

**Pre-Show Information**

**Young Vic Taking Part presents**

***Sundown Kiki Reloaded***



**Creative Direction by Jay Jay Revlon**

**Directed by Tristan Fynn-Aiduenu**

This document contains detailed information about the show in order to describe what you should expect when attending.

This includes information about the content warnings, plot, the space, lighting and sound, audience participation, and further access information.

All of the information in this document was correct at the time of publishing. More information will be available closer to the time of performance.

**Please note that by discussing the content of the show, the below information will contain key plot points and descriptions of what happens in the performance.**

If you would like to receive elements of this information **but avoid these spoilers, please do not read the section at the end of this document entitled 'Show Synopsis'.**

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact our Box Office team:

E-mail: [boxoffice@youngvic.org](mailto:boxoffice@youngvic.org)

Phone number: 020 7922 2922

### Show Information:

**Running Time:** Approx 2 hours with an interval

### Content warnings:

- Sexually suggestive movement
- Strong language. Any strong language used is in alignment with, and appropriate within ballroom culture.
- Language that may include references to homophobia, racism, transphobia, as well as discussions of gender and identity, sometimes in the context of race, class, social inequity and privilege.

### Production warnings

- Loud Music
- Strobe lights
- Haze
- Audience interaction

### The Auditorium

#### *Sundown Kiki Reloaded*

This show will take place in The Maria Studio, which is the second largest of our three performance spaces.

For this performance, the space will be in a traverse arrangement, meaning the seats will be on either side of the stage. The maximum capacity is 140. Seating is unreserved.

Access to the Maria Studio is via door 8 by outside The Cut Bar and via the internal entrance in The Cut Bar. Our ushers are on hand to help you, they wear red t-shirts and jumpers with our logo.

Please arrive at the Young Vic with your ticket ready on your phone or have it printed before you enter, or you can collect from box office.

### **Facilities:**

There are toilets located on the ground and first floor at the Young Vic, via The Cut Bar. We have gender-neutral and disabled/baby changing toilets. Sanitary bins are available in all. All indoor venues will also be accessible with lifts & ramps and toilet provided.

### **Assistance Dogs:**

Assistance dogs are always welcome at the Young Vic, if you are planning a visit please let us know in advance which performance you will be attending by calling our box office on **020 7922 2922** or e-mailing [boxoffice@youngvic.org](mailto:boxoffice@youngvic.org) and we will be happy to look after your dog during the show.

### **Access for all:**

For full information about our access measures, please visit our Access for all page, on our website here: [www.youngvic.org/visit-us/access-for-all](http://www.youngvic.org/visit-us/access-for-all)

### **Show Synopsis:**

The show is centered around 2 rival ballroom Houses, the House of Dunn and House of Farai.

The show begins with the 10 characters that make up the cast talking to the audience about identity, self-love, their love of ballroom and the sense of connection that they feel with their Houses.

The second scene involves an interactive monologue between the character Sylvester and the audience. Sylvester tells a story of meeting and connecting with another queer person in a club, getting audience members to fill in the blanks. It ends with him inviting the person back to his House, the House of Dunn.

In scene three, the character Artemis talks about the ballroom category of "Face", praising the beauty of their features.

In scene four, Artemis's monologue is rudely interrupted by Stasi, a member of House Dunn, who is angry at Sylvester for bringing Artemis to House Dunn on her birthday. Rio, the Mother of House Dunn, arrives tired from work, and we learn that Artemis used to be part of the rival House Farai but is now looking for a change. Sylvester advocates for Artemis while Stasi loudly voices her disapproval and dislike for House Farai. Stasi cruelly insists that Artemis must have been kicked out her House, leading Artemis to ask if Stasi's bitterness stems from her not being let into House Farai herself. Stasi goes to fight Artemis, and Sylvester and Rio restrain her, Rio expressing their exhaustion from working multiple jobs to provide for the House. Artemis goes to make Rio a tea, and Rio explains they must go back to work. Stasi is indignant Rio has forgotten her birthday plans, and Sylvester agrees that Rio has been neglecting them and taking on too much by themselves. Rio is indignant, angrily responding they are the only one able to keep a job. Artemis returns with the tea, and Rio decides there will be a trial to decide whether Artemis can join House of Dunn. A song is performed, and Artemis' participation earns them a trial place in House Dunn. Rio apologises to Stasi for missing her birthday and rushes back out to work. Stasi and Sylvester argue about Artemis, but ultimately come to an agreement, and Stasi leaves, telling Artemis she'll be watching them.

Scene 5 involves another audience interaction game. The audience is asked to give prompts, and the company delivers a walk built from these prompts. Character Maame then delivers a monologue about Runway, introducing us to the House of Farai.

Scene 6 begins with House Farai preparing for a ballroom competition. Maame, the House of Farai Mother, is chastising Miguel and Beloved for a disastrous walk yesterday. Lennox, the House Father, speaks up for them, and we find out he wasn't at the competition. Maame calls Lennox out and says he needs to be more present as a House Father. Didi then brings up Artemis defecting, and we see that Maame is very upset by it. She tells off Didi and asks Beloved to walk to change the subject. Beloved walks some European runway, and it is lacking. Maame tells her off, lamenting the future of House Farai, and Beloved tries to get Lennox, the Farai House Father, to defend her. While they argue, there is a knock on the door, and Miguel's friend Peace Be Still arrives and asks to walk European runway for House Farai. Beloved protests as this is her category, but Maame agrees to watch Peace walk. After Peace walks, Maame goads Beloved into battling Peace. The two battle until Beloved loses her temper and takes down Peace. The two are separated, and Maame asks Peace to join House Farai.

In scene 7, Lennox delivers a monologue about "realness", discussing the experience of trans and non-binary people in ballroom and what being real means to them.

In scene 8, Lennox bumps into Rio at their place of work. The two chat awkwardly, with Lennox asking how Artemis is and Rio shutting him down. He tries to buy a drink, asking for a discount, and Rio identifies he was already trying to steal a drink. He entreats Rio's friendship, and she seems cold and dismissive, but finally relents, paying for his drink. Lennox invites Rio outside with him, and Rio asks him what's going on, noticing Lennox's increasingly reckless and irresponsible behavior. Lennox asks Rio to come out with him that night, and Rio accuses Lennox of only caring about himself. The two argue and share a flirtatious moment, and we find out that they used to be an item until Rio left Lennox. Lennox has a moment of vulnerability, revealing to Rio he is tired of fighting and failing in the ballroom scene, and scared to get stuck by committing to his House. Rio is about to say something, but Lennox gets a call from Maame letting him know House Farai and House Dunn are about to walk, so both Lennox and Rio go to the competition.

Scene 9 takes place at a ballroom competition. Beloved spots Artemis with House Dunn, and while Beloved and Didi are happy to see Artemis, Miguel and Maame are not and act coldly

towards her. Peace hugs everyone but Sylvester, who shakes her hand. Miguel tries to start an argument with Artemis, and Stasi takes the bait. The two begin to argue, Stasi insisting that she taught Miguel everything they know about ballroom while Miguel argues they have now outgrown Stasi and left her in the dust. Stasi puts Miguel in their place, but then Maame gets involved, embarrassing Stasi by bringing up her desperate desire to be like Maame and be part of House Farai. Stasi is upset Miguel spilled her secrets to Maame, and Maame demands Stasi apologise to Miguel. Sylvester and Artemis jump in to defend Stasi, and Maame mocks Artemis for defecting, saying she will never do face and House Dunn only accepts rejects. Didi comes running to report that Beloved is killing runway, but Maame insists that fighting for House Farai is more important, asking Didi and Peace to join her. Sylvester insists they can settle this on the runway, but Maame cruelly brings up his recent break up with Peace, saying she dumped him because he was trying to get her to join his subpar House. Sylvester retaliates by bringing up the fact that Lennox hasn't been to a House Farai competition for the past year and Maame's own declining physical ability, which takes Maame aback. Both Houses battle via hand performances, until sirens break it up and everyone scatters. Beloved emerges victorious with two trophies only to find no one there.

In scene 10, Beloved leads an interactive monologue/game about body and loving the body you have, asking audience members to name things they like about their bodies.

In scene 11, we are shown the Houses of Dunn and Farai in the aftermath of the fight side by side in a way which highlights the difference in culture between the two Houses, with House Dunn being kind and supportive and House Farai cruel and cut-throat. In House Farai, Maame is proud of Beloved and wants to celebrate, but Didi has been injured and is upset about the fight. In House Dunn, Stasi has been injured, and Rio berates Sylvester for not looking after her. Didi gives an impassioned speech about how dishonesty and cruelty with each other is tearing House Farai apart and begs for honesty and respect. Maame scoffs at her, saying she prizes her toughness, and Didi goes upstairs. In a parallel conversation, Rio chastises Stasi for fighting with House Farai, and both Stasi and Maame, speaking in unison, insist that their lives have required a level of toughness. Peace tries to argue, and Maame insists that she leave House Farai. Peace declares she is disappointed to find House Farai such a toxic environment. As she prepares to

leave, Didi comes downstairs with her things and announces she is leaving with her. The two leave. We cut back to House Dunn, where Sylvester confronts Rio, insisting that Rio is overworked, and things cannot go on like this. Rio breaks down and begins to cry, and Sylvester comforts them, reassuring them he will support them. Cutting back to House Farai, where just Beloved, Maame, Lennox and Miguel are left, we learn that Maame and Beloved have distinctly different ideas of what House and family mean. Beloved is upset so many members are leaving, and wants kindness and affection from Maame, while Maame argues kindness makes you vulnerable. Lennox is asked for his opinion, and in parallel moments, Lennox reveals he no longer wants to be the Father of House Farai, just as Sylvester says he wants to be the Father of House Dunn. In a united speech, Rio and Maame talk about the pressures and loneliness of being House Mothers and about having everyone rely on them. Rio says they'll think about Sylvester's request, and Artemis tends to Stasi's sprained ankle. Lennox explains he wants to be part of a supportive, less competitive Kiki House, and asks Maame, Miguel and Lennox if they would like to begin again and work to reform House Farai. But Beloved is too disillusioned and leaves. In contrast, in House Dunn, Rio insists that Stasi does not vogue for two months due to her injury, consoling her when she is upset by saying that Stasi is more than her ability to vogue and her welfare matters more than winning prizes. Artemis and Stasi reconcile, and Stasi argues that Artemis has passed their trial. The question is put to Rio, who in turn puts it to Sylvester, saying he is now the Father of House Dunn. Artemis is officially invited to be part of House Dunn, and the four celebrate. Meanwhile, in House Farai, Miguel, the only child left, rants about the weakness displayed by his siblings in a heartless way, insisting he only cares about winning. He leaves, and Maame and Lennox bond over his harsh words, saying he is still their kid, and they'll deal with him together.

Scene 12 is entitled "I see a kid", a group speech which discusses different bittersweet and uplifting stories of queer childhood and self-discovery.

For scene 13, a mirror ball descends. The Hetrick-Martin Institute participants perform a scene devised by them.

The DJ is then introduced and there is a 15-minute interval with music playing.

In Act 2, the participants perform a ball which lasts about 30 minutes. This will involve very loud music and haze.

**If you would like any further clarification or have any questions, please do get in touch with our Box Office team.**

**Email: [boxoffice@youngvic.org](mailto:boxoffice@youngvic.org)**

**Phone number: 020 7922 2922**

**See you soon!**

**Welcome Team**