

The Egg, Wales Millennium Centre and Oxford Playhouse's co-production of Holm Theatre's

Josephine

by Leona Allen and Jesse Briton
For ages 7+

And introducing

The Josephine Learning Portal

A self-guided online tour of Josephine's kaleidoscopic world for KS2 & KS3 classes

NOW TAKING BOOKINGS FOR AUTUMN 2021 AND SPRING 2022

THE PRODUCTION

Josephine Baker. The little girl from Missouri who became an original 20th Century icon. Dancer, actor, activist, campaigner, spy and mother to the multicultural *Rainbow Tribe*, Josephine broke the mould and high-kicked the pieces to the kerb.

But, almost 50 years after her death, Café Josephine, a down-at-heel New York diner dedicated to her memory, faces closure. Nobody remembers Josephine, who she was, what she did, what she stood for.

And she just can't allow that.

With a sultry, Harlem Renaissance-inspired score, spring-heeled Charleston dancing and a hatful of historical figures, *Josephine* blurs the real with the imagined as we follow one woman's incredible journey from the slums of St Louis via the bright lights of Paris and into the hearts of the world.

TECHNICAL SPECIFICATION

Stage: 5m x 5m

Get-in: 4 hours venues / 2 hours schools

Running time: 60 minutes

Sound: Live and recorded music, 3 radio mics

Set: Flexible café set with wooden chairs / table

LX: Basic rig plus some touring specials

Touring company: 1 SM, 3 actors

Capacity: 250

FOR MORE DETAILS AND A QUOTE CONTACT:

kate.cross@theatreroyal.org.uk



THE LEARNING PORTAL

This production comes with free online schools access to an innovative and unique Learning Portal which you can deploy as you see fit within your marketing to schools.

It aims to enrich the experience of the show for school children, support creativity within the curriculum and explore different curriculum-related opportunities for interacting with theatre.

The portal is a teacher-led, digital, choose-your-own path experience, that will allow classes to digitally explore and journey through the worlds of the play, supporting learning within the KS2 and KS3 curricula. In total, there are more than 26 different scenes, films, activities, interviews and experiences embedded within the digital experience which can be travelled through and around at the leisure of each participating school in a personalised viewer journey.

We have consulted with a group of 20+ teachers throughout the creation process to ensure relevance and suitability and advise content.

MARKETING ASSETS

Production Image by Lleucu Williams (as shown on page one)

Production Trailer: available mid - late May

Portal Trailer: available mid - late May

Productions shots: available mid - late May

EPK: Updated copy available mid - late May

MARKETING COPY

[Short copy 124 words]

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[Slightly longer copy 149 words]

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But, almost 50 years after her death, Café Josephine, a down-at-heel New York diner dedicated to her memory, faces closure. Nobody remembers Josephine, who she was, what she did, what she stood for.

Was it the menu? The décor? Or Jack and Marie, siblings and co-owners of the café, who have run her legacy into the ground?

Either way, Josephine just can't allow that.

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THE PRODUCTION TEAM

Leona Allen: Writer

Leona is a London-born, partially New York raised, actor and writer based in South East London. She was a former member of the Expressive Writers Group at The Bush Theatre and an assistant director of the young company at Churchill Theatre, Bromley. As a performer, Leona's recent acting credits include *The Third Day: Autumn* (Sky/HBO), *Holes* (UK Tour), *I'd Rather Go Blind* (Omnibus Theatre) and *The Meeting* (Chichester Festival Theatre).

In 2016, Leona was awarded the Leverhulme Arts Scholarship by The Egg, to develop a new show for young audiences about the dancer and activist Josephine Baker. From its inception at the Incubator Festival in Bath, Leona is very excited to bring *JOSEPHINE* to young people and their families across the UK.

Jesse Briton: Director

Jesse trained as an actor and theatre-maker with Uri Roodner at the University of Essex, and continued his studies at Aberystwyth University in performance and scenography. In 2010 he founded HOLM's predecessor, Bear Trap Theatre, and for ten years developed productions including the Fringe First-winning *Bound*, *Enduring Song*, *A Pupil* and *Messiah*. Alongside this, he co-founded theatre company *Wassail* with Nick White, began an award-winning collaboration with designer Buddug James Jones, and worked on commissions for *Little Soldier*, *HOME* (Manchester), *Theatre Centre*, and *Curious Directive*.

Debbie Duru: Designer

Debbie is a designer for performance spaces, working across theatre, fashion, film, dance and opera and has worked with the National Theatre and the Royal Court. A Linbury Prize finalist for stage design 2019, prior to set design, Debbie had a career in fashion, directing the visual identity for *The Shop at Bluebird*.

Nadine Lee: Musical Director

Nadine is a drummer, bass player and singer/songwriter who has worked alongside The London Philharmonic Orchestra, Annie Lennox, Stephen Warbeck, Jack Thorne, Cece Winans, Ekklesia London Community Gospel Choir, Lamar, Jamilia, Bryan McFaden, Katie Mueller, P Diddy to name but a few.

Ingrid Mackinnon: Movement Director and Choreographer

Ingrid is a London based movement director, choreographer, teacher and dancer, working with UWL: London College of Music, Royal Central School of Speech and Drama, Royal Shakespeare Company, Nouveau Riche, Royal Court, The Lyric.

THE PORTAL TEAM

Ed Harker: Writer

Ed has worked in Primary education for 25 years as a nursery leader, class-teacher, head teacher, and now education consultant supporting schools in Bristol and Bath. His particular interest is curriculum development and how children's learning can be enriched by the creative arts and real life experiences. He is the chair of the creative education charity *House of Imagination*.

Emile Clarke: Concept and Performer

Emile is a Liverpool Institute of Performing Arts trained performer with PTLLS (Preparing to Teach in the Lifelong Learning Sector) qualifications. He has extensive experience within theatre for corporate and creative purposes from performing with Disney to devising and co-writing *Theatre in Education*. Emile has also designed workshops for institutes that champion equality and diversity in film and theatre such as *Picture House Cinema* group, *Refugee Youth*, *Museum of London* and *The Egg*.

Dr Eleanna Skoulikari: Research and Evaluation

Eleanna has an academic background in education, psychology and technology. Her doctorate explored the relationship between the digital experiences of children and teachers and their use of online websites in the assessment of Maths in Primary Schools. She has worked with 3P Learning and the Department for Education (DfE). She is currently working as a Research Associate for the AHRC Creative Industries Clusters Programme at the University of Bath.

Stornaway: Technology Partner

Stornaway craft compelling interactive video stories that build powerful lasting relationships with their audiences. Unlike linear video, Stornaway's branching video stories drive engagement and educational outcomes by connecting directly with the audience to keep them watching and replaying with personalised viewer

journeys, follow different interests, see things from another perspective, unlock secrets and see the consequences of different choices.

Nik Partridge: Producer

Nik is a Bristol-based director and facilitator, who has worked extensively within the South-West. Nik has collaborated and produced work with organisations like Bristol Old Vic, Watermill Theatre, MAYK, The Egg, Strike-A-Light, Travelling Light, Theatre Bristol, Theatre Royal Plymouth and Tobacco Factory Theatres. Further afield he has made work for the Royal Court, Traverse and Galway International Arts Festival. He has held a number of building based and organisational roles with the JMK, Theatre Royal Plymouth and Tobacco Factory Theatres.

Jack Offord: Film Maker

Jack is a cinematographer and filmmaker based in Bristol, UK. He has a diverse background spanning theatre and film, and has a wealth of experience in a variety of digital formats, and has created films for cinema, web and 3D theatre projection.

Jack has worked as a Director of Photography or Lighting Camera Operator on films for National Theatre, Headlong, Complicité, Bristol Old Vic, Lyric Hammersmith, Raucous, Ad Infinitum, BBC Panorama, amongst many other artistic and commercial organisations.

Teacher Focus Group Members

Badminton School, Perse School, Threeways Community Special School, Sefton Park Primary, Milton Primary Acaademy, Shoscombe Primary, Moorlands Primary School, Royal High School, Downside Secondary, Fairfield Secondary, John Mason Secondary, Oldfield Park Secondary, Clevedon Secondary, Cheltenham Ladies College.

PRODUCING PARTNERS



The Egg Theatre at Theatre Royal Bath has established itself at the very forefront of professional theatre for children and young people in the UK.

It produces, presents and tours outstanding work for children and young people. An uncompromising attitude to quality and artistic process are core in its approach to all activity.

The Egg's founder and director is Kate Cross MBE. Kate is also Chair of Assitej UK. Assitej is dedicated to the artistic, cultural and educational rights of children across the globe.



Wales Millennium Centre is a furnace of inspiration whose building is nestled in Cardiff Bay, but whose reach is worldwide. By opening its doors as a convener, a digital producer, a storyteller and a creative resource, Wales Millennium Centre prides itself in giving artists, communities and young people in Wales a platform and a voice like no other.

It has produced and staged a huge breadth of productions, from operas, plays and musicals to a major festival, while welcoming the world's best-loved and most successful shows to its stages.

As a charity, it is driven to unleash creative potential, and determined that everyone in Wales should call it their home.



Oxford Playhouse is a theatre for everyone.

Oxford Playhouse and its Burton Taylor Studio present and produce a wide range of live performance. The programme includes the best of British and international drama, family shows, contemporary dance and music, student and amateur shows, comedy, lectures and poetry. The Playhouse produces and tours its own shows, hosts Artists in Residence and presents Playhouse Plays Out, an ongoing series of off-site events which happen at locations across the county.

The theatre's Participation team work with over 15,000 people each year through post show discussions, workshops, work experience, holiday schemes, a youth theatre and a young people's theatre company.



Holm is an international touring theatre company based in Wales and the South West. We create classically inspired new work through a combination of new writing, devising, music and play.

The company was founded in 2010 by Jesse Briton and Joe Darke during their training on East 15 Acting School's acclaimed CT course under Uri Roodner.

Innovate UK is part of UK Research and Innovation, a non-departmental public body funded by a grant-in-aid from the UK government.

We drive productivity and economic growth by supporting businesses to develop and realise the potential of new ideas, including those from the UK's world-class research base.



Ru and Kate launched Stornaway.io after *many* years of waiting for somebody else to do it first!

Our vision for Stornaway.io is to make it super easy for filmmakers to dream up and deliver fun, complex, multi-layered non-linear stories. Without coding, without complexity... with a song in your heart!

The world is ready for new kinds of stories for the 2020s - and Stornaway.io is here to unlock their creation!



Bristol+Bath Creative R+D is a new, £6.8 million collaboration that aims to raise the bar for the region's creative industries. The five-year programme seeks to forge connections and partnerships in Bristol and Bath, sharing knowledge, creating crossovers and even greater opportunities in what's already one of the most vibrant clusters in the UK.

This first-of-a-kind collaboration between the region's four universities - UWE Bristol, Bath Spa, the University of Bath and the University of Bristol - and digital creativity centre Watershed, intends to break down the doors, connecting the worlds of university research and creative business to develop a shared vision for tomorrow's creative industries.

With thanks to Arts Council England and Arts Council of Wales

