

Embargoed until 11am on 14 November 2018

## **PRESS RELEASE**

### ***LYNETTE LINTON ANNOUNCED AS THE NEW ARTISTIC DIRECTOR OF BUSH THEATRE, LONDON***

New images of Lynette Linton [here](#)

**The Bush Theatre is thrilled to announce Lynette Linton** will become their new Artistic Director in January 2019.

Lynette Linton is a director and writer. She was previously Resident Assistant Director at the Donmar Warehouse and Associate Director at the Gate Theatre from 2016 to 2017 where she set up the Young Associate company. She is currently directing the UK premiere of Lynn Nottage's Pulitzer prize winning play *Sweat* (Donmar Warehouse) and will then co-direct *Richard II* (Shakespeare's Globe) in early 2019. The production will mark the first ever company of women of colour in a Shakespeare play on a major UK stage. She is co-founder of theatre and film production company Black Apron Entertainment who are producing *Passages: A Windrush Celebration* with the Royal Court, a project she also curated. As a writer her credits include *Hashtag Lightie* (Arcola Theatre), *Chicken Palace* and *Step* (Theatre Royal Stratford East).

Linton will succeed the current Artistic Director **Madani Younis** who announced in September his appointment as Creative Director of the Southbank Centre. Linton will work alongside Executive Director Lauren Clancy.

The role is one of the most coveted in British theatre and Linton called it 'a *great honour*'. She said today, '*The Bush Theatre is such an important venue and I have seen some of my favourite ever plays in this building. I am so honoured to be stepping into this role after the amazing tenure of Madani Younis, who has been an inspiration to me*

*from the beginning of my career. I cannot wait to lead an exciting new chapter inspired by all the wonderful artists that populate our unique city. Come we go!*

**Chair of the Bush Theatre Simon Johnson** said, *'In searching for a new artistic director for the Bush Theatre, the board of trustees looked for an individual who moved and inspired us; a leader who is willing to fight for what we stand for and who is unswerving in their commitment to nurturing new writing and new artists. Lynette Linton has these qualities in abundance. I can't wait to see her build on the momentum of Madani's tenure to continue to raise the scale, profile and impact of our remarkable theatre both artistically and socially.'*

**Madani Younis** said, *'Lynette is undoubtedly a fantastic choice for the Bush. I've admired her for a long time and it's been a pleasure to watch her grow as a director and an artist and her work shows a real commitment to the theatre's values. I think she'll write an amazing next chapter in the Bush's history.'*

2018 has seen the Bush Theatre celebrate a West End transfer for Arinzé Kene's *Misty*, which has now been seen by almost 30,000 people and been nominated for an Evening Standard award for 'Best Musical Performance', an Olivier Award nomination for Monica Dolan's *The B\*east*s and the ongoing world-wide success of its touring production of *NASSIM* which opens in New York in December. Other celebrated work includes Winsome Pinnock's *Leave Taking*, Vinay Patel's *An Adventure* and Ben Weatherill's ground-breaking *Jellyfish* - re-affirming the theatre's commitment to discover, nurture and produce the best new playwrights from the widest range of backgrounds. The 2018 programme has seen a 40% increase in attendance on the previous year, with 52% of the audience visiting the venue for the first time.

**The Bush Theatre is generously supported by Arts Council England.**

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### **About Lynette Linton**

As a director, Linton's previous productions include *Function* (National Youth Theatre), *This is* (Arts Ed), *Assata Taught Me* - for which she received a Stage Debut nomination (Gate Theatre), *Indenture* (Dark Horse Festival), *And Where There Once Were Two* (Arcola

Theatre), *Assata: She Who Struggles* (Young Vic), *Chicken Palace* (Theatre Royal Stratford East), *Naked* (The Vault Festival) and *This Wide Night* (Albany Theatre/Stonecrabs).

As a writer her credits include *Hashtag Lightie* (Arcola Theatre), *Chicken Palace* and *Step* (Theatre Royal Stratford East).

As Assistant/Associate Director her work includes *The Lieutenant of Inishmore* (Noel Coward Theatre), *The York Realist*, *Belleville*, *The Lady from The Sea* and *Knives in Hens* (Donmar Warehouse), *Torn* (Royal Court), *Image of An Unknown Young Woman*, *The Christians* (The Gate) and *Gutted* (Theatre Royal Stratford East).

### **About the Bush Theatre**

The Bush Theatre is a world-famous home for new plays and an internationally renowned champion of playwrights. We discover, nurture and produce the best new playwrights from the widest range of backgrounds, and present their work to the highest possible standards. We look for exciting new voices that tell contemporary stories with wit, style and passion and we champion work that is both provocative and entertaining.

The Bush Theatre has produced hundreds of ground-breaking premieres since its inception in 1972, many of them Bush Theatre commissions, and hosted guest productions by leading companies and artists from across the world. The Bush Theatre is widely acclaimed as the seedbed for the best new playwrights, many of whom have gone on to become established names. The Bush Theatre has won over 100 awards, and developed an enviable reputation for touring its acclaimed productions nationally and internationally.