

Bush Theatre

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 content warnings, plot, 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

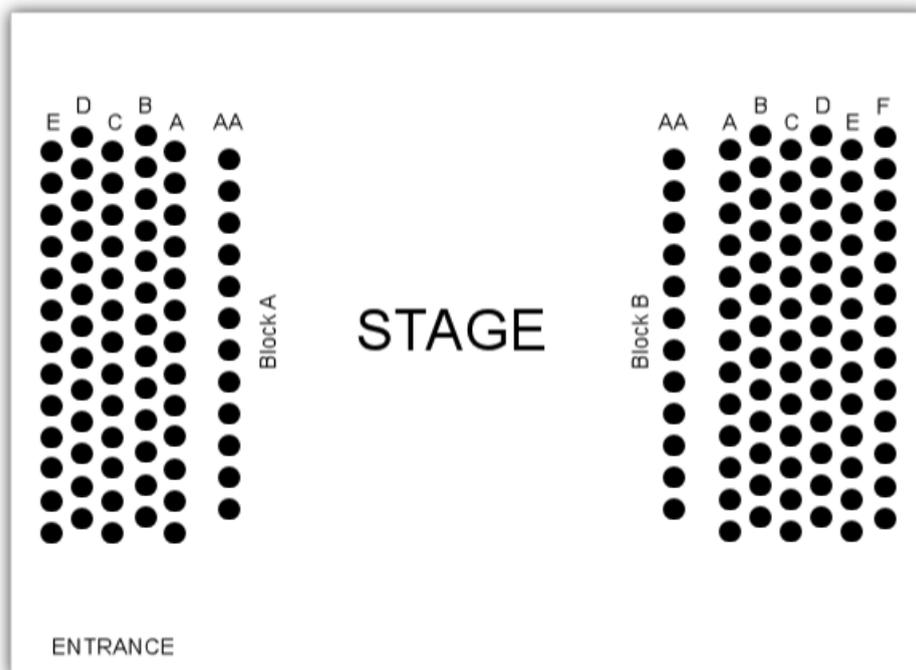
Phone number: 020 8743 5050

House of Ife By Beru Tessema

House of Ife will last approximately 2 hours with no interval.

The Space:

- This show will take place in the Holloway Theatre, which is the larger of our two performance spaces. For this performance, the space will be in a 'traverse' arrangement, meaning the seats are arranged on two sides of the stage (see below).
- The maximum capacity is 166. Access to the Holloway Theatre is on the ground floor and the floor is level.



- There is step free access to row A in both Block A and B.
- Row AA in both Block A and B is a step down from ground level.
- A wheelchair space is available to book for every show.
- Please note that due to the intimate nature of the performance space latecomers may not be admitted, and we cannot guarantee readmission once the performance has begun.

- There are fixed readmission points should you leave the space during the show. FOH staff will be able to help if you need to step out.

Access Information:

- There are two entrances to the Holloway Theatre - please check your assigned entrance on your e-ticket.
- **If you are sat in Block A, you will use Entrance A, which is through the main Holloway Theatre entrance.** Entrance A is accessible via a ramp suitable for wheelchair users and buggies to the right of the building, or via three steps. There is an automatic double glass door. From here the Box Office is to the left and the Library Café and Bar and Gianni and Michael Alen-Buckley Script Library are beyond the Box Office around the corner. Entrance A is the main doorway marked Holloway Theatre, just beyond the bar and to the right of the Script Library.
- **If you are sat in Block B, you will use Entrance B, which is through the Studio entrance.** Entrance B is accessible via the same ramp or steps. There is an automatic double glass door. The entrance is immediately to the right, through the door marked Studio.
- The main entrance on Uxbridge Road at the front of the building through the porch up some steps is being mostly used as an exit at present. If you do enter this way, the theatre's Library Café and Bar is straight ahead, the Gianni and Michael Alen-Buckley Script Library is to the left, and the Box Office to the right.
- Access to the Holloway Theatre is on the ground floor and the floor is level.
- The toilets are situated on the first floor and are accessible via stairs or the lift.
- There is also an accessible toilet on the ground floor beneath the stairs which access patrons have priority to use.
- There is step free access to row A in both Block A and B.
- 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.

If you would like more information about the show, our current safety measures and accessing the theatre, please [read our FAQs](#) or [get in touch](#).

About the show:

- The play centres an Ethiopian family from London who have suffered the loss of their son and brother, Ife. The play takes place mostly in their council estate flat in London.
- Ife's siblings Aida, Tsion and Yosi are doing last minute preparations for their brother's funeral whilst wondering when their father will be arriving from Ethiopia. The story follows the siblings, their mother Meron and father Solomon as we uncover how they all deal with grief and generational divides.
- As tensions rise in the wake of Solomon's arrival, the family's traumas and pain unravel.
- The play explores what it means for generational curses to be broken as we unpack all the pain and unspoken truths that lay amongst the family. It explores the dynamic of a first generation immigrant family dealing with the loss of their loved one who suffered from drug addiction.



Content Warnings:

- One moment of physical violence
- Use of strong language, including very infrequent use of a racial slur (the N word)
- Continued themes and depiction of grief and bereavement
- Descriptions of violence and blood
- Discussion of physical abuse of children
- Continued themes and discussion of drug use and addiction
- Themes of homophobia and allusions to homophobic violence
- Frequent depiction of excessive alcohol consumption and themes of alcoholism

- Infrequent depiction of smoking
- Depiction of and discussion of mental illness
- References to disordered eating and description of extreme weight loss
- Description of a corpse
- Discussion and description of religious rituals
- References to war and conflict in Ethiopia
- Contains brief moments of direct audience address.

Lighting and Sound:

- Contains frequent flashing and pulsating lights (not strobe lighting)
- Moments of darkness
- Loud noises and music, especially low frequency sound.

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