

SAY IT LOUD PRESENTS...

SLAVE SHIP

A PLAY BY AMIRI BARAKA

A photograph of a beach with waves and footprints in the sand. The image is the background for the lower half of the poster. The sky is a pale, hazy blue, and the ocean has white-capped waves breaking onto a sandy shore. In the foreground, several dark footprints are visible in the sand, leading from the bottom left towards the water.

LAND

A PLAY BY EDSON BURTON



is proud to present...

Slave Ship
by Amiri Baraka

and

Land
by Edson Burton

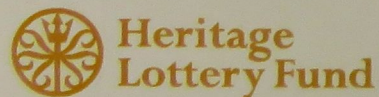
Thursday 18th October 2007 7.30 p.m.
Friday 19th October 2007 7.30 p.m.
Saturday 20th October 2007 2.00 p.m. and 7.30 p.m.

at

CIRCOMEDIA

Portland Square, Bristol.

This project was made possible by the Heritage Lottery Fund and Quartet.



DIRECTOR'S NOTE

Slave Ship was first presented by The Spirit House Movers in Newark, New Jersey, in March 1967. Forty years on, maintaining the play's integrity while staging a modern production has been a delicate balancing act. We have done our best to illustrate the immediate relevance of slavery, rather than isolating it as a past event, closed off, and separate from the world we live in today.

Edson Burton's *Land*, was written especially for this project. It seeks to come to terms with the anger and pain that pulses through the veins of *Slave Ship*. Together, the two texts span 200 years of history. I see each scene as a small snapshot trying to show that history; beginning with the slave ship and progressing through our difficult past to our present, but ultimately looking to the future.

A note to the audience present would be this: Let your heart lead your mind today. This production cannot be understood if you try to find logic in it. It is more important to experience it sensuously, and understand it through the feelings that it may evoke within you.

I hope you enjoy this production.

Pooja Shah

SLAVE SHIP (1967)

By Amiri Baraka

CAST

Captain	Richard Gent
Sailor	Will Grealish
Man One	Derrick Hines
Man Two	Jonathan Daniel
Man Three	Marlon Gayle
Woman One	Durine Howell
Woman Two	Alice Farley
Woman Three	Paulette Taylor
Other Slaves	Candi Redman Junior Ford Patricia Ekall Joseph Mudari Hanifah Babatunji Grace Burton
Old Tom Slave / Preacher	Mthuthuzeli Mpongina
Plantation Owner	Stephen Perry
Dancers	Grace Ekall Leeza Jessie Angela Hirst Patricia Ekall Andrea Daniel Alice Farley Candi Redman

LAND (2007)

By Edson Burton

CAST

Mama	Lorna Easy
Healer	Joseph Mudari
Dudley	Jonathan Daniel
Kofi	Mthuthuzeli Mpongina
Bridge	Alice Farley
Griot	Sandra Hobson
Sarah	Durine Howell
Field hands	Candi Redman Hanifah Babatunji
Overseer	Derrick Hines
Mr T. Rex	Stephen Perry
Mrs T. Rex	Paola Sileno
The Monster	Grace Ekall
Mary	Leeza Jessie
Mr. Scott	Will Grealish
Mrs. Scott	Gemma Reynolds
Official One	Richard Gent
Official Two	Marlon Gayle
Mama's Son	Junior Ford
Dudley's Daughter	Grace Burton
Kofi's Daughter	Hanifah Babtunji
Child	Patricia Ekall
Rex Junior	Kane Clifton-Hadley
Dancers	Grace Ekall Leeza Jessie Angela Hirst Patricia Ekall Andrea Daniel Alice Farley Candi Redman

THE COMPANY



1. Elisa Amesbury, 2. Hanifah Babatunji, 3. Amiri Baraka, 4. Edson Burton, 5. Grace Burton, 6. Kane Clifton-Hadley, 7. Paulo Corte-Real, 8. Andrea Daniel, 9. Jonathan Daniel, 10. Lorna Easy
11. Grace Ekall, 12. Patricia Ekall, 13. Alice Farley, 14. Junior Ford, 15. Marlon Gayle, 16. Richard Gent, 17. Will Grealish, 18. Detrix Hamilton, 19. Derrick Hines, 20. Angela Hirst
21. Sandra Hobson, 22. Rupert Hopkins, 23. Durine Howell, 24. Leeza Jessie, 25. James Kennard, 26. Jade Laing, 27. Paul Morisson, 28. Mthuthuzeli Mponginana, 29. Joseph Mudari, 30. Stephen Perry
31. Candi Redman, 32. Gemma Reynolds, 33. Pooja Shah, 34. Paola Sileno, 35. Daniel Soko, 36. Paulette Taylor, 37. Amy Watson, 38. Tony Wrafter

PRODUCTION CREDITS

Director	Pooja Shah	
Co-directors	Elisa Amesbury	Amy Watson
Producer	Rupert Hopkins	
Assistant Producer	Stephen Perry	

Music and Dance developed and coordinated by Zigou Dam

Choreography	Grace Ekall	
Body Conditioning	Leeza Jessie	
Musical Director	Daniel Soko	
Percussion	Daniel Soko	Paulo Corte-Real
Tenor Saxophone and Flute	Tony Wrafter	
Vocal Coach	Leeza Jessie	

Set design	James Kennard	Paul Morrison,
	Detrix Hamilton	
Set construction	Chris Ward	
Lighting design	James Kennard	
Sound engineer	Ruth Perry	
Costume design	Grace Ekall	
Costume production	Rose May and Corrina	
Make-up design	Jade Laing	
Programme Design	Giuseppe Amesbury	

Sound and music recorded at MKM Studios.

We would also like to thank: Pete Daintree of Baggator for letting us use the Pickle Factory as a rehearsal space, Mivart Art Studio for allowing us to build the set there, Plantation Restaurant for the use of space for dance rehearsals, Tammi Redmond and Heather Arthur of Abolition 200 for help and support, and a special thank you to Vishal Sookur for all his support and hard work.

In conjunction with this project, Say it Loud have been organizing Drama workshops on the subject of slavery in Bristol schools and we would like to take this opportunity to thank Natasha Finch for all her hard work in organizing and leading this aspect of the project.

AMIRI BARAKA

Amiri Baraka was born Everett LeRoi Jones in 1934 in Newark, NJ. After leaving Howard University and the Air Force, he moved to the Lower East Side of Manhattan in 1957 where he founded Totem Press, which was the first house to publish works by Allen Ginsberg and Jack Kerouac, among others. His first volume of poetry, *Preface to a Twenty-Volume Suicide Note*, was published in 1961; along with *Blues People: Negro Music in White America*, which is still today regarded as the seminal work on Afro-American music and culture.

His reputation as a playwright was established with the production of *Dutchman* at the Cherry Lane Theatre in New York on March 24, 1964. The controversial play subsequently won an Obie Award (for "best off-Broadway play") and was made into a film in 1967. In 1965, Jones moved to Harlem, where he founded the Black Arts Repertory Theatre/School. The BARTS brought Art, Poetry, Music, and Drama in to the heart of the Harlem community by performing in different locations each day, from vacant lots, to play grounds, and housing projects. BARTS reflected the intensity of the entire Black Liberation Movement by promoting art that was Revolutionary, mass-based, and taken to the people.

In 1966, Baraka returned to Newark, with his new wife, Amina Baraka. During this period, the Barakas founded the Committee for Unified Newark and the Congress of Afrikan People that led to the election of Ken Gibson as the first Black Mayor of a major north-eastern city.

Amiri Baraka's play *Slave Ship*, was first produced at the Spirit House theatre in Newark, New Jersey, in 1967, and first published in 1969. The play has been noted for its successful embodiment of the politics of Black Nationalism, the aesthetics of the Black Arts Movement, and the principals of "revolutionary theatre."

There followed a successful literary career, as a poet, author and editor. *The Autobiography of LeRoi Jones/Amiri Baraka* was published in 1984. Amiri Baraka's numerous literary honours include fellowships from the Guggenheim Foundation and the National Endowment for the Arts, the PEN/Faulkner Award, the Rockefeller Foundation Award for Drama, the Langston Hughes Award from The City College of New York, and a lifetime achievement award from the Before Columbus Foundation. He was inducted into the American Academy of Arts and Letters in 1995.

EDSON BURTON

Dr Edson Burton is an academic, writer and storyteller. Dr Burton has taught a range of Black History courses at university level, and has worked tirelessly to promote awareness of African Diaspora history and culture at a grass roots level. He is a regular performer on the Southwest poetry scene and has supported Simon Armitage, Glenis Redmond and Dana Bryant. He is the author of two radio plays the *Armour of Immanuel* and *Rebel Woman*. He is currently working on his second commission for Radio 4 Corner due to be broadcast in March 2008. Edson is also currently editing a collection of his poems for a forthcoming publication by City Chameleon.

ZIGOU DAM

Zigou Dam was formed by Choreographer Grace Ekall in 1995. "Zigou" means "strength" "Dam" means "courage". Her dance background naturally embraced traditional dance from her native Cameroon but unusually she pursued Contemporary dance training in France and Switzerland. Grace pioneered her distinctive expressive Contemporary style in the Cameroon. Zigou Dam's African tour took the Continent by storm and the Company's reputation quickly spread to Europe culminating in a highly successful tour of France. The audience's enthusiasm for Zigou Dam's appearances prompted an invitation from the Arts Council of England to come and perform in the UK.

Currently based at Bristol Dance Centre, Zigou Dam have been undertaking workshops and sessions in schools, colleges and Universities across the Region. The response to the company's work has been positive and enthusiastic, engaging a wide range of participants in authentic African culture and expressive contemporary dance.

SAY IT LOUD

Say It Loud is a not for profit multicultural arts development organisation. Operating from a table, with a pc, telephone and mobile, it has been staging events and facilitating poetry workshops in schools since 2001.

Say It Loud has successfully created links with African American artists and Bristol Black Writers, having an input into Bristol Poetry Festival and raising awareness during Black History Month. In recent years, it has brought poets of the calibre of Linton Kwesi Johnson, Lemn Sissay, Glenis Redmond and Jean Binta Breeze to Bristol. Whilst in 2004, Say It Loud facilitated a series of school poetry workshops whose end result was an anthology of young people's writing entitled 'Let It Float Away'. This is Say It Loud's first foray into theatre and we are grateful to everyone who has helped us along the way.

"FIGHTING RHYTHM"

GRACE EKALL

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**AND THE
ZIGOU-DAM DANCERS**

