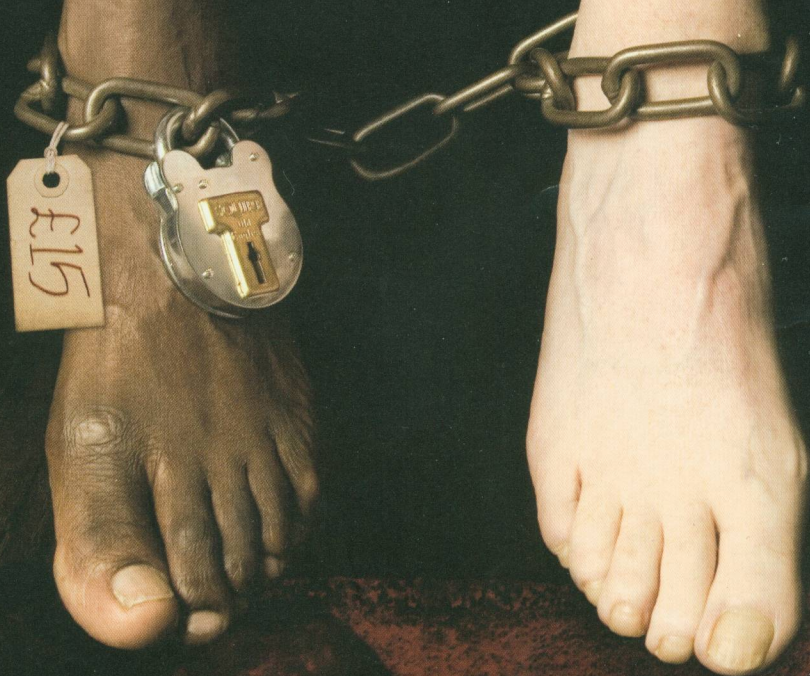


AFRICAN SNOW



YORK THEATRE ROYAL and RIDING LIGHTS THEATRE COMPANY present the world premiere

AFRICAN SNOW

30 March – 21 April

A new play by Murray Watts
Directed by Paul Burbridge
Lighting Designed by Ben Cracknell

Designed by Sean Cavanagh
Music by Ben Okafor

yorktheatre
royal



What's the story about?

African Snow is the meeting of two men – cast from opposite sides into the hell of the slave trade. The English sailor, John Newton, is well-known as the converted slave-trader who gave the world its most famous hymn 'Amazing Grace'. But, as one might expect from the quiet racism of the history books, less prominence is given to Olaudah Equiano, whose extraordinary story has been confined to a footnote or totally ignored. Equiano's ascent from the hell of a slave ship to become the leading black voice in the British abolition campaign is one of the most compelling and moving stories of any era. Both men survived to write remarkable accounts of their experiences and were urged by Yorkshire MP, William Wilberforce to testify before parliament in the eighteenth century campaign for abolition. Together, Equiano and Newton seem to provide the most cogent argument in winning the political battle. Is bringing them face to face beyond the scope of human reason? Can victim and abuser ever be reconciled? African Snow takes us to the heart of the human condition, to the place where two men are compelled to confront one another.

Why perform this play now?

March 25 2007 marks the bicentenary of the Act, passed in the House of Commons, abolishing the Trade in African Slaves. But 1807 was one victory in a battle that has intensified.

Why should you watch African Snow?

'Here's a play that turns history into a pulsating human story. It could be yours. It could be mine. We begin to understand the past when we recognise that it is about real human beings like us. That way we have a better understanding not only where we have come from but what we are doing now and where we are heading.'

Dr John Sentamu, Archbishop of York

DATES: 30 March-21 April

TIME: 7.30pm Matinees 2.00pm/2.30pm.

PRICE: £9-£18. NUS and U25 £5. Group Discount Available. Cream Tea Matinee £12

SUITABLE FOR: 12 +

ACCESS PERFORMANCES: Sign Language

Interpreted: 17 April, Audio Described:
20 April @ 7.30pm & 21 April @ 2.30pm,

Captioned: 21 April @ 2.30pm

PERFORMANCE LOCATION:

York Theatre Royal, Main House

AFTER SHOW DISCUSSION: 4&18 April

In 1807 there were 4 million slaves worldwide...today there are over 20 million.

Box Office 01904 623 568

www.yorktheatreroyal.co.uk

Riding Lights Theatre Company in partnership with York Theatre Royal

AFRICAN SNOW

secrets of the trade

*'I was once an active instrument in a
business at which my heart now shudders'*

a new play by
Murray Watts

directed by
Paul Burbridge

with music by
Ben Okafor

design by
Sean Cavanagh

lighting by
Ben Cracknell

with John Newton, Olaudah Equiano and a cast of millions

**THE NEW
THEATRE**

Mon 4 – Sat 9 Jun, 7.30pm

Thu & Sat matinees 2.30pm

Prices from £5.00

Booking Office 01482 226655

Open 9.30am to 8.00pm

Concessions available to Gold Card Members & school parties;
standby tickets available - contact booking office for details



'a staggering play... a perfectly measured performance' ★★★★★

METRO

African Snow tells the extraordinary story of Olaudah Equiano — a forgotten hero in the battle to abolish slavery. His ascent from the living hell of a slave ship to become the leading black voice in the British abolition campaign is one of the most compelling and moving stories of any era.

The play imagines a meeting between Equiano and the English sailor John Newton, well known as the converted slave trader who gave the world its most famous hymn *Amazing Grace*.

Both men wrote remarkable accounts of their experiences and, backed by Yorkshire MP William Wilberforce, each offered crucial testimony before Parliament. Today their contribution towards abolishing the trade in African slaves is being celebrated across the country.

The worldwide battle against slavery continues but 200 years ago the course of history was changed forever...

African Snow features original music by the legendary Nigerian musician **Ben Okafor**.

BY MURRAY WATTS DIRECTOR PAUL BURBRIDGE
DESIGNER SEAN CAVANAGH LIGHTING DESIGNER BEN CRACKNELL
COMPOSER BEN OKAFOR MOVEMENT DIRECTOR CLYDE BAIN

NATIONAL TOUR DETAILS www.africansnow.com

'a joy to watch...
intense and
powerfully moving
new drama'

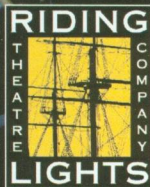
BBC
NORTH YORKSHIRE

'superb'

WHATSONSTAGE.COM

'undeniable
disturbing
power'

THE TIMES



yorktheatre
royal

in-service
productions @ the beginning

photograph © Peter Byrne

