

TAMBO & BONES BLACK OUT PERFORMANCE: FAQs

BLACK OUT performance: Wed 05 Jul, 7.30pm

As part of the run of the show, we will be hosting our first ever BLACK OUT performance on Wed 05 Jul at 7.30pm.

While this performance has been arranged for Black audience members specifically, no one is excluded from attending.

WHAT IS A BLACK OUT?

"A BLACK OUT night is the purposeful creation of an environment in which an all-Black-identifying audience* can experience and discuss an event in the performing arts, film, and cultural spaces – free from the white gaze."

blackoutnite.com

Originated by Jeremy O. Harris for his play *Slave Play*, the very first BLACK OUT night took place on Broadway in 2019. The initiative was brought to London during the run of his show *Daddy* at the Almeida Theatre.

To find out more about how BLACK OUT performances started please visit blackoutnite.com

WHY IS STRATFORD EAST DOING A BLACK OUT PERFORMANCE?

In the British context, Black audiences and artists remain underrepresented in the industry. At Stratford East, we have famously championed diversity both on and off our stages and we continue to explore new and innovative ways to keep redressing this imbalance and to keep the conversation alive.

In this spirit, Stratford East and the Director of TAMBO & BONES, Matthew Xia, came to a joint decision to provide Black audience members with the opportunity to come together and sit in a space with an entirely Black-identifying audience. Hosting a BLACK OUT performance is part of Stratford East's commitment to ensuring equity for underrepresented groups in theatre but the endeavor is also more nuanced than that, it's about creating a safe space for the black community to experience a play which specifically interrogates race.

Director Matthew Xia explains further, "over the last few years, a number of playwrights and directors in the US and the UK have created private and safe spaces for Black theatre-goers to experience productions that explore complex, nuanced race-related issues. I felt that with a play like TAMBO & BONES which unpicks the complexity of Black performance in relation to the white gaze, it was imperative that we created such a space."

CAN I ATTEND THE BLACK OUT PERFORMANCE IF I AM NOT BLACK?

While this performance has been arranged for Black audience members specifically, no one is excluded from attending. We do, however, ask non-Black audiences to consider attending another performance in the run of TAMBO & BONES, so we can create a space that is supportive of our objective.

*We define 'Black' as of Black African, Caribbean, Afro-Latinx and African-American heritage, including those of mixed-Black heritage who identify as such.

The BLACK OUT space is curated for audiences from across the Black and African diaspora. We acknowledge that language around ethnic identity varies between communities and is ever evolving. But we hope that our intention and direction will continue to guide this discussion.

IS THIS THE ONLY STANDALONE PERFORMANCE FOR TAMBO & BONES?

We are proud to offer a number of different types of performances for all of our productions.

For TAMBO & BONES these also include –

Pay What You Can performance:	Mon 19 Jun, 7.30pm
Socially Distanced & Masked:	Sat 24 Jun, 2.30pm
Relaxed Environment:	Sat 01 Jul 2.30pm
BSL Interpreted:	Thu 06 Jul, 7.30pm
Captioned:	Fri 07 Jul, 7.30pm
Audio Described:	Sat 08 Jul, 2.30pm

OUR VALUES

Stratford East embeds Representation, Belonging, and Justice in all aspects of our work.

The theatre has a long and proud history of programming Black theatre, with a legacy of providing a platform for creatives and local East London communities from the Global Majority. Nonetheless, these groups continue to be underrepresented in the creative industries, and do not always feel welcome in theatre spaces. As such, CLOSING THE GAP, a Stratford East staff committee, was created in 2020. The committee is dedicated to levelling the playing field for Stratford East's Black, Asian and Global Majority staff and artists, and driving cultural change.

At Stratford East we always pride ourselves on our warm welcome and great shows. Please share this with friends and family who may be interested in our BLACK OUT performance.

Tambo & Bones is playing from Fri 16 Jun – Sat 15 Jul. Our full performance schedule can be found by [visiting our website](#).