



THEREVIEWSHUB

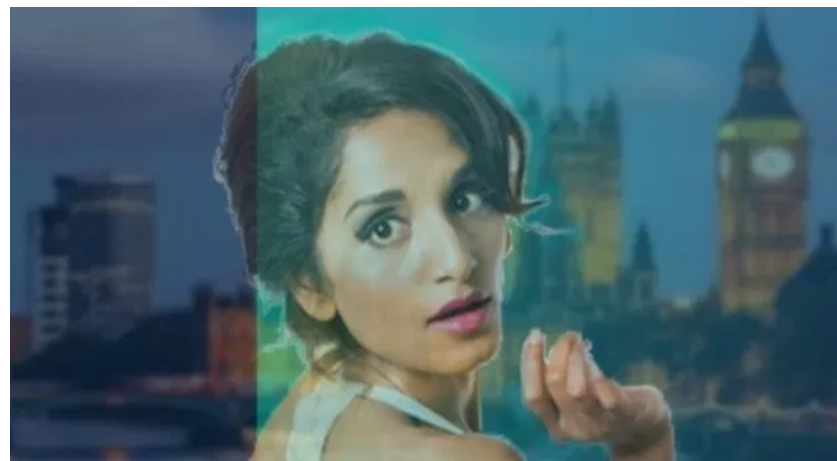
CHAMPIONS OF TRULY NATIONWIDE THEATRE COVERAGE



- HOME
- THEATRE
- FILM
- LEISURE
- COMPETITIONS
- NEWSLETTER
- ABOUT US
- CONTACT
- THEATRE TICKETS



Home / Drama / Treya's Last Dance – Bridewell Theatre, London



Treya's Last Dance – Bridewell Theatre, London

Posted by: The Reviews Hub - London | in Drama, London, Review | 19/02/2016 | Comments Off

Writer: Shyam Bhatt

Director: Tiffany Nicole Greene

Reviewer: James Bartholomeusz

It may well be true that, as Gayatri Spivak once proclaimed, great victories against oppression are being won in the realm of critical theory. The insoluble problem, however, (as at least two generations of humanities scholars have now found) is that no amount of conceptual postulation in academic journals and jargon-suffused blog posts can be relied upon to carry over into real social change. Rather, it seems that the sophistication of critical theory has developed at the same pace as its isolation from the real world; prescient but clunky ideas such as 'intersectionality' still lack a popular idiom to carry them over into the public consciousness. These ideas require a voice like that of Shyam Bhatt: colloquial, irreverent, yet nonetheless bristling with anger against injustice.

Treya's Last Dance is much smarter than its title or marketing might suggest. In the form of dramatic monologue with its wandering reminiscences, careful pacing of revelations and bittersweet realism, it somewhat strangely echoes Alan Bennett's *Talking Heads* – if Bennett had defenestrated decorum and written a mouthy, horny second-generation south-Londoner. The eponymous dance little more than a conceit: the actual setting is a dubious speed-dating night at which Bhatt's Treya gradually reveals her family, the mingled fulfilments and oppressions that come with being part of 'the immigrant community', and her tragic relationship with her brother.

At times it feels as though there is too much peripheral baggage (like the dancing, the speed-dating soon recedes into the background) yet the central flow of both Bhatt's writing and performance is superb. Notably, she is deft at managing cultural stereotypes in a way that avoids both racial profiling and preening political correctness – a rare skill indeed. This, surely, is what the various highfalutin theories of social oppression are lacking: an organic, unpretentious presentation of human experience, spoken in the language of ordinary people and – crucially – refusing to take itself too seriously. Blessedly, there was not a single mention of intersectionality throughout. Between the passive-aggression of a homophobic extended family and a gay couple arriving at a fancy dress party as Achilles and Patroclus, there was just no need.

Runs until 19 February 2016 | Image: Jay Snell

The Reviews Hub - Cookie Notification
 This website uses cookies to improve your experience. We'll assume you're ok with this, but you can opt-out if you wish.

Accept [Read More](#)

to search

CATEGORIES

Select

ARCHIVE

Select

THE BASMAS

SOMETHING

B



9 WE

SEPTI

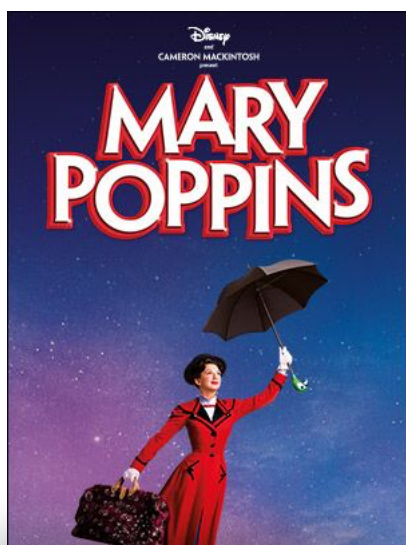
NDOM



Term starts 20 September
VAUDEVILLE THEATRE

RECENT POSTS

- Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat – The London Palladium
- FIFTY WORD FRINGE PITCH...Steve N Allen
- FIFTY WORD FRINGE PITCH...Being Frank about Sinatra
- FIFTY WORD FRINGE PITCH...Fisherman's Tail
- FIFTY WORD FRINGE PITCH...Francesca Bartellini on Father
- Little Miss Sunshine – A Road Musical at the Lyceum Theatre, Sheffield



The Reviews Hub - Cookie Notification
This website uses cookies to improve your experience. We'll assume you're ok with this, but you can opt-out if you wish.

Accept [Read More](#)

Review Overview

The Reviews Hub

Bittersweet

Tweet Like 0 Save

Tagged with: [BRIDEWELL THEATRE](#) [SHYAM BHATT](#) [TIFFANY NICOLE GREENE](#) [TREYA'S LAST DANCE](#)

Previous: [End Of The Rainbow – Mercury Theatre, Colchester](#) Next: [Tim Fitzhigham: The Gambler – The Lowry, Salford](#)

ABOUT THE REVIEWS HUB - LONDON



The Reviews Hub London is under the editorship of John Roberts. The Reviews Hub was set up in 2007. Our mission is to provide the most in-depth, nationwide arts coverage online.

SIMILAR POSTS



Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat – The London Palladium
🕒 1 hour ago



Little Miss Sunshine – A Road Musical at the Lyceum Theatre, Sheffield
🕒 1 day ago



Calendar Girls – Bristol Hippodrome
🕒 1 day ago





LIKE US ON FACEBOOK



The Reviews Hub
2,367 likes

Like Page

Learn More

Be the first of your friends to like this



The Reviews Hub - Cookie Notification
This website uses cookies to improve your experience. We'll assume you're ok with this, but you can opt-out if you wish.

Accept [Read More](#)