

A photograph of a street scene at dusk. On the right, a red brick building features a prominent black sign with the words "Bush Theatre" in yellow. Below the sign, a large red and white poster is visible. Several people are walking on the sidewalk. In the background, other buildings and streetlights are visible under a twilight sky.

Bush Theatre

DARKLING

**Self-care guide
& content warnings**

What is this document?

This document contains information about ways to look after yourself before you watch, while you're at the theatre or after the play.

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

By discussing the content of the show, this will contain key plot points and descriptions of what happens in the performance.

All of the information here was accurate when we put this guide together. Details may change and we will update as soon as possible.

We believe that content warnings should be precise, objective and accessible. Content warnings are tool that enable audience members to make informed choices so they can engage with our productions on a more equitable footing.

Self-care - a concept which comes from the Black Feminist movement - is a choice to listen to our needs and look after ourselves, so we are able to keep going and live our best lives, despite the difficulties we experience in life and how they make us feel. [\[more info.\]](#)

Contents

Content guidance + Lighting and Sound ---- 3

Helplines and support ---- 4

Self-care suggestions ---- 5

The performance space ---- 7

Access information ---- 9

Contact details ---- 10

Content guidance

This show contains:

- Depictions of blood, vomiting, and injury
- Description of death, pregnancy loss and stillbirth
- Descriptions of sex and sexual violence, including sexual violence against children
- Descriptions of abuse, including abuse of children, emotional abuse and domestic coercion
- References to body hatred and suicide ideation
- References to harassment and bullying, sexism, classism and ableism
- Description of arranged marriage, patriarchal control and child labour
- Discussion of environmental contamination, corporate negligence and mass animal death
- Discussion of racism, discrimination and prejudice
- Use of strong language
- Descriptions of alcohol consumption and drunkenness

Lighting and Sound

This production may contain:

- Loud noises, including low frequency bass sounds
- Low smoke and haze effects
- Some lights directed towards the audience (particularly towards the front of Block C)
- Some flashing and pulsating lights
- Moments of darkness, including a moment of complete darkness at the end of the show.

This performance lasts around 90 minutes with no interval.

Helplines & Support

The Survivors Trust

The Survivors Trust is a national membership organisation supporting specialist rape and sexual abuse services in the voluntary sector.

thesurvivorstrust.org

Solace Women's Aid

London's largest domestic abuse and sexual violence charity, providing free advice, advocacy, refuge accommodation, campaigning for lasting change and more.

solacewomensaid.org or 0808 802 5565

One in Four

One in Four specialise in supporting childhood survivors and current survivors of sexual violence, domestic violence, abuse and trauma and raising awareness of this challenging issue.

oneinfour.org.uk

Samaritans

Provides 24/7 emotional support to anyone in emotional distress, struggling to cope, or at risk of suicide.

samaritans.org or 116 123

Hub of Hope

UK-wide mental health service database. Lets you search for local, peer, community, charity, private and NHS mental health support. hubofhope.co.uk

Papyrus

Papyrus is a young person's suicide prevention charity. They provide urgent support through HopeLine 24/7, training, campaigns and conversations that save lives.

papyrus-uk.org or 0300 102 2470 or Text 88247

Self-care suggestions

Watch with someone

Bring a friend or someone you trust to watch the play with you.

Talk to someone

If you find the content distressing try talking to someone you trust, or try one of the organisations suggested above.

Breathe

Breathing is a great way to help you feel calm. Try breathing in for four seconds, holding your breath for four seconds, exhaling for four seconds and holding again. Repeat this for as long as you need.

Find some nature

Look out of the window or go for a walk if you can; experiencing nature can help us feel grounded.

Shepherd's Bush Green is only a minute's walk away, and the Bush has a terrace with outdoor seating.

Know if you need to step away

There is nothing wrong with deciding this isn't for you or it's too much.

Leave the auditorium, walk away, take a break. Do what feels right for you.

Self-care suggestions

Try a grounding exercise

Grounding exercises are things you can do to bring yourself into contact with the present moment.

There are many ways you can do this. Here are some ideas:

1. Notice five things you can see, four things you can feel, three things you can hear, two things you can smell and one thing you can taste.
2. Sit with your feet on the floor and back against your chair and either gently tap each leg or cross your arms and tap your shoulders.
3. Wash your hands or drink some water.



The performance space

This show will take place in the Holloway Theatre, which is the larger of our two performance spaces.

Access to the Holloway Theatre is on the ground floor and the floor is level. There is step free access to row A in all banks. 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.

If you are late or leave during the performance, you may need to wait for an appropriate moment to enter the performance space.



Access information

The Bush Theatre building has two theatre spaces – the Holloway Theatre and the Studio – as well as our Library Bar.

The entrance is via the Bush terrace to the right hand side of the building, accessible via a ramp suitable for wheelchair users and buggies or via three steps. There is a red automatic double glass door.

From here the Box Office is to the left and the Library Bar and Gianni and Michael Alen-Buckley Script Library are beyond the Box Office around the corner. The Holloway Theatre entrance is just beyond the bar and to the right of the Script Library. The Studio is immediately to the right, down a corridor with floor-to-ceiling windows.

Access information

The door on Uxbridge Road through the porch up some steps is exit only.

The toilets are situated on the first floor and are accessible via stairs or the lift. These are non-gendered.

There is a single-use cubicle on the ground floor which is accessible (right-hand transfer), has baby-changing facilities, includes a sink within the cubicle and has floor-to-ceiling walls.

The Bush Theatre aims to be as accessible as possible in everything we do. The whole building is accessible for wheelchair users, a hearing loop is available, and Assistance Dogs are welcome at every performance.

Discounted tickets for disabled bookers and free tickets for essential companions are available.



**If you have any
questions or
would like more
information, don't
hesistate to get
in touch with our
team:**

**email:
boxoffice@bushtheatre.co.uk**

**phone:
020 8743 5050**