

Disgraced - Pre-show Notes

Prepared by Rachel Nip and Stephanie Phang

Introduction

Welcome to this introduction to *Disgraced*, a Pulitzer Prize-winning play by Ayad Akhtar, presented by Singapore Repertory Theatre.

The audio described performance is at 2pm on Sunday, 1 September 2024, and runs for about 90 minutes with no intermission. Please note that the rating for *Disgraced* is R18 for mature themes. The touch tour will begin at 12.45pm. Please aim to arrive 15 minutes before the tour begins. The audio description will be delivered through the Sennheiser Mobile Connect app on your phone. Please download the app ahead of time and bring your own earphones. Your audio describers are Stephanie Phang and Rachel Nip.

Synopsis

Located in a spacious Upper East Side apartment in New York, Amir has worked hard to achieve the American Dream. With South Asian Muslim roots, he has gone on to become a successful lawyer, has a beautiful American wife and even a wardrobe of \$600 custom-tailored shirts.

But when Amir hosts a dinner party for his African American colleague and her Jewish husband, the initially pleasant evening erupts into a volatile argument over race, religion and class in the modern world.

Set in post 9/11 America, *Disgraced* is a journey exploring the clash between modernity and faith.

Creative Credits

Disgraced is directed by Daniel Jenkins

The set designer is Francis O'Connor

The costume designer is Tan Jia Hui

The lighting designer is Yo Shao Ann

The sound designer is Daniel Wong

Cast, characters and costume

The show features five main characters. Amir, his wife Emily, his colleague Jory, Jory's husband Issac and Amir's nephew, Abe.

Amir is played by Ghafir Akbar. An American corporate lawyer of South Asian origin, he first appears in a black suit jacket, a crisp white collared shirt complete with a black tie and white pocket square, but with only black boxer shorts and white socks underneath all of that. He later dresses up with his pants and into other outfits.

Simone Policano plays Emily, Amir's Caucasian wife. A passionate artist, she first appears in blue jeans and a blue striped long sleeved top over a white halter top. Her hair is held up in a claw clip.

Issac is played by Jeremy Rische. A Jewish American art curator married to Jory, he is dressed fashionably in a stone coloured ensemble including a polo shirt, suit jacket and pants. His outfit is finished off with a navy pocket square and black Oxford shoes.

Jory is played by Eboni Flowers. Married to Issac, she is an African American corporate lawyer and Amir's colleague. She wears a black sleeveless dress, coat and heels as well as gold jewelry pieces. Her braids are secured in an elegant up-do.

Shrey Bhargava plays Abe, Amir's Pakistani American nephew. He is dressed like any American teenager with a white printed T-shirt, dark blue jeans, a navy hoodie with white accents and white high top sneakers.

Set and Setting

Disgraced is set in Amir's and Emily's home, an Upper East Side apartment in New York City, USA. The apartment has contemporary furnishings that are a blend of the minimalist and industrial styles. The apartment is also decorated with art books and a mix of ethnic and vintage artifacts.

Their home has an apartment door and living room on the left with the dining area and a swinging kitchen door on the right. In the back there are two gray double doors with divided windows on the left and right that open to a balcony.

The gray entrance door opens to a living room with dark blue walls and gray marbled wallpaper. Beside the entrance, there is a wooden coat stand with various jackets and coats on it. Against the wall behind the coat stand is a marbled gray fireplace with an exposed silver metal chimney.

Next to the fireplace is a white sofa, a white ottoman and a coffee table made of wood and black metal frames. Behind, in the right corner of the living room, is a black metal shelf which serves as a bar stocked with different types of alcohol.

The apartment has a balcony with a view of New York City's skyline. This is shown by the backdrop painted in white and shades of gray depicting the silhouettes of the skyscrapers in the city which can be seen through the two gray double doors on the left and right of the apartment. In the middle of the room, between the two gray double doors, hangs Emily's painting, a large painting of a circle made up of geometrical patterns in green, blue, white and red inspired by Islamic art. In the back, there are also low exposed shelves with art books, a golden statue of the Hindu god Shiva, and various ethnic artifacts.

On the right, the dining area has a white dining table with brown metallic legs and 4 retro chairs with orange seat cushions and silver frames. There is a swinging gray kitchen door that connects the dining area to the kitchen. A wooden high table is placed against the dark blue wall beside the swinging kitchen door.

Access Information

SRT aims to provide an excellent experience and service for all patrons who may require additional support to access our venue and enjoy our events.

For accessible booking options, please contact us at 6733 8166 from 10am to 6pm Monday to Friday.

The nearest parking options are Robertson Quay Hotel, located at 15 Merbau Road, Singapore 239032, opposite the theatre's front door, or the Robertson Walk Carpark at 11 Unity Street, Singapore 237995.

For Public Transport options, the nearest Bus Stop is B13211.

The nearest MRT stations are Clarke Quay (NE5), on the Northeast Line and Fort Canning (DT20) on the Downtown Line.

The touch tour will commence at 12.45pm, and the show starts at 2pm. Please inform the staff at the front door that you are there for the touch tour and they will bring you to the assembly point.

Please have your mobile device and earphones with you. The Box Office will have earphones and devices on standby if needed.

KC Arts Centre, Home of SRT, is assistance dog friendly. It is also accessible for wheelchair use from both the front and rear entrances. There is currently 1 wheelchair space on row Q in the theatre stalls.

If you require a wheelchair space, or would like to understand more about transferring options, please contact our venue team via email at boxoffice@srt.com.sg or call 6733 8166.

We at SRT look forward to welcoming you and hope you have a wonderful time with us!

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