

**Brooklyn Academy of Music**

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# Barber Shop Chronicles

A Fuel/National Theatre/Leeds  
Playhouse Production  
Written by Inua Ellams  
Directed by Bijan Sheibani

BAM Harvey Theater  
Dec 3—6 at 7:30pm; Dec 7 at 2pm & 7:30pm;  
Dec 8 at 3pm

Running time: approx. one hour & 45 mins, no intermission

Design by **Rae Smith**  
Lighting design by **Jack Knowles**  
Movement direction by **Aline David**  
Sound design by **Gareth Fry**  
Casting direction by **Louis Hammond CDG**  
Music director **Michael Henry**

*Presented with support from the British Council  
and Arts Council England*

*Season Sponsor:*

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MICAH BALFOUR



OKORIE CHUKWU



MAYNARD EZIASHI



ADÉ DEE HAASTRUP



EMMANUEL IGHODARO



DEMMY LADIPO



MOHAMMED MANSARAY



TOM MOUTCHI



ANTHONY OFOGBU



ELMI RASHID ELMI



ERIC SHANGO



DAVID WEBBER

## ONE DAY. SIX CITIES. A THOUSAND STORIES.

Over the course of a day on which Chelsea plays Barcelona in the finals of a soccer championship, we visit six cities, across five different countries in Africa—Johannesburg in South Africa, Kampala in Uganda, Lagos in Nigeria, Harare in Zimbabwe, Accra in Ghana, and London in the UK. The compilation of snapshot scenes reveals the connection between the various places and spaces, through conversations between Barbers and their clientele. The relationship between African's living on the continent and those living in the UK, is explored through the discovery that all the characters are connected in some way, be it through family, place, history or a common joke.

At the center of the plot is the story of Samuel and Emmanuel at Three Kings Barber's in London, where the day represents the three-year anniversary of Samuel's father's imprisonment. Samuel blames Emmanuel for what has happened to his father, although we discover the truth of the situation may not be as it seems. Alongside this narrative, the play explores contemporary black masculinity across six countries, education, sexuality, marriage, religion, and the relationships between black men.

*Barber Shop Chronicles* is a story with a big heart and plenty of laughter, offering an insight into the sacred spaces of African Barber shops.

## CAST

Winston / Shoni **Micah Balfour**  
Elnathan / Benjamin / Dwain **Okorie Chukwu**  
Musa / Andile / Mensah **Maynard Eziashi**  
Wole / Kwabena / Simon **Adé Dee Haastrup**  
Tokunbo / Paul / Simphiwe **Emmanuel Ighodaro**  
Wallace / Timothy / Mohammed / Tinashe **Demmy Ladipo**  
Samuel **Mohammed Mansaray**  
Olawale / Kwame / Fabrice / Brian **Tom Moutchi**  
Emmanuel **Anthony Ofoegbu**  
Ethan **Elmi Rashid Elmi**  
Tanaka / Fiifi **Eric Shango**  
Abram / Ohene / Sizwe **David Webber**

## ADDITIONAL PRODUCTION CREDITS

Associate directors **Lekan Lawal & Stella Odunlami**  
Design associate **Catherine Morgan**  
Costume supervisor **Lydia Crimp**  
WHAM supervisor **Andrew Whiteoak**  
Fight director **Kev McCurdy**  
Barber consultant **Peter Atakpo**  
Company voice work **Charmian Hoare**  
Dialect coach **Hazel Holder**  
Scenic shop **Adirondack Studios**

## CREW

Production manager **Mekel Edwards**  
Deputy stage manager **Emma Rangel**  
Assistant stage manager **Stefania Procter**  
Lighting associate and Production electrician **Rachel Bowen**  
Sound associate **Laura Hammond**  
Touring wardrobe supervisor **Francesca Duvall**  
Technical swing **Anthony Hannah**

American stage manager **Caroline Englander**

The Actors are appearing with the permission of Actors' Equity Association.

The American Stage Manager is a member of Actors' Equity Association.

Co-commissioned by Fuel and the National Theatre

Development funded by Arts Council England with the support of Fuel, National Theatre Studio, Leeds Playhouse, The Binks Trust, British Council ZA, Òran Mór and A Play, a Pie and a Pint

## CAST

**MICAH BALFOUR** (Winston/Shoni) trained at the Poor School. His recent theater work includes: *Plenty* (Chichester); *Still Alice* (Leeds Playhouse and UK tour); *Mr. Foote's Other Leg* (Hampstead & Theatre Royal Haymarket); *The Royal Hunt of the Sun*, *Market Boy* (National Theatre); and *Absolute Beginners* (Lyric Hammersmith). His recent TV roles include *The Trial of Christine Keeler*, *The Feed*, *The Bill* (series regular), *Silent Witness*, *Dr. Who*, *The Musketeers*, *Holby City*, *Doctors*, *Young Dracula*, *The Time of Your Life*, *Emmerdale*, and *Trust*. Films include *The Children Act*, *The Car: Road to Revenge*, *Holy Flying Circus*, *Diana*, *Powder Room*, and *World War Z*.

**OKORIE CHUKWU** (Elnathan/Benjamin/Dwayne) trained at Mountview and Identity School of Acting. His recent theater credits include: *Othello* (Unicorn Theatre); *Once in a Lifetime* (The Young Vic); *Imogen* (Shakespeare's Globe); *Running Wild*, *Peter Pan* (Regent's Park); *Wit* (Royal Exchange Theatre); *The Hairy Ape* (Old Vic Theatre); *Around the World in 80 Days* (Royal Exchange Manchester); *Never Try This at Home* (Birmingham Rep/Soho/Tour); *Tanzi Libre* (Southwark Playhouse); *Around the World in 80 Days* (New Vic Theatre); *Feathers* (Etcetera Theatre). On screen, he has appeared in *My Mad Fat Diary* (E4), *Luther* (BBC), *Hard Sun* (BBC), and feature films *Level Up*; *A Moving Image*; *Zombie Diaries 2*.

**MAYNARD EZIASHI's** (Musa/Andile/Mensah) theater credits include: *The Strange Death of John Doe* (Hampstead Theatre); *The Dead Wait* (Park Theatre); *Wedlock of the Gods* (Cochrane Theatre); *Faith v. Reason* (Bush Theatre); *The Winter's Tale*, *Pericles* (Royal Shakespeare Company); *Guess Who's Coming for Dinner* (St Andrew's Lane, Dublin); *A Jamaican Airman Foresees His Death* (Royal Court); and *A Respectable Wedding* (Almeida Theatre). Film credits include: *Mister Johnson* (winner of the Silver Bear Award for Best Actor at the 41st Berlin International Film Festival); *The Streets of*

*Calabar*, *The Contract*, *Kiss Kiss (Bang Bang)*, *When Brendan Met Trudy*, *Ace Ventura: When Nature Calls*, *A Good Man in Africa*, *Bopha!*, and *Twenty-One*. Television credits include: *Hotel Babylon*, *The Changeling*, and *Coronation Street*.

**ADÉ DEE HAASTRUP** (Wole/Kwabena/Simon) trained at the East 15 Acting School. His recent theater credits include *Blue/Orange*, *13*, *The Winter's Tale*, *Measure for Measure*, *The Cherry Orchard*, *The Notebook of Trigrorn*, *Good*, *Aalst* (East 15 Acting School); *Cagebirds* (Alra), *Wealth* (Cable Street Studios). He is known for his roles in the film *Darkest Hour* (2017), the award-winning BBC drama *Silent Witness* (2017), as well as *Holby City* (2016—18). His recent film credits include *Stump* (2017) and *Women's Equality Party* (2016).

**EMMANUEL IGHODARO** (Tokunbo/Paul/Simpbiwe) trained at The Bristol Old Vic Theatre School. He has most recently appeared in David Williams' *The Queen and I* (Sky One). Prior to that he appeared as Lor-Zod in DC Comics/SYFY production *Krypton* and in Karl Pilkington's *Sick of It* (Sky One). He is best known for his regular role in popular TV show *Shameless* as Jackson Powell (Channel 4). Other television credits include: *DCI Banks*, *Coronation Street*, *Rosemary and Thyme*, *The Bill* (ITV); *Occupation*, *One Child*, *Waterloo Road*, *New Tricks*, *Shakespeare Retold*, *Torchwood*, *Eastenders*, *Doctors*, *Casualty*, *Waking the Dead*, *Life Isn't All Ha Ha He He*, *Baby Father* (BBC). Theater Credits include: *Macbeth*, *Macbeth*, *God in Ruins* (Royal Shakespeare Company), *Blue Orange* (The Abbey Theatre), *The Resistable Rise of Arturo Ui* (Lyric Theatre), *Who Killed Mr. Drum* (Riverside Studios), *The Duchess of Malfi* (New Vic), *Robin Hood* (Nuffield Theatre), *After the Accident* (Theatre West), *Company of Angels* (Arcola Theatre). Film credits include: *Sahara* (Paramount Pictures), *Habit* (Not a Number Productions; won best feature at New York Horror Film Festival), *The Walk* (Long Day Films), *The Revelation* (GreyRock Picture), *Unseen* (Artwork Media).

**DEMMY LADIPO** (Wallace / Timothy / Mohammed / Tinashe) trained with the ALT actor training program. Film credits include: *The Last Tree*. Television credits include: *Enterprice*.

**MOHAMMED MANSARAY's** (Samuel) theater credits include: *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest* (Sheffield Crucible); *Mrs. Dalloway, Jekyll & Hyde* and *Othello* (National Youth Theatre Rep West End Season); *Oliver!* (Theatre Royal Drury Lane), and *Daddy Cool* (Shaftesbury Theatre/world tour). Television credits include: *Tracy Beaker Returns*, *Law & Order: UK*, and *The Bill*. Film credits include: *My Brother the Devil*.

**TOM MOUTCHI** (Olawale/Kwame/Fabrice/Brian) is an actor, comedian, and writer. He trained at the Identity School of Acting and in 2016, he was nominated for a Screen Nation Award for Favorite Online comedian. His recent theater credits include: *Twitstorm* (Park Theatre). Some of his screen credits include: *Famalam* (BBC), *The Hustle* (MGM), *Random Acts* (Channel 4), *Pls Like Me*, *All Star Driving School*, *Hot Pepper*, *Raison d'être*, and *Pypo*.

**ANTHONY OFOGBU's** (Emmanuel) theater credits include: *Barber Shop Chronicles* (US tour); *Circle Mirror Transformation* (Home, Manchester); *Titus Andronicus*, *Julius Caesar*, and *Antony and Cleopatra* (Royal Shakespeare Company Rome Season, 2017–18); *My Children! My Africa!* (Trafalgar Studios - nominated for an Off West End Theatre Award for Best Actor in 2015); *Twelfth Night* (Nottingham Playhouse); *Death and the King's Horseman* (Royal National Theatre); *Oedipus* (Steven Berkoff - Spoleto Festival, SC); *Treemonisha* (Hackney Empire/Battersea Arts Centre), and *The Beatification of Area Boy* (West Yorkshire Playhouse/world tour). Television credits include: *Moonfleet*, *Spooks*, *Casualty*, *Chambers*, *Family Affairs*, and *The Bill*. His film credits include: *Justified*, *Bad Day*, and *Samson and Delilah*.

**ELMI RASHID ELMI** (Ethan) trained at both the London College of Music and the Identity School of Acting. While in training he performed in: *Romeo & Juliet*, *Sing Yer Heart Out for the Lads*, *Measure for Measure*, *Richard III*, *The Country Wife*, *Hedda Gabler*, and *Birdland*. His other theater credits include: *Wild Men* (Tin Forest Festival), *The Grandfathers* (National Theatre), and *Basset* (Bristol Old Vic).

**ERIC SHANGO** (Tanaka/Fifi) recently graduated from Mountview Academy of Theatre Arts. His theater credits while in training include: *Chicken Soup with Barley*, *Punk Rock*, *The House of Blue Leaves*, *The Two Gentlemen of Verona*, and *On the Shore of the Wide World*.

**DAVID WEBBER** (Abram/Ohene/Sizwe) trained at Rose Bruford College. Theater includes: *The Beatification of Area Boy* (BAM), *Barber Shop Chronicles* (National Theatre/world tour), *The Hudsucker Proxy* (Liverpool Playhouse), *Catch-22* (Northern Stage), *Sweet Bird of Youth* (Old Vic), *The Government Inspector* (Young Vic), *Twelfth Night* (Nottingham Playhouse), *Death and the King's Horseman*; *Leave Taking* (National Theatre), *The Big Life* (Apollo Shaftesbury Avenue), *Othello* (Good Company); *What's in the Cat* (Royal Court), *Master Harold & The Boys* (Bristol Old Vic), *Two Tracks & Text Me* (Leeds Playhouse), *Antony & Cleopatra*; *Flyin' West* and *King Lear* (Talawa Theatre), *The Merchant of Venice* (Manchester), *The Colored Museum* (Double Edge T.C.), *Remembrance* (Carib T.C). Television credits include: *Death in Paradise* (BBC 1), *Year of the Rabbit*; *Chewing Gum*; *Youngers* (Channel 4); *Holby City*; *The Catherine Tate Show*; *The Royal Bodyguard*; *How Not To Live Your Life*; *Sarah Jane Adventures*; *Being Human*, and series regular in *Grass* (BBC). Film credits include *The Children Act* (BBC & Film Nation Entertainment), *Captain Phillips* (Sony Pictures), *Broken* (Cuba Pictures/BBC Films), *Mrs. Palfrey at the Claremont* (Westlake), *Tipping the Velvet* (BBC Films), *The 51st State* (Independent), *Among Giants* (Kudos), *The Avengers* (Warner Brothers).



**LOUIS HAMMOND CDG's** (tour casting director) theater includes: *Violence and Son*, *Fireworks*, *Who Cares*, *Primetime*, *The Twits*, Caryl Churchill Season (Royal Court); *Rock 'n' Roll* (Royal Court/West End); *Creditors*, *The Member of the Wedding*, *The Indian Wants the Bronx*, *Dirty Butterfly*, 5 Plays Project (Young Vic); *Amadeus* (Chichester Festival Theatre); *The Distance*, *Romeo and Juliet*, *The History Boys* (Sheffield Crucible); *The Resistible Rise of Arturo Ui* (Liverpool Playhouse); *Inkheart*, *The Funfair*, *Romeo and Juliet* (Home, Manchester); *The Winter's Tale* (Regent's Park); *Batman Live* (World Arena Tour); *All My Sons* (Curve, Leicester); *Loot*, *Testing the Echo* (Tricycle); *Driving Miss Daisy* (UK Tour); *The Importance of Being Earnest* (West End); *Donkeys' Years* (UK Tour). Hammond was head of casting at Thames TV. Films include: *MirrorMask*, *Beyond Re-Animator*, *Arsene Lupin*, *Ne Quittez Pas*. Louis Hammond CDG is a member of the Casting Directors' Guild of Great Britain and Ireland.

**CHARMIAN HOARE** (voice coach) trained at Central School of Speech and Drama. Recent theater credits include, *War Horse* and *Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time*, (NT Productions), *Antipodes*, *Peter Gynt*, *I'm Not Running*, *Stories*, *The Lehman Brothers Trilogy*, *Barber Shop Chronicles*, *The Consent*, *Network*, *John*, *The Great Wave*, *Absolute Hell*, *Translations* (National Theatre); *Company* (Gielgud Theatre); *Macbeth*, *Plenty*, *This Is My Family* (Chichester Festival Theatre), *Road* (Royal Court), *Kiss Me Kate* and *Frost Nixon* (Crucible Theatre, Sheffield), *The Rubinstein Kiss* (Southwark Playhouse), *Jesus Hopped the A Train* (Young Vic), *The Treatment and Against* (Almeida Theatre); *Sweat*, *Welcome Home Captain Fox*, *One Night in Miami* (Donmar Warehouse); *Uncle Vanya*, *Blue Door*, *Abigail's Party* (Theatre Royal, Bath); *The Pope* (Royal & Derngate Theatre, Northampton); *The Light in the Piazza* (Royal Festival Hall).

**CAROLINE ENGLANDER** (American stage manager) Broadway: *King Lear*. Off-Broadway: *The Courtroom* (Waterwell), *runboyrun* and *In*

*Old Age* (NYTW), *La Susanna* (Heartbeat Opera), *Renaissance*, *Summer and Smoke* (Transport Group), *Describe the Night* (Atlantic Theater Company), *Julius Caesar*, *The Outer Space*, *The Civilians' The Great Immensity*, Richard Nelson's *The Apple Family Plays* (Pubic/NYSF), *Hamlet* (Waterwell), *Sense and Sensibility* (Bedlam), *Little Children Dream of God* (Roundabout). Tours: *Hamlet* and *St. Joan* (Bedlam). B.A. Barnard College.

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