



59 Blackstone Avenue, Pawtucket RI 02860 | (401) 484-0355 | www.burbagetheatre.org
Jeff Church, *Artistic Director* | Allison Crews, *Executive Director*

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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**Burbage Theatre Co concludes their 11th Season with the Rhode Island premiere of
Lolita Chakrabarti's *RED VELVET*, directed by Jackie Davis**

PAWTUCKET, RI May 4, 2023 —

After their critically and popularly acclaimed run of Jen Silverman's *Witch*, Burbage Theatre Co concludes their 11th Season with **the Rhode Island premiere of Lolita Chakrabarti's *Red Velvet*, directed by Trinity Repertory Company member Jackie Davis**. *Red Velvet* will be presented from June 1 through June 18 for a run of 13 performances at Burbage Theatre Co's [Wendy Overly Studio Theatre, 59 Blackstone Avenue, Pawtucket, RI](#).

"Along with Junk, this is a play that we have been trying to produce for a long time. Prepare to be deeply moved, delighted, and shaken by Red Velvet, a backstage drama that will challenge your preconceptions about the theatre. Lolita Chakrabarti's masterful writing contains in it both a vast and nuanced love for the theatre and a sharp, critical, and unblinking eye for the realities of exclusion in the institution's not-so-distant past. The play offers a beautiful and touching portrait of Ira Aldridge, the first Black American actor to play Othello on a London stage.

"We have an incredible team, led by the incomparable Jackie Davis. I, like many in Rhode Island, have been enamored of Jackie's work as an actor for many years now. I am so thrilled to have her immense creativity and massive talent at the head of this production. We pride ourselves on ensemble work here at Burbage, and **we've built another uniquely talented group, this time led by recent Brown/Trinity graduate JāQuan Malik Jones.** I had the privilege of working with JāQuan recently, I can think of no one finer to take up the mantle of Ira Aldridge himself.

So join us! **This production only runs for three weekends so get your tickets now before it's too late!"**

— **Jeff Church, Artistic Director, Burbage Theatre Co**

**Burbage Theatre Co's production of Lolita Chakrabarti's *Red Velvet* begins previews on
June 1 and closes on June 18 after 13 performances.**

Critics and members of the Press are Invited to join us on our

Pay-What-You-Will Performance (Saturday, June 3 at 7:30pm) or on our Sunday Preview performance (Sunday, June 4 at 2:00pm).

You can reply to this email or contact Artistic Director Jeff Church at jeff.church.ir@gmail.com for more information.

RI Premiere

RED VELVET

by Lolita Chakrabarti

(June 1 - 18)

It's like being at a crossroads - a point of absolute, unequivocal change. It makes the blood rush.

Theatre Royal, Covent Garden, 1833. Edmund Kean, the greatest actor of his generation, has collapsed on stage whilst playing Othello. A young black American actor has been asked to take over the role. But as the public riot in the streets over the abolition of slavery, how will the cast, critics and audience react to the revolution taking place in the theatre?

Lolita Chakrabarti's play creates imagined experiences based on the little-known, but true, story of Ira Aldridge, an African-American actor who, in the nineteenth century, built an incredible reputation on the stages of London and Europe.

RED VELVET in the Press:

"Shock waves rarely travel across centuries. But at.. 'Red Velvet'... you can experience firsthand what it must have felt like to be part of one seriously rattled London theater audience in 1833."

— *New York Times*

"*Red Velvet* is the play to see. A superb ensemble directed by Indhu Rubasingham from Lolita Chakrabarti's excellent script. The audience was clearly awestruck."

— *The Huffington Post*

"Frankly, thrilling. [*Red Velvet*] burns the place down."

— *Time Out New York*

"It's a cracker of a play: gripping, intelligent and passionate."

— *Financial Times*

ABOUT THE PRODUCTION

RED VELVET

by Lolita Chakrabarti

directed by Jackie Davis

ENSEMBLE

| | |
|--------------------|------------------|
| JāQuan Malik Jones | Ira Aldrige |
| Gabrielle McCauley | Halina |
| Zach Gibb | Casimir/Henry |
| Andrew Stigler | Terrence/Bernard |
| Sabrina Youn | Connie |
| Riley Nedder | Betty |
| Liam Roberts | Charles |
| Alison Russo* | Ellen |
| David Sackal | Pierre |
| Kelly Robertson | Margaret |

**denotes a member of the Actors' Equity Association of America*

PRODUCTION CREW

| | |
|-------------------|----------------------------|
| Jackie Davis | Director |
| Manny Maldonado | Stage Manager |
| Catia Ramos | Assistant Director |
| Andrew Iacovelli | Production Design/TD |
| Brittany Costello | ATD/Props |
| Jeff Church | Costume Design/AD/Producer |
| Thomas Edwards | Lighting Design |

***RED VELVET* CALENDAR OF PERFORMANCES**

Thursday June 1 at 7:30pm ***Preview***

Friday June 2 at 7:30pm ***Preview***

Saturday June 3 at 7:30pm ****Pay-What-You-Will/PRESS Preview***

Sunday June 4 at 2:00pm ***PRESS Preview***

Thursday June 8 at 7:30pm ***OPENING NIGHT***

Friday June 9 at 7:30pm

Saturday June 10 at 7:30pm

sunday June 11 at 2pm

Thursday June 15 at 7:30pm

saturday June 16 at 7:30pm

sunday June 17 at 2pm

Friday June 17 at 7:30pm

saturday June 18 at 2:00pm



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TICKET POLICY —

"The best bang for your theatrical buck in the Ocean State." — Warwick Beacon

Preview Performances — \$15

General Admission — \$30

Students — \$15

High School Students — Any and all rush tickets are available to High School students for FREE

COVID-19 PREVENTION POLICY —

Burbage has implemented an *optional masking policy* for our patrons.

While masks are no longer required, you are encouraged to mask if you like.

Burbage will continue to make masks available to our patrons.

We do ask that you remain mindful of your own health and wellness before attending the theatre.

If you begin exhibiting new symptoms of Covid-19 that cannot be explained by regular seasonal allergies, we ask that you reconsider attending the theatre.

There is nothing more important to us than your health and safety.

If you must cancel or change your reservation with us, just contact the box office and we'll be happy to exchange your tickets to another performance.