**An Adventure – pre show notes**

Welcome to these pre show notes for An Adventure, by Vinay Patel, directed for the Bush Theatre by Madani Younis. The audio described performance will take place on Saturday September 29th. Please note the following times are earlier than usual because of the length of the play. The touch tour will be at 1 o’clock, these notes will be delivered live through the headsets at 1.45, and the play itself will begin at 2 o’clock.. It lasts for three hours and 20 minutes, including two 15-minute intervals.

An Adventure is an epic tale, set over more than 60 years, from 1954 to the present day. The location ranges from post-partition India, to Kenya, to London, and back.

The staging is simple and uncluttered. The audience is ranged on two sides of the space. Between them is a black stage about 4 metres by 3, raised above the floor by a little less than a metre. Its shiny top reflects the lights that shine above the audience seating as we enter the auditorium. The audience faces the longer sides of the rectangular stage. On the other two sides, the theatre walls are each covered with a large screen. These screens are occasionally used as part of the action, and otherwise display abstract designs.

Settings are created with just a few well-chosen props - a table, a child’s buggy, a wheelchair. Partway through Act 1, the stage floor is covered with earth, and in Act 2 this is replaced with a fitted oatmeal carpet. In the final act, scatters of earth lie on three sections of white material spread out on the stage floor, each about a metre long and half as wide.

There are seven characters, three men and four women. All but one of them are Indian, and the roles are played by actors of Asian appearance.

The story begins in India, where we meet **Jyoti** and her suitor **Rasik.** Jyoti is in her teens – a lithe, confident young girl with long wavy black hair, a ready smile and a challenging look in her big brown eyes. Head up, she moves with quick energy, barefoot in a pale butter coloured smock with ankle grazing cream trousers.

Rasik is a little older, in his early twenties, but less self assured. He’s tall and skinny, with a thatch of dark hair, layered and swept back off his long face. Rasik has a gentle smile. He is dressed in a fawn suit too large for him, with a pale blue open necked shirt. The jacket is lined with deep gold shiny fabric. Like Jyoti, Rasik is barefoot.

They travel to Kenya, where they meet **David,** a very tall burly black man who dwarfs all the others by his size and presence. He wears old clothes – black tee shirt, grey joggers and camel coloured work boots – and moves deliberately, standing tall. David generally has a wary look in his eye as he watches those about him.

Later, in London, we meet **Sonal**, Rasik and Jyoti’s daughter. She’s in her late teens. Sonal is taller than Jyoti, with wide brown eyes and shoulder length curly brown hair, and dresses simply, in western clothes – a short sleeved pale green top over loose, cream-coloured, calf length trousers.

The story returns to India, where we meet **Joy.** She is played by the same actress as Sonal, and looks exactly like her, so that it takes us some time to establish who she is. Joy is about 30, and her hair is scraped back in a bun. She wears an old white tee shirt with padded work trousers, grey with hi-vis stripes, held up with narrow shoulder straps attached to the waistband. She stands erect and looks at people assertively, straight in the eye.

We meet her as she speaks with an older **Jyoti** and **Rasik**, now in their seventies and eighties and played by different actors from their younger selves. Jyoti moves stiffly, shuffling from time to time. Sometimes she twists her hands nervously. Her features have broadened and softened, and her iron grey hair is chin length and held back off her face. Jyoti is expensively dressed in a cream tunic and trousers, with a silky jade scarf, her feet encased in pale pumps.

**Rasik** isnow in a wheelchair, and wears old man’s clothes – pale shirt, beige cardigan, brown cord trousers and bulky russet slippers. His skin is paler than before, and he has a full beard. His earlier energy is replaced by resignation, but from time to time there’s still a humourous twinkle in his eyes.

Finally, here are the cast and production credits.

Young JeeOHti is played by ANjana VasAAN, and young Rasik by SHOOBhum SarEEF.

Their older selves are played by Neela Aalia and Selva RassaLINGham.

Sonal, and Joy, are both played by Ayeesha Kala

And David is played by Martins Imhangbe.

The lighting is designed by Sally Ferguson

And the sound by Ed Clarke.

The Designer is Rosanna Vize

An Adventure is directed by Madani Younis.