGE AND HER CHILDREN, DEATH OF A SALESMAN, FRANKENSTEIN, GUYS AND DOLLS and THE HOUSE OF BERNARDA ALBA (partnered with Graeae). Staff Director on MOSQUITOES (Dorfman, National Theatre). Associate Director credits include: MIXTAPE (Royal Exchange Theatre); TOMMY (Ramps On The Moon National Tour). Nickie is also Young Company Programme Leader here at Royal Exchange Theatre. In 2014 Nickie co-founded TwoCan, Gloucestershire's first professional disabled-led theatre company.

CHARLENE JAMES (Writer) is an award-winning playwright and screenwriter who trained at Birmingham School of Acting and Steppenwolf Theatre, Chicago. Charlene was awarded the Alfred Fagon Award for the best new play and the George Devine Award for CUTTIN' IT which played at the Young Vic and Royal Court Theatre. She was awarded a UK Theatre Award, an Evening Standard Award and the Critics Circle Choice Award. Charlene has written on the TV shows, A DISCOVERY OF WITCHES for Sky TV and DOCTOR WHO for BBC. She is currently developing both new TV and theatre projects.

AMANDA MASCARENHAS (Designer) is a Theatre Designer and Visual Artist. She works in Theatre, Television and Events. She is also a facilitator, maker and community artist. She is Associate Artist to Kazzum Arts and The Kings Head Theatre, and a Trustee of The Kings Head Theatre.

She graduated from Rose Bruford College of Theatre and Performance gaining BA(Hons) in Theatre Design. Credits include: COMING CLEAN (Trafalgar Studios); OUR VOICE, OUR WAY (Wellcome Trust); WONDER GIRL (Ovalhouse); ANNA HIBISCUS (Discovery Centre); TILBURY CARNIVAL (Royal Opera House); MOLE AND GECKO (RUA Arts, Touring); LA TRAVIATA (Kings Head Theatre); RUN IT BACK (Talawa Theatre); MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING (Merely Theatre, EU Tour); MACBETH (EU Tour); A SUBLIME FEELING (Salisbury Playhouse); BIG 30 EXHIBITION (Southbank Centre); THE BOY AND THE MERMAID (Paper Balloon); EAST MEETS WEST (Soho Theatre); SCRUB A DUB (Halfmoon Theatre).

LOUISE ANDERSON (Lighting Designer) Credits include: TRANSIT (ZENDEH Productions); THE SPACE BETWEEN US, MOMENTS THAT CHANGED OUR WORLD, UTOPIA and TOUCH (Royal Exchange Theatre Young & Elders Company); BEARS (Powder Keg), FAT GIRL SINGING (Emma Geratty); UNDER THREE MOONS (Box of Tricks) and Associate Lighting Designer on the Royal Exchange Theatre Christmas musical GYPSY. Louise is also a 2019 recipient of an MGC Futures bursary.

MUNOTIDA CHINYANGA (Sound Designer) is a multidisciplinary Artist creating work through Direction and Sound Design. Her practice investigates design led theatre, redefining spaces and challenging the role of the audience. She has a Masters in Theatre Arts focusing on Multidisciplinary practices, Sonic Art and International Collaboration. Munotida has worked at venues such as;

The Young Vic (TREE, 2019), The Gate Theatre (A SMALL PLACE, 2018), Pleasance Theatre (ALI AND DAHLIA, 2019), and the Oxford Northwall. International work includes Creative Europe residences in Serbia (2016), France (2017) and Malta (2017). She has directed productions for and delivered masterclasses at Teatro India, The National Theatre of Rome and Teatro di Akrai, The National Institute of Ancient Drama, Sicily. Munotida has recently produce work for the Republic of China and South Korea as part of the 2019 YIYUAN TANG Museum & Foundation in China. She is also currently an Associate Lecturer at Central Saint Martins for BA Performance: Design and Practice.

JENNIFER JACKSON (Movement Director) trained at East 15 and is a movement director and actor. She is a Leverhulme Arts Scholar. Credits include: I WANNA BE YOURS (The Bush/ Paines Plough/ Tamasha), MIDNIGHT MOVIE (Royal Court), BABY REINDEER (Francesca Moody Productions), AMSTERDAM (ATC/ Orange Tree/ Theatre Royal Plymouth), POPS (Jake Orr Productions), THE STRANGE UNDOING OF PRUDENCIA HART (New Vic), BE MY BABY, AROUND THE WORLD IN 80 DAYS (Leeds Playhouse), THE TRICK, PHILOXENIA (Bush Theatre), THE MOUNTAINTOP (Young Vic/ UK Tour Desara Productions Ltd), DEATH OF A SALESMAN, QUEENS OF THE COAL AGE, OUR TOWN (Royal Exchange Theatre), PARLIAMENT SQUARE (Bush Theatre/ Royal Exchange Theatre), MAYFLY, OUT OF WATER (Orange Tree), BRIGHTON ROCK (Pilot Theatre/ The Lowry), ISLAND TOWN, STICKS AND STONES, HOW TO SPOT AN ALIEN, BLACK MOUNTAIN, HOW TO BE A KID, OUT OF LOVE (Paines Plough), THE UGLY ONE (The Park), WHY THE WHALES CAME (Southbank Centre), STONE FACE, SILENT PLANET (Finborough Theatre), DEBRIS (Southwark Playhouse/ Openworks), FAUSTUS/MACBETH (David Crystal/ Sam Wanamaker Playhouse).