

Development of **BLACK ATLAS** was made possible in part through the support of
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LONDON SHAKESPEARE WORKOUT

~ Promoting Confidence Through the Will to Dream ~



An LSW World Premiere Presentation -
inspired by George MacDonald Fraser's
best-selling novel 'Black Ajax'

LSW's production of BLACK ATLAS celebrates the Bi-Centennial of the signing of the Act of Abolition from Slavery in the British Empire, (25th March 1807). This production was, in some part, developed through LSW's 'A Way Out' workshops involving a mixture of professional performers, ex-offenders and BME community members and is performed by a mixture of the same as per LSW tradition. LSW is proud to feature an original score by Tim Williams, LSW's Musical Director with additional contributions by the cellist, Ben Trigg. Lyrics heard are historical, including a range of British slave and sporting songs from the Regency period

Following each performance of Black Atlas (circa 1hr. 18 mins), there will be a Talk-Back (20 mins) during which themes/issues raised by the play and LSW's work can be discussed and there will be an additional presentation of original materials/music therein.

For further information on LSW & The LSW Prison Project, LSW Productions
(Reg. Charity No. 1084717) or any please write via the secure address, LSW Prison
Project, Post Office Box No. 31855, London SE17 3XP or
E-Mail: lswprison@europe.com or londonswo@hotmail.com

LSW is especially grateful to Gayle Hunnicutt, Chairman of LSW's Executive Committee and all members of that esteemed body and to Xander Hough for the composition of the music for Darren Raymond's 'Give Me Back'. LSW's thanks also go to Intermission at St. Saviours (an artistic meeting/resting place) for their continued faith in the dream that is LSW and for their generous and continued provision of rehearsal / workshop space. Without this interactive partnership, the work you witness today would not have been able to thrive as it does.



BLACK ATLAS – DRAMATIS PERSONAE –

Tom Molineaux*

William Richmond*

Singer / Pierce Egan* (18th Feb – 10th March)

Singer / Pierce Egan* (12th Mar – 5th April)

Luicien Marie Destree de la Guise / Captain Buck*

Richard Molineaux* / Paddington Jones*

The Prince Regent* / Tom Cribb*

King George III*

The Teller

Fabian Spencer

Darren Raymond

Rodger Dunklee

Bruce Johnson

Oliver Hume

Peter Eastland

Nic Alexander

Brad Damon

Bruce Wall

For Full Biographies of all BLACK ATLAS cast members please refer to the 25 page BLACK ATLAS web pack on <http://www.lswproductions.co.uk/Batour.htm> (* = historical character)

🎭 Production Staff 🎭

Production Director / LSW Executive Director

Composer / Keyboard Artist / LSW Musical Director

Cello

Costumer

BA Co. Manager / Press & Marketing Associate

BA Director of Transport

Fight Co-ordination Assistance

Photographs

Dr. Bruce Wall

Tim Williams

Ben Trigg

Phil Newman

Nicholas Choulman

Bradley Dickson

Youngblood, (Tim Klotz
Dan Styles), Peter Fortune
Lady Camilla Panufnik,
Georgia Otker

LONDON SHAKESPEARE WORKOUT (LSW) & LSW PRISON PROJECT

LSW, as founded by Dr. Bruce Wall and Dame Dorothy Tutin, began life as a 'gym for the Bard' for professional performers on 26th October 1997. The first LSW Prison Project took place on 25th November 1998 at HMP Woodhill under the auspices of Sir Stephen Tumin. In the past ten years LSW has been privileged to undertake a wide range of productions/programmes involving over 9,000 offenders/ex-offenders additionally involving - on an interactive basis - over 12,000 professional performers ranging from Fiona Shaw to Sir Jonathan Miller. LSW Projects/Productions have been seen in venues ranging from Scotland Yard to the House of Lords, from the Bath Shakespeare Festival to the Royal Opera House. Active partnerships have stretched from on-going associations with Cambridge/Oxford Universities to recently developed incentives with the RSC (education) and the Canadian Stratford Festival. Tessa Jowl, Minister of Culture, Media and Sport has noted: "We know full well that if we are to cut off the roots of crime, we have to give people something positive, not simply take away their liberty... LSW's projects have successfully raised individual horizons and improved participants' sense of self-esteem. One project at HMP Lewes included a 16-year-old inmate initially introduced to the project leaders as 'disruptive'. By the project's end he was delivering his own verse in iambic pentameter and requesting more Shakespeare. Who said poetry makes nothing happen?" LSW is honoured to represent the UK on the UN's International Arts in Criminal Justice Regimes Panel. LSW looks forward in 2007 towards fulfilling projects throughout the UK as well as in the USA, Bulgaria, Austria, Latvia, Canada and Ireland and is most proud of its Corporate Incentive, the Willing Dreams Programme, developed in tandem with the London Business School, which strives to break barriers in terms of very real employment. LSW's stated purpose is to: 'Employ Shakespeare and the works of other major dramatic/cinematic/musical writers/thinkers as a tool towards effective interaction in order to (a) create new work and (b) promote confidence through the Will to Dream for all'. We thank all for their support for our dream.

DR. ROWAN WILLIAMS, ARCHBISHOP OF CANTERBURY

"Even today we are not free. There is the slavery of poverty, injustice & greed. There is the active literacy of slavery. At the heart of the Church's apology to people who have suffered is an acknowledgment that Britain played as a big role in the slave trade as in the abolition of it."

QADAR, 'BLACK ATLAS' WORKSHOP MEMBER

"I am a 24-year-old Londoner. This is my first experience of acting. The reason I got into acting was to inspire up and coming youth. It was an opportunity that was given to me by a friend who happened to be involved with the LSW Prison Project at Brixton prison. If there is a message I would like to give it would be that there are always other roads a person can go down. Even if you might be put off, give it a try. I did and I am enjoying my involvement."

PETER WRENCH, DIRECTOR OF RESETTLEMENT, HM PRISON SERVICE

"LSW's work is impressive and powerful stuff - and an excellent illustration of the impact that the arts can have on individual offenders and ex-offenders."

PROF. ROGER GRAEF IN LONDON TIMES ARTICLE

"Reactions to the workshops are surprising to anyone with preconceptions about potential. Often the participants are made up of depressed, violent men and women. Most are dyslexic or have other learning problems. Yet Wall will soon persuade them that they can grasp 17th Century verse. In all my years as a film-maker and criminologist I have never seen such immediate results."

LORD ROOKER, HOUSE OF LORDS, HANSARD, COL. 453

"My Lords, yes, indeed - one arts based initiative, the London Shakespeare Workout, uses the language and themes of Shakespeare with professional theatrical performers to engage inmates, ex-offenders, excluded community members, education staff and prison officers - Indeed us all. It is not new. It is not all about clamping people down, it is about opening them up and encouraging them to be positive whether they have offended or not. ... This is an important issue to have been raised in the House."

COLIN, HMP RISLEY – 'EX-CRIM'

"Apart from breaking up the monotony of prison life, your Workout has broken up the monotony of my whole life which has basically been the pursuit of happiness through drugs. I now realise that after years of searching for some other form of release for my energies that acting is something that gives me great feelings of fulfilment... You've proved to me that there are other keys to unlock the pleasures of the brain apart from chemical ones. I am slave no more."

CLAIRE NEILSEN, SHAKESPEARE AUTHORITY/LECTURER

"I was doing a workshop this morning for the Shakespeare Birthplace Trust & I hope you don't mind but I showed a copy of Darren Raymond's poem to a few of the staff & Paul Edmonson, Head of Education there, telling them the source of it was in one of your sessions. We all got terribly excited about it and would like Darren to know that many who spend their lives trying to fire people up about Shakespeare really love this sonnet and think it will have a strong influence, especially on young people."

LEARN TODAY – LEAD TOMORROW

As an incentive for personal development ex-offender Darren Raymond, LSW's Diversity and Development Associate, has created a clothing brand through which he seeks to educate through fashion. During the Talk-Back, immediately following the Black Atlas' performance, LT² T-Shirts will be available for purchase from Darren, himself, at the special promotional cost of £8.