

***Glorious* by Rajni Shah Projects - show summary**

The show lasts approximately 2 hours, with an interval of fifteen minutes and a pause of five minutes between acts. Since we work with local participants each time we perform the show, we don't have a script available until the day of the show. However, we can print out a copy of the script for you and have it waiting for you at the box office on the day of the show if this would be helpful. If you would like us to do this, please email Helena Suarez at producer@rajnishah.com and specify what size print you would like it.

Please note that we will only print scripts if we have advance requests, so do get in touch.

Summary

Glorious is a musical in three acts. Each act revisits the same material, building to a climax and then slowly fading away. The show is about what it means to live in a place, and what it means to gather in a theatre.

In **Act One**, the stage is stark and empty except for the central figure of Rajni, who wears a simple dark green column-like dress. She sings six songs, accompanied by piano, and 6-10 local residents, who begin seated at the side of the auditorium, come up in turn and speak a short monologue into a microphone between each song. We see each microphone and its stand being placed on stage by members of the company. The Act ends with the performers re-entering to place a bunch of flowers at the front of the stage, and taking a bow.

There follows an interval of fifteen minutes during which the audience can leave the auditorium if they wish. The flowers are placed along the front edge of the stage, in a long row, and stay here throughout the next act.

Act Two celebrates the coming together of people. Local musicians join all other performers on stage, and sculpted costume elements are added to the central performer to create the image of a body in a landscape. The same songs are sung again, but now to new arrangements created and played by the musicians; and musical underscoring also accompanies the six speakers, who revisit and/or expand on the texts we've already heard them speak.

There follows a pause of five minutes. The flowers are gathered in bunches by musicians and speakers and taken to their seats.

Act Three has a much more elegiac tone and is shorter than the other two acts. The costume elements remain in place, but have gathered an extra layer - a semi-opaque glistening sheath that spreads out across the stage. Each performer only speaks one line of his/her monologue - a kernel of a story - and then places the gathered flowers at the foot of his/her microphone and leaves the stage. The songs are played in simple arrangements and in a minor key - and as each song is played some of the musicians leave the stage. At the end of the act Rajni leaves the stage while singing the last song (*Glorious*) - leaving behind flowers, microphones, chairs, and the landscape of the costume.

The show ends with the cycle of songs beginning again, this time played on stage on a Nagra reel-to-reel. Members of the company collect the flowers, and hand them out to the audience, inviting them to exit in their own time via the stage.

Lyrics

Each act contains reworked versions of the same six songs. Below is a transcript of the full lyrics to each song. Please note that the exact lyrics used changes in each version of the show, so not all of the lyrics below will be sung in the show you are seeing.

1. Song of Letters

Dear Kielder

Stay alive now

Feel the act of unbecoming

Feel the future loom again

Know how much you want to live inside

the glamour of this place

As the past returns around us

into shadows of itself

Wayne and Lucy, be together

Hold your story to the light

Feel the act of unbecoming

Feel the past return around

Know how much you want to live inside

The glamour of your hope

As you turn towards the future

We are falling into one

Dear Lucille, here we are then

Strange how people look at you and

Strange how you can be so present

Even as you draw the line

As you step outside

As you step outside

Dear Sushila, hold them tightly

Feel the past return around as

You are holding onto hope that

even this, all this might change

As you draw the line

As you draw -

Dear murmur
Hold them gently
Hold the weight of knowing people
Hold the weight of staying true

Place your body in this landscape
Know your body in this place
You're a mine of hidden stories
on the lashes of your mind

Stay alive with hopeful hopeful
in a crowd and on the brink
Hold the weight of knowing people
Hold the weight of staying true

You are full of hidden stories
that are brinking on your mind
Hold your body in this city
Breaking landscape of a wo-rld--

Wanting staying, earthbound true-ful
Falling, knowing, brinking, tearing
Hold the weight of knowing people
Even this, all this will change

Dear Lula
Fall away now
Feel the act of unbecoming
Let it all slip from your hand
Feel the embers of beginning
as this place returns around
Feel the embers of beginning
Let it all slip from your hand

2. Landbreak

They said: when the land is shaking,
When the earth itself is breaking

There's a void of hesitation
and you can't know who to trust

We heard that you might be coming
We've put up the lights and speakers
We've picked up a crowd of flowers
just in case you want to stay

He asked in a quiet voice if
there were reasons for this rupture
She asked in a quiet voice if
we could face the future now

You said that it's like at night time
when the dark is unexpected
and whole world turns to liquid
and you wait for dawn to break

MUSICAL SECTION

They said: when the land is shaking
When the earth itself is breaking

It seems like it should be easy
but sometimes it's so much harder
So thank you for coming out from
wherever you are calling home

It's not just that I can see you
It's not just that I can see you
There are voices in the distance
that can still be here tonight

They said: when our hands are shaking,
When we're not sure what we're holding
There's a mound of reassurance
in just being in this place

3. Now That You Know

You are walking away from the city
as the windows fall out of the sky
And it's clear we're emerging from back then
As you fly through the streets like a parade

Now that you know what you know, would you ever come back?
Now that you know what you know, do you still want to stay?
Now that you see what you see do you still want to act?
Now that you see what you see, do you still want to stay?

SILENCE

You are walking away from the city
as the windows fall out of the sky
In the rhythm of birds as they migrate
At a crossroad of centuries

Now that you know what you know, will you ever come back?
Now that you know what you know, do you still want to stay?
Now that you see what you see do you still want to act?
Now that you see what you see, do you still want to stay?

Now that you know what you know, will you always come back?
Now that you know what you know, do you still want to stay?
Now that you see what you see, can you ever not act?
Now that you see what you see can you ever just stay?

4. Spiralling Weather

All the books you loved
People that you cared
Feelings of regret
Murmurs of desire

Buildings that fell down
Friendships that you grew
Letters from a year
Curtains in a room

Chairs and hearts and home
Pills and plants and food
Memories and hopes
Crocery and shoes

You have to let it go
and as they all take flight
The inside floods out
Chaos into light

Every now and then
you feel them fly past
Everything you knew
All the furniture

All the books you loved
People who cared and
Feelings of regret
Murmurs of desire

And you stop trying to know
what holds it all together
As you step outside into
spiralling weather

5. Rhymes

To break wide open
To shy away
To blinker and canter
To squander the day

To wander and wonder
To place and displace
To keep it within you
and not leave a trace

To smile at a stranger

To hold onto trust
To quell with intention
To know that you must

To cast a deep shadow
To not understand
To let it all slip
from the palm of your hand

To speak in your own voice
and to wonder why me
To wrap up a gift
when you're drifting at sea

To stay on the bus
just to feel its embrace
To borrow and burn
and to fall into place

To ask for a friend
just to be in the room
To wish it were Autumn
when Summer's in bloom

To mess with the system
To walk into dirt
To stay and unravel
To move and stay hurt

To whittle away
or to charge right ahead
To fall into fiction
or to fall into bed

To be in the world
in a myriad of ways
To linger at crossroads
and count down the days

To help when it's too late
To lose and not care
To wish for destruction
To never be there

To curl up inside
when the world is in pain
To hold yourself back
or to swallow the rain

To break wide open

6. Glorious

As we draw this act to night
As the hills are folded in
As the coloured lights are fading
and our thoughts are packed away

It is glorious
It is glorious

As we move towards a pause
As the city scapes to dusk
Just before you leave your seats
Feel the weight of history

It is glorious
It is glorious

As the future looms again
As the past returns around
As this place remembers us
And we look to where we are
It is glorious

PIANO

Here's to all the people here
Here's to those who can't be here
It's for us right here right now
It's for us right here right now

It is glorious
It is glorious
It is glorious
It is glorious

END