

THE  
**BELGRADE**  
**THEATRE**  
COVENTRY

A Belgrade Theatre production  
In association with tiata fahodzi

# SWIM, AUNTY, SWIM!

Written by Siana Bangura  
Directed by Madeleine Kludje

20 May - 1 June  
[belgrade.co.uk](http://belgrade.co.uk)

**tiata  
fahodzi**



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









# SWIM, AUNTY, SWIM!

We are delighted to welcome you to the world premiere of Siana Bangura **Swim, Aunty, Swim!**

We are genuinely, always, excited by the ongoing programme at the Belgrade, but the lifeblood of a theatre company lies in making its own work. It is something that we at the Belgrade are determined to do more of and this show marks the beginning of a run of shows made, here, in Coventry, at the Belgrade.

It is a particular pleasure to lead off with this show. Not just a world premiere, but the debut stage play by an exciting writer, Coventry's own, Siana Bangura, brilliantly delivered by director Madeleine Kludje, working with a wonderful cast, creative and technical teams. We hope that this is a story that shows the ambition of the Belgrade, taking us from West Africa and back to Coventry.

We hope you enjoy the show and look forward to seeing you, regularly, at the Belgrade.

Neil Murray & Corey Campbell

Neil Murray

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Neil Murray', with a stylized, flowing script.

Corey Campbell

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Corey Campbell', with a stylized, flowing script.

# SWIM, AUNTY, SWIM!

## CAST

Sam Baker-Jones  
Anni Domingo  
Evelyn Duah  
Karlina Grace-Paseda

**Danny  
Aunty Fatu  
Aunty Ama  
Aunty Blessing**

## CREATIVES

Siana Bangura  
Madeleine Kludje  
Claire Winfield  
Naomi Thompson  
Duramaney Kamara  
Ryan Joseph Stafford  
Gabrielle Nimo  
Chinonyerem Odimba  
Sarah Githugu  
Samantha Adams  
James Ashfield  
Adrian Sweeney  
Debbie Harlow  
Libby Glass  
Yvonne Carruthers  
Alex Ford  
Seth Blackburn  
Adam Warren  
Oliver Howard

**Writer  
Director  
Set Designer  
Costume Designer  
Sound designer and Composer  
Lighting Designer  
Movement Director  
Dramaturg  
Assistant Director  
Wellbeing Dramatherapist  
Producer  
Production Manager  
Company Stage Manager  
Performance Deputy Stage Manager  
Rehearsal Deputy Stage Manager  
Assistant Stage Manager  
Assistant Technician/Stage Manager  
Lighting Programmer & Operator  
Sound Operator**





# Sam Baker-Jones

## Danny

Sam's Theatre credits include: **Here** (Southwark Playhouse); **Mayday Mayday Tuesday** (Chaskis Theatre); **Frankenstein** (Quarter Too Ensemble), and **Hamlet** (Birmingham Repertory Theatre).

TV credits include: **Di Ray** Series 1-2; **The Walk-In** (all ITV); **Make Me Famous**; **Noughts & Crosses**, and **Doctors** (all BBC).

Film credits include: **Passing Through** (PY Films).

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## Anni Domingo

### Aunty Fatu

Anni Domingo, Actress, Director, and Writer, works extensively in Radio, TV, Films and Theatre. She trained at Rose Bruford College of Speech and Drama, later obtaining two more BA degrees and an MA at Anglia Ruskin University, Cambridge. She has worked in America, Europe, Africa, Australia and in many theatres around the UK including The National Theatre and has just finished performing in Jane Austen's **Mansfield Park** on tour and at Watermill Theatre.

Anni works regularly as a Theatre Director. She currently lectures on Drama and directs at St. Mary's University in Twickenham, Rose Bruford College of Speech and Drama, Royal Central College and at Royal Academy of Dramatic Arts. Her poems and short stories are published in various anthologies. *Empty Cradle* is published in the anthology *Secret and Silent Tears* and three of her poems are in another anthology *Wild Imperfections*, published by Penguin in November 2021. An extract from her novel **Breaking the Maafa Chain** won the Myriad Editions First Novel competition in 2018 and is featured in the *New Daughters of Africa* (2019) anthology edited by Margaret Busby.

Her first screenplay, **Blessed Assurance** has just been filmed and will be out later this year. Her debut novel, **Breaking the Maafa Chain**, was published in September 2021, by Jacaranda Books, UK and by Pegasus Books, USA in 2022 and in Brazil 2024 (translated into Portuguese). Anni is now working on her second novel **Ominira** as part of her PhD at King College London.

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# Evelyn Duah

## Aunty Ama

Theatre: **Bones** - Beauty/Boy with (Calypso Theatre); **Doubt** - Mrs Muller, with (Masquerade); **A New Way to Please You** - Hippolyta with (RSC); **Believe What You Will** - **Queen of Bythina** and **Taja**, with (RSC); **Thomas More** - **Lady Mayoress**, with RSC (Gunpowder season); **The Blinkards** (reading) - Various roles; **with Drill Hall**; **In Arabia We'd All Be Kings** - Daisy, with (Hampstead Theatre); **Urban Afro Saxons** - Amanda, with (Talawa Theatre Company); **Death Of The King's Horseman** - Bride, with (Manchester Royal Exchange).

TV/Film: **Trigger Point**- Jaz Nutkins, **The Campus**- Grace, **The Bill** - Katherine Wendall, **No Heroics** - Calley, **Mi Hi** - PC Dawkins, **Silent Witness** Nurse Stella, **Baby Father** - Marcia **Circus**, -Jewellers Assistant, **Sliding Doors** - Receptionist, **A Sense of Ending** - Emma, **A Long Way Down** - Nurse, **Outlaws** - Marcia,

Radio/Voiceover: **Strange as it may seem** (BBC Radio), **African Stories**; **Overwatch** (2017), **Video game** (Blizzard Productions), **Athena**, Director, Andrea Toyias.

Evelyn is an Associate Director at Absolute Theatre UK.

She is an Acting Coach and Creative practitioner. She developed numerous community arts-based programmes and also coaches actors for film . She has facilitated audition workshops for several highly acclaimed film and TV productions. Evelyn is a resident of Coventry.

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# Karlina Grace-Paseda

## Aunty Blessing

Karlina Grace-Paseda is an experienced actress who has worked across both stage and screen. Her theatre credits include **Abel and Cain** (Hampstead Theatre), **Note to Self** (Rambert Dance Company) directed by Benoit Swan; Agatha Christies' **Witness for the Prosecution** and the 5-star production of **Custody** directed by BAFTA winner Gbemisola Ikumelo.

Karlina's TV credits include **Renegade Nell** (Disney +), **Sense and Sensibility** (Hallmark Mahogany Channel); ITV's **Grantchester**; BBC's **Black Ops** and Sky TV's **Rosie Molloy Gives Up Everything** with Sheridan Smith.

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# MADELEINE KLUDJE

## DIRECTOR

Madeleine is currently the Associate Director at The Birmingham Rep leading on Door Programming and Talent Development. Madeleine is an alumni of The Regional Theatre Young Directors Scheme, the National Theatre Directors Course and Clore Leadership Pulse. Madeleine has worked with a range of theatres as a freelance practitioner, dramaturg and director. Past directing work includes **Parklife** short comedy plays by Mahad Ali, Alice Etches, Mari and Lowri Izzard and Ed Amsden and Tom Coles (Sky Comedy Rep 22 & 23) **Grimeboy** by Birmingham Poet Laureate Casey Bailey (The Rep, Barry Jackson Tour, Birmingham Festival 23), **City of a Thousand Trades** by Choreographer Miguel Altunaga (Birmingham Royal Ballet) Park Bench Plays, **short plays** by David Edgar, Janice Connolly, Liam Steel and Lucia Deyi (The Rep, Barry Jackson Tour, Sky Arts). **Brummie Iliad** by Rodrick Smith (The Rep), **Subtitled** by Michael Southern and **Fathers, Family and F\*\*kboys** by Sophia Griffin (Rep Foundry), **I Am a Man** by Luke Barnes and **Love Liquidators** by Ashley Zhangazha (North Wall Alchemy Festival), **Futureopolis**, a devised piece for the new entrance opening of the Victoria and Albert Museum with young people from Emergency Exit Arts, **Check The Label** by Eno Mfon and Normal by Theresa Ikoko (Talawa First), **Fable** by Luke Barnes in London, New York and Cape Town (Young Vic).

Past Associate and Assisting work includes **Migrations** Directed by David Poutney, (Welsh National Opera), **Peter Pan and The Wizard of Oz** Directed by Liam Steel, **A Thousand Splendid Suns** and Woyzeck directed by Roxana Silbert and **Elephant** Directed by Lucy Morrison (The Rep).

As a freelance practitioner and mentor past work includes NT Connections, NT Public Acts, Talawa TYPT, Old Vic Schools Projects, Emergency Exit Arts, Stratford Theatre Royal Creative Activism and BID drama group.

# SIANA BANGURA

## WRITER

Siana Bangura is a writer, producer, performer, campaigner and community organiser hailing from South East London, now living, working, and creating between London and the West Midlands. She is the founder and former editor of Black British Feminist platform, No Fly on the WALL; author of poetry collection, 'Elephant'; and the producer of **1500 & Counting**, a documentary film investigating deaths in custody and police brutality in the UK. Siana is also the founder of Courageous Films and Siana Bangura Productions and co-founder and co-curator of the Sierra Leone Arts & Culture Festival (SLACfest).

Siana works and campaigns on issues of race, class, and gender and their intersections and is currently working on projects focusing on climate change, the arms trade, Tech Justice, and state violence. As a playwright, Siana's recent works include the plays **Layila!** 2019 and **Swim, Aunty, Swim!** 2024, produced by Belgrade Theatre in association with tiata fahodzi. Her short films include **Denim** 2017. Siana is the co-host of 'Behind the Curtains' podcast, produced in partnership with English Touring Theatre (ETT) and host of 'People Not War' podcast, produced in partnership with Campaign Against Arms Trade (CAAT), where she was formerly a campaigner and co-ordinator.

With three TED Talks to her name, and experience in indie publishing, journalism, campaigns and comms under her belt, Siana's mission across her vast portfolio of work is to help move voices and experiences traditionally marginalised, from the margins, to the centre.

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# CLAIRE WINFIELD

## SET DESIGNER

Claire Winfield has been at the Belgrade for eight years, first as deputy, and currently as Head of Paint shop for Belgrade Theatre Scenery. This is her second design on stage at the Belgrade Theatre. Her first design was for **Big Aunty** 2023.

She has previously worked as the resident designer and painter for Harrow School, and a scenic artist for Hornchurch and Nottingham Playhouse.

# NAOMI THOMPSON

## COSTUME DESIGNER

Naomi is currently Wardrobe Supervisor at Belgrade Theatre. She studied fashion and textiles in Birmingham, Walsall and Nottingham. Upon graduating she interned as a costume maker in Venice, Italy.

Naomi later went on to work as an e-commerce fashion stylist and her designs were featured in fashion shows in Birmingham, London and New York.

Naomi entered the theatre industry as a trainee at the Young Vic Theatre in 2018. She worked as a freelancer executing various roles including maintenance, dresser, administrator, assistant costume supervisor, wardrobe manager, costume supervisor and designer.

Credits include:

**Romeo and Juliet** and **Oedipus Rex** (Crescent Theatre); **Twelfth Night**, **The Convert**, **Tree** and **She Ventures and He Wins** (Young Vic); **Tree** (Manchester International Festival); **Richard II** and **Snow Globe** (Shakespeare's Globe); **As You Like It** (Queens Theatre, Hornchurch); **The Third Day Live** (Punchdrunk Theatre Company); **Can I Live?** (Complicité Theatre Company); **Trouble in Mind** (National Theatre); (Birmingham Commonwealth Games 2022) (Birmingham Ceremonies); **To The Streets! Musical** (China Plate Theatre/Birmingham Hippodrome); **The Colour Purple** (Curve Theatre/ Birmingham Hippodrome); **Big Aunty** (Belgrade Theatre); and **Cinderella** (Belgrade Theatre).

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# DURAMANAY KAMARA

## SOUND DESIGNER & COMPOSER

Duramaney Kamara was born into a family of afro-jazz musicians, becoming infatuated with instruments, live music and production from a young age. His childhood home was filled with reggae, jazz and afro-beat, which continue to influence his composition and music production to this day.

As a child Duramaney performed with his parents in gigs around London, developing a multi-disciplinary talent for playing instruments, his favourite being the trumpet. At six years old he began writing and producing songs on GarageBand and as a teenager was invited to create music in professional studios for artists around London.

Duramaney, aka 'D L K' is also a recording artist and producer who releases music under his indie label **Breaking Bread & Boundaries**, founded in 2018. He released his debut EP, **F\*ck It Let's Move** in 2019, which peaked at #1 in the UK iTunes pre-order charts. He most recently co-produced two tracks on Mostack's latest album, **High Street Kid 2** which made it into the UK Top 40. D L K is set to release more of his own music.

Duramaney is also an actor. He had his stage debut in 2016 at the Almeida in Leo Butler's **Boy** and had his screen debut in 2018 in Idris Elba's feature film **Yardie**. He continues to work as an actor alongside composition and music production.

# RYAN JOSEPH STAFFORD

## LIGHTING DESIGNER

Ryan works internationally as a Lighting Designer for theatre and dance. He trained at Rose Bruford College, graduating with a First Class BA Honours Degree in Lighting Design. Ryan received a Masters with Distinction in Art & Politics from Goldsmiths, University of London following his research into 'Political Light'.

Ryan was awarded 'Best Lighting Design' by the Off West End Awards for the international tour of **Bacon**. In 2019, he received the 'Michael Northern Award for Excellence in Lighting Design' from the Association of Lighting Designers.

Recent designs include: **Hir** (Park Theatre); **Bacon** (Riverside Studios, International Tour); **TRAPLORD** (Southbank Centre); **Can This Place Be A Temple?** (The Place, UK Tour); **Breeding** (King's Head); **Vortex** (Russell Maliphant Dance Company); **Natalia Osipova: Force of Nature** (New York City Center, International Tour); **Shades of Blue** (Sadler's Wells, Matsena Productions, BBC Arts); **Grimeboy** (Birmingham Rep); **Dance for Ukraine** (London Coliseum); **Codi** (National Dance Company of Wales); **Isla** (Theatr Clwyd & Royal Court); **Generation Goldfish** (Bayerisches Staatsballett, Munich); **Left from Write** (Norwegian National Ballet II, Linbury, Royal Opera House); **Together, Not the Same** (Sadler's Wells); **Easy Virtue** (Watermill); **The Island** (Fio, UK Tour); **The Secret Lives of Baba Segi's Wives** (Elufowoju, Jr. Ensemble, Arcola Theatre).

Ryan is an Associate Artist of Red Oak Theatre Company and Bohemian Theatre Company.

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# CHINONYEREM ODIMBA

## DRAMATURG

Chinonyerem Odimba is a Nigerian British playwright, screenwriter, and poet.

Her work for theatre includes: **The Bird Woman of Lewisham** at the Arcola, **Rainy Season**, and **His Name is Ishmael** for (Bristol Old Vic), **Joanne** for (Clean Break), and **Amongst the Reeds** for (Clean Break/The Yard Theatre), **Twist** for (Theatre Centre), **Sweetness of a Sting** for (National Theatre Connections), **Medea** at (Bristol Old Vic), **We Too, Are Giants** for (Kiln Theatre), **Unknown Rivers** at (Hampstead Theatre), **Prince and the Pauper** at (Watermill Theatre), **The Seven Ages of Patience** at (Kiln Theatre), **Princess & The Hustler** which toured across the UK for (Eclipse Theatre/Bristol Old Vic/Hull Truck).

More recently, Chinonyerem has written for Young Vic Theatre on the experimental AI play, (RSC)/Coventry City of Culture 2021 Faith, and is currently under commission with Kiln Theatre, RSC, and Manchester Royal Exchange.

She has been shortlisted for several awards including the Adrienne Benham and Alfred Fagon awards. In 2015 her unproduced play **Wild is De Wind** was shortlisted to the final ten for the Bruntwood Playwriting Award. She is the winner for the 2018 Sonia Friedman Award (Channel 4 Playwright Bursary) for a new play **How to Walk on the Moon**, and a finalist for the inaugural Women Playwriting Prize 2020 for her play Paradise Street.

In 2022, Chinonyerem won the WGGB Writer's Guild Award for Best Musical Bookwriting for her play **Black Love**.

Chinonyerem's TV credits includes **Scotch Bonnet** for BBC Three and **A Blues for Nia** for BBC/Eclipse Theatre, **Adulthood** for Channel 4, and more recently **My Best Friend Married a Warrior** for CBBC.

In April 2021, Chinonyerem Odimba became the new Artistic Director and Chief Executive of tiata fahodzi.

As a director, Chinonyerem has worked for (Bristol Old Vic, Theatre503 and Bristol Old Vic Theatre School), as well as new drama **Braids** by Olivia Hannah for Live Theatre/BBC Radio 4.

# GABRIELLE NIMO

## MOVEMENT DIRECTOR

Gabrielle Nimo is a London-based movement director and teacher, who has worked with companies, arts venues and institutions including: Guildhall School of Music and Drama, Creature Bionics, Talawa Theatre Company, Generation Arts and Arts Ed as former Head of Movement (2020-2022).

Her credits as Movement Director include: **Red Pitch** (West End transfer, Soho Place), **Strategic Love Play** (Paines Plough), **On The Ropes** (Park Theatre), Olivier award winning, **Sleepova** and **The High Table** (Bush Theatre) and **Unknown Rivers** (Hampstead Theatre).

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## SARAH GITHUGU

### ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

Sarah Githugu (She/Her) is a writer, facilitator and emerging director from Coventry, UK. Following Sarah's directorial debut of **The High Life** (Barons Court Theatre), she is passionate about challenging societal norms and uplifting marginalised people. Writing credits include a filmed monologue, **Undoing**, for Tolani Shoneye's **STORY STORY** and **Do We Have to Go Home?**, a short play for Unshaded Arts' Universal event (Omnibus Theatre).

Directing credits include **Age is Revolting** (Worcester Theatre) as part of NT Connections 2024, Best Fit as a part of Theatre Deli's SHIFT + SPACE program, assistant director for **Big Aunty** (Belgrade Theatre) and **Nucleus** (Omnibus Theatre) for Unshaded Arts first Universal night.

She is currently a part of Nottingham Playhouse's Writers' Group and undertaking the RTYDS Intensive Residency at Belgrade Theatre.

## SAMANTHA ADAMS

### WELLBEING DRAMA-THERAPIST

Samantha is a HCPC state registered Dramatherapist and Creative Arts Supervisor who graduated from the University of Roehampton with a Masters in Dramatherapy where she also teaches Therapeutic Stories and Ritual Theatre Units. Before retraining to become a Therapist, her final role on stage was **Prospero**.

As a Therapist she works in the community with women at risk of the Criminal Justice System and or with life enduring mental ill health. As well as leading Health & Wellbeing on a weekly basis at Clean Break Theatre Company. She also works regularly as an in-house production Dramatherapist with several renowned theatres such as the National Theatre's **Othello** and **Trouble in Mind**, Bristol Old Vic's **The Meaning of Zong**, and a socially prescribed Long Covid program at Old Vic Theatre.

Samantha regularly works with Kiln Theatre and teaches the Pedagogy of Storytelling and Ritual Theatre annually at the Royal Central School of Speech & Drama. She began her journey to Dramatherapy career on an acute NHS mental health ward for two years before returning to theatre and working in the community. She also has a small private practice working with performers.

Her most recent productions as in-house Dramatherapist include **Dr Semmelweis** with Mark Rylance directed by Tom Morris for SFP and she is currently consulting at Old Vic and the National Theatre on **Mnemonic** by Complicité. Samantha is delighted having made this link with Belgrade.

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# Madeleine Kludje

## DIRECTOR

Welcome to our production of **Swim, Aunty, Swim!**

This play delves into the profound themes of water healing and friendship, guided by the mystical presence of Mami Wata, the revered water deity in West African spirituality.

Our story follows three friends whose paths come together on a transformative journey centred around them learning to swim, supported by a young swimming instructor. Each character grapples with personal struggles, yet finds solace, strength, and courage in the nurturing embrace of water and their unbreakable bond of sisterhood.

Mami Wata, often depicted as a mermaid or a powerful aquatic figure, symbolises fertility, prosperity, and the profound connection between the natural and spiritual realms. Her presence in our narrative is not just as a mythical figure but as a symbol of resilience, healing, and the collective strength found in female friendships.

Our production aims to honour the rich cultural heritage of West Africa, portraying the vibrant spirituality, traditions, and the enduring spirit of its women. Through music, movement, and storytelling, we hope to transport you to a world where the lines between the mundane and the mystical blur, where the waters are not just a physical presence but a source of spiritual renewal and empowerment.

As you watch **Swim, Aunty, Swim!** I invite you to immerse yourself in the elemental power of water and the beauty of human connections. May you feel the ebb and flow of the characters' journeys, resonate with their struggles and triumphs, and leave with a deeper appreciation for the healing power of nature and the unbreakable bonds of friendship.

I would like to thank Siana Bangura for coming up with such a wonderful premise for this show, our wonderful actors who have brought these rich characters to life, our incredible creative team who have worked tirelessly to bring this vision to life, the Belgrade team for building such an incredible set and holding and supporting this project from the start.

I would also like to dedicate this show to all the grandmothers, aunts, and mothers, particularly those who are no longer with us.

Thank you for joining us on this journey. Enjoy the show and go with the tide!

Warm Regards,

Madeleine Kludje

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# Siana Bangura

## WRITER

Where to begin? There's so much I could say but I'll keep this brief.

The journey of **Swim, Aunty, Swim!** is a long, winding road, beginning in 2018 when Ama - in her leopard print swimsuit - and Blessing - in her glorious gele - first took their seats in my mind. The road stretches back to 2017, when Alex passed away and I chatted to his mum about swimming; as far back as 2015 when I started working on issues of deaths in custody and police brutality in the UK; as far back as 2010, when Ayo passed away, after swimming in the Amazon River... back to when I watched **Beyond the Blue** by Swim Dem Crew... back to all the things I've learnt about the power of water as a West African, from a country on the coast of the continent... so many different influences, rooted in grieving, pulled together through storytelling to make sense of it all. And as is characteristic of my work, my mission was to centre voices and experiences traditionally marginalised - on this occasion, celebrating the lives of our aunties.

There are many people to thank, but I want to especially thank Madeleine Kludje, Corey Campbell, and the late great Hannah Barker for being OG champions of this work - and of me. I want to thank my gorgeous cast and creative team for all their hard work and passion. And of course, the biggest thanks of all goes to my mama, Kadiatu Bangura, for whom, I do all things. Thank you for the love that guides and grounds me.

I hope you, the audience, love this piece of work. I have loved these characters for so many years, and I'm over the moon to finally share them with you too. May their journeys teach us all to trust the tides.

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# BELGRADE THEATRE

As the largest theatre in Coventry and a leading regional producing theatre, the Belgrade has a broad, varied programme.

Popular, toe-tapping musicals and entertainment sit happily alongside progressive, critically acclaimed new drama. Our two spaces, B1 and B2, stage exciting productions and events for families, couples, individuals, first timers and confirmed theatregoers.

As a publicly subsidised independent charitable trust, we also support health and education and build skills and talent in the region. Everything we do is with, by and for our local communities.

Some of our productions are fresh takes on well-loved stories. Others explore new ground – and have never been told before. To them all, we bring warmth, openness and collaboration, creating new community connections and encouraging different perspectives. By sharing the city's diverse stories, the Belgrade brings people in Coventry together. We call this co-creation.

Led by **CEO Laura Elliot** and **Creative Director Corey Campbell**, the Belgrade is realising its ambitious plans to build on the Theatre's rich history of inclusion. Born out of the post-Second World War spirit of peace and reconciliation, and named with gratitude for the Serbian capital's gift of timber to build a new theatre, the Belgrade has offered a warm welcome to visitors since 1958.

Whether you're visiting the Belgrade for a show, a business event, or simply for tea, cake and a chat with friends, this unique sense of welcome is still unmissable.

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# tiata fahodzi

tiata fahodzi is the UK's leading British African heritage contemporary theatre company. tiata fahodzi produces theatre that is fearless for a Britain of today; rich with languages, races, cultures and identities. The company makes theatre that looks around and looks forward, with a mission to tell contemporary stories in modern and innovative ways, celebrating characters and audiences defined not by their diversity, but by their humanity.

tiata fahodzi is a theatre company that places the stories of British African heritage communities at its core and is committed to making ambitious theatre for mid-scale stages and building confidence in British African heritage artists to be formally experimental in their work.

Founded in September 1997 by playwright and director Femi Elufowoju Jr, since April 2021, has been under leadership of award-winning playwright and theatre director, **Chinonyerem Odimba** as tiata fahodzi's new Artistic Director/CEO.

In 2022, the company celebrated its 25th birthday with a season titled 'Year of the Artist' and was able to mark a new chapter in the Arts Council England National Portfolio Organisation's history by securing a further investment for 2023-26.

Previous work by tiata fahodzi includes **seeds** by Melanie Pennant, **good dog** by Arinzé Kene, **mixed brain** by Nathan Bryon, **bricks and pieces** by Charlene Janes, **iya ile (the first wife)** by Oladipo Agboluaje and **the gods are not to blame** by Bola Agbaje. More recently, the company has produced **Black Love** a new musical written and directed by Chinonyerem Odimba, and an inaugural triple bill of plays by Malaika Kegode, babirye bukilwa, and Diana Nneka Atuona called **Talking About a Revolution**, and in Autumn 2023 a debut play **cheeky little brown** by Nkenna Akunna.

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## Staff List A-Z

Creative Facilitator **Katherine Allen**  
Director of Producing/Co-Creation **Adel Al-Salloum**  
Producer **James Ashfield**  
Maintenance Officer **Sharon Barriscale**  
Executive Assistant **Damien Bellamy**  
Catering Assistant **Charlie Bendall**  
Box Office/Sales Manager **Sarah Benn**  
Catering Assistant **Kisanet Bereket**  
Catering Assistant **Hayley Biggerstaff**  
Technician **Seth Blackburn**  
Executive Assistant **Rachel Van Blerk**  
Box Office Assistant **Charles Bloch**  
Accounts Officer **Renata Boba-Gilsenan**  
Commercial/Operations Support Officer **Richard Boland**  
Catering Manager **Jacqueline Brown**  
Head of Construction **Pete Bruus**  
Creative Director **Corey Campbell**  
Catering Supervisor **Marketa Chalupova**  
Front of House Volunteer **Narinder Chana**  
Draughtsman **Archie Clapton**  
BPS Administrator/ Operations Supervisor **Robyn Clements**  
Head of Communications **Ray Clenshaw**  
Technician **Rob Coates**  
Usher **Mary Courtney**  
Social Media/Digital Content Officer **Jodie Dickson**  
Usher **Megan Donnachie**  
Sign Language Interpreter **Clare Edwards**  
CEO (on maternity leave) **Laura Elliot**  
Catering Assistant **Kaitlyn Elward**  
Catering Assistant **Marnie Evering**  
Deputy Commercial/Operations Manager **Eamonn Finnerty**  
Usher **Joanne Foley**  
Usher **Alex George**  
Marketing Officer **Alice Gordon**  
Catering Assistant **Rupert Grainger**  
Usher **Malachi Griggs-Taylor**  
Usher **Joanna Griggs-Taylor**  
Catering Assistant **Caleb Griggs- Taylor**  
Box Office Assistant **Linda Grimmett**  
Usher **Debs Harlow**  
Director of Finance **Neil Harris**  
Catering Assistant **Colleen Hedley**  
Deputy Head of Construction **Steve Heir**  
Digital Producer **Simone Herbert**  
Technician **Katherine Hodgson**  
Development Consultant **Helen Hotchkiss**

## Board of Directors

**Jonothan Neelands (Chair)**  
**Annette Hay (Deputy)**  
**Roger Bailey**  
**Harry Banga**  
**Colin Bell**  
**Jacqui Clements**  
**Corin Crane**  
**Tyrone Huggins**  
**Kerry Radden**  
**Thanh Sinden**  
**Karamjit Singh**  
**Tony Skipper**  
**Anjula Thiru**  
**Rebecca Warwick**  
**Jon Wilby**  
**Anna Williams**

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Senior Technician **Oliver Howard**  
Usher **Andy Jones**  
Catering Assistant **Eva Kant**  
Customer Service/ Catering Assistant **Olalanrewaju Lanre Kuku**  
Management Accountant **Hugh Lassey**  
Catering Assistant **Natalie Layng**  
Usher **Linda Leech**  
Usher **Anna Lewis**  
Captioner **Kathryn McAuley**  
Workshop Casual **Jacob McCartney**  
Catering Assistant **Isabella McDonald**  
Kitchen Supervisor **Sonya McEnery**  
Catering Assistant **Maddie McEwen**  
Catering Assistant **Leisa McEwen**  
Catering Assistant **Megan McKelvie**  
Customer Service Assistant **Libby McLatchy**  
Catering Assistant **Takudzwa Mudiwa**  
Interim CEO (Maternity Cover) **Neil Murray**  
Marketing/Communications Assistant **Hana Musa**  
Deputy Tech Manager **Matthew Nolan**  
Box Office Assistant **Irene Odoardi**  
Catering Supervisor **Cameron O'Neill**  
Community Engagement Facilitator **Evie Osbon**  
Usher **Eleanor Parker**  
Kitchen Assistant **Heather Patrick**  
Assistant Catering Manager **Tom Postlethwaite**  
Usher **Anjali Prashar**  
Commercial/Operations Manager **Rob Pratt**  
Education/Young People's Producer **Claire Procter**  
Catering Assistant **Liz Rhee**  
Deputy Communications Manager **Emma Rowan**  
Box Office Assistant **Nicci Selby**  
Front of House Volunteer **Nadine Shackley**  
Box Office Assistant/Usher/Interim Producing Administrator **Sachin Sharma**  
Catering Assistant **Zuzanna Sienkiewicz**  
Duty Manager **Tom Simkins**  
Deputy Head of Paint shop **Katie Skeys**  
Usher **Ryan Slade**  
Usher **Jacqui Southern**  
Front of House Volunteer **Charlie Steninger**  
Usher **Michelle Stones**  
Director of Production/Operations **Adrian Sweeney**  
Technician **Jason Sylvester**  
Catering Assistant **Oliwia Szydlowska**  
Audio Describer **Bruce Tetlow**  
Wardrobe Supervisor **Naomi Thompson**  
Sign Language Interpreter **Rachel Tipping**

**SWIM,  
AUNTY,  
SWIM!**

Assistant Producer **Charlotte Titcombe**  
Operations Assistant/ Usher **Mary Tobin**  
Catering Assistant **Abbie Tovey**  
Catering Supervisor **Kay Tuddenham**  
Senior Box Office/Sales Assistant **Siobhan Twomey**  
Maintenance Assistant **Barry Walker**  
Senior Technicians **Adam Warren**  
Box Office Assistant **Abbie White**  
Usher **Carol Williams**  
Technical & Production Manager **Rob Wimperis**  
Head of Paint shop **Claire Winfield**  
Paintshop Casual **Phimphilai Wongprakot**  
Front of House Volunteer **Sarah Wood**  
Box Office Assistant/ Usher **Lisa Woodford**  
Programme Coordinator **Emma Worrall**  
Usher **Brian Worthington**  
Box Office / Operations Assistant **Paul Yates**  
Associate Director **Jay Zorenti-Nakhid**

### **Prime Facility Services**

### **Special Thank You:**

**Isabel Cope**  
**Andriea Nelson**  
**The Wave Coventry**  
**A.G.G Restaurant**  
**Black Ballad**  
**Reisz Amos**  
**Kadiatu Bangura**  
**Austina During**  
**Yejide Adeoye**  
**Dr. Ogechi Sylvia Eze**  
**Bea Udeh**

**Nigel Bailey**  
**Elizah Jackson**  
**NT Studio**  
**Wamboui Hardcastle**  
**Ellen Thomas**  
**Ann Ogbomo**  
**Ola Animashawun**

**In loving memory**  
**Ayobola Owatemi**  
**Alexander 'King' Paul**  
**Ruth Kokumo Noah**

### **Belgrade Theatre Enterprises Ltd**

#### **Board of Directors**

**Derek Barnes**  
**Laura Elliot**  
**Neil Harris**  
**Neil Murray**  
**Charnjit Sarauna**  
**Julie White**

### **Springboard Companies**

#### **Underground Lights**

*The Belgrade Springboard Initiative is a Belgrade scheme to support emerging artists through providing training opportunities, Organisational development and assistance in developing productions for the stage. We place a particular emphasis on supporting artists and companies from backgrounds that are under-represented in the industry.*

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AUNTY,  
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