

# National Theatre

National Theatre celebrates tenth anniversary of the *Black Plays Archive* with launch of new digital platform



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For images, click [here](#)

Today the National Theatre launches a new digital platform for the *Black Plays Archive*, marking the tenth anniversary of the online resource. The new website contains a catalogue of the first professional production of Black British, African, and Caribbean plays produced in the UK from 1909 to today.

The digital archive includes over 850 plays and over 300 Black British, African, and Caribbean writers. Notable works include *Pocomania* from Jamaican writer **Una Marson**, *Moon on a Rainbow Shawl* by **Errol John** and works from contemporary writers including **Winsome Pinnock**, **Roy Williams** and **Dipo Baruwa-Etti**.

Alongside the extensive database of plays, the archive also contains a vast range of resources including over 70 video and audio recordings of play extracts, a bibliography of essays on Black British Theatre and video interviews with leading practitioners and academics in the field. The database can also be used to search for cast and creative teams for each production, the theatre they were first staged at, and which archives hold more information.

The *Black Plays Archive* uncovers a wealth of theatrical history and records the development and cultural influence of Black British Theatre. The resource aims to support practitioners, teachers, students and academics to discover lesser-known scripts, encourage the commissioning or restaging of these works and support the teaching of more diverse texts on the syllabus.

**Clint Dyer**, Deputy Artistic Director at the National Theatre said, "*The Black Plays Archive is such a valuable resource that heralds work from Black British, African and Caribbean*

*playwrights in Britain. The range of resources offered not only makes us aware of the history and cultural influence of Black British Theatre but can also enable users to find ways to programme more global majority work. The National Theatre is delighted to be celebrating the tenth anniversary of the Black Plays Archive with the launch of this new platform, making it even easier to explore and access the range of brilliant work available."*

The *Black Plays Archive* is available to access now [online](#).

**ENDS**

### **Notes to the Editor**

For images, please click [here](#).

For press enquiries and more information, please contact Rhian Bennett at [rbennett@nationaltheatre.org.uk](mailto:rbennett@nationaltheatre.org.uk)

### **With Thanks**

The National Theatre Archive is supported by The Aurelius Charitable Trust.

### **About the National Theatre**

The National Theatre makes theatre that entertains and inspires using its creativity, expertise and unique reach. The National Theatre shares unforgettable stories with millions of audience members across the UK and around the world – on its own stages, on tour, in schools, on cinema screens and streaming at home.

World-leading artists make their best work at the National Theatre with the widest possible audience and impact. The National Theatre invests in talent and innovation on stage and off, taking seriously its role as the nation's theatre. Of the new productions developed each year with a wide range of theatre companies, a third of that research and development resource is dedicated to shows staged at theatres outside London.

Through touring our work to local theatres and schools and nationwide education and community programmes, we are active in 71 of the 109 levelling up priority areas in the UK. A registered charity with deeply embedded social purpose, the National Theatre works with hundreds of schools and communities across the UK to fire imagination and inspire creativity, and to develop skills and pathways for careers in theatre.

For more information, please visit [nationaltheatre.org.uk](http://nationaltheatre.org.uk)

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