

•fuel presents

in association with TOURING TOGETHER

ONCE UPON A TIME IN SOKOTO

BY INUA
ELLAMS

Schools Information Pack

TOURING
TOGETHER



TOURING TOGETHER

Exciting new theatre initiative providing schools with an opportunity to see a new quality drama each Autumn!

ABOUT THE PLAY

“There are powers that bind the world together, softer than spirits yet stronger than stone, that tie the river to the tree, the tree to rain clouds, rain clouds to the land, and people to each other”

The award-winning *Once Upon a Time in Sokoto* tells the epic story of a beautiful but unlikely friendship forged between a slave and her former master. Differences in faith, culture and heritage are overcome in the face of new enemies, in a gripping family drama set against the backdrop of events leading to the creation of Nigeria.

Winner of the 2024 Alfred Fagon Award for *Once Upon a Time in Sokoto*, Nigeria-born Inua Ellams is an internationally celebrated poet, playwright, and artist. He has published four poetry collections and his plays include the hugely popular and critically acclaimed *Barber Shop Chronicles* (Fuel/National Theatre, UK and International tour) and the award-winning *The 14th Tale* (Fuel /UK tour).

Watch Inua Ellams's interview [here](#)

WHY BRING YOUR CLASS?

This production is a rare opportunity to experience a major new British play that centers African history, identity and solidarity — topics with direct relevance to your students' lives and to the national curriculum.

The Play's Themes

**Power, Belonging,
Friendship and Sisterhood,
the Making of Nations.**

**These offer rich entry points for
English, Drama, History and PSHE**

Recommended Age

**Years 9 (KS3)
Year 10 & 11 (KS4), GCSE**

NATIONAL CURRICULUM LINKS

**TOURING
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ENGLISH

- Critical reading & contextual understanding
- Creative & transactional writing
- Spoken language & debate
- Live theatre evaluation

DRAMA

- Devising from a stimulus
- Live theatre evaluation
- Performance & spoken word
- Staging, costume & design analysis

HISTORY & PSHE

- Historical enquiry: colonial West Africa
- Competing historical interpretations
- Identity, belonging & solidarity
- Intercultural understanding

What's Included

- **Free Teacher Resource Pack**
 - Included with every school booking.
 - Practical, modular, and ready to use across a lesson or half term.
- Pre-show and post-show activities draw on storytelling, spoken word, and performance.

UPON REQUEST

- Limited number of free 2-hour spoken word workshops are available across the run, delivered to your class.
- Meet the Cast/Post-show Talk opportunity may also be available on enquiry.

TOUR DATES & HOW TO BOOK

**TOURING
TOGETHER**

ROYAL & DERNGATE, NORTHAMPTON

Monday 28 September - Saturday 10 October 2026

See ticket deals and book [here](#)

Booking contact email : BoxOffice@royalandderngate.co.uk
Tel : 01604 624811

OXFORD PLAYHOUSE

Tuesday 13 - Saturday 17 October 2026

See ticket deals and book [here](#)

Booking contact email : boxoffice@oxfordplayhouse.com
Tel : 01865 305305

NOTTINGHAM PLAYHOUSE

Thursday 29 - Saturday 31 October 2026

See ticket deals and book [here](#)

Booking contact Tel : 0115 941 9419

WARWICK ARTS CENTRE

Thursday 5 - Saturday 7 November 2026

See ticket deals and book [here](#)

Booking contact email : groupbookings@warwick.ac.uk
Tel : 024 7649 6000

LEEDS PLAYHOUSE

Wednesday 11 - Saturday 14 November 2026

See ticket deals and book [here](#)

Booking contact email : info@leedsplayhouse.org.uk
Tel : 01132 137700

BRIGHTON DOME

Tuesday 17 - Saturday 21 November 2026

See ticket deals and book [here](#)

Booking contact email : tickets@brightondome.org
Tel : 01273 709709

ABOUT TOURING TOGETHER

Once Upon A Time In Sokoto is presented in association with TOURING TOGETHER - a new national programme, bringing bold stories which shine a fresh light on the world we live in today, to audiences across the country.

TOURING TOGETHER is a China Plate and Fuel initiative in collaboration with Brighton Dome, Leeds Playhouse, Oxford Playhouse, Royal and Derngate, Northampton and Warwick Arts Centre, generously supported using public funding by the National Lottery through Arts Council England. In addition to the Touring Together partner venues, Nottingham Playhouse and Bristol Old Vic will also receive the production as part of its UK tour.

Each venue will present every Touring Together production annually in the same time slot each year, so you'll always know when to expect the best new theatre to you! In Autumn 2027, you can expect a new show from China Plate – stay tuned.



Fuel

Commissioner and Producer

Fuel leads the field in independent producing in the UK's live performance sector, working with brilliant artists to explore the big questions of our times. From theatres to car parks, from schools to public spaces, Fuel produces high quality new theatre that reaches diverse audiences across the UK and internationally.

Celebrated for its pioneering producing model that develops innovative ideas through attentive collaboration, a spirit of curiosity, and an emphasis on trust, Fuel has developed a reputation for spirited and surprising new theatre, deep relationships with a wide range of artists, and passionate commitment to inclusion and care for young and diverse audiences. Founded in 2004 and led by Kate McGrath, Fuel has produced shows, festivals, films, installations, podcasts, apps and books, supporting the development of over 120 lead artists or companies and reaching over 1.5 million people, live and digitally, and is recognised with awards for its work.

Fuel is currently working with artists and companies including Khalid Abdalla, Will Adamsdale, Jay Bernard, Inua Ellams, Natalie Ibu, Racheal Ofori, Toby Olié, Suspect Culture, Joelle Taylor, Uninvited Guests, and Melanie Wilson. Fuel is supported by Arts Council England as a National Portfolio Organisation, the Esmée Fairbairn Foundation, and the PRS Foundation (Talent Development Network).

For more information, please visit: fueltheatre.com

Photos by Tristram Kenton, Oluwatosin Daniju, Manuel Vason



@fueltheatre



**TOURING
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CHINA PLATE

Co-commissioner and Co-producer

China Plate is a theatre producing studio based in Birmingham and working across the UK.

As an arts charity, we help people to make creative projects happen – from theatre shows, to audio anthologies, to bus stop galleries.

Our mission is to develop a new model of creating and producing theatre that opens up the way performance is made, who makes it and who it's experienced by.

We seek to work as part of creative communities, outside of and within the arts, which include artists, organisations, freelancers, community groups, participants, and audiences.

Through our Training & Development programmes we support the next generation of producers, nurture artistic practice, commission work, increase access and widen diversity.

For more information, please visit: <https://chinaplatetheatre.com>



@china_plate_theatre



chinaplatetheatre



china-plate-theatre-ltd

Photos by Iona Firouzabadi, Hayley Salter, Ellie Kurttz

WANT TO KNOW MORE?

To learn more about **Schools ticket offer & Engagement opportunities** for *Once Upon a Time in Sokoto*,
please contact the Box Office for your local venue (see p.5)

To learn more about the wider Touring Together programme please contact:

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