



Layla's Room

by Sabrina Mahfouz

- Touring 19 September to 2 December 2016 -

Layla is a teenage girl - funny, passionate and principled. But this evening, she's going nowhere fast.

Accidentally locked in her bedroom for one last night before moving house, she reflects on her experiences in the room, talking to the memories of the people she's known.

She looks at the everyday objects she sees in her room. The things that let her connect to the world, or block it out. The things that make her feel special, or make her feel sad.

What do these objects say about the person she is, and the person she will become?

And in a generation under more pressure than ever, what makes Layla... Layla?

Devised by poet and playwright Sabrina Mahfouz from the results of over 1000 interviews with teenage girls across the UK, Layla's Room is a celebration of the energy, ambitions and concerns of young women, told through poetry, comedy and music.

Hear the voices of real teenagers on identity, body image and equality, and discover why Theatre Centre has hope in Layla leading us into the future...

Reasons to Book

A live theatre experience to inspire and develop students' storytelling, performance and critical analysis skills.	Strong curriculum links – Drama, English, PSHE/Citizenship – as well as SMSC supporting.
A compelling, relevant and accessible introduction to issues of gender and identity, written specifically for a teenage audience.	Sabrina Mahfouz is an accomplished poet and playwright, who has collated over 1000 surveys, and presents them from a fresh, lyrical perspective.
High quality performance and production values – see previous audience responses .	Easily accessible and inclusive learning resources, lesson plans, behind-the-scenes videos and more.
Each performance includes a post-show discussion around the issues that audiences face in their school and local community.	Each performance includes a copy of the script to enable further study.
Performance workshops are also available for up to 30 students, led by the actors from the show.	Theatre Centre has over 60 years' experience touring exceptional new plays for young audiences.

Theatre Centre

Theatre Centre specialises in the creating and producing of new work with and for children and young people, empowering young leadership through the arts. Working principally with writers and new writing, we explore historical and contemporary experiences of young people, discovering resonances that engage young people in worlds beyond their own.

<p>“An inspired script...” ★★★★ The Morning Star</p>	<p>“Well-pitched for teenagers” ★★★★ The Stage</p>	<p>“Heart-warming but poignant” ★★★★ What’s On Stage</p>
<p>“Thought-provoking, blackly funny, deeply moving” ★★★★ The Public Reviews</p>	<p>“Compassionate and uncompromising” Children’s Theatre Reviews</p>	<p>“Actor-storytellers with boundless energy” The Play’s The Thing</p>



Rise Up cast with pupils at Burnt Mill Academy, Harlow, Essex

Teacher Feedback	Young People Feedback
<p>“Theatre Centre provides a consistently high quality theatre experience to young people which extends their understanding of drama but also makes them think” Clapton Girls, Julian Bergin, Head of Expressive Arts</p>	<p>“It was an empowering, thought-provoking and thoroughly interesting and educational piece of theatre.” Kate, student, Oxford High School for Girls</p>
<p>“Captivated students and engaged them with the curriculum: brought history to life!” Burnt Mill Academy, Robyn McDonald, Humanities and History</p>	<p>“We have all learnt something that we never knew and it was one of the best shows I have ever seen.” Klementina, student, Loxford School of Science and Technology</p>
<p>“Enthuses, stimulates and provides students with insight and appreciation of what makes outstanding drama” Bucklers Mead School, Joanne Brownley, Head of Drama</p>	<p>“Loved watching [Theatre Centre] this afternoon. You often think how things have changed, but you never really think about the people who changed it” Lauren, student, Twitter</p>
<p>“Thank you so much for an experience we won’t forget.” Willowbank Hospital School, Ellen Bianchini, Teaching Assistant</p>	<p>“It was entertaining throughout, it felt as if I was actually there. The mixture between humour and pure emotion kept me engaged. A great story with excellent acting.” Student, School 21</p>

Booking:
 020 7729 3066
 john@theatre-centre.co.uk



Sabrina Mahfouz
(Photo: Eliza Power)

Sabrina Mahfouz

Sabrina Mahfouz is currently writing plays, poems, librettos and TV for Paines Plough; BBC3; Kate Whitley; Futures Theatre, and Aakash Odedra. She has been a Sky Arts Academy Scholar for Poetry, a poet in residence for Cape Farewell and an Associate Playwright at the Bush Theatre. Her creative work has been recognized with a number of awards including a 2014 Fringe First Award; a 2013 Sky Arts Futures Fund Award; an Old Vic New Voices Underbelly Edinburgh Award and a Westminster Prize for New Playwrights. Her book *The Clean Collection* is available from Bloomsbury.

*“Mahfouz’s poetic script fizzles with energy... ★★★★★” **The Independent***

*“A blistering way with language... this is how theatre can take you anywhere in your imagination... ★★★★★” **The Herald***

“Sensational... the best writing on the fringe... ★★★★★”

British Theatre Guide

*“A really substantial piece of writing... [Mahfouz] speaks lyrically and powerfully” **The Times***

Technical requirements

Layla’s Room will tour to secondary schools, theatres, museums and arts centres. The production specifications are as follows:

- Space required: 5x5m playing space, plus room for the audience.
- Running time: 60 minutes, no interval.
- Cast: 2-3 actors.
- Get in/get out time required: 90 minute get in and prep. 45 minute get out.
- Audience size: Up to 120 students. (Negotiable if your space has raked seating.)
- Other requirements: access to mains power.



Theatre Centre on tour – Harris Boys’ Academy, East Dulwich

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020 7729 3066
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Performance Package

Each package includes:

- Performance
- Access to online learning resources
- Post-show discussion
- Copy of the script

Workshop (for up to 30 students)

The accompanying workshop for *Layla's Room* will focus on a specific acting technique or skill that has been key to the rehearsal process of the production.

Performance Package	Cost*
One performance	£650
One performance and one workshop	£850
Two performances (50% off second show)	£975
Two performances (50% off second show) and one workshop	£1,100

Booking

For more details or to book the show into your school please contact **John May**. Dates can become unavailable quickly, so do get in touch as soon as possible to ensure that we can visit your school on your preferred date.

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Email: john@theatre-centre.co.uk



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