

Meet The Cast



Marcus Hercules
Grandad



Chardae Phillips
Abi

Meet The Writer



Grandad Anansi is the first piece of children's theatre by Elayne Ogbeta, a Greater Manchester writer of Jamaican heritage.

Elayne, a former ESOL tutor, lives in Salford with her high-achieving family. Daughter Naomi Metzger is triple jump 10 times British champion and Commonwealth bronze medallist, and son Nathanael Ogbeta was signed by Manchester City aged 10 and is currently a defender for Swansea City.

The character of 'Grandad' is partly based on Elayne's own father, 89-year-old Ashley Malcolm, who moved from Jamaica to settle in Preston in the 1960s as part of the Windrush generation.

"I grew up listening to lots of wonderful stories about the roguish spider Anansi, told by my dad. He is still a great storyteller to this day and has continued to delight all nine of his grandchildren with gripping versions of the classic Jamaican tales."



"Grandad Anansi takes these oral stories, which have been passed down through generations, and places them on the stage, in front of new audiences. The stories are framed within a wider, universal narrative about intergenerational love, growing up, growing older and the meaning of home."

Creative Team

Elayne Ogbeta
Writer

Chris Yarnell
Director

Socha Cordoran
Designer

Tayo Akinbode
Sound Designer and Composer

Jason Hall
Lighting Designer

Rori Endersby
Technical Stage Manager and Assistant
Director

Zoey Barnes
Costume Supervisor and Assistant
Designer

Tobi Burbridge
Set Builder

Beth Colley
Scenic Artist

Chris Elwell
Producer and Dramaturge
(Half Moon)

Zoe Pickering
Producer (Z-arts)

Liz O'Neill
Producer (Z-arts)

Billy Paine
Artwork

Stephen Beeny
Marketing

Ed Sunman
Film Editor and Camera Operator
(digital)

Chris Pander
Camera Operator (digital)

Thomas Simper
BSL Interpreter (digital)

VocalEyes
Audio Description (digital)

Thanks

Special thanks to Ashley Malcolm, Elayne Ogbeta's father, who is the inspiration for the play.

Thanks also to: The elder's at the African Caribbean Care Group, Hulme, for their inspiring conversations and stories; programming partners across the Big Imaginations Consortium; Ebony Feare, Ayesha Gwilt, Benji Reid, Eva Crompton, David Gilbert, Sapphire Joy, Kenneth Omole, Helen Katamba, Jared Lin and Curtis Cole for their generous contributions during the various R&D and recruitment phases of the project; Steve Curtis (Z-arts) and Graham Broadbent (Half Moon) for production management support; The Dukes, Lancaster and the core staff teams at both Half Moon and Z-arts for their support.

Grandad Anansi was supported using public funding awarded as a National Lottery Project Grant through Arts Council England

Behind The Scenes

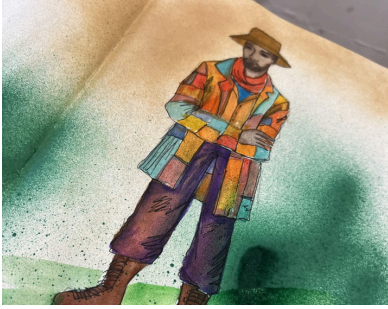
R&D Phase (2021)



Rehearsals (2022)



Behind The Scenes



Design (2022)



The role of Abi in the production of Grandad Anansi (2022) was originally performed by Jazmine Wilkinson.

On tour (2022)



Behind The Scenes

Production Photos (2025)



About Half Moon



Half Moon is the UK's leading small-scale young people's venue and touring company. It is a local organisation with a national remit, committed to supporting artists and young people at every stage of their creative development.

Working from their base in East London, they specialise in new writing and artform development, acting as a gateway organisation that provides pathways for progression and experimentation. Their wide-ranging programme reaches around 50,000 annually and engages those who are often excluded from arts activity.

Activity includes a season of professional plays for young audiences, national touring productions and an extensive creative learning programme, including eight youth theatres. Half Moon is a National Portfolio Organisation of Arts Council England and receives regular funding from the London Borough of Tower Hamlets.

Grandad Anansi is one of several productions that form part of Half Moon's touring portfolio at a national and international level.

About Z-arts



With a year-round programme of arts activities and theatre productions, Z-arts is Manchester's dedicated venue for children and families.

From drama, dance, music, yoga and arts and crafts activities to high-quality theatre productions for families, their work is influenced by their audiences and customers.

Through their participation activities and creative learning, both inside and outside the building, Z-arts hear what families want from art, and they follow their lead.

Z-arts leads the Big Imaginations network of venues across the North West to bring brilliant children's theatre to the region. They commission and programme theatre that stimulates, reflects and entertains the rich diversity of modern family life.

Z-arts are strategically funded by Manchester City Council and is a National Portfolio Organisation of Arts Council England.