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## **Large Print Introduction- A Guide For The Homesick**

### **Trafalgar Studios 2 on until November 24<sup>th</sup> 2018**

Welcome to this introduction of ‘ A Guide For The Homesick that is on in Trafalgar Studios 2 until the 24<sup>th</sup> of November 2018, With evening performances at 7.45pm and matinees on Thursday and Saturday at 3pm.

The following introduction brings you information on ‘A Guide For The Homesick’ the company, set, design, props, costume, visual projections, an extract from the programme, production credits and theatre information

It has been written, presented and edited by Tim Calvert of Calvert Creative Concepts.

A guide for the homesick by Ken Urban began its life in Boston USA in 2017 and premieres in the UK for the first time at Trafalgar studio 2

The play is 1 hour and 23 minutes long without an interval. Touch tours are available on request (subject to availability) – you a friend or family member can arrange this by emailing

[TrafalgarManagement@trafalgarentertainment.com](mailto:TrafalgarManagement@trafalgarentertainment.com)

The promotional material for the play describes ‘A guide for the homesick’ As a tender and bittersweet play about conscience and connection.

Teddy is searching for a friend for the night. Jeremy is searching for a beer. Worlds apart and miles away from home, two strangers, consumed by their own secrets, find each other in a hotel room in Amsterdam.

Can you confess your greatest fear to a stranger?

A new play by the award-winning American writer **Ken Urban**, ***A Guide for The Homesick*** is an erotic thriller that explores the cost of being a friend when you are afraid to love,

Starring **Douglas Booth** as Jeremy, Douglas is best known for his film and television roles after developing a passion for acting from an early age. Some of his film credits include – Mary Shelly, Jupiter Ascending, The Riot Club, Noah, and Romeo and Juliet.

His Television credits include his Portrayal of Boy George in the BBC Biopic – Worried about the boy which he won universal acclaim. He also starred in Christopher and his kind alongside Matt Smith appeared in great expectations and the adaptation of Agatha Christies – And then there were none.

Relatively new to theatre Douglas made his stage debut last year in Stephen Karam's – Speech and Debate at Trafalgar Studio's 2, and In November 2013 he took part in the Old Vic's 24 hour play event.

Teddy is played by actor – Clifford Samuel – His most recent TV role was as a regular in international crime drama McMAFIA which he starred in at the same time as his recurring part in Holby City.

Theatre includes – Don't sleep there are snakes at the Park Theatre, The Events for Ramin Grey at the Young Vic and the New York Theatre workshop, SYP at the Soho theatre and the Lightning child at Shakespeare's Globe.

His Film credits include – Lock-in, Looking For Jacob, Betsy and Leonard, and Sex drugs and rock n roll,

Director – Jonathon Boyle – trained at the Central school of speech and drama, he was previously trainee associate director at Chichester Festival theatre, resident director at the Sheffield Crucible theatre and associate director at theatre 503. He was selected as one of the Guardians rising stars of 2014.

Some of his directing credits include – Rain man for Bill Kenwright Ltd, Aspects of love at the Hope Mill Theatre, Bash Latterday plays at the Trafalgar studios, and Dear Brutus for Southwark Playhouse.

Jonathon recently directed the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary production of Hair at the Hope Mill Theatre, which later transferred to the Vaults, the production won the 2018 What's on stage award for best off-west end production.

A Guide for the homesick, is set in January 2011, Amsterdam in Teddy's Airport hotel room, the action takes place in the evening and following morning.

Although this is a two actor play, there are actually four characters portrayed on stage,

Jeremy, is a white male in his early 20's with round fashionable gold rimmed glasses, he has heavy stubble, and wavy hair, that has not been cut for some time, he is wearing a light blue t-shirt with a white vinyl and stylus printed on it, Mustard Chinos, White sports socks and converse style sneakers, he also has a multi-coloured African print hoody made out of light wool and a black and grey backpack and is wearing African style bracelets, He is geeky and articulate with a soft New Jersey accent

While interacting with the character of Nicholas during some scenes Jeremy takes out a large see through plastic storage box containing medical supplies

Jeremy is played by Douglas Booth who also portrays the character of Ed

Ed is also in his early 20's and wears the same attire as Jeremy but speaks in a louder New York accent and is slightly erratic illustrating signs of bipolar.

The change between characters is signified by the difference in accent, tone and style of performance, the lights change colour and there are incidental musical sound bursts played in between.

Teddy is a black male in his early 30's with an African-American accent, he is well groomed with short black hair, shaved at the side, wearing a beige, waffle style sweater,

Teddy is played by actor Clifford Samuel who also alternates between roles and portrays Nicholas

Nicholas is early 30's and dressed the same as Teddy – he has a strong Ugandan accent and is very thoughtful, expressive and eloquent.

### Setting

When you enter the auditorium the stage is set for all the action that will unfold before you. The location is an empty airport hotel room, basic but comfortable, It could be conceived as being a little cramped and shabby. There is an unmade double bed with white sheets and a grey comforter on the left hand side of the room with two slim rounded lamps on either side and a black telephone. On the right hand side sits a Television set on a small cabinet that is tuned in to a dutch soap opera.

The room has two doors, one leads to the Hallway with a key card slot fitted on the door and inside wall, while the other leads to the bathroom. This door is open and a small part of the bathroom is

visible to the audience. There is a towel left on a white and grey chair close by that is later hung on the hook on the bathroom tiles, there is another chair that is white on the outside with green upholstery in the centre of the room, these are often used for the characters to sit on during conversations.

As the play starts rain pour is heard as well as conversation in the hallway before the door opens and the characters enter, they are carrying cans and bottles of beer, Jeremy also brings with him a black and grey backpack.

A Guide for the Homesick is a thoughtful reflective text that forms the basis of a two hander between three sets of characters – Jeremy and Teddy, Jeremy and Nicholas and Teddy and Ed. The narrative jumps back and forth to tell the story of these characters. Stark lighting effects and innovative sound design ranging from static, to synth to Cello are used every time there is a shift to a different pairing of characters and listen out for the different accents to distinguish which characters are at play.

Choice and Consequence – A conversation with Playwright Ken Urban and Director Jonathon O'Boyle conducted by Jeremy Stoller taken from the programme

Creative Credits

Written by Ken Urban

Directed by Jonathon O'Boyle

Produced by Eilene Davidson

Set designer – Jason Denvir

Production Manager – Sarah Reed

Lighting design by Nic Farman

Sound design by Max Perryment

Stage manager – Sarah Greenwood

Costume supervisor – Christine Maddison

Casting by Ellie- Collyer Bristow

And PR by Susanna Gulliford

### Theatre information

A Touch tour can be provided on request – subject to availability – please ask at the box office or by email:

[TrafalgarManagement@trafalgarentertainment.com](mailto:TrafalgarManagement@trafalgarentertainment.com)

An audio introduction to each show is available on sound cloud searching for – Trafalgar Studios or by requesting a Cd using the email address above or visiting the box office. A large print version is also available

The Trafalgar studio's is situated on 14 Whitehall, in London, postcode SW1A 2DY not far from Charing Cross train station, and Trafalgar square

There are bag checks at the Theatre on arrival and the box office is in close proximity to the entrance.

Studio 2 is situated downstairs. If you require any assistance please ask a member of staff

There is an accessible toilet that can be reached by using the lift.

Guide dogs are permitted in the auditorium with prior arrangement and can also be looked after in accordance with guide dogs for the blind guidelines,

To book tickets call the access line on 0800 912 6971

Trafalgar Studios Box Office Opening Hours are

Mon-Sat, 10:30am to 7.45pm

Trafalgar Entertainment Group

Trafalgar Studios is owned and operated by Trafalgar Entertainment Group, a live entertainment business launched in 2017 by Sir Howard Panter and Dame Rosemary Squire DBE. For more information on the company and its flagship venue Trafalgar Studios, see



[www.trafalgarentertainment.com](http://www.trafalgarentertainment.com) or follow us on Twitter, Facebook or Instagram.

The manager of the venue is Martin Scorer