



PRESS RELEASE

MATSENA PRODUCTIONS SHADES OF BLUE ANNOUNCED AT SADLER'S WELLS

Thursday 20th January
For immediate release

Today Matsena Productions proudly announces its production *Shades of Blue* will have its Sadler's Wells main stage debut on the 6th of May 2022. Across two performances on the 6th and 7th of May, audiences will have the opportunity to experience thunderous choreography, powerful text and a slick new score composed by Lara Agar. *Shades of Blue* is a work that beats to the tune of change, in which performance and protest clash and mould together.

Originally commissioned by Sadler's Wells and the BBC as part of the televised *Dancing Nation* series, the work was also highlighted in [The Guardian's Best Dance of 2021](#).

The critically acclaimed work will feature as part of Well Seasoned: an initiative at Sadler's Wells curated to represent some of the most exciting work from Black choreographers, dancers, and Artists of Colour.

"We wanted to highlight dance made by Black artists this year to bring their work to wider audiences and celebrate the hugely important contribution Black artists make to the dance ecology. It is by no means fully representative of all the fantastic work being made, but the selection of works in Well Seasoned gives a taste of the wonderful variety of dance being created by Black artists in the UK and beyond."

- SIR ALISTAIR SPALDING, ARTISTIC DIRECTOR AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE

"Ecstatic? Thrilled? Hyped, over the moon and all of the above. It's hard to find the perfect words to express how excited we are about presenting *Shades of Blue* on Sadler's Wells main stage this May. It's something we'd always dreamt of but never imagined it would come this quickly. It's down to our amazing team of supporters and collaborators who continue to inspire us to break boundaries and be bold in all that we do. It's also down to the refreshing & forward thinking approach Sadler's Wells have taken to trust us with such an opportunity. It's a special thing that we and so many other young artists and artists of colour are finally being given a voice on a national & international scale. We truly believe we are living inside a new renaissance and are honoured to be part of this new and exciting narrative."

- KEL MATSENA, CO-ARTISTIC DIRECTOR, MATSENA PRODUCTIONS

Patrons priority booking opens Monday 24 January with general public on sale date set for Monday 31 January. More at www.sadlerswells.com

SHADES OF BLUE - FOR MATSENA PRODUCTIONS

Written, Choreographed & Directed - Anthony Matsena and Kel Matsena

Associate Director - Arnold Matsena

Producer - Steph Be

Lighting Design - Ryan Joseph Stafford

Composed - Lara Agar

Dramaturg - Alfred Enoch

Costume and Set Design - Cory Shipp

Assistant Writer - Charlie Layburn

Additional Music - Anthony Matsena

[More: Anthony and Kel Matsena Biographies / Matsena Productions Website / Shades of Blue on Sadler's Wells](#)

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