

National Theatre home

Les Blancs

Exploring the Play at Home



If you're watching *Les Blancs* at home and would like to find out more about the production, there are resources that you can explore.

The version of the play that is currently available to watch on YouTube was originally broadcast to cinemas around the world by National Theatre Live.

About the Production

This production of *Les Blancs* by Lorraine Hansbury, adapted by Robert Nemiroff, was performed at the National Theatre in 2016. Lorraine Hansbury is most well-known for her earlier play *A Raisin in the Sun*.

Cast

Mrs Ryder: Amy Forrest

The Woman: Sheila Atim

Abioseh Matoseh: Gary Beadle

Peter: Sidney Cole

Charlie Morris: Elliot Cowan

Dr Willy Dekoven: James Fleet

Major George Rice: Clive Francis

Eric: Tunji Kasim

Dr Martha Gotterling: Anna Madeley

Ngago: Roger Jean Nsengiyumva

Madame Neilsen: Siân Phillips

Tshembe Matoseh: Danny Sapani

Boy: Xhanti Mbonzongwana

Ensemble: Anna-Maria Nabirye, Daniel Francis-Swaby, Mark Theodore

Matriarchs & Singers (Ngqoko Cultural Group): Nofenishala Mvoty, Nogcinile Yekani Nomaqobiso, Mpahleni (Madosini) Latozi

Production team

Director: Yaël Farber

Designer: Soutra Gilmour

Lighting Designer: Tim Lutkin

Music and Sound: Adam Cork

Movement Director: Imogen Knight

Fight Director: Kev McCurdy

Music Director: Joyce Moholoagae

Dramaturg: Drew Lichtenberg

You might like to use the internet to research some of these artists to find out more about their careers.

If you would like to find out about careers in the theatre, there's lots of useful information on the [Discover Creative Careers website](#).

Exploring the Production in More Depth

You can [read this short biography](#) to find out more about Lorraine Hansbury.

If you would like to [find out more about the context of the play](#), you can watch a panel discussion which explores the African, European and American narrative and the role of trauma in the play. The discussion is chaired by Ola Animashawun from the National Theatre's New Work and Learning departments and features director Dawn Walton and producer Tobi Kyeremateng.

Reviewing the Production

You might like to write a theatre review when you have watched the production. All students studying drama and theatre for GCSE and A-level will have to do this for productions that they see as part of their course.

If you choose to write a review, you might like to consider some of the following:

- The form and style of the production
- The artistic choices which have been made, remembering to include sound, lighting, set and costume design choices
- Your own critical appreciation of design elements and performance skills
- What you think the creative and production team's intentions were in staging the production
- Significant moments in the production where you notice a particular performance skill being used or think a particular directorial decision has been made
- Your own response to the overall effectiveness of the piece as an audience member
- You could sketch the set and/or some costumes from the production as you watch.

National Theatre Collection

The National Theatre Collection makes the best of British Theatre available worldwide to libraries, schools, universities and the wider education sector.

In light of the Coronavirus pandemic, the National Theatre Collection is currently available for students in UK state-funded schools to access at home. Find out more at nationaltheatre.org.uk/ntcollection
