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Thursday 06 June 2024  
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## FIRST LOOK AT PRODUCTION IMAGES OF *WEDDING BAND: A LOVE/HATE STORY IN BLACK AND WHITE*



Production photos are released for *Wedding Band: A Love/Hate Story in Black and White*, written by pioneering African-American playwright Alice Childress. Directed by Monique Touko, who returns to the Lyric after the smash-hit *School Girls; Or, The African Mean Girls Play* last summer, this searing drama runs at the Lyric Hammersmith Theatre from 31 May – 29 June with press night on 06 June.

Depicting an intense interracial romance, set in the deep south of the United States in 1918, the story examines the brutalising effect of anti-miscegenation laws and offers a stark reflection of Childress' reality as a writer working in the Civil Rights era. This major revival explores themes of race and class, questioning the devastating impact of unjust laws on ordinary human lives.

Starring in the production are Geraldine Alexander (*Bridgerton*, *Sea Creatures*) as Thelma, Deborah Ayorinde (*Riches*, *Harriet*) as Julia, Lachele Carl (*A Streetcar Named Desire*, *The Trick*) as Fanny, Poppy Gilbert (*Perfect Addiction*, *The Catch*) as Annabelle, Diveen Henry (*Hang, I Think We Are Alone*) as Lula, Patrick Martins (*Small Town Big Story*, *Falling For the Life of Alex*)

*Whelan*) as Nelson, **Bethan Mary-James** (*Meetings, Trouble in Butetown*) as Mattie, **David Walmsley** (*Slow Horses, Blood Wedding*) as Herman and **Owen Whitelaw** (*Get Millie Black, My Son*) as Bell Man.

Children's roles are shared by **Lylianna Eugene** (*Secret Invasion*) as Teeta, **Poppy Graham** (*Don't Let the Bed Bugs Bite*) as Princess, **Saskia Holness** (*Champion*) as Teeta, and **Wren Stembridge** (*Leonora In The Morning Light*) as Princess.

*Wedding Band: A Love/Hate Story in Black and White* has Set & Costume Design by **Paul Wills**, Wigs, Hair & Make-Up Design by **Cynthia De La Rosa**, Lighting Design by **Matt Haskins**, Sound Design by **Elena Peña**, Music by **Shiloh Coke**, Choreography & Movement by **Aline David**, Wigs, Hair & Make-Up Associate Design by **Keisha Paris-Banya**, Casting by **Sophie Parrott CDG**, Dialect & Voice Coaching by **Joel Trill**, Fight & Intimacy Direction by **Bethan Clark**, and Assistant Direction by **Mo Korede**.

*“Set in the deep south of the USA in 1918 when interracial marriage was illegal, Julia, a black seamstress, and Herman, a white baker, are defying all odds with their secret love. They face vicious judgement not just by society but also their closest friends and family. As they finally begin to believe their dreams for a future together are possible, Herman becomes a victim of the Spanish flu. Determined to save him, Julia is faced with decisions that will change her life.”*

Tickets for *Wedding Band: A Love/Hate Story in Black and White* are on sale now at [www.lyric.co.uk](http://www.lyric.co.uk)

- ENDS -

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### Notes to Editors

IMAGES available to download [here](#).

## 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 nearly 130 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.

### **Listings**

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

X: [@LyricHammer](https://twitter.com/LyricHammer)  
Instagram: [/LyricHammersmith](https://www.instagram.com/LyricHammersmith)  
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### **Wedding Band:**

#### ***A Love/Hate Story in Black and White***

A Lyric Hammersmith Theatre production  
By **Alice Childress**  
Directed by **Monique Touko**  
Set & Costume Design by **Paul Wills**  
Wigs, Hair & Make-Up Design by **Cynthia De La Rosa**  
Lighting Design by **Matt Haskins**  
Sound Design by **Elena Peña**  
Music by **Shiloh Coke**  
Choreography & Movement by **Aline David**  
Wigs, Hair & Make-Up Associate Designer **Keisha Paris-Banya**  
Casting by **Sophie Parrott CDG**  
Dialect & Voice Coach **Joel Trill**  
Fight & Intimacy Director **Bethan Clark**  
Assistant Director **Mo Korede**

**Dates:** Friday 31 May – Saturday 29 June

**Press Night:** Thursday 06 June, 7pm

**Audio Described Performance:** Monday 17 June, 7.30pm

**Chilled Environment Performance:** Wednesday 19 June, 2.30pm

**BSL Performance:** Friday 21 June, 7.30pm

**Open Captioned Performance:** Tuesday 25 June, 7.30pm