

Press Release

Friday 05 January 2024

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**FRANTIC ASSEMBLY AND LYRIC HAMMERSMITH THEATRE,
THEATRE ROYAL PLYMOUTH, CURVE AND MAST MAYFLOWER
STUDIO'S CO-PRODUCTION OF *METAMORPHOSIS*
CONCLUDES ITS UK TOUR IN LONDON**



- FRANTIC ASSEMBLY'S ADAPTATION OF *METAMORPHOSIS* IN COLLABORATION WITH BAFTA NOMINATED POET, PLAYWRIGHT AND BROADCASTER LEMN SISSAY OBE CONCLUDES ITS NATIONAL TOUR AT THE LYRIC HAMMERSMITH THEATRE, FROM 01 FEBRUARY – SATURDAY 02 MARCH 2024. TICKETS ON SALE NOW WWW.LYRIC.CO.UK
- DIRECTED BY SCOTT GRAHAM, ARTISTIC DIRECTOR OF FRANTIC ASSEMBLY, THIS BOLD RETELLING OF KAFKA'S RENOWNED *METAMORPHOSIS* IS A VISCERAL PRODUCTION INTERROGATING CRUELTY AND KINDNESS.
- TEACHERS AND STUDENTS CAN ACCESS FREE EDUCATION RESOURCES AND WORKSHOPS AND A BESPOKE SCHOOL'S RESPONSE PROJECT TO FURTHER ENHANCE YOUNG PEOPLE'S LEARNING AND PARTICIPATION WITH THEATRE.

Scott Graham, Director and Artistic Director of Frantic Assembly, said:

"I am absolutely thrilled to be bringing our collaboration with Lemn on Metamorphosis to the Lyric Hammersmith Theatre. The Lyric is hugely important to both of us. It has been a theatre that has nurtured and presented Frantic's work and development and is the perfect place to complete the tour of Metamorphosis. Collaborating with Lemn has been a privilege and a joy and I cannot wait to see our work together meet the brilliant Lyric audience in that beautiful Lyric auditorium."

Rachel O'Riordan, Artistic Director & CEO of the Lyric Hammersmith Theatre, said:

"We couldn't be more excited to see our co-production with Frantic Assembly, Theatre Royal Plymouth, Curve and Mast Mayflower Studios arrive at the Lyric Hammersmith Theatre."

The show has moved audiences across the country and now London will finally experience this thrilling adaptation by one of the country's most significant writers and thinkers, Lemn Sissay, in our beautiful auditorium. Programming and producing re-lensed plays are a core strand of our work at the Lyric, shifting the dial on who 'owns' classics. This brave adaptation, coupled with Frantic Assembly's renowned work for physical storytelling, will be an unmissable night at the theatre."

Lemn Sissay (OBE), Adaptor, said: *"I'm delighted to return to the Lyric Hammersmith Theatre in February with Frantic Assembly. The Lyric holds a very special place in my heart and after being one of the headliners in For the Culture – Celebrations of Blackness Festival, I could not be happier the UK tour of Metamorphosis concludes here."*

Metamorphosis

A Frantic Assembly, Theatre Royal Plymouth, Curve, MAST Mayflower Studios and Lyric Hammersmith Theatre co-production

Written by Franz Kafka

Adapted by Lemn Sissay OBE

Directed by Scott Graham

Thursday 01 February - Saturday 02 March 2024

Press Night: Tuesday 06 February 2024

One morning Gregor Samsa awakes to find himself changed. To those around him he is dangerous, untouchable vermin. Worse than that, he is a burden.

A word said, an action out of place, the opening of old wounds, none of which can be undone. Until now Gregor has woken every morning, quietly left to take the same train, and worked to pay off the family debt. But that world explodes on this morning of brutal metamorphosis.

In their first new commission since 2019, Frantic Assembly and Lemn Sissay OBE collaborate on a thrilling new adaptation of *Metamorphosis*. Combining the fluidity and lyricism of Lemn Sissay's adaptation and Frantic's uncompromising physicality, this is an unmissable retelling of Franz Kafka's shocking tale of cruelty and kindness; a visceral and vital depiction of humans struggling within a system that crushes them under its heel.

Directed by Frantic's Artistic Director Scott Graham (*Othello*, *Lovesong*, *Beautiful Burnout*) the new production premiered at Theatre Royal Plymouth in September 2023 and has been touring the UK extensively, including Leicester's Curve, MAST Mayflower Studios and

upcoming dates at Bristol Old Vic and Belgrade Theatre Coventry, culminating in a four-week run at the Lyric Hammersmith Theatre from 01 February – 02 March 2024.

Scott Graham (Director) is Artistic Director of Frantic Assembly, co-founding the company in 1994. He has received nominations for his work on *Beautiful Burnout* (Drama Desk Award, New York), *Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time* (Olivier, Tony and Fred Astaire Awards). With Steven Hoggett he won the TMA Award (now UK Theatre Awards) for Best Direction for *Othello*. He has provided movement direction for shows at the Royal National Theatre, National Theatre Wales and National Theatre of Scotland. He has developed and written extensively about the Frantic Method. With Steven Hoggett, he has written *The Frantic Assembly Book of Devising Theatre* (Routledge) and Frantic Assembly is the subject of a book in the Routledge Performance Practitioners series. Scott is passionate about creating opportunities for people who might see theatre as a challenge or alienating, and believes that these new voices and fresh perspectives are vital to the health of the arts sector.

Lemn Sissay OBE is a poet, broadcaster and author. Lemn won the RIMA award from the Commission for Racial Equality in 2005 for his one-man radio drama *Something Dark*. He has published extensive plays and radio dramas, including *Lemn Sissay's Origin Stories* for the BBC, *The Report* at the Royal Court, a one-off show about the effects of a psychologist's report as he was observed as a child and an adaptation of Benjamin Zephaniah's *Refugee Boy* for West Yorkshire Playhouse. Lemn has made multiple award-winning documentaries, including *Lemn Sissay: Memory of Me* for BBC One's *Imagine* strand, and *Superkids: Breaking Away from Care* for Channel 4. From 2007, he became the artist-in-residence at the Southbank Centre. Beyond this, his work has featured at the Royal Academy and the British Film Institute. In 2012, he was the official poet for the London Olympic Games. He was chancellor of the University of Manchester from 2015 – 2022 and his poems are permanent installations across the city and in London at locations including Royal Festival Hall and Olympic Park. In 2015 he featured on BBC Radio 4's *Desert Island Discs*. Lemn became a trustee of the Foundling Museum in 2017, and in 2019 he was awarded the PEN Pinter Prize. In that same year, he published his memoir *My Name is Why* to great critical acclaim. In 2022, Lemn took part in television programmes such as BBC's *Live Lessons*, curated poems for BBC Radio 4's Poetry Season and Team GB's 10th Anniversary, and wrote and presented his own podcast series with the British Library called *All About Sound*. His new collection of poetry *Let the Light Pour In* was recently published by Canongate.

YOUNG LYRIC

In response to *Metamorphosis*, Young Lyric in collaboration with Frantic Assembly will deliver the schools' response project *Meta;morphed*. This project provides the opportunity for two state London secondary schools and two SEND provisions/schools to take part in a series of four workshops run by Frantic Assembly practitioners. Using devising and physicality taken from the Frantic Method, theatre students will explore the production themes over a series of free workshops in schools. The response will culminate in a new schools performance at the Lyric Hammersmith Theatre as part of a collaborative sharing of learning and ideas between theatres and educational institutions.

To find out more about educational enrichment opportunities stemming from *Metamorphosis*, please visit <https://lyric.co.uk/schools-opportunities/metamorphosis/>.

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Press contacts at the Lyric Hammersmith Theatre:
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Supported by
**ARTS COUNCIL
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Notes to Editors

IMAGES and TRAILER available to download [here](#).

Listings

Lyric Hammersmith Theatre
Lyric Square, King Street, London, W6 0QL
Box office: 020 8741 6850
www.lyric.co.uk
Tickets from £10

X: [@LyricHammer](#)

Instagram: [/LyricHammersmith](#)

Facebook: [/LyricHammersmith](#)

#Metamorphosis

ABOUT THE LYRIC HAMMERSMITH THEATRE

The Lyric Hammersmith Theatre produces bold and relevant world-class theatre from the heart of Hammersmith, the theatre's home for more than 125 years. Under the leadership of Artistic Director and CEO Rachel O'Riordan and Executive Director Amy Belson, it is committed to being vital to, and representative of, the local community. A major force in London and UK theatre, the Lyric produces adventurous and acclaimed theatrical work that tells the stories that matter.

The Lyric Hammersmith Theatre has a national reputation for ground-breaking work to develop and nurture the next generation of talent, providing opportunities for young people to discover the power of creativity and to experience the life changing impact of theatre.

We are the creative heart of Hammersmith, proud of our history and ambitious for our future.

ABOUT FRANTIC ASSEMBLY

Award winning theatre company Frantic Assembly's method of devising theatre has been impacting theatrical practice and unlocking the creative potential of future theatre-makers for nearly 30 years. One of the most exciting theatre companies in the UK, Frantic Assembly is led by Artistic Director and co-founder Scott Graham. It has toured extensively across Great Britain and worked in more than 40 countries internationally, collaborating with some of today's most inspiring artists.

Frantic Assembly is currently studied as leading contemporary theatre practitioners on five British and international academic syllabuses. The success of the company's distinct approach has influenced contemporary theatre-making and foregrounded the use of movement directors

and choreographers in new dramatic works. With a history of commissioning writers such as Simon Stephens, Abi Morgan, Bryony Lavery, Anna Jordan and Mark Ravenhill, the company has been acclaimed for its collaborative approach.

Frantic Assembly's flagship initiative Ignition, a free nationwide talent development programme for young people aged 16-24, seeks out under-represented talent and provides opportunities to discover what is possible, increasing involvement in and access to the arts in places of low cultural engagement.

Frantic Assembly productions include *Othello* (2022 UK Tour) *I Think We Are Alone* (UK Tour), *The Unreturning* (UK Tour), *Fatherland* (Manchester International Festival 2017 and Lyric Hammersmith Theatre 2018), *Things I Know To Be True* (UK and Australia), *Beautiful Burnout* (UK, Australia, New Zealand and New York), *Lovesong* (UK and Australia) and *The Believers*. They are also the Movement Directors on the award-winning National Theatre of Great Britain, production *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time* (West End, Broadway, UK & International Tours). Television credits include Movement Direction on BAFTA winning British - American series *Humans* (AMC, Channel 4 & Kudos).

Frantic Assembly is supported by Arts Council England.

www.franticassembly.co.uk

LISTINGS

Metamorphosis

A Frantic Assembly, Theatre Royal Plymouth, Curve, MAST Mayflower Studios and Lyric Hammersmith Theatre co-production

By Franz Kafka

Adapted by Lemn Sissay OBE

Directed by Scott Graham

Dates: Thursday 01 February 2024 - Saturday 02 March 2024

Press Night: Tuesday 06 February 2024, 7pm

Audio Described Performance: Tuesday 13 February 2024, 7.30pm

Open Captioned Performance: Friday 16 February 2024, 7.30pm

BSL Performance: Monday 19 February 2024, 7.30pm

Chilled Environment Performance: Wednesday 21 February 2024, 1.30pm