

# LAST RITES

## GCSE & A Level Religious Studies Education Info Pack

### What is the show about?

Last Rites Key Themes: Religious Ritual & Ceremony; Hinduism; Religious & Cultural Heritage; Religion & Deaf Culture

**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 Ininitum'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?

Last Rites explores Hindu traditions including death rituals; religious upbringing and inheritance; barriers to religion; and cultural and religious difference. It provides an excellent opportunity to support GCSE and A Level students' learning and understanding of Hinduism and, more widely, tradition and ritual. We believe this show will support religious studies of all kinds, but have also noted some key links with the common specifications:

**Relevant GCSE Components:** AQA - Component 1: The study of religions: beliefs, teachings and practices (Hinduism) & Component 2: Thematic Studies (Theme A: Relationships and families) / Educas/WJEC (Route A) - Component 1: Religious, Philosophical and Ethical Studies in the Modern World & Component 3: Study of a World Faith (Hinduism) / Pearson Edexcel - A - Component 1/2: Study of a Religion & Component 3: Philosophy & Ethics

**Relevant A Level Components:** AQA - Component 2: Study of religion and dialogues (Hinduism) / Educas/WJEC - Component 1: A Study of Religion (Hinduism) & Component 2: Philosophy of Religion / Pearson Edexcel - Component 4: Study of Religion (Hinduism)

Ad Ininitum also offers 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.

*"I know a little about Hindu...practices, but not in any depth, just the basics. I've learnt a lot from this about the death ritual shared here, but also this incredible personal story and shared family history"*

**Audience feedback for Last Rites**

## 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](mailto:olivia@ad-infinity.org) to find out more about our schools offers  
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