

**Accompaniment to Nine Night on at the
Trafalgar Studios 1 showing until
February the 23rd 2019 – Large Print
Version**



Welcome to this accompaniment to Nine Night by Natasha Gordon which is showing at Trafalgar Studios 1 in Whitehall London until February the 23rd 2019. Evening Performances are Monday to Saturday at 7:30pm with Matinee's on Thursday and Saturday at 2:30pm.

Nine Night had its world premiere at the national's Dorfman theatre on the 30th of April 2018

The running time is approximately 1 hour and 45 minutes without an interval. There is an audio described performance and a touch tour available on Saturday the 12th of January 2019 at 2:30pm and a captioned performance on Monday the 21st of January 2019 at 7:30pm

To book for either of these please email trafalgarbox@trafalgarentertainment.com to book, putting either Audio Described or Captioned Performance in the subject line or enquire at the box

office. To book tickets you can call the Access line on 0800 912 6971

This accompaniment gives you an overview of the synopsis, cast, stage, design, Props, costumes, visual ambience, production credits and theatre Information. It has been written, performed and edited by Tim Calvert of Calvert Creative Concepts.

This is also available in a large print version or on CD by emailing trafalgabox@trafalgarentertainment.com

The Promotional material for *Nine Night* states - Following a smash hit sold-out run at the National Theatre, ***Nine Night***, **Natasha Gordon's** 'remarkable debut play' (Evening Standard) transfers to the West End. Roy Alexander Weise directs this touching and exuberantly funny exploration of the rituals of family.

Family, food, music and mourning.

Gloria is gravely sick. When her time comes, the celebration begins; the traditional Jamaican Nine Night Wake. But for Gloria's children and grandchildren, marking her death with a party that lasts over a week is a test. Nine rum-fuelled nights of music, food, storytelling and laughter – and an endless parade of mourners.

Nine Night is a fast paced Comedy drama that is set in Modern day London. The play consists of ten scenes that fade in and out and often comprise of different set ups of characters, change in costume and stage props etc.

The action takes place in one main set that is open to the audience as they take their seats. This is a roomy Kitchen/Dining area with a sofa that is homely and cosy that echoes 1970's/1980's Jamaican style décor and culture. It is about 8 meters wide and 6 deep, the area is totally cluttered with knik knacks, ornaments, photos, food items, utensils and religious relics. The right and back walls are solid covered with elaborate floral wallpaper made up of cream, sage and beige pastels that have been up since the 1970's and provides a contrast with the colour and pattern of the floor tiles that is a darker shade.

In the left hand corner there is an open space looking into the hallway and the stairs with a very large green plant and branches over the area, in front

Is a white cooker with hob with oven gloves hanging off the handle and brown/beige fitted units, on the top lies an assortment of kitchen utilities including a lime green kettle, a white and silver bread bin and a white coloured microwave oven, mugs, knife rack various food items, spices and a kitchen roll. In front of this

section is an oak style unit full of Bric and Brac including a ceramic pineapple. A set of 3 glass dolphins; a glass swan and a small white porcelain basket, filled with dainty white fake flowers alongside a photo of a yawning baby and a grinning school girl posing for her school photo, on top of it is a unique lamp that conveys an abstract orange n black print where lit with a round red base that could almost resemble a giant raspberry, an old fashioned radio and a photo frame with a picture of Gloria an elderly woman dressed in a period 1970's sweater. In front of it is a red and pink patterned two seater sofa with dark brown wooden arms and legs that are showing their age, with white floral scatter cushions resting on the seats. Underneath is a large circular rug with a rainbow style pattern with some child toys on it, at the side is a small brown coffee table and a large white flowering plant with a white decorated cloth on top.

In the centre is a light brown old fashioned dining room table with 4 chairs, on the table throughout the performance is a bowl of fruit and a large purple, red and white flowering plant with green stems. Behind it is a large white fridge freezer with a box of cereal, 2 large plants and various containers on top with magnets and postcards on the front and a framed photo on the slim wall by its side. Next to the fridge are a light bureau /drinks cabinet full of old bottles of alcohol, a large grey and black ceramic fish plush,

framed family portraits that includes a graduation picture of a young man.

On the right hand side is another beige/brown fitted unit with a yellow tea cloth hanging off it, on top sits a sink unit with taps, a draining unit, above it a window looks out into the unseen garden that is obscured by a net curtain. The ledge is crammed with items that include a bottle of hand wash, and washing up utensils with a key rack drilled into the side.

There are three doors in the room, The Upstage left door is the one most central, it is painted white with frosted glass and opens into the hallway that has variation wallpaper similar to that in the main room that is a bluey/green and a white stair frame that leads upstairs.

In the far right corner there is a second door with a frosted pane of glass leads through to the unseen living room. An exotic spider plant hangs on the wall beside it.

A third door, near to the front right corner, this leads out to the garden. By the side there is a dust pan and brush hanging on the door handle is an a couple of shopping bags and a clothes peg bag Nearer to us,

there's a bright red shopping trolley, standing against the wall, above which hangs an ornamental, brown porcelain tortoise..

During the course of the play various props are used and moved around included an orange clothes basket, a wooden stool, and various bottle of liquor and food especially during the nights of mourning and celebration. The character of Lorraine is seen early on making a supplement for her mother that resembles a strawberry milkshake and then later making a soup and cooking it on the hob

Above the stage you can see the outline of an upstairs bedroom that is made visible through the use of a mesh curtain, during this time characters can be seen in the room and there is ambient lamp on in the corner

Nine Night has a company of seven, five women and two men, all members of the same Jamaican family.

Please note that during scene changes and those that take place on different days or nights there will be costume changes or variations that are often similar to what they wear at the start or of Jamaican influence.

Lorraine - Gloria's daughter is in her early 40's and has a calming presence, she has a slim figure and smooth complexion, she has a sense of urgency about her though always has time to listen, she wears a fixed smile, that appears that it could crack at any moment, She has smooth brown hair fashioned into a bob, and wears a variety of outfits during the course of the play starting with a geometric patterned top in black brown and blue, Denim jeans and White sandals

Anita - Lorraine's daughter is in her late teens /early 20's with a slim figure and distinctive dreadlocks that go down to the waist, Throughout the play it is worn in different ways, sometimes down in a ponytail and then up in a bun, her eyes are wide with good looking skin, she is confident and takes pride in her appearance. She starts by wearing a printed t-shirt with the singer Lauren Hill embossed on it, with tight fitting ripped denim jeans, turned up at the bottom, Gold hoop earrings that swing and hit her shoulders as she strides, She wear some black rimmed spectacles that give her an intelligent demeanour, she wears very distinctive

doc martins throughout and later changes into a conservative grey top. When her aunt arrives she is given a present of a Flamboyant Colourful Jamaican dress that she changes into during the latter part,

Her partner Nathan and baby are mentioned but not seen.

Robert - Gloria's son is in his 40's, he is a tall and confident but a dominant presence whenever he enters the room, his head is smartly shaved, His intense personality is demonstrated throughout by how he dresses, and conducts himself, he is distinctively dressed in a smart 2 piece blue suit and a light blue shirt and shiny polished expensive brown shoes, His costume goes through slight variations during the course of the play

Auntie Maggie - is Gloria's cousin, she is in her 70's, She is a short lady, big in frame, who often hobbles around the stage with a brown wooden walking stick with a rubber bottom on it, Though she doesn't use it all the time, she wears a variety of Jamaican style and influenced blouses during the course of the play that are loose fitting, Some of these are large flower prints, her facial expressions are evident and often disapproving especially when making a joke, putting someone down or in the midst of an argument, She

often peers over her old fashioned spectacles at people, she has a very large permed auburn/brown hair style with distinctive curls that stands out whenever she is in a scene, she wears old fashioned shoes that depict her age, and the occasional brooch or piece of jewellery.

Uncle Vincent is Maggie's husband who is also in his 70's, sporting an athletic figure and easy going demeanour, he often has a relaxed manner about him, sitting back in his chair at the dining table putting his head back, he has a grey goatee beard and very short grey hair, despite his age he has a very good complexion with no evident wrinkles, he wears a brown pork pie hat, more so when he arrives and leaves with a smart open short sleeved white shirt with beige trousers and brown suede loafers, later he wears variations that include cream trousers and a yellow and brown pinstriped shirt

Sophie - Robert's Wife, she is in her 40's, a tall slender white lady attractive with pale skin, long brown hair that hangs in a ponytail, half way down her back, she often stands nervously as if she is not relaxed in her surroundings sometimes leaning against things or not standing straight, She wears slinky tight fitting jump suits that compliment her figure and wedged raised

shoes that match her more to her husband's height, before her heart to heart scene with Lorraine she goes out into the garden and comes back with an orange clothes basket full of washing and while talking takes items out and folds them.

Trudy – Appears half way through and is Lorraine and Roberts, half-sister. She is in her late 40's early 50's, Trudy is a dominant personality and takes more after Aunt Maggie though she is a little taller, she is full figured with a big bust tightly fitting in her Jamaican style outfits well that includes a vertical print top, black and white though there is a variation later on and a skinny fit black skirt, She has a big set of hair with purple highlights hanging down into a ponytail, Later she wear big gold earrings that stand out, she often comes across stern and strict with a disapproving gaze

Excerpt from programme

Production credits

Anita is played by Rebekah Murrell

Her Mum, Lorraine, by Natasha Gordon

Aunty Maggie, Cecilia Noble

And Uncle Vincent is Karl Collins.

Robert is played by Oliver Alvin-Wilson

His wife, Sophie, by Hattie Ladbury

Trudy is played by Michelle Greenidge.

The sound designer is George Dennis

Lighting design is by Paule Constable

Set and costumes, Rajha Shakiry

Nine Night was written by Natasha Gordon and

directed by Roy Alexander-Weis.

Theatre information

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

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

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

Studio 1 has around 380 seats in total and can be accessed upstairs and 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 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 or follow us on Twitter, Facebook or Instagram.

The manager of the venue is Martin Scorer