



worthing theatres and museum

## PRESS RELEASE

For further information please contact:

Kathryn Follis

Marketing Coordinator

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Press Direct Line: (01903) 231227 | Box Office: (01903) 206206

22/04/22

Press Release – for immediate release

### **Tinuke Craig's acclaimed production of August Wilson's *Jitney* comes to Worthing, following a month-long run at The Old Vic.**

A Headlong, Leeds Playhouse and The Old Vic co-production, this show comes from an exceptional degree of talent. It will open at London's historic Old Vic before a regional tour to Worthing's Connaught Theatre on Tuesday 19 - Saturday 23 July 2022.

*Jitney* is a ground-breaking modern classic from one of America's greatest writers, August Wilson (*Ma Rainey's Black Bottom*). It explores the fragile bond between eight men as they live, love and work in a racially segregated, post-Vietnam America. Their stories are brought to the stage by much-lauded Director, Tinuke Craig, whose past work includes *The Colour Purple*, *Vassa, I Call My Brothers* and even *Cinderella*, the pantomime at the Lyric Hammersmith Theatre.

*'It don't always turn out like you think it is. You don't always have the kind of life that you dream about. You know what I mean?'*

Jim Becker and his unlicensed drivers take the people of Pittsburgh Hill District where regular taxi cabs won't. While they work, these eight men are healing old wounds and tearing new ones, passing time in a condemned taxi rank between pick-ups. Wilson's potent social commentary, paired with Craig's clever staging, creates a searing live theatre experience which is as relevant today as it was when first published in 1982.

Following its premiere at Leeds Playhouse, this critically acclaimed production has its London premiere at The Old Vic in June 2022. WTM is pleased to bring such commended work to the local Worthing community, presenting the best of London's theatre to West Sussex.

Director Tinuke Craig said: "This remarkable play, the first written of August Wilson's Pittsburgh Cycle, hasn't been seen in London for over 20 years but remains as relevant as ever. It is a play I've loved for many years which explores the themes of love, loss and community through the lens of the Black experience. It's a dream come true to be able to direct it."

Joining the cast is **Nnabiko Ejimofor** as Shealy, **Solomon Israel** as Youngblood, **Dayo Koleosho** as Philmore and **Sule Rimi** as Turbo. They join the previously announced **Geoff Aymer** as Doub, **Leanne Henlon** as Rena, **Wil**



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**Johnson** as Becker, **Leemore Marrett Jr.** as Booster, and **Tony Marshall** as Fielding. **Lindon Alexander**, **Lincoln Conway**, **Blair Gyabaah** and **Yolanda Ovide** are the understudies.

Headlong Theatre is a company with a big imagination, and interrogates the contemporary world through a programme of fearless new writing, reimagined classics and 20th-century plays. By positioning the next generation of theatre makers alongside artists of international standing, the company ensures that it consistently creates work that is bold and original. WTM is glad to welcome Headlong to Worthing and champion high-calibre national theatre.

**Jitney** is being performed at the Connaught Theatre from Tuesday 19 - Saturday 23 July 2022. Tickets are available from £10. For more information on this or any of the events, visit [www.wtam.uk](http://www.wtam.uk) or call the WTM Box Office on 01903 206 206.

★★★★★ *'Rich, poignant drama impeccably staged'* - The Telegraph

★★★★ *'Utterly believable'* - The Guardian

★★★★ *'A powerful, intense study of characters tackling problems caused by class, race and generational divide...deserves to be seen by as wide an audience as possible'* - The Stage

★★★★ *'Pin-sharp performances drive this August Wilson revival'* - The Times

<ENDS>

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### NOTES TO EDITORS

#### WTM

Twitter, Facebook, Instagram: @wtmworthing

Website: [wtm.uk](http://wtm.uk)

Box Office Phone: 01903 206 206

#### Headlong Theatre

Facebook: @Headlong, Twitter: @HeadlongTheatre, Instagram:

@headlongtheatre

Website: [headlong.co.uk](http://headlong.co.uk)



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### **EVENT LISTING**

#### **Jitney**

Date: Tuesday 19 - Saturday 23 July 2022

Time: Various - [see performance times here](#)

Venue: Connaught Theatre, Union Pl, Worthing BN11 1LG

Tickets: From £10

Link: [wtm.uk/events/jitney/](http://wtm.uk/events/jitney/)

Age Guidance: Suitable for ages 12+

Trigger Warnings: This production contains violence, racist language and a mention of sexual assault.

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#### **For press enquiries please contact:**

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### **IMAGE DOWNLOADS**

[WTM Venues](#)

[Jitney](#)

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