Welcome to this audio introduction to I Wanna Be Yours the debut play by Zia Ahmed performed in the Studio Theatre at The Bush. I Wanna Be Yours is presented by Paines Plough and Tamasha in association with Bush Theatre. Matinee performances are at 2.45 on Wednesday and Saturdays and evening performances at 7.45. The performance lasts for one hour and ten minutes with no interval and audience members who leave the performance cannot be readmitted.

This introduction will also be played in the theatre 15 minutes before the start of the matinee performance on Saturday 11 January.

The play carries a warning that the show includes themes of racism, Islamophobia and classism as well as strong language, references to death, violence, blood, alcohol and drugs. There is a mention of child grooming and suicide, but these are not discussed or depicted. If you require anymore information please call the box office 020 8743 5050

I Wanna Be Yours is described as: ‘a tender, funny, lyrical play about finding love and holding onto it. It is a fully BSL integrated (that’s British Sign Language) performance and tells the story of the relationship between two young people Ella from Yorkshire and Haseeb from London. A third, unnamed character, is the BSL actor/ signer, Rachael who is present throughout and plays an active part in the action on stage, interacting with both characters and also sometimes reacting to what is happening while simultaneously signing for D/deaf audience members.

The style of the performance is episodic, a series of short scenes which flow one into another telling the story of the growing relationship between Ella and Haseeb across a period of time.

The audience are seated in raked seating around three sides of the performance area. They are close enough for the feet of those in the front row to rest on the acting area. This is designated by a square area of carpet patterned in a chintz design. The back wall is draped with a soft velvet curtain in panels of brown and cream. This hangs from below a brown velvet pelmet. From time to time often accompanied by a music sequence red or blue light shines on the curtain. Standing against these are three simple gold metal framed chairs. Two stacked one on top of the other and a third standing beside them. All the chairs have dull, gold painted, metal frames and no arms. Two are upholstered in a brown moquette fabric the remaining chair in black.

**Ella** is in her mid 20s, a young white Yorkshire lass and an aspiring actress. She is short, compact figure with bright dark eyes and a ready smile. Her long chestnut coloured hair is swept back from her fresh, unmade up face in a centre parting and fastened in a low ponytail. Her ponytail hangs down her back to below her shoulders and is secured in a turquoise band. This matches the bright turquoise of her well manicured nails. She wears loose, black cotton trousers and a long-sleeved white tee-shirt with a thin red, well spaced horizontal stripe, the sleeves pushed up to above her elbows. She has large gold hooped earrings and also wears a small silver pendant.

**Haseeb** is a tall, slim, dark-skinned young man of a similar age. He is a Londoner. His short, jet black hair waves gently around his angular face, from under his maroon beannie hat which he never removes. Haseeb has dark eyes with an intense gaze and a neatly trimmed black beard and moustache. He wears grey cargo pants and a loose grey sweat shirt.

Both actors address remarks directly to us on occasions and their interactions are often accompanied by a dance sequence where they move with fluid ballroom style movement or in contrast throw exuberant disco style moves.

BSL sign language is totally integrated into this performance. The BSL signer, **Rachael** is the third performer, often at the centre of the action. She is in her late 20s or early 30s, with expressive features and hands. She is dressed in a loose, mid calf length, dress in a soft, dark green, patterned fabric with elbow length sleeves. Her wild blonde hair is caught back from her face and hangs loose to her shoulders. She is often very close to either or both of them echoing their emotions and observing their interaction.

All three performers are bare foot, removing their shoes when they first enter. They inhabit the whole of the acting area often moving with choreographed precision. A seat on either side of the acting area remains empty to be occupied from time to time by a character who observes the action when not directly involved in a scene.

Cast and Production Team

Ella is played by **Emily Stott**

Haseeb played by **Ragevan Vasan**

Rachael Merry is herself and the **BSL signer**

Designer is **Mydd Pharo**

Composition and sound **Anna Clock**

Movement by **Jennifer Jackson**

I Wanna Be Yours is directed by **Anna Himali Howard**

And the writer is **Zia Ahmed.**

More information about this and future audio described productions is available from the theatre box office who will be happy to assist.