**Introductory notes Sleepova**

Welcome to this introduction to the audio described performance of Sleepova at the Bush Theatre.

The play was written by Matilda Feyisayo Ibini and directed by Jade Lewis.

There will be a touch tour at 1.30, the preshow notes begin at 2.15 and the performance itself at 2.30.

 It will be in a relaxed environment, which means you are welcome to respond to the show in any way that feels natural to you.

Please enter and exit the auditorium as you please, and there is a quiet chill out space with soft furnishings in the Script Library.

The describer will be me, Di Langford. The performance lasts or approximately two hours and ten minutes including a fifteen minute interval. Please make sure you turn your phones off, or on silent.

A quote by Angela Davis has been include in the programme.

*“Freedom can’t be contained within a paradigm that is individualistic. One cannot be free alone: freedom is collective. Freedom is about transforming conditions so that communities can live in more habitable conditions.”*

**CONTENT WARNINGS**

Strong language

Experiences of living with sickle cell

References to and description of mental and physical illness

References to homophobia, racism and sexism

Absent parents

Mention of a rape alarm

References to grief and bereavement

The Holloway auditorium is a flexible space, with the roof supported by four substantial pillars. For this production, the pillars stand at the four corners of the acting area, which is like a square pit with raised sides. A seating area runs all the way round inside the pit. The top of the seat can be raised and use to conceal props. The audience is seated on three sides. The fourth side is concealed by curtains which form the entrance to the room and can also be opened to represent another location. The action takes place in a bedroom and the whole area is covered in soft green carpeting, with signs that it belongs to a teenager. There are soft toys lying about and pictures of popular singers. More student type belongings lie on the shelf at the bottom of each pillar. There’s no furniture, just a scattering of coloured cushions and a small green pouffe with a stuffed animal sitting on top of it. The bedroom belongs to Shan and she and her friends are excitedly meeting up for their first sleepover.

The play begins in 2016. There are four performers, Rey, Funmi, Elle and Shan. They are all 15 and the play opens on Shan’s 16th birthday. As the audience are taking their seats the girls come in one by one and behave as if they are in their own bedroom at home. A spotlight picks out each girl as she speaks - they introduce themselves in the following way and tell you the name of the performer who is playing their part..

**Rey.**

Hi, my name is Rey, and I’m being played by Amber Grappy. I’m of mixed white and Grenadian heritage. My eye colour is dark brown, my hair colour is dark brown, and one fact about me is I love crystals. Rey is a plus size teenager, with light brown skin, and curly afro hair and she’s wearing dark pink matching pyjamas and soft backless slippers

Funmi

My name is Funmi, being played by Bukky Bakray. My pronouns are they/them. Our ethnicity is Nigerian. I have dark brown hair and dark brown eyes, and one fact about myself is I love Tyrese. Funmi‘s hair is braided close their head, They are wearing white trousers and a short brown zip up jacket and carrying an orange backpack. They have bare feet.

Elle

Hi, I’m Elle, played by Shayde Sinclair. I stand at 5’7”. I’ve got long black braids. I’ve got dark brown eyes. I’m of Jamaican heritage and I love Jamaican mac and cheese.

Elle arrives carrying a purple sports bag slung over her shoulder.

She has a long sleeved white tee shirt, lilac pyjama trousers and white ankle socks.

Shan

Hi, my name’s Shanice but my friends call me Shan. I’m being played by Aliyah Odoffin. I’m Nigerian Jamaican. I have dark brown eyes and long black hair and one fact about me is I love Paramore. Shan wears her hair in long black braids under a closefitting, knitted blue hat. She has a short sleeved pink and white top, white pyjama trousers and grey socks with white stars.

During the course of the action , which covers several sleepovers, the girls appear in a selection of comfortable pyjamas.

We hope you enjoy the performance! Go man, go, and put your pyjamas on.

CAST

Funmi is played by Bukki Bakray

Rey by Amber Grappy

Shan by Aliyah Odoffin

And Elle by Shayde Sinclair

Funmi’s Dad was voiced by Jude Akuwudike

Directed by Jade Lewis

Set and costume design by Cara Evans

Lighting design - Elliot Griggs

Sound Design - XANA

Composer - Romarna Campbell