

LAST RITES

GCSE & A Level Drama Education Info Pack

What is the show about?

Last Rites Key Themes: Rituals & tradition; Familial relationships; Deafness & identity

The Story: Arjun's father never learnt to sign, and now that he's gone, Arjun must find his own way to honour him. In a world where ancient traditions meet modern reality, Arjun embarks on a deeply personal and visually mesmerising quest to create a farewell ritual for his father – one woven from memory, love, and loss.

The Show: A devised piece of physical theatre in Ad Infitum's signature style. A fusion of visual storytelling, electrifying movement, and an immersive soundscape you can feel as well as hear. With no spoken words, this performance speaks in movement, visuals, and rhythm. Featuring creative captions, Sign Language, and a deep, resonant soundtrack that can be felt or heard, Last Rites is inherently accessible for hearing, deaf, Deaf, and hard of hearing audiences.

How does it connect to the curriculum?

As a devised piece of theatre, *Last Rites* provides an excellent opportunity to support students' learning and understanding of **devising** in relation to the making of their own work:

Relevant GCSE Components: AQA - Component 2: Devising Drama / Pearson Edexcel - Component 1: Devising / WJEC - Unit 1: Devising Theatre / OCR - Component 1/2: Devising Drama

Relevant A Level Components: AQA - Component 2: Creating original drama / Pearson Edexcel - Component 1: Devising / Educas/WJEC - Unit 1: Devising Theatre / OCR - Component 11/12: Practitioners in practice – performing

Students can also **respond** to this exciting and rich piece of live theatre in their written exam:

Relevant GCSE Components: AQA - Component 1: Understanding Drama (Area of Study 2, Live Theatre Production) / Pearson Edexcel - Component 3: Theatre Makers in Practice (Live Theatre Evaluation) / WJEC - Unit 3: Interpreting Theatre (Section B) / OCR Component 4: Drama: Performance and response (Section B)

Relevant A Level Components: AQA - Component 1: Drama and Theatre (Section C) / Pearson Edexcel - Component 3: Theatre Makers in Practice (Live Theatre Evaluation) / Educas/WJEC - Component 3: Text in Performance / OCR Component 31: Analysing performance (Section B)

Ad Infitum also offers school workshops and discussion/Q&A opportunities with our Artistic Directors, all of which can be centred on *Last Rites* and tailored to your students' needs.

Practical Information

Running Time: 65 mins (No interval)

Age Guidance: 12+

(Our public guidance is 14+ due to the themes of the piece; however, in discussion with teachers, this show has been performed for younger school audiences with positive feedback. We are happy to discuss this further with you.)

Access: *Last Rites* is a non-verbal piece of theatre that is accessible to D/deaf, hard-of-hearing and hearing audiences. The performance includes some BSL with creative captions and a soundtrack with heavy use of bass so that it can be felt or heard by audience members.

Upcoming Performance Dates & Deals

Last Rites will be at **Bristol Old Vic** on the following dates:

Tue 15 Jul, 7:30 pm / Wed 16 Jul, 7:30 pm / Thu 17 Jul, 7:30 pm / Fri 18 Jul, 7:30 pm (FREE post-show discussion with David Ellington) / Sat 19 Jul, 7:30 pm

Currently, Bristol Old Vic has fantastic school booking perks:

- One teacher ticket free in every 10 booked
- Discounted tickets for schools, with £13 tickets in the Upper Circle or Gallery (Mon–Thu)
- Reserve now, pay later – and no deposit required
- Coach drop-off area on Queen Charlotte Street and parking at nearby Cabot Circus
- Easily amendable reservations

Student Feedback on Last Rites

"I thought Ramesh [Meyyappan] was one of the best actors I have ever met. He could tell a story without words but with so much meaning and emotional connection. I never would have thought I could understand a story and engage with it so emotionally. It left me absolutely speechless."

Student, Bedales School

Reviews for Last Rites



"A triumph...as real, raw and beautiful as it gets"

THE REVIEWS HUB



"Tremendous...Ramesh Meyyappan makes his high-precision performance look effortless – even weightless."

THE GUARDIAN



"Mighty theatrical lyricism"

THE SCOTSMAN



Image Credit: Mihaela Bodlovic

Contact olivia@ad-infinity.org to find out more about our schools offers
Make a schools booking by emailing groupbookings@bristololdvic.org.uk