



## TV PREVIEW

# Champion

### Champion (episode 1)

Writer & Executive Producer:

Candice Carty-Williams

Director: John Ogunmuyiwa

Executive Producers: Bryan Elsley, Charlie Pattinson, Dave Evans, Willow Grylls, Imogen O'Sullivan, Danielle Scott-Haughton

Producer: Joy Gharoro-Akpojotor

Casting Director: Daniel Edwards

Director of Photography: Christopher Sabogal

Production Designer: Gini Godwin

Costume Designer: Cynthia Lawrence-John

Hair & Make-Up Designer: Marcia Blackwood

Music Executives: Ray BLK,

Justin Clarke aka Ghetts

Music Supervisor: Catherine Grieves

Music Advisor: Hattie Collins

Cast:

Déja J Bowens (*Vita*)

Malcolm Kamulete (*Bosco*)

Nadine Marshall (*Aria*)

Ray Fearon (*Beres*)

Ray BLK (*Honey*)

Kerim Hassan (*Memet*)

Adeyinka Akinrinade (*Chantelle*)

Tom Forbes (*Mark*)

Genesis Lynea (*Tayo*)

Jo Martin (*Dawn*)

Olivia-Rose Colliard (*Milan*)

Karl Collins (*Lennox*)

Rachel Adedeji (*Yemi*)

Corey Weekes (*Bulla*)

Francis Lovehall (*Laurent*)

Fergus Rees (*Philip*)

Levi Babin (*young Bosco*)

Saskia Holness (*young Vita*)

Remi Burgz (*as herself*)

Faye Campbell (*record label assistant*)

BBC 2023

45 mins

+ Q&A with Candice Carty-Williams, Déja J Bowens, Malcolm Kamulete, Ray BLK and John Ogunmuyiwa

*Champion* is the first TV project from Candice Carty-Williams, author of the *Sunday Times* bestselling novels *Queenie* and *People Person*.

Rap sensation Bosco Champion is home from prison, and ready to dominate the music industry once more. But when his dutiful younger sister Vita's own talent is discovered by Bosco's rival, she steps out of her brother's shadow to become a performer in her own right, setting the *Champion* siblings against one another and tearing apart the whole family in the process.

A love letter to Black British music set in south London, *Champion* is a celebration of a sound that has long been the beating heart of our culture. Featuring original music written and produced by some of the leading musicians this country has to offer including Ray BLK, Ghetts and more.

Sibling rivalry never sounded so epic.

### About the panel

#### Candice Carty-Williams

Candice Carty-Williams was born in south London in 1989. She is a novelist, now showrunner, culture writer, and author of Book of the Year Award winning and *Sunday Times* bestselling *Queenie*, as well as the young adult novella *Empress and Aniya*, and the *Sunday Times* bestselling *People Person*. In 2016, Candice created and launched the *Guardian* and 4th Estate Short Story Prize for underrepresented writers, the first inclusive initiative of its kind in book publishing. *Champion* is Candice's first project for TV, and *Queenie* is currently being adapted for Channel 4 and Disney, with Candice showrunning.

#### Déja J Bowens

Having recently left drama school, she is about to make her on screen debut in the hugely anticipated BBC drama *Champion*. Déja takes on the co-lead as Vita in the eight part series. Prior to this, Déja was on stage at the Donmar Warehouse in *Marys Seacole*.

#### Malcolm Kamulete

British rising star Malcolm Kamulete is probably best known for his role as Ra'Nell in Netflix's much-loved thriller drama series *Top Boy*. Malcolm will next be seen starring as Bosco Champion in BBC's *Champion* by *Queenie* author Candice Carty-Williams. He also starred alongside Nicholas Pinnock in critically acclaimed short film *Things I Never Told My Father*, written and produced by Letitia Wright and was winner of 'Best International' at the New York Shorts International Film Festival. He can also be seen as Rambo in Sky Studio's *Fields* and in Paramount's *III Manors* with Riz Ahmed and Ed Skrein. Malcolm is a talented rapper and has just been listed as one of *The Face's* 'stars to watch'.

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## IN PERSON & PREVIEWS

### Refugee Week: UK Premiere: The Woodman

Mon 19 Jun 20:50

### Refugee Week: Preview: Name Me Lawand + discussion with director Edward Lovelace and Steve Crump OBE, founder and chair of Deaf Kidz International

Tue 20 Jun 18:10

### Preview: Shabu + Q&A with director

Shamira Raphaëla

Sat 1 Jul 18:10

### Preview: The Damned Don't Cry (Les damnés ne pleurent pas) + Q&A with director Fyzal Boulifa

Tue 4 Jul 18:10

### Mark Kermode Live in 3D at the BFI

Mon 17 Jul 18:30

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## Ray BLK

Ray BLK, short for Building, Living, Knowing, is a Nigerian-born singer, songwriter, and actress and entrepreneur from South London. Her debut mixtape, 'Havisham' (2015), drew inspiration from Charles Dickens' *Great Expectations*, telling a story of heartbreak and empowerment, introducing her to the British audience.

In a remarkable achievement, Ray became the first and only unsigned artist to win BBC's Sound of Music award. Her debut EP, *Durt* (2016) featured SG Lewis, Wretch 32, and her breakthrough hit 'My Hood' featuring Stormzy. She followed it up with *Empress*, a project full of self-love anthems, including her critically acclaimed hit 'Run Run' tackling youth violence. Her uncompromising lyricism and vulnerability took centre stage in her highly anticipated debut album, *Access Denied* (2021) earning Ray a No 1 album on the R&B Chart & critical acclaim from *The Guardian*, *NME* and *The Evening Standard*. She's been featured in the Forbes 30 under 30, toured with Nicki Minaj, along with having her own sold out US and UK tours under her belt. Her previous collaborations also include the likes of Gorillaz, Wyclef Jean and Beenie Man, but her creative pursuits extend beyond music and acting. Ray has also made a splash in the beauty industry. In 2021, Ray successfully launched her own nail brand, 'Blklisted,' adding another dimension to her creative endeavours.

Ray is set to make her acting debut in BBC's series *Champion* by Candice Carty-Williams, where she takes on the role of 'Honey' while also serving as Music Executive alongside Ghetts. She has recorded the new single 'My Girl' which features on the official soundtrack.

## John Ogunmuyiwa

An award-winning, Nigerian-born, London-bred filmmaker whose work draws upon a constant questioning of what it means to be normal. Working out ideas, what ifs, isn't it weirds and wouldn't it be cools through the medium of film. Using daily observations as a base, he tends to bring a tinge of surrealism/magic into his work where he can. All with the aim of telling untold stories from a different perspective.