

A photograph of a city street at dusk. In the foreground, a brick building features a prominent black sign with the words "Bush Theatre" in yellow. The street is busy with pedestrians, and the sky is a deep blue. The overall scene is urban and lively.

Bush Theatre

LAVENDER, HYACINTH, VIOLET, YEW

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.

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.

We hope the information and resources in this document will help audiences experiencing the show, and support planning if you are concerned about your visit.

All of the information here was accurate when we put this guide together. As the production is in development, the details may change and we will update as soon as possible.

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What is self-care?

Self-care 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.

Thank you to Clean Break for bringing their care practices, including Self-Care Guides, to the Bush Theatre during our co-production of *Favour* (2022) Clean Break is a theatre company working with women with lived experience of the criminal justice system or at risk of entering it. **cleanbreak.org.uk**

“The concept of self-care comes from the Black Feminist movement. Self-care is important because it’s about recognising that we experience discrimination and oppression because of how others react to who we are, or what we’ve experienced.” - Clean Break

In writing this document, we were inspired by recent approaches taken by several other companies, especially the Nouveau Riche and Royal Court teams.

About the show

The below information contains key plot points.
Skip this section if you want to avoid spoilers.

Pip, a non-binary young adult, returns home to a tense atmosphere between their parents, Craig and Lorin. Craig refuses to accept Pip's identity, clinging to their birth name, while Lorin tries to mediate. Craig spends his time obsessing over his allotment, avoiding deeper conversations.

While searching the attic, Pip discovers a ski jacket belonging to Duncan, a long-forgotten family friend. Reading Duncan's diary, Pip realizes he was queer and likely had an unspoken relationship with Craig - something Craig refuses to acknowledge. As Pip pushes for recognition, old wounds resurface, and tensions escalate, especially around Craig's reluctance to confront both Duncan's memory and Pip's identity.

Amid heated arguments and quiet moments in the allotment, Pip forces Craig to face a past he tried to bury. Though Craig never fully accepts Pip, a small shift occurs - a recognition that the past and present can no longer be ignored. The play explores queerness, inheritance, and the histories we carry, even when left unspoken.

Content guidance

This show contains:

- Use of strong language
- Depiction and discussion of AIDS illness
- References to and discussion or the erasure of black queer history
- Depictions of grief
- Depiction of alcohol consumption
- Discussions and depictions of non-binary identity

Lighting and Sound

This show may contain:

- Loud noises
- Flashing lights
- Haze effects
- Small quantities of dust produced
- Live plants

This production is still in development. More information will be available nearer the time of performance.

Helplines & Support

Mind

Provides advice and support to empower anyone experiencing a mental health problem.

[mind.org.uk](https://www.mind.org.uk) or 0300 123 3393

Step Change

The UK's most comprehensive debt advice service. Provides advice and practical support for those with debt or money worries.

[stepchange.org](https://www.stepchange.org) or 020 3322 1860

Turn2us

A national charity providing practical help to people who are struggling financially or facing financial shocks, including a directory of grants for emergency support.

[turn2us.org.uk](https://www.turn2us.org.uk) or 020 3322 1860

Crosslight Advice

Provides free face-to-face debt advice together with money education and budgeting support to individuals and families in need. Branches across London, including a 4 minute walk from the Bush at St Stephen's Church.

[crosslightadvice.org](https://www.crosslightadvice.org) or 0300 373 1180

Black Minds Matter UK

Free, one to one, culturally relevant therapy for Black people in the UK. [blackmindsmatteruk.com](https://www.blackmindsmatteruk.com)

Samaritans

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

[samaritans.org](https://www.samaritans.org) or 116 123

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.

More information about the layout and design of the performance space will be available nearer the time of the performance.



Access information

The Bush Theatre building has two theatre spaces – the Holloway Theatre and the Studio – as well as our Library Bar. There are two entrances to the building:

The first 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

If you enter through **the front entrance** on Uxbridge Road through the porch up some steps, the theatre's Library Bar is straight ahead on the right, the Script Library is to the left, and the Box Office and Studio to the right. The entrance to the Holloway Theatre is straight ahead on the left.

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.

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**