

Last updated: 14/07/2021

## PRE-SHOW INFORMATION

This document contains detailed information about the show in order to describe what you should expect when attending. This includes information about the plot, content warnings, the space, lighting and sound, audience participation, and further access information.

All of the information in this document was correct at the time of publishing. As the show is in development, more information will be available closer to the time of performance.

Please note that by discussing the content of the show, the below information **will contain key plot points and descriptions of what happens in the performance**. If you would like to receive elements of this information but avoid these spoilers, please do not read 'About the Show' and 'Content Warnings'.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact our Box Office team:

**Email:** [boxoffice@bushtheatre.co.uk](mailto:boxoffice@bushtheatre.co.uk)

**Phone number:** 020 8743 5050

**Bush  
Theatre**

# Lava

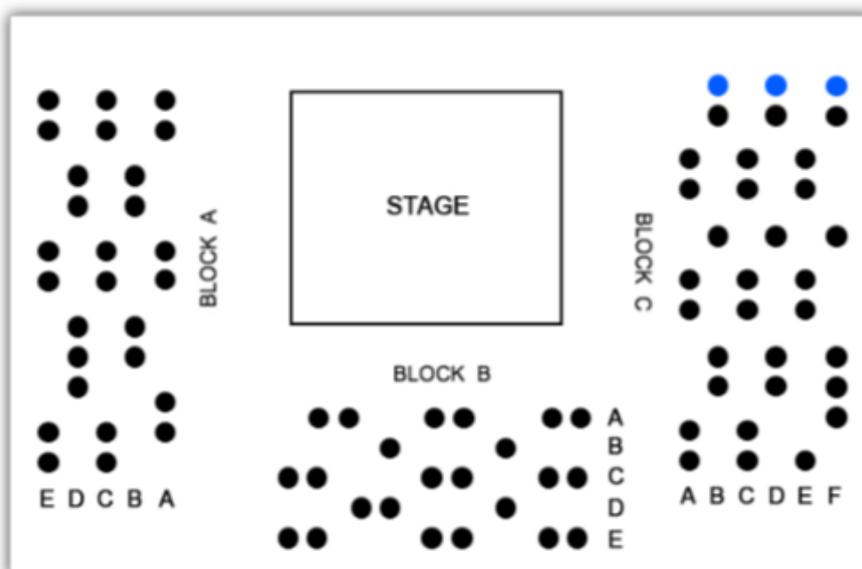
By Benedict Lombe

## About the show:

- The show is a monologue from the perspective of the unnamed protagonist, a Congolese woman.
- The protagonist receives an unexpected letter from the British Passport Office indicating that her names do not match on her existing South African passport.
- The show follows the story of how she is forced to go back through the story of her life - being born in the Congo, growing up in post-Apartheid South Africa, moving to Ireland and finally to London.
- The show unpicks the legacy of imperialism and colonisation and the various ways structural and systemic inequalities persist today. It explores the damage this has on the wellbeing and survival of Black people.
- The show will last approximately 60 minutes with no interval. **More information about running times will be available nearer the time.**
- Digital Freesheets will be available in your pre-show email that will give more information about the show, cast and creatives.

## The Space:

- This show will take place in The Holloway Theatre. For this performance, the space will be in a 'Thrust' arrangement, meaning the seats are arranged on three sides of the stage (see below).



- Due to social distancing, the max capacity of our space is currently 83, with a 1m+ gap between each booking.

- Aside from when you are eating or drinking, we ask that you support us to keep everyone safe and wear a face covering at all times. Our staff will be wearing face coverings too. Rest assured, we are aware that some people cannot wear face coverings for health reasons. If this applies to you, [click here to download](#) a TfL exemption card. This card is not mandatory, but it will make your visit smoother as our teams can easily identify you as exempt.
- Access to the Holloway Theatre is on the ground floor and the floor is level.
- A wheelchair space is available to book for every show, with a companion seat adjacent. (Free tickets for essential companions are available)
- Please note that latecomers will not be admitted, and there is no readmission once the performance has begun.
- The set involves multiple levels, with the appearance of lava flowing between the steps. There is a raised platform at the front of the stage, and the stage steps up at the back up to a huge oversized open cardboard box, with a peeling address label that says Miss Her First Name, Her Middle Name, Her Last Name. In both back corners of the stage are broken concrete pillars, appearing to be engulfed by lava.

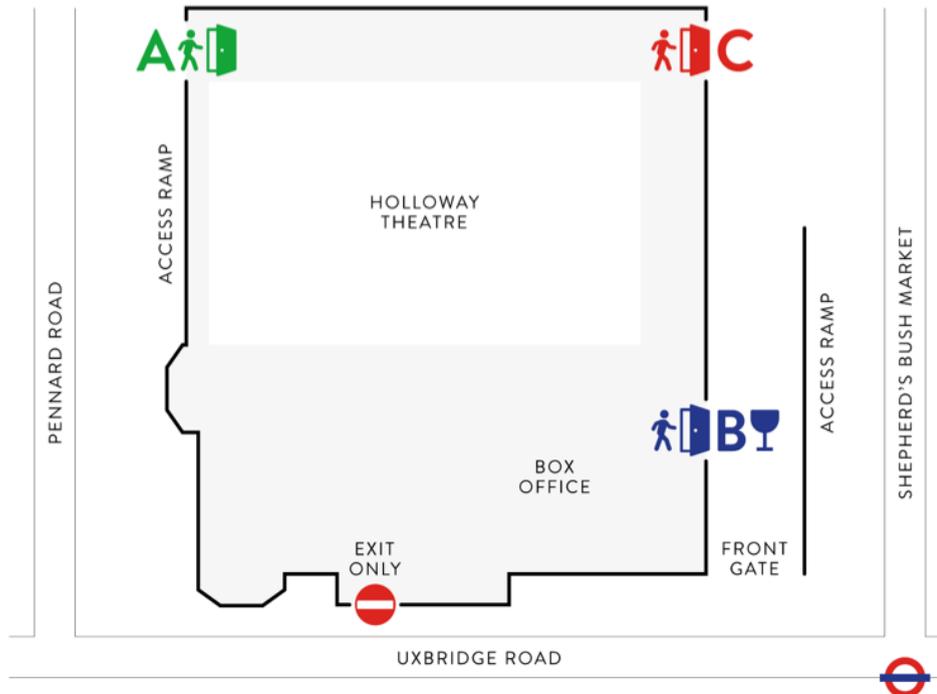


Photo by Helen Murray

### Access Information:

- There are three entrances to the building: the entrance you use will depend on where you are sitting. Please check this information on your ticket before you arrive.

### Find your entrance



- Entrance A (Pennard Road): is the entrance for those sitting in Bank A. It is accessible via a ramp suitable for wheelchair users and buggies to the left hand side of the building. An usher will greet you and show you to your seats.
- Entrance B: is the entrance for those sitting in Bank B, and where you will go if you have booked a table for a meal. It is accessible by ramp on the right hand side of the building. There is an automatic double glass door. From here the Box Office is to the left and the theatre Library Bar and Gianni and Michael Alen-Buckley Script Library are beyond the Box Office around the corner.
- Entrance C: is the entrance for those sitting in Bank C. It is accessible by ramp on the right hand side of the building that leads to our terrace. Customers will queue on the terrace to be seated by a front of house member.
- The Bush Theatre aims to be as accessible as possible in everything we do. The whole building is fully accessible for wheelchair users, a hearing loop is available, and Assistance Dogs are welcome at every performance. Complimentary tickets for essential companions are also available.
- [Please read our FAQ page that has more information about the show and accessing the theatre.](#)

## **Content Warnings**

This show contains:

- Use of strong language throughout.
- Discussions of and descriptions of systemic and structural racism.
- Discussion of British imperialism, colonisation and genocide.
- Discussion of slavery, indentured servitude and violence committed against enslaved people.
- Infrequent use of offensive racist language.
- Discussion of xenophobia and use of xenophobic language.
- Depiction of racist micro-aggressions.
- Discussion of exploitation of stories of trauma.
- References to and discussion of genocide and mass murder of African people, with particular reference to the Congo.
- Descriptions of police violence and police brutality towards Black people, including against Black protestors.
- Some graphic descriptions of violence (including a stabbing). Description of xenophobic violence, including graphic description of violence and injury.
- References to murder, kidnapping and disappearance.
- References to threats of violence.
- References to and description of deteriorating physical health, physical illness, pain and surgery.
- References to death and grief.
- Discussion of classism and poverty.
- Brief references to cat-calling and rape.
- Brief references to sex.

### **Lighting and Sound:**

- This show contains flashing and pulsating lights (not strobe lighting), moments of bright lighting directed towards the audience, and moments of darkness.
- This show contains flashing projected images.
- This show contains loud noises and music, particularly low frequency sounds.
- This show contains the use of haze throughout, and moments of smoke effects.

### **Audience Participation:**

- There will be direct address to the audience, including some moments where the audience is invited to respond.

**If you would like any further clarification of any of these content warnings, please do get in touch with our Box Office team:**

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