

**SOUTHBANK
CENTRE**

fuel



**AN EVENING
WITH AN
IMMIGRANT**

VISUAL GUIDE

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INTRODUCTION

An Evening with an Immigrant is an acclaimed solo show written and performed by Inua Ellams; this new version features a breathtaking original score composed by Laura Mvula.

Born to a Muslim father and a Christian mother in what is now considered by many to be Boko Haram territory, in 1996 award-winning poet and playwright Inua Ellams left Nigeria for England aged 12, moved to Ireland for three years, before returning to London and starting work as a writer and graphic designer.

Littered with poems, stories and anecdotes, Inua tells his ridiculous, fantastic, poignant immigrant-story of escaping fundamentalist Islam, performing solo shows at the National Theatre, and drinking wine with the Queen of England, all the while without a country to belong to or place to call home. In this exciting new collaboration, Inua's performance is interwoven with Laura's rich, expansive score, transporting audiences on a journey around and out of this world.



WHAT WILL YOU SEE & HEAR?

An Evening with an Immigrant features Inua Ellams, a writer and performer, and Chineke! Orchestra. You will see Inua on stage surrounded by the orchestra as well as Yshani Perinpanayagam, the conductor and Jacqui Beckford, the BSL interpreter. Inua will share stories of his life and poetry from a book.

Inua will mostly be centre stage, but will also move around. The orchestra will play their instruments, and there will be moments where they speak, get up, and interact with Inua on stage.

Instruments and music:

The music Laura Mvula has composed is a beautiful score, from an epic opening track, to pensive and thoughtful tunes like *Dear Tina* which includes marimba, piano and wind chords, punctuated with atmospheric sounds with an Afrobeats influence. Full of variety and nuance, this score complements Inua's words as the music weaves itself in, out, and around the beautiful stories and poems that unfold alongside it.

Here is a list of all the instruments that are included within the orchestra to create these wonderful sounds:

3 first violins	1 guitar
3 second violins	1 synth and piano
2 violas	1 trumpet
2 cellos	1 trombone
1 bass	1 sax
1 marimba/timpani	1 clarinet
1 drum	1 flute
1 upright bass	

ACCESS

This performance will be BSL interpreted by Jacqui Beckford.

There's a picture of Jacqui below.



Are there any content warnings for this show?

Yes, this performance includes stories of immigration. These themes may be triggering for people with lived experience of immigration. We urge our audience members to be aware that some of the themes within An Evening with an Immigrant could be potentially re-traumatising and emotionally distressing. Staff members at the venue will be able to sign-post and offer links to specialist organisations if needed.

ACCESS - QUEEN ELIZABETH HALL



Getting there:

The Queen Elizabeth Hall is part of the Southbank Centre. It is a concrete building with a roof garden overlooking the River Thames. From Waterloo Station or Belvedere Road Walk up the 27 steps, past the Nelson Mandela statue on your right-hand side and the row of restaurants on your left.

Continue past the Royal Festival Hall and turn right onto the Riverside Terrace. You will see the Queen Elizabeth Hall opposite you.

Step Free Access:

For step-free access to the Queen Elizabeth Hall, use the external lift near the Artists' Entrance on Southbank Centre Square, Belvedere Road, to Level 2, and then walk past the Nelson Mandela statue to the end of the Royal Festival Hall.

Turn right and walk across the Riverside Terrace. You will see the Queen Elizabeth Hall opposite you.

QUEEN ELIZABETH HALL - VISITOR ASSISTANTS



All of the Visitor Assistants wear bright yellow lanyards and black Southbank Centre t-shirts. The Visitor Assistants' priority is to ensure you have a positive and safe experience at the Southbank Centre.

They are friendly, and if you need help or have a question about anything on-site, they'll be happy to assist. Sometimes they may wear a face covering.

Ask a Visitor Assistant if you need a quiet space. They will let you know where to go, and will be happy to assist you getting there.

QUEEN ELIZABETH HALL - FACILITIES



Toilets:

There is an accessible gender neutral toilet located in the Queen Elizabeth Hall Foyer as well as separate toilets for male and female. A Changing Places toilet is located on Level 1, Royal Festival Hall next to the Glass Lift. This toilet is for disabled people who need personal assistance to use the toilet.

Seating:

There are many tables and chairs available for you to use in the foyer area. You can relax here at any time when the building is open, which is usually from 90 minutes before the start of a performance. You are welcome to buy food and drink from the Concrete Cafe and use the tables and chairs in this area, or sit outside on the Riverside Terrace.

A quiet space:

The Queen Elizabeth Hall Roof Garden is open in the summer from Wednesday to Sunday. To access the garden you need to climb up the yellow staircase or take the step-free access route, using the lift located on Level 1 (street level) near the Artists' Entrance.

Cloakroom:

The Queen Elizabeth Hall cloakroom is **closed**. You won't be able to bring any bags over 40 x 25 x 25cm into the Queen Elizabeth Hall, so please leave large bags at home.

ABOUT THE ARTISTS



INUA ELLAMS

Ellams is a poet, playwright, performer, graphic artist and designer. A fellow of the Royal Society of Literature and Complete Works poet alumni, he explores themes of identity, displacement and destiny. He runs accessible creative writing workshops and is the founder of The Midnight Run, The Rhythm and Poetry Party, and Poetry + Film / Hack (P+F/H).

LAURA MVULA

Mvula is a critically-acclaimed songwriter, composer and recording artist known for her ability to draw from multiple genres to create her own sound. She's toured extensively around the world, and her albums have seen her pick up Ivor Novello Awards for Best Album, MOBO and BRIT Awards nods, and multiple Mercury Prize album nominations.





Fuel leads the field in independent producing in the UK's live performance sector, collaborating with curious, insightful and skilled theatre makers to create fresh experiences for adventurous people.

Since 2004, we have evolved a pioneering producing model that develops innovative ideas through attentive collaboration, a spirit of curiosity, and an emphasis on trust. We have developed a reputation for spirited and surprising new theatre, deep relationships with a wide range of artists, and a passionate commitment to inclusion and care for young and diverse audiences.

We have produced shows, festivals, films, installations, podcasts, apps and books. In doing so we have supported the artistic development of over 120 lead artists or companies and reached more than 1.5 million people, live and digitally. We have hosted over a hundred internships and been recognised with awards for our work.

fueltheatre.com

Instagram, Facebook, Bluesky, LinkedIn: @fueltheatre



ABOUT CHINEKE! ORCHESTRA

Celebrating their 10th anniversary, Chineke! was created by Chi-Chi Nwanoku in 2015 to provide career opportunities to established and up-and-coming Black and ethnically diverse classical musicians in the UK and Europe. Chineke! aims to champion change and celebrate diversity in classical music, and fulfils this mission through concerts by the majority Black and ethnically diverse professional Chineke! Orchestra, the Chineke! Junior Orchestra for 11-to 22-year-old diverse musicians and through its Learning & Participation programme. Additionally, Chineke! Voices was launched in 2022 as the first majority Black and ethnically diverse consort of a cappella voices.

Regularly undertaking tours across Europe and North America, Chineke! is a Resident Orchestra at the Southbank Centre, performing at the Queen Elizabeth Hall and Royal Festival Hall throughout the year - are orchestra in partnership at Fairfield Halls, Croydon and in 2022 began a close association with Woolwich Works, Greenwich where they recently launched a chamber series.

The orchestra includes works by Black and ethnically diverse composers in every concert programme, championing composers from the past who have been overlooked and neglected, and performing, commissioning and recording the music of living Black composers.

<https://www.chineke.org/>



SOUTHBANK CENTRE

We're the UK's largest centre for the arts and one of the nation's top five visitor attractions, showcasing the world's most exciting artists at our venues in the heart of London. As a charity, we bring millions of people together by opening up the unique art spaces that we care for.

The Southbank Centre is made up of the Royal Festival Hall, Queen Elizabeth Hall, Purcell Room, Hayward Gallery, National Poetry Library and Arts Council Collection. We're one of London's favourite meeting spots, with lots of free events and places to relax, eat and shop next to the Thames.

We hope you enjoy your visit. If you need any information or help, please ask a member of staff. You can also write to us at Southbank Centre, Belvedere Road, London SE1 8XX, or email hello@southbankcentre.co.uk

Subscribers to our email updates are the first to hear about new events, offers and competitions. Just head to our website to sign up.

<https://www.southbankcentre.co.uk/>

