Audio Description Pre show Information Package for

Five Slices of Another Life at BATS Theatre from the 21st to 24th September.

There will be an Audio Described performance on Saturday, 23rd September at 7pm with a touch tour on Saturday the 23rd at 6.30pm, before the show at 7pm. Everyone is welcome to the touch tour, whether sighted or not.

Kia Ora.

My name is Sameena Zehra, and it will be my voice you hear throughout the show Five Slices of Another Life, because I am the audio describer for this show. I thought it might be useful for you to have some information about the theatre, the set, and the performers before you go to the show. And to add to the Touch Tour on Saturday, 23rd 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 raised tiers, and which you will need to climb steps to access. There will be space to your right for wheelchairs and also seats without arms, if that is a more comfortable option for you. You may sit where you please, since there are no allocated seat numbers for this show.

The set is made up of the black box of the theatre space. In the middle of the back wall is an opening from where the actors will make their entrances and exits. When we first come in, the stage is set with 2 small bookcases made of 4 cubes, painted in bright blue and yellow, one on each side of the stage. There are also two small wooden chairs and a low red stool. All this furniture will serve to become tables, chairs, a counter, and set various other scenarios in the different scenes that make up the show.

The show is made up of 5 separate plays and runs in two halves, with an interval in between. The beginning and end of each separate play is signalled by the same music so we know when one play ends and the next one is about to start. Four of the plays are performed in full, but one of the plays, called Six Beats, is divided into its separate scenes, and each scene is played in between the other plays, like a palate cleanser. The whole show starts and ends with one of the scenes from Six beats. Of all the plays, this one is the most abstract and absurd, and so lends itself well to being split up and separated in this way.

So, we will start with a scene from Six beats, featuring a lonely kettle.

Next, the set transforms into a stairwell for the full play 'Escape From the 10th Floor’

Then, Six Beats, Scene 2 and Scene 3.

Next, the play ‘Lessons Learned From Hannibal Lecter’, set in a small town, somewhere in New Zealand.

Next, the interval. You will have 15 minutes to get a drink, have a comfort break or just stay in your seat and relax until the second half of the show.

We will start the second half with the next scene from Six Beats, Scene 4.

Then the play ‘Prophets Inc’. This title is a play on words, so that it sounds like profits, as in making money, but it is spelled prophets, as in carriers of the word of god. But which god?

Next another scene from Six Beats, Scene 5.

Then, we’ll visit a cosy cafe for the final full play of the evening, ‘Interrupt-able’

The last scene from Six Beats, and the show ends.

Throughout the show, there will be projections on the back wall of the theatre to indicate locations, or moods, or writing that informs us of something. I will let you know what these projections are and what they signify.

There are only seven actors in the whole show, and they play all the characters. The designer has chosen to style the actors neutrally, all of them wearing a combination of greys and greens, casual and stylish trousers and tops. This allows them to take on different characters quickly and easily, by throwing on a scarf, or a handbag maybe. The actors in the scenes from Six Beats always wear beanies to differentiate them from all the other characters in all the other plays.

All the actors in this show are members of the Deaf, Disabled, and neurodiverse community. They will have their mobility aids with them on stage, and any adjustments that need to be made during the show will take place. I will let you know if this is happening. Otherwise, I will only mention a mobility aid or other adjustment if it is pertinent to the character or the story.

The show runs for 1 hour and 45 minutes including a 15 minute interval.

The credits for this show are as follows…

Plays and their writers (in order of appearance)

Six Beats by Hamish Boyle

Escape from the 10th Floor by Henrietta Bollinger

Lessons Learned From Hannibal Lecter by Angela Pope

Prophet Inc. by Steff Green

Interrupt-able by Helen Vivienne Fletcher

Performers:

Henrietta Bollinger (they/them),

Dane Isherwood (he/him),

Hamish Boyle (he/him),

Hilary Norris (she/her),

Susan Williams (they/them),

Helen Vivienne Fletcher (she/her)

Shaun Swain (they/he).

Producers: Helen Vivienne Fletcher and Jo Marsh

Director: Jo Marsh

Production and Stage Manager: Laniet Swann

Assistant Stage Manager: Wesley Hollis

Designer: Jules Daniel

Lighting Design: Jo Marsh

Deaf Consultant: Theresa Cooper

NZSL: Angela Murray and Byron Gibbons

Blind Consultant: Susan Williams

Audio Description: Sameena Zehra

Graphic Design: Hamish Boyle

Photographer: Scott Maxim

During the show if you have any issues with the audio description equipment please raise your hand, and a wellbeing wingperson will come over and help you out. The AD receivers have a headphone jack and come with a small round earpiece which can go on either ear, you may prefer to bring your own headphones. If you have trouble hearing the AD due to background

noise try cupping one hand over the ear with the earpiece.

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.