

riverside studios

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PRESS RELEASE

February 21 - March 15

RIVERSIDE STUDIOS PRESENTS

A TALAWA PRODUCTION:

THE BLACK JACOBINS by C.L.R. JAMES

(Toussaint L'Ouverture and the San Domingo Revolution)

Commissioned by the GLC
Race Equality Unit as part
of the Black Experience
Programme.

In what will be a unique experience for British theatre, Talawa Theatre company will be presenting C.L.R. James' famous historical play **THE BLACK JACOBINS**, from February 21st to March 15th at Riverside Studios. **THE BLACK JACOBINS** portrays the only truly successful slave revolt in history: the uprising inspired by Toussaint L'Ouverture and the savage revolution in Haiti which was triggered off by the French Revolution.

Norman Beaton as Toussaint L'Ouverture, **Trevor Laird** and **Mona Hammond** head the cast of over twenty. The play has been performed only once in Britain, in 1936, the year it was written, with Paul Robeson in the lead. It has, however, been successfully produced in Africa, the West Indies and the United States. For **Yvonne Brewster**, the play's director, the project is of vital significance:

"When a play of such historical authority, proven distinction, a play of elegance and vision exists, then it is right that not only the black community but the general theatre going public should have an opportunity of seeing it produced".

THE BLACK JACOBINS is to be presented as part of the Focus on C.L.R. James Festival - 'Man of the People', a major exhibition to be held concurrently at Riverside, on the life and works of this writer, philosopher, historian, pan-Africanist and cricket writer, now in his 85th year. The exhibition is being organised by Creation for Liberation.

Talawa Theatre Co. was set up by **Yvonne Brewster** with the aim of using ancient mythologies and political experiences of our forebears to inform, enrich and further enlighten modern black British theatre. So with its first major production Talawa is now honoured to fulfil that commitment by presenting C.L.R. James' classic work: **THE BLACK JACOBINS**.

Directed by Yvonne Brewster
Designed by Andrea Montag

Lighting Design: Richard Moffatt
Musical Director: Lenny Edwards

21 - 25 February Preview 8.00pm ~ 8 & 15 March Matinees 3.30pm
26 February Press 7.00pm
27 February - 15 March 8.00pm

Ticket Prices: £5.50, £4.00, £3.50 concessions. Preview and matinees £4.00, £2.50.

Press enquiries

Renée Lowes / Annie Reddick

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STOP PRESS.....The final performance at Riverside Studios on 15 March incidentally coincides with the very first performance of **THE BLACK JACOBINS**, fifty years ago, when **PAUL ROBESON** played **Toussaint L'Ouverture**...

PRESS RELEASE - 2

RIVERSIDE STUDIOS PRESENTS
A TALAWA PRODUCTION:

THE BLACK JACOBINS by C.L.R. JAMES

(Toussaint L'Ouverture and the San Domingo Revolution)

HAITI, ONCE THE RICHEST COLONY IN THE WORLD IS TODAY THE POOREST COUNTRY IN THE WESTERN HEMISPHERE.

As riots flare up against the government, it seems much can be explained by rooting recent troubles to Haiti's colonial and revolutionary past.

C.L.R. JAMES' play, **THE BLACK JACOBINS**, is a classic study of the historic slave revolt of 1791. Performed at **RIVERSIDE STUDIOS** from Friday 21 February - Saturday 15 March, **NORMAN BEATON** heads a cast of twenty-three, including musicians and dancers, to play **TOUSSAINT L'OUVERTURE**, the leader of the Black Slaves of San Dominique who revolted against their colonialist oppressors to create an independent Haiti.

THE BLACK JACOBINS, directed by Yvonne Brewster, and starring Norman Beaton, Mona Hammond, Trevor Laird and Brian Bovell places a unique perspective on Haiti's past with today's recent events.

THE BLACK JACOBINS is being presented as part of the G.L.C.'s Black Experience Arts Programme and has been commissioned by the Race Equality Unit of the G.L.C.

21 - 25 February Preview - 8pm.
26 February Gala/Press - 7pm.
27 February - 15 March - 8pm.
8 & 15 March Matinees - 3.30pm.

Ticket Prices: £5.50, £4.00, £3.50 concessions.
Previews and matinees £4.00, £2.50
Special Party Bookings - groups of 10 or more £2.50 (Tue. - Thur. & matinee performances ONLY).

Directed by Yvonne Brewster
Designed by Andrea Montag

Lighting Design: Richard Moffatt
Musical Director: Lenny Edwards

PRESS ENQUIRIES - PLEASE CONTACT :
7 FEB. 1986.

ANNIE REDDICK/RENEE LOWES 741 2251/213

PLUS EXHIBITION - C.L.R. JAMES - MAN OF THE PEOPLE presented by Creation for Liberation **STUDIO 2** : 18 Feb - 15 March, 12md. - 10pm. + **FILMS AND LECTURES.**