

A Large print Accompaniment to  
*The Fisherman* on at Trafalgar Studio 2  
until Saturday the 12<sup>th</sup> October 2019.



creating inclusivity and equality in disability

Welcome to the large print accompaniment of *The Fishermen* by Chigozie Obioma which brings Trafalgar Studio 2 to life until Saturday the 12<sup>th</sup> of October 2019. Performances nightly Monday to Saturday are at 7:45pm with matinees on Thursday and Saturday at 3pm.

The duration is approximately 75 minutes without an interval, the play is suitable for ages 12 +, latecomers cannot be admitted and performances feature aspects of violence, strobe lights, haze effects and cashew nuts.

Studio 2 is an intimate performance space situated downstairs close to a bar and toilets, with lift access and has just around 100 seats. The box office is situated directly ahead as you enter they foyer and there are plenty of customer service staff on hand to assist in any way they can.

Touch tours are available on request subject to availability for further information regarding access email [access@trafalgarentertainment.com](mailto:access@trafalgarentertainment.com) or enquire at the box office.

Or for further access details visit the access page for all the up to date information.

<https://trafalgarentertainment.com/your-visit/access/>

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

Trafalgar Studio 2 is situated in Whitehall, near Charing Cross Train Station, Post code SW1A 2DY, as you enter the venue the box office is directly in front of you.

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

The Promotional material for *The Fishermen* states;

In a small Nigerian town Ben, Obembe and their two older brothers slip away to fish at a forbidden river. Unnoticed and carefree they continue until the prophecy of a madman changes the course of their lives forever.

Based on the Man Booker Prize shortlisted novel by one of Africa's major new voices, New Perspectives' critically acclaimed award-winning production of Chigozie Obioma's powerful allegory of brotherhood, vengeance and fate adapted by Gbolahan Obisesan arrives in the West End for the first time.

Part of the British council Edinburgh showcase 2019, *The Fishermen* was commissioned by New Perspectives in association with Home Manchester on 19<sup>th</sup> of July 2018.

This captivating new play comes to life in Trafalgar studio 2 in surprising ways with energetic performances in the form of a two hander from up and coming new actors David Alade as Ben and Valentine Olukoga as Obembe who also embody other diverse and interesting character during the course of the drama.

To get to Studio 2 you can go down a set of stairs or use the lift which is adjacent to a bar area and toilets.

As you enter Studio 2 there are 3 rows of just under a 100 seats on three sides that are red in colour, there are a few steps down to stage level which is right in front of row A as studio 2 is a very intimate performance space.

As you enter the stage is open to you and the set is very striking but minimalistic consisting of black floor and walls, subdued lighting and fog like smoke effects as the audience take their seats. In the centre tall metal poles supported by sand bags form a circular barrier with enough space in between them to squeeze through. The action takes place in and around this structure quite often having the characters interacting on opposite sides, either standing, sitting or kneeling etc. The sand bags are meant to represent flood barriers and the poles have multiple uses that include creating a barrier for the characters, and clubs and fishing rods. The actor's pull these out of the floor to illustrate this.

The Action starts off set in Nigeria in 2004 and then flashbacks to 1996. The play switches between the characters of the two brothers Ben and Obembe aged 18 and 19 and features them ages 9 and 10 and mid-teens.

Actors David Alade and Valentine Olukoga discuss the characters they portray, the complexities of the roles, plus various props and costumes and specific non-verbal communication utilised.

Props that are used are often referred to, these include a bright yellow football, wrapped up in a large Nigerian yellow black and white blanket that is also used as a head scarf when the mother appears. Buckets with water in are also used and water can often be heard when the characters are washing and cleaning themselves. Obembe also sports a pair of Plastic yellow sunglasses early on in the play.

The lighting plays an important part of the play contrasting bright pristine white to warm yellows to signify the sun and daylight to sultry red rays that give a sense of danger and foreboding.

Theatre information

Access information

Trafalgar Studios are passionate about access and inclusion offering a range of services to make your visit an enjoyable one.

There is a access membership scheme in operation at the venue, by signing up to this you will be able to inform us of any specific access requirements you may have meaning we will be able to in turn provide you with a better service, that includes appropriate seating at a discounted rate. For more information or to join you can do this by visiting the box office or emailing [access@traflagarentertainment.com](mailto:access@traflagarentertainment.com) or you can call the access line on free phone number 0800 912 6971 operated by ATG.

### Touch Tours

Touch tours give patrons who are visually impaired the opportunity to visit the stage and set before a performance to touch and feel every aspect of the production including props and costumes and the opportunity to ask any questions you may have along the way. This enhances the experience of the play so as an audience member you are better able to immerse yourself in all the elements that unfold on stage.

A Touch tour can be provided on request please allow at least a week notice and discuss this at the time of booking – this is subject to availability – please ask at the box office or contact by email:

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

An audio introduction to each show is available on sound cloud searching for – Trafalgar Studios, online by visiting [Trafalgarentertainment.com](http://Trafalgarentertainment.com) you can also request an audio 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, Please let us know in advance that you will be bringing your guide dog when you make your booking, to ensure that seating is appropriate should you wish to take your dog with you in the auditorium.

Staff are happy to sit with guide dogs and provide them with water etc in a suitable space during the performance whenever this is preferred.

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 and 6pm when there isn't a show on.

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.

### **Coming soon to Trafalgar studio**

*A Day In The Death Of Joe Egg* by Peter Nichols

Starring Toby Stephens and Clare Skinner

Is on from the 21<sup>st</sup> of September to the 30th of November

With performances nightly at 7:30 pm mon to Saturday and matinees on Thursday and Saturday at 2:30pm

## **Captioned Performance is on**

Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> November 2019 at 7:30pm

## **Audio Described Performance is on**

Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> November 2019 7:30pm + Touch Tour 6pm

To book for the Audio-Described or Captioned performances, please email [access@trafalgarentertainment.com](mailto:access@trafalgarentertainment.com) to book, putting Audio Described or Captioned Performance in the subject line.

An audio accompaniment will be available online for those visually impaired two weeks into the run.

**Toby Stephens** (*Oslo, Lost in Space*) and **Claire Skinner** (*Outnumbered, The Father*) will make their long awaited returns to the West End stage this autumn in **Peter Nichols'** (*Privates on Parade, Passion Play*) funny and moving masterpiece ***A Day in the Death of Joe Egg***. Directed by **Simon Evans** (*Killer Joe, Arturo Ui*), this revival of Nichols' acclaimed bittersweet comedy reunites two of the greatest actors of their generation. The stars, who last worked together 18 years ago on the award winning BBC TV drama '*Perfect Strangers*', will now be performing on stage together for the very first time. Opening at Trafalgar Studios on 21 September, tickets go on-sale today (Friday 19 July). *A Day in the Death of Joe Egg* is presented in the West End by Howard Panter for Trafalgar Theatre Productions and Eilene Davidson Productions.

Bri (Stephens) and Sheila (Skinner) have been struggling to care for their disabled 10-year old daughter Josephine ever

since she was born. Nicknaming her “Joe Egg”, they lose themselves in fantasy games and black humour to help cope with the struggle of their daily reality. This remarkable story challenges all our assumptions on the limits of love and the power of family.

Inspired by Nichols’ own experience of bringing up his disabled daughter in the 1960s, Joe Egg was one of the ground-breaking plays of its generation and the issues faced by two parents in this bittersweet comedy still resonate with audiences today, breaking your heart one minute and filling it with warmth the next. Now this startlingly funny and celebrated play returns to the West End for a limited season until 30 November.