

Sport for Jove presents

## Othello by William Shakespeare

13 April, Seymour Centre | 24 & 25 May, Riverside Theatres

Presented as part of the 2019 Theatre Education Season

*Othello* is no more than a frighteningly human story. Relentless, dark, and even darkly funny, it disturbs in us the very real thoughts we don't dare to share, even to think, and the very real things people do to each other. 'The object poisons sight, let it be hid' - by the time the curtains are pulled down to hide a terrible crime, there is little certainty left about who we are in a world where identity is as fluid as blood and temper. Are we any more than the stories we tell or the ones we are willing to believe? This innovative new production explores global themes of conflict and racism on a personal scale, combining **Sport for Jove's** trademark textual clarity and storytelling with a powerful cast, including **Mandela Mathia** (*Sami in Paradise* Belvoir) as Othello, **Adele Querol** as Desdemona (*Rose Riot*) and Artistic Director **Damien Ryan** as Iago.

No Shakespeare play is more searing or offers a more modern X-ray of contemporary political tensions. A General from 'outside' Venice, a Muslim converted to Christianity, a man once made a child soldier and slave, leads a major naval power in what appears to be a fully assimilated and enlightened racial environment in Venice – until his sexuality crosses a boundary that stirs latent hatreds and xenophobic fears of the 'other'. And once away, isolated on a remote military base in occupied Cyprus – a land girt by sea and fractured with insoluble cultural tensions - a trusted soldier will work away at the certainty of his commander like an irresistible tide. *Othello* is saturated with references to water and light. Oceanic mystery and the control of what we see in the light and what we fear in the darkness are the poet's chief imaginative devices and sources of metaphor in this study of marriage, love, sex, persuasion and the illusion of loyalty.

'Heaven me such uses send. Not to pick bad from bad, but by bad mend.'

Please be aware that William Shakespeare's *Othello* features domestic violence, suicide and issues of hate speech and racial vilification that may be triggering. For assistance or guidance if facing such issues in your life, contact [All Together Now](#), Lifeline on 13 11 14, or 1800RESPECT (1800 737 732).

### Cast

**Anthony Gooley, Mandela Mathia, Jerome Meyer, Nicholas Papademetriou, Emma Paterson, Damien Ryan, Adele Querol, Brittanie Shipway, Amy Usherwood**

### Creatives

Directed by **the ensemble of actors**  
Production Designer **Jonathan Hindmarsh**  
Lighting Designer **Martin Kinnane**  
Sound Designer **Alexander Lee-Rekers**  
Assistant Director **Francesca Savige**  
Production Manager **Thomas Pidd**  
Stage Manager **Zara Thompson**  
Assistant Stage Manager **Emma Paterson**

## Notes for Editors

7pm 13 April  
Seymour Centre  
City Rd & Cleveland Street, Chippendale  
[seymourcentre.com/events/event/othello-2019/](http://seymourcentre.com/events/event/othello-2019/)  
All tickets \$28\*

7pm 24 & 25 May  
Riverside Theatres  
Corner Church and Market Streets, Parramatta  
[riversideparramatta.com.au/show/othello-4/](http://riversideparramatta.com.au/show/othello-4/)  
All tickets \$28

\*At the Seymour Centre *Othello* is part of The Betrayal Season with discount offers when 3 or more plays are booked.  
1 Play \$28 | 3 Plays \$72 | 4 Plays \$96