

Last updated: 11/08/2021

## PRE-SHOW INFORMATION

This document contains detailed information about the show in order to describe what you should expect. 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.

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 80 minutes.
- Digital Freesheets will be available in your pre-show email that will give more information about the show, cast and creatives.

### Watching Online:

- Lava – Online is streaming worldwide, so you can watch it from anywhere. The performance will begin promptly at 2.30pm or 7.30pm BST on the performance date you select.
- Following the live stream, you will be able to access the performance for 48 hours.
- You will be able to watch on any device, such as a computer, smartphone, tablet or smart TV with a stable internet connection.
- You'll receive an email with a custom link to view the live stream on the day of your performance. You can use your custom link to watch on your laptop, tablet, mobile device – or mirror the show to your smart TV.
- We recommend clicking on your link and getting set up at least half an hour before the stream begins. This will give you time to troubleshoot any issues should they arise.
- The live stream cannot be paused while you are watching it. The video will be available to watch at your convenience for 48 hours after the live stream, and you can pause, rewind and fast-forward as you please.
- [Find out more by reading our FAQs here.](#)

**Access Information:**

- Captions (English - UK) are available at every performance. To turn captions on or off, click the CC icon in the video frame. This will then give you an option to add English subtitles and also to turn them off.
- There will be two audio described performances available to watch, at 7.30pm on Thursday 19th August and 2.30pm Saturday 21st August, also available for 48 hours after the live stream. The audio description will be in English. If you need audio description, please ensure you book for one of these performances.

## **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), and moments of darkness.
- This show contains flashing projected images.
- This show contains loud noises and music.

**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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