

|Soulpepper|

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE STRATFORD FESTIVAL

**DEATH AND THE
KING'S HORSEMAN**

WOLE SOYINKA

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The artists and staff of Soulpepper and the Young Centre for the Performing Arts acknowledge the original caretakers and storytellers of this land – the Haudenosaunee Confederacy, and Wendat First Nation, and The Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation who are part of the Anishinaabe Nation. We commit to honouring and celebrating their past, present and future.



“All around the world and throughout history, humans have acted out the stories that are significant to them, the stories that are central to their sense of who they are, the stories that have defined their communities, and shaped their societies. When we talk about classical theatre we want to explore what that means from the many perspectives of this city. This is a celebration of our global canon.”

– **Weyni Mengesha**, Soulpepper’s Artistic Director

photo by Emma Mcintyre

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James O'Sullivan & Lucie Valée
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Sylvia Soyka
Kathleen & Bill Troost



Cast

Maev Beaty

Jane Pilkings - *Wife to Simon*

Patrick McManus

Simon Pilkings - *the District Officer*

Amaka Umeh

Olohun-iyó - *Praise-Singer*

Déjah Dixon-Green

Woman 2/Girl 2

Pulga Muchochoma

Sgt. Amusa

Micah Woods

Joseph - *Houseboy to the Pilkings/
Aide-De-Camp*

Ijeoma Emesowum

Woman 1/Girl 1

Wole Oguntokun

Elesin - *King's Horseman*

Peter Fernandes

The Resident/Olunde -
first born son to Elesin

Khadijah Roberts-Abdullah

Iyaloja - *Mother of the market*

Soulpepper Creative Team

Tawiah Ben M'Carthy

Director

Gregory Sinclair

Audio Producer

Mimi Warshaw

Producer

Wole Soyinka

Playwright

Matt Rideout

Audio Engineer

Maricris Rivera

Producing Assistant

Debashis Sinha

Sound Designer

Weyni Mengesha

Artistic Director

Megan Woods

Associate Production Manager

Kobèna Aquaa-Harrison

Composer

Emma Stenning

Executive Director

Corey MacVicar

Associate Technical Director

Wole Oguntokun

Dramaturg

Tania Senewiratne

Executive Producer

Nik Murillo

Marketer

Stratford Festival Creative Team

Antoni Cimolino

Artistic Director

Oyin Oladejo

Dialect Coach

ted witzel

Artistic Associate, Lab

Anita Gaffney

Executive Director

Sadie Berlin

Script Consultant

Alice Ferrerya

Workshop Stage Manager

Beth Russell

Casting Director

David Campbell

Associate Technical Director

Esie Mensah

Movement Director

Thank You To

Ethan Rising, Meredith Macdonald, Roy Lewis and Thomas Olajide.

Death and the King's Horseman was written by Wole Soyinka in the early 1970s, it was first published in 1975 and had its world premiere in 1976 at Obafemi Awolowo University (OAU), Ile-Ife formerly known as University of Ife in Osun, Nigeria.

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KOBÈNA AQUAA-HARRISON was born in Ghana, raised in Bermuda and Canada.

SOULPEPPER: *Global Cabaret, The Brothers Size* (2019 Dora, TTCA awards), *Free Up!*, *Death and the King's Horseman*. **OTHER THEATRE:** *Golden Tale of Djungle Bouti, AKOMA, Obaaberima* (Buddies), *Bluebird, Marriage of Anansewa, Anowa, Buna* (bcurrent), *Last Dance, After All*. **FILM & TELEVISION:** *Flying Stars, Soul Food, Friday 13th*. CBC: *Culture Shock, FIFA 2010, Nissan, Nabob, HSBC, Genie Awards, TSN, CAMH, The Tenant, Sounds of the Past*. **OTHER:** Doras, JUNOs, TIFF, Chalmers, Irie Music, ABEDORC, TAMA, eye Magazine, GCH Music, TO Indie, Banff Centre, Atlanta Bronze Lens



MAEV BEATY FOR SOULPEPPER: *August: Osage County, Little Menace: Pinter Plays, Orlando, The Last Wife* (first produced at Stratford), *La Ronde, Parfumerie*. **OTHER THEATRE:** *Secret Life of a Mother* (Theatre Centre/Crow's); *The Front Page, King Lear, She Stoops to Conquer* (Stratford); *Bunny* (Stratford, Tarragon); *Tartuffe* (Stratford, Canadian Stage). **FILM & TELEVISION:** *Murdoch Mysteries* (CBC); *Nurses* (Global); *Ghostwriter* (Apple+), *Mouthpiece* (Dir. Patricia Rozema). **OTHER:** Maev Beaty has originated roles in 26 Canadian Premieres and played lead roles at the Stratford Festival for six seasons.

She is a Toronto Theatre Critics Award winner, three-time Dora Award winner and fourteen-time Dora nominee in both performance and writing. She is a CAEA Council member, activist and mother.



DÉJAH DIXON-GREEN was born and raised in Scarborough, ON. **SOULPEPPER 2021:** *Death and the King's Horseman*. **OTHER THEATRE:** *The Crucible, An Ideal Husband, Julius Caesar, To Kill a Mockingbird*, (Stratford); *Cymbeline* (Shakespeare Bash'd); *The Penopliad* (The Grand); *Antony and Cleopatra, Three Musketeers, Much Ado, Julius Caesar* (St Lawrence).

FILM & TELEVISION: *Pretty Hard Cases; Close This Door; Spice it Up*. **OTHER:** She is a graduate of the Claude Watson Arts Program (2014), as well as the National Theatre School (2017).



IJEOMA EMESOWUM FOR SOULPEPPER: *Death and the King's Horseman*.

OTHER THEATRE: Ijeoma has appeared in over 31 productions, including 10 seasons collectively at both The Stratford Festival and The Shaw Festival. Selected productions include: *The Crucible, As You Like It, Love's Labour's Lost, Hay Fever* (Stratford); *Major Barbara, Admirable Crichton, Serious Money, Ragtime* (Shaw).

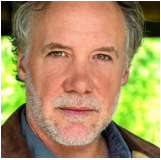
A Christmas Carol (Theatre New Brunswick); *Binti's Journey* (Theatre Direct); *The Aftermath* (Nightwood); *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Canadian Stage). **FILM & TELEVISION:** *Undiscovered Sonnets* (STRATFEST@HOME); *Antony and Cleopatra, Love's Labour's Lost, Hamlet, The Taming of the Shrew, Macbeth, Timon of Athens* (STRATFORD HD). **OTHER:** Member of Spontaneous Theatre's Sidewalk Scenes ensemble, where, this summer, in the midst of Covid-19, she performed in Instant Theatre and as Juliet and Mercutio in *Romeo & Juliet*. BFA from the University of Windsor, Birmingham Conservatory (16-'17). 2017 Mary Savidge Award Recipient.



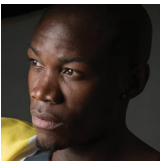
PETER FERNANDES was born in Bahrain and raised in Edmonton, AB. **SOULPEPPER 2021:** *Death and the King's Horseman*. **FOR SOULPEPPER:** *Rose, Father Comes Home From the Wars, Incident at Vichy, The Just, Marat/Sade, The Dybbuk, Spoon River, Tartuffe, The Crucible, Idiot's Delight*. **OTHER THEATRE:** *Charley's Aunt, A Christmas Carol, Russian Play, Brigadoon* (Shaw Festival) *Vietgone* (MTC); *Romeo and Juliet, A Midsummer Night's Dream, Love and Information, Twelfth Night, King Lear* (Canadian Stage); *Jerusalem* (OtM/Company Theatre); *You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown!* (MTYP); *Onegin* (NAC/Musical Stage); *Peter and the Starcatcher* (Citadel); *Passing Strange* (Musical Stage/Obsidian). **FILM & TELEVISION:** *21 Black Futures, Pretty Hard Cases, Odd Squad: Mobile Unit*. **OTHER:** Dora Award Winner.



TAWIAH BEN M'CARTHY is a Ghanaian born, Toronto based Theatre artist. Tawiah has worked with various arts organizations across the country including Canadian Stage, Obsidian Theatre, Factory Theatre, Shaw Festival Theatre, Stratford Festival, The National Arts Center, The Cultch and Buddies in Bad Times. His playwright/creator/performer credits include: *The Kente Cloth* (Summerworks Festival); *Obaaberima* (Buddies in Bad Theatre); *Black Boys* (SagaCollectif); *Maanomaa, My Brother* (Blue Bird Theatre Collective). Tawiah is a founding member of Blue Bird Theatre Collective and Saga Collectif. Tawiah is a Dora Award nominated Playwright and Performer.



PATRICK MCMANUS was born and raised in Toronto, and now lives in Niagara on the Lake. **SOULPEPPER 2021:** *Death and the King's Horseman*. **OTHER THEATRE:** Shaw Festival: 11 seasons, including *An Octaroon, Pygmalion, Uncle Vanya, Hedda Gabler, Arcadia*; Stratford (2 seasons), Blyth Festival, Tarragon, Factory, CanStage, Mirvish Productions, The National Arts Centre, Bard on the Beach, and points in between. **FILM & TELEVISION:** *Clarice, In the Dark, Anne with an E, Murdoch Mysteries*, and the upcoming Chris Rock feature film, *Spiral*.



PULGA MUCHOCHOMA was born in Quelimane, Mozambique. His dance career and training began in Quelimane with Montes Namuli Dance Company. In August of 2006 he came to Toronto with the company for the International AIDS Conference. With Montes Namuli/ Shakespeare Link Canada, he performed in several shows in venues in Toronto and Mozambique. When Montes Namuli returned to Mozambique, Muchochoma stayed in Toronto to study at The School of Toronto Dance Theatre. He currently finished his 11th season working with Toronto Dance Theatre under Artist Director Christopher House. While his time with TDT he has had the pleasure of working and collaborating with locals and Internationals choreographers such as Christopher House, Ame Anderson, Veronica Tennant, Susie Burpee, Peter Chin, Tawiah Ben McCart, Patricia Beaty, Thomas Hauert, Heidi Strauss, Estelle Claretton, Deborah Dunn, Deborah Hay, Simone Orlando, Josh Beamish, Alban Richard, Jean-Paul Kelly, Alicia Grant, Jeanine Durning and more. Also with TDT Pulga participated on the 2015 Opening ceremony of the Toronto Pan am Games with Cirque do Soleil and NBS. He's also the creator and founder of Pulga Dance since 2015.



WOLE OGUNTOKUN was born in Lagos, Nigeria. **POSITION(S):** Artistic director of, Renegade Theatre; Theatre Planet Studios (Canada); Co-ordinator -and Trustee of the Guild of Theatre Directors (Nigeria). **AWARDS:** “Best Dramatic Writing of the Year” Young-Howze award in 2021 for *The Emancipation of Yankee Oluwale*; Global Fellow of the International Society for the Performing Arts (ISPA) in 2015, 2016 and 2018 . **WORKS:** He has directed plays at: The Cross Currents Festival (Washington DC); The Edinburgh Festival Fringe (Scotland); The Globe Theatre (London); The Ubumuntu Arts Festival (Kigali, Rwanda).



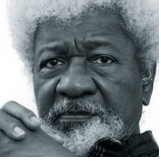
MATT RIDEOUT with over a decade in the professional audio and music industry, Matt brings a wealth of technical knowledge and artistic insight into his work. As a producer/engineer/mixer and livestream specialist, Matt is dedicated to innovating the professional audio space, and building an inclusive and open creative environment for his clients and colleagues. Matt studied Music & Composition at the University of Windsor and is a graduate of the Ontario Institute of Audio Recording Technology (OIART). He is also the co-owner/operator of A&B Studios and StreamTuneUp.



KHADIJAH ROBERTS-ABDULLAH is a Surinamese born, Toronto raised actor, writer, and producer. **FOR SOULPEPPER:** *Death and the King’s Horseman*. **OTHER THEATRE:** *Prince Hamlet National Tour* (Why Not Theatre/Ravi Jain); *Bang Bang* (Factory Theatre/Kat Sandler); *How Black Mothers Say I Love You* (Girls in Bow Ties/Trey Anthony); *We Are Proud To Present* (Why Not Theatre/Ravi Jain). **FILM & TELEVISION:** *Nurses*; *Coroner*; *Body So Fluorescent*; *Slo Pitch*; *Sugar Daddy*; *What We Do in the Shadows*. **OTHER:** Her multimedia production company 2Skins Entertainment produces a Black femme horror review podcast, *Ghoulz n Gyaldem* and will soon be debuting their first digital short *Rooted Imagination*, commissioned by the National Arts Centre as part of their Canada wide Transformations Project.



GREGORY J. SINCLAIR is an award-winning producer, director, educator and program innovator based in Toronto. His work in all media disciplines has earned more than 20 international prizes and distinctions, and he has consulted widely on approaches to digital distribution of live performance programming and live-stream multiple-platform interactive programming. As Executive Producer with CBC Radio/cbc.ca, he developed produced and directed multiple scripted audio series and specials, including the celebrated series *Afghanada*, and the interactive *Trust, Inc*. Recent credits include development of scripted and unscripted podcast series (Audible Canada), producing and directing multi-camera live stream musical performances (Luminato, 2019-2020), musical and scripted audio programs for Soulpepper Theatre (Gold Medal New York Festival 2020), and award-winning films, presented on international broadcast and online platforms.



WOLE SOYINKA Akinwande Oluwole Babatunde Soyinka, known as Wole Soyinka, is a Nigerian playwright, novelist, poet, and essayist in the English language. He was awarded the 1986 Nobel Prize in Literature, the first sub-Saharan African to be honoured in that category. After studying in Nigeria and the UK, he worked with the Royal Court Theatre in London. He went on to write plays that were produced in both countries, in theatres and on radio. He took an active role in Nigeria's political history and its struggle for independence from Great Britain. In 1965, he seized the Western Nigeria Broadcasting Service studio and broadcast a demand for the cancellation of the Western Nigeria Regional Elections. In 1967, during the Nigerian Civil War, he was arrested by the federal government of General Yakubu Gowon and put in solitary confinement for two years.



AMAKA UMEH was born and raised in Lagos, Nigeria. **SOULPEPPER 2021:** *Death and the King's Horseman*. **OTHER THEATRE:** *Hamlet* (Stratford); *The Wolves* (Howland/Crow's); *A Christmas Carol* (Grand Theatre). **OTHER:** They narrated the audiobook of 2021 Canada Reads finalist "Butter Honey Pig Bread" by Francesca Ekwuyasi. She completed the Stratford Festival Birmingham Conservatory for Classical Theatre in 2021. Ume was the recipient of the Dora Mavor Moore Award for Outstanding Performance in a Featured Role in 2018.



MICAH WOODS was born and raised in Ajax, Ontario. **SOULPEPPER:** *Death of a King's Horseman*. **OTHER THEATRE:** *Samantha* (Greenlight theatre); *Dido Queen of Carthage* (Peter Hinton); *Two gentlemen of Verona* (Stratford Festival). **OTHER:** He is a graduate of the 2019-2021 Stratford Festival Birmingham classical conservatory. "Never be limited by other people's limited imaginations" - Dr. Mae Jemison.

Soulpepper gratefully acknowledges the support of the following:

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