

verve
PICTURES

Released 1st July 2022
Running time 84 minutes
Certificate TBC



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Synopsis

Logline

Set during a pandemic, *The Wanderer* undertakes an intrepid journey across England in Larry Achiampong's first feature and most ambitious film to date.

Short Synopsis

Wayfinder is Larry Achiampong's first feature and most ambitious film to date. Set during a pandemic, the film tracks the movements of its central protagonist - *The Wanderer*, a young girl (played by Perside Rodrigues), on an intrepid journey across England. Presented across six chapters, including 'The North', 'The Land of Smoke' and 'The Kingdom of the East', this epic film builds a dialogue around the themes of class and economic exclusion, belonging and displacement, cultural heritage and the meaning of home.

Long Synopsis

Wayfinder is Larry Achiampong's first feature and most ambitious film to date.

Set during a pandemic, the film tracks the movements of its central protagonist - *The Wanderer*, a young girl (played by Perside Rodrigues), on an intrepid journey across England.

Travelling from North to South, *The Wanderer* passes through different regions, towns and landscapes, encountering people, stories and situations on her way.



Presented across six chapters, including 'The North', 'The Land of Smoke' and 'The Kingdom of the East', this epic film builds a dialogue around the themes of class and economic exclusion, belonging and displacement, cultural heritage and the meaning of home.

With the film set during an unknown point in the not-too-distant-future during a discursive moment in time. The Wanderer acts as a witness to accounts, conversations, places and histories - both known and dormant.

Setting out from Bowness-on-Solway, a village that separates England from Scotland, the film follows the Wanderer's journey across the ancient paths of Hadrian's Wall and other significant environments thereafter. From Hemmingwell housing estate in Wellingborough to the National Gallery deserted at night, through the international port London Gateway (in Essex), eventually reaching the sea at Margate.

A road movie of sorts, Wayfinder draws on British traditions of travel and exploration of the sublime landscape and the sea - reflecting on division and crisis in this nation today. Addressing an unreconciled history of empire and inequality, it asks: who is allowed to feel that they belong?

The film combines sweeping shots with poetic voice-over narratives, melded with real 'vox pop' testimonies, field recordings and an original orchestral score composed by Achiampong.

The film's cast includes former athlete Anita Neil OLY, who is Britain's first Black female Olympian, Musician and Artist Mataio Austin Dean (who plays The Griot), and a trippy dialogue-driven scene (set within East London Café E. Pellicci in Bethnal Green) portrayed by Maa Afua and Russell Tovey among others.



Director's Statement

This project feels like a poignant moment for me, not just professionally and as a maker of films, but also personally. It has felt very important and necessary, especially at this point in time to be able to bring this range of subject matter and conversations to the table at what is increasingly becoming a contentious moment of our times.

I am so excited to share the expansive vision of this story which marks a new and exciting stage in my art practice. I never set out to create a film of this size, but due to the scope of ideas that evolved along the way, it increasingly became inevitable that this would become my first feature film.

Larry Achiampong



Filmmaker

Larry Achiampong

Larry Achiampong's solo and collaborative projects employ film, still imagery, aural and visual archives, live performance, objects and sound to explore ideas surrounding class, gender, cross-cultural and post-digital identity.

With works that examine his communal and personal heritage - in particular, the intersection between Popular culture and the post-colonial position, Achiampong crate-digs the vaults of history. These investigations examine constructions of 'the self' by splicing the audible and visual materials of personal and interpersonal archives, offering multiple perspectives that reveal the deeply entrenched inequalities in contemporary society.

Recent projects include commissions with The Line, London; The Liverpool Biennial 2021 and Art on the Underground, Roundel designs and a permanent sculptural intervention for Transport for London's Westminster Underground Station, London (2019 and 2022).



Recent solo exhibitions include *Wayfinder*, Turner Contemporary/MK Gallery/BALTIC Centre for Contemporary Art, Margate, Milton Keynes, Gateshead (2022-2023); *Relic Traveller: Where You and I Come From, We Know That We Are Not Here Forever*, Phi Foundation for Contemporary Art, Montreal (2021); *Beyond the Substrata*, curated by Norman Rosenthal, Copperfield Gallery at Frieze Focus, 12 Piccadilly Arcade, London (2020); *When the Sky Falls*, John Hansard Gallery, Southampton (2020); *Pan African Flag For The Relic Travellers Alliance & Relic Traveller, Phase 1*, O19, Ghent (2019); *Dividednation*, Primary, Nottingham (2019).

Achiampong (b. 1984, UK, British Ghanaian) is a Jarman Award nominated artist (2021). He completed a BA in Mixed Media Fine Art at University of Westminster in 2005 and an MA in Sculpture at The Slade School of Fine Art in 2008. In 2020 Achiampong was awarded the Stanley Picker fellowship and in 2019 received the Paul Hamlyn Artist award in recognition for his practice. He lives and works in London and Essex, and was a tutor on the Photography MA programme at Royal College of Art between 2016 - 2021. Achiampong currently serves on the Board of Trustees at Iniva (Institute of International Visual Arts) facilitating art policies in the UK and internationally and also holds a place on the board of trustees for Elephant Trust and is represented by C Ø P P E R F I E L D.

Directed & Produced by
Larry Achiampong

Written by
Larry Achiampong & Aida Amoako

Edited by
Larry Achiampong & Rhea Storr

Executive Producer
Nephertiti Oboshie Schandorf

Directors of Photography
Larry Achiampong & Rhea Storr

Music Composed by
Larry Achiampong

Field Recordings by
Larry Achiampong

Audio-Visual Equipment Provided by
Look Mama! Productions

Sound Design & Audio Mix by
Look Mama! Productions

Costume Design by
**Dawuud Kangudi Loka & Larry
Achiampong**

Camera Work by
**Rhea Storr
Samara Addai
Reece Straw
Larry Achiampong**

Drone Operator
Larry Achiampong

Production Documentation
Reece Straw

Production Supervisor
Louise Searle

Location Management
Bowness on Solway, Steel Rig,
Lambley - **Louise Searle**
E. Pellicci, London - **Hayleigh-Joy
Rose**
Dreamland, Margate - **Sian Morse**
National Gallery, London - **Priyesh
Mistry**

Machine Operators (Dreamland,
Margate)
Richard Cadell & Ross Pearson

Typeface Design
Jess Latham (Blue Vinyl Fonts)

Unit Driver
William Anderson

Production Assistant
Zara Truss Giles

Guardians to Ms Rodrigues
**Alida Rodrigues
Louise Searle**

Cast
(In Order of Appearance)
Voice #1 - **Zael Grace Rose-
Achiampong**
Voice #2 - **Nephertiti Oboshie
Schandorf**
The Wanderer - **Perside Rodrigues**
The Griot - **Mataio Austin Dean**
Voice #3 - **Marla Brown
Anita Neil OLY** - Herself
Voices #4 and #5 - **Nephertiti
Oboshie Schandorf & Marla Brown**
Voice #6 - **Mataio Austin Dean
Russell** - **Russell Tovey**
(Aunty) Comfort - **Maa Afua**
Voice #7 - **Hayleigh-Joy Rose**
Voice #8 - **Laura Achiampong Seinti**