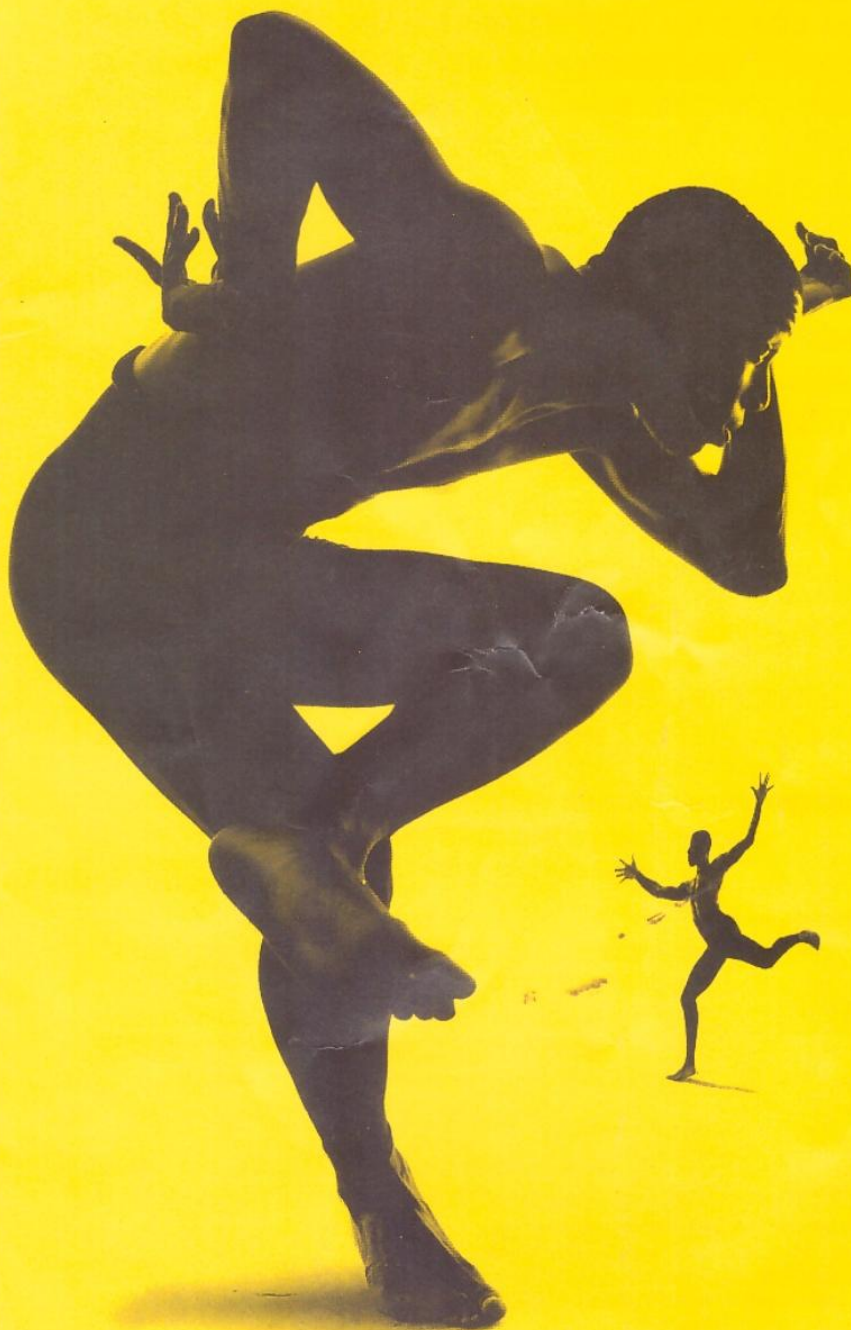


Yoshi voyages Oida

a spiritual odyssey



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THEATRE



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VOYAGES

by Yoshi Oida

Tibetan Book of the Dead

Yoshi Oida
Elsa Wolliaston
Oliver Coupille

The Tibetan Book of the Dead tells the story of a dead man who refuses to leave the land of the living. Instead he attempts to cling to his past and his former love

Tale of the Chameleon

Yoshi Oida
Koffi Koko
Pape Thiam
Peter Florence

The Peul tribe in the Niger recounts the tale of three men who undertook a long subterranean journey into the land of Kaydara, God of gold and knowledge. The journey is peopled with invisible spirits and occult forces, with hidden meanings in each of the travellers' encounters

Direction	Yoshi Oida
Costumes (Tibetan Book of the Dead)	Alain de Raucourt
Costumes (Tale of the Chameleon)	Kate Van Houten
Lighting	Tanya Burns
Sound	Piers Marsh
Stage Manager	Patrick Watkinson
Production Photographer	Ivan Kyncl

British premiere: The Almeida Theatre, 31 July 1990

Each play runs for approximately 1 hour. There will be one interval of 15 minutes.

The Almeida is grateful for the support of the Japan Foundation.
Many thanks to Lorna Marshall.

THE ALMEIDA THEATRE

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Associate Director Jonathan Kent
General Manager Hilary Keenlyside
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Production Manager Simon Harper
Technician Tanya Burns/Piers Marsh
House Manager Kate Delaney
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We are grateful for the invaluable help and enthusiasm of our volunteers.

The Almeida has a lift for the disabled giving wheelchair access to the stalls and there are disabled toilet facilities in the foyer.

Please do not smoke, eat or drink, or take recording equipment and cameras into the auditorium. And please remember that noise such as coughing, rustling of programmes and the bleeping of digital watches can be distracting to performers and also spoils the performance for other members of the audience.

Latecomers will not be admitted

OLIVER COUPILLE *Music*

Oliver Coupille is a French musician. He composes electronic music and has given concerts of his work throughout Europe.

PETER FLORENCE *Storyteller*

Theatre: work includes national tours of *The Pity of War*, *Portrait of the Artist as a Young Dog*, *Death in Custody*, *War Music*, Roald Dahl's *Revolting Rhymes* and the musical version of Christopher Fry's *Boy with a Cart* directed by the author. Most of the work has toured in Europe for the British Council, from the Lyric Hammersmith or the Traverse, Edinburgh.

TV: *First Love*, and his own adaptations of the award-winning *Pity of War* and of *The Volunteers*.

Direction: founder and Director of the Projects Company and the Sunday Times Hay-on-Wye Festival of Literature.

KOFFI KOKO *Choreography and dance*

Koffi Koko comes from West Africa. He is a Professor of African dance and teaches in Paris. He choreographs and performs for his own company which tours regularly throughout Europe.

YOSHI OIDA *Direction and performer*

After training in the traditional theatre arts of Noh, Kyogen and Kabuki, Yoshi Oida performed extensively in film and theatre in Japan. In 1968, he was invited by Jean-Louis Barrault to work at the Odéon Theatre in Paris. Then Peter Brook offered him the part of Ariel in *The Tempest*. Yoshi then became a founder member of the Centre Internationale de Recherche Theatrale

which Brook established at the Bouffes du Nord in Paris. As a member of this company, he performed in *Orghast*, the *Ik*, *Conference of the Birds* and, most recently, *The Mahabharata*. He also participated in Brook's journey through Africa and has been responsible for much of the training of Brook's company. His British performances include a research piece based on *The Tempest* directed by Peter Brook (RSC at the Roundhouse 1968), the *Ik* (London 1976), *Interrogations* (Almeida Theatre 1981), *The Mahabharata* (Glasgow 1988 and Channel 4).

ALAIN DE RAUCOURT *Costumes*

(*Tibetan Book of the Dead*)

Alain de Raucourt designs costumes for ballet and dance in France.

PAPE THIAM *Musician*

Pape Thiam is a musician from Senegal. He works frequently with Koffi Koko as a member of Koffi's performing group.

KATE VAN HOUTON *Costumes (Tale of the Chameleon)*

Kate van Houton is an American painter based in Paris.

ELSA WOLLIASTON *Choreographer and performer*

Elsa Wolliaston grew up in Africa. Her father is African. Her mother is American. For over twenty years, she has been teaching actors, singers and professional dancers a technique for movement inspired by African influences. She also choreographs and performs for her own company which tours regularly throughout Europe. She frequently works with Yoshi Oida.

COMING NEXT AT THE ALMEIDA

The second Almeida Theatre Season has a French flavour: two specially commissioned translations of plays by Anouilh and Racine, a British premiere and a series of international Sunday cabaret performances.

The Rehearsal by Jean Anouilh

13 September – 27 October at 8.00 pm

Anouilh's dark comedy of sexual intrigue is set in a French château in 1950. A Count and Countess rehearse an 18th century comedy casting themselves, their friends and their lovers in the leading roles. When a young governess is brought in as a last minute replacement, illusion soon becomes reality.

The play is the elegant anatomy of the destruction of an innocent.

Ian McDiarmid directs and the cast includes Nicola Pagett, Jonathan Hyde, Jonathan Kent, Christine Kavanagh and Julia Ormond. The set is designed by Anthony Ward. The costumes, both 18th century and 1950's will be designed by Britain's leading international fashion designer, Jasper Conran. The specially commissioned translation is by Jeremy Sams.

Bajazet by Jean Racine

1 November – 1 December at 8.00 pm

Racine's 17th century masterpiece receives its first major performance in Britain in a translation by one of Britain's most exciting new novelists, Alan Hollinghurst. *Bajazet* explores the conflict between political ambition and romantic obsession. Set in a seraglio in Byzantium, the warrior *Bajazet* falls prey to a ferocious game where the participants must choose between love or death....

Peter Eyre directs and the cast includes Suzanne Bertish. The set and costumes are by Chloe Obolensky, the designer of Peter Brook's *Mahabharata*.

In the Solitude of Cotton Fields by Bernard-Marie Koltes

15, 16, 17, 23, 24 November at 10.30 pm; Sunday 18 and Sunday 25 November at 4.00 pm.

This remarkable two character play, in which a dealer confronts a client, receives its British Premiere in a new translation by Christopher Rathbone. The play recently completed a highly successful run at the Theatre des Amandiers in Nanterre. It will be directed by Kim Dambæk.

ALMEIDA THEATRE BOX OFFICE: 071-359 4404

THE ALMEIDA THEATRE – HOW YOU CAN HELP

Although the Almeida Theatre receives a certain amount of grant support, this is not enough to allow the theatre to produce its own work. The Almeida is therefore heavily dependent on the generosity of independent donors and private sector sponsors to meet the demands of an artistic policy, which has been hailed in the press as "a programme of which even the most extravagantly funded national company could be proud."

A number of schemes have been developed to enable our audiences to support the theatre and become more involved. Friends, Sponsors, Benefactors and Patrons of the Almeida are greatly valued and receive a variety of special privileges. These range from free tickets for Almeida Theatre Company productions to invitations to private concerts, masterclasses and parties attended by performers and the staff of the theatre.

Companies can sponsor a production at the Almeida under a scheme which offers enormous scope for promotion and recognition as well as entertainment.

We do urgently need your help. For further information please contact Jan Lennox, Head of Development at the Almeida Theatre, Almeida Street, London N1 1TA, or telephone on 071-226 7432.

The Almeida Theatre is most grateful to the following for their support and the interest they have taken in our work.

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