

National Theatre

27 June 2024

REHEARSAL IMAGES RELEASED FOR THE UK PREMIERE OF KATORI HALL'S *THE HOT WING KING*



IMAGES (C) BY HELEN MURRAY CAN BE FOUND [HERE](#)

The National Theatre today releases first look rehearsals images for the UK premiere of **Katori Hall's** (*Tina*, *The Tina Turner Musical*, *The Mountaintop*, *P-Valley*) Pulitzer Prize-winning ***The Hot Wing King***. This new comedy is told with the love language of food; about family, Black Masculinity, sexuality and the journey to finding home, in a fiery new production directed by **Roy Alexander Weise** (*Master Harold'... and the boys*, *Nine Night*).

Cast includes **Jason Barnett** (*Agatha Raison*) as Big Charles, **Kaireece Denton** making his professional stage debut as EJ, **Kadiff Kirwan** (*Slow Horses*) as Cornell, **Olisa Odele** (*Big Boys*) as Isom, **Simon Anthony Rhoden** (*Hamilton*) as Dwayne and **Dwane Walcott** (*Enterprice*) as T.J.

It's summertime in Memphis, Tennessee and the annual Hot Wing Contest is about to roll through. Cordell has his sights set on the crown this year, with the support of his partner Dwayne and friends, Isom and Big Charles. Together, they are The New Wing Order, and they're serving wings worthy of 'kangs'.

Cordell's culinary crew are getting ready to fire up his new mouth-watering 'finna-be first-place' recipe, when the arrival of an unexpected guest throws some extra heat up in the kitchen on prep night.

As the temperature rises and the sauce boils over, it seems a first-place trophy and a grand cash prize aren't the only things Cordell risks losing. Can he take the heat, or will he have to get out the kitchen?

Directed by **Roy Alexander Weise**, set and costume designer by **Rajha Shakiry**, lighting design by **Joshua Pharo**, composition by **Femi Temowo**, sound design by **Elena Peña**, choreography by **DK Fashola**, intimacy and fight direction by **Bethan Clark**, casting by **Jacob Sparrow**, dramatherapy by **Samantha Adams**, dialect coaching by **Hazel Holder**, associate set and costume design by **Ruth Hall**, Linbury set and costume associate **Yimei Zhao** and staff director **Cory Hippolyte**.

Playing in the Dorfman theatre 11 July–14 September, with press night on 18 July.

ENDS

For images, click [here](#).

Production	Theatre	Dates	Press Night	Publicist
<i>The Hot Wing King</i>	Dorfman theatre	11 July–14 September 2024	Thursday 18 July	James Lever

Assisted performances at the National Theatre:

Captioned Performances: Thursday 1 August 2024 – 7.30pm, Friday 13 September 2024 – 7.30pm.

BSL Interpreted: Thursday 5 September 2024 – 7.30pm

Audio described: Saturday 3 August 2024 – 2.15pm, Friday 23 August 2024 – 7.30pm

Relaxed performance: Thursday 13 August 2024 – 7.30pm

With thanks

The National Theatre's New Work programme is supported by the Lawton W Fitt & James I McLaren Foundation.

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World-leading artists make their best work at the National Theatre with the widest possible audience and impact. The National Theatre invests in talent and innovation on stage and off, taking seriously its role as the nation's theatre. Of the new productions developed each year with a wide range of theatre companies, a third of that research and development resource is dedicated to shows staged at theatres outside London.

Through touring our work to local theatres and schools and nationwide education and community programmes, we are active in 71 of the 109 levelling up priority areas in the UK. A registered charity with deeply embedded social purpose, the National Theatre works with hundreds of schools and communities across the UK to fire imagination and inspire creativity, and to develop skills and pathways for careers in theatre.

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