

AN OCTOROON

By Branden Jacobs–Jenkins
Directed by Timothy Douglas
Venue Playhouse Theatre
When 07 Nov - 13 Nov
Run Times 2 hours 30 Minutes (incl. interval)

Content advice: Uses caricatures and satire to challenge racial injustices. It features murders, depictions of racially motivated violence, and obscene language including racial slurs. The production features haze and smoke effects and loud noises. Advice may change.

In a 2018 poll by critics of *The New York Times*, *An Octoroon* was ranked the second-greatest American play of the past 25 years. When it premiered, it was called “this decade’s most eloquent statement on race in America today.” (*The New York Times*). Dion Boucicault’s 1859 melodrama *The Octoroon*, about a man who scandalously falls for a slave on his Louisiana plantation, helped fan the flames of the American Civil War. The dazzling African American playwright Branden Jacobs-Jenkins has torn apart and rebuilt the original text as a towering, immersive and wildly funny theatrical experience.

International guest director Timothy Douglas, who has helmed more than 100 productions across major American theatres, makes his Australian debut.

DIRECTOR’S NOTE

the function of freedom is to free someone else ... **Toni Morrison**
to free the voice is to free the actor ... **Kristin Linklater**

There is an authentic and synthesizing, (alchemical, really) moment that occurs in this production of *An Octoroon*, during which two slave gals – with purity, simplicity, and divine conviction - make an irrefutable case for their remaining in captivity. It is within this revelation of paradoxical clarity that a genuine revolution emerges! What a revealing privilege it is for me to have joined with these lighted beings ‘still in the process of becoming’, as they wrestle with difficult history while challenging theatrical truths in ‘the moment before’ their collective professional launch.

If you surrendered to the air, you could ride it ... **Toni Morrison**
Don't postpone joy ... **Kristin Linklater**

CAST (in order of appearance)

BJJ, George, M'Closky Bakri Idris Mohamed

Playwright, Wahnotee, Lafouche Jack Bridges

Assistant, Pete, Paul Cameron Steven

Dido Bon Bon Mpofu

Minnie Brightholly Nininahazwe

Dora Ella Sexton

Zoe Celesté Cortes-Davis

Grace / Br'er Rabbit Rachel Crossan

CAST (continued)

Ratts/Understudy Reid Hudson

Understudies Rohan Deepak

Antonia Janji

Mary-Jade Owusu-Ansah

Gabrielle Oxley

Ruva Shoko

THE COMPANY

Director Timothy Douglas*

Costume Designer Paris Koppens

Lighting Concept Jemima Owen

Realised by Joseph Mercurio**

Set/Props Designer Geita Goarin

Sound Designer Jasmine Power

Voice Coach Angela Sullen*

Assistant Directors Clement Rukundo

Harrison Simmons

Production Stage Manager Adetokunbo Abioye

Deputy Stage Manager Thomas Shepherd

Assistant Stage Manager Reyn Penrose

Eloise Tanti

Construction Manager Angus Nott*

Head Scenic Art Head Scenic Art

Costume Supervisor Sam Hernandez

Props Supervisor Samantha Yue Ting Lim

Head Electrician Thomas Howieson

Leading Hand Set Evangelina Dosey Shaw

Costume Makers Danielle Schache

Giulia Zandaro

Siann Lau

Jessica Marshall

Imahn Pholi

Props Maker Caleb Jackson

Costume Design Assistant Harry Robinson

Set/Props Design Assistant Joey McKenzie

Costume Assistant/Dresser Mali Smedts

Properties Assistant Millie Rollason

Scenic Art Assistants Zali Kassi*

Nathan Hawks*

Set Assistants Ingo Cottier

Jonathan Hartley

Luka Mark

Jamie Sellar

Emile Stuart

Floor Electrician/Board Operator Jonathan Ogilvie

Make-up Artists Theodore Herbert

Lily New

Miranda Reid

Olivia Lovelock