

Audio Description Pre show Information Package for
Tea with Terrorists at BATS Theatre 13th-16th September at 8.30pm 2023
With a touch tour on Saturday, 16th September at 8pm.

Kia Ora.

My name is Sameena Zehra, and it will be this voice you hear throughout the show Tea with Terrorists, because I am the writer and performer of this show. I am a South Asian woman in my 50's, with very short salt and pepper hair. I am about 167 cms tall. I will be wearing wide leg black cotton trousers, a short, black, collarless tunic, and a long black brocade jacket that is open at the front, and comes down to just above my knees. The jacket has bright green piping on the sleeves and the collar.

This show does not need Audio Description to be accessible to Blind and Low Vision Folks. However, I thought it might be useful for you to have some information about the theatre, the set, and the performer before you go to the show. And to add to the Touch Tour, which will be happening on Saturday, 16th September.

When you enter the theatre, you will walk through the middle of the seating block, up to where the staging area begins. To take a seat, you will have to turn to your left, or to your right, and then turn the same direction again to face the seating, which is in raked tiers, and which you will need to climb steps to access. You may sit where you please, since there are no allocated seat numbers for this show.

The set is made up of a wall of different coloured saris in sheer, silky fabrics, hanging from floor to ceiling, along the length of the stage. The colours are rich shades of green, red, blue and gold. As you face the stage, the line of saris comes from your left in a diagonal line going up to the back of the stage, just past the centre, and then coming back in another line downstage to your right. From the ceiling, the saris billow into the middle of the room and the ends are attached to the ceiling above the audience's head. The overall effect is that of being in a fairly intimate space, perhaps a luxurious tent, or a private room.

At the point where the lines of saris meet at the back of the stage is a low table with a lamp on it, and a glass of water. A little further downstage, closer to the audience, is a traditional Kashmiri chain stitch rug. Its colours are mainly blue and red, with some green and beige accents.

I will mostly be standing on and around this rug for the whole show. At times, I will walk away, and we will use changes in lighting to signify changes in location, or tempo. The show also has a soundtrack, which is intended to lie underneath the storytelling, to enhance it and lift it. At times, there will be sounds that disrupt or disturb, like the sound of a gunshot, or louder music, for emphasis.

The show runs for 70 minutes, without an interval.

The credits for the show are as follows...

Written and performed by Sameena Zehra

Director- Sabrina Martin

Set Design- Isadora Lao

Lighting Design- Marcus McShane

Composer & Musical Director- Mike Mckeen

Producer & PR- Jo Marsh

Technical Operator- Bekky Boyce

Graphic Design & Art Design- Aimée Sullivan

Production Photography- Aimée Sullivan

Poster Image Photography- Roc Torio

Enjoy the show. We welcome feedback about this show from your point of view. Let us know what worked, and let us know where we could have done better. Access is an ongoing process, and when we know better, we can do better.