

# ALMEIDA THEATRE

## THE HOUSE OF SHADES: DETAILED CONTENT WARNING

We know that some themes covered in our productions can cause upset or distress so below we have highlighted some themes that people may find upsetting and on the next page are descriptions of some scenes.

**\*Please note that this document includes the discussion of key plot points and spoilers, including revealing the ending of the play\***

Our content warnings are updated as a production evolves through rehearsals and previews, so please note they may change between booking a ticket and seeing the production.

If there are specific themes, triggers or allergies which you would like to discuss with one of our team before you book, please call the Box Office on 020 7359 4404 or email [boxoffice@almeida.co.uk](mailto:boxoffice@almeida.co.uk).

### Themes covered in this production include:

- Abortion – including a graphic depiction involving blood
- Death – including the depiction of a heart attack and the loss of a child
- Domestic violence – discussion and description of domestic violence
- Incest – the depiction of a mother kissing her son

## CONTENT WARNINGS: SCENE DESCRIPTIONS

Below are more detailed descriptions of particular scenes that some people may find upsetting and when these occur in the play.

***The House of Shades*** has five acts. Acts 1-3 occur before the interval and acts 4 & 5 are after the interval.

**\*Please note the below includes descriptions of key plot points and spoilers, including revealing the ending of the play\***

### **Domestic Violence:**

Act 2: Constance says her father beat his wife and children. She describes a time when she was fifteen years old and he hit her with his belt.

### **Incest:**

Act 5: Constance and Young Jack (her son) are on their own in the house and she asks him to dance. She kisses him.

### **Abortion / Loss of a child:**

Act 1: Laura walks down the stairs; the bottom half of her nightie is covered in blood. Laura collapses. We cut to a neighbour who explains that Laura died trying to get rid of her baby.

Act 4: After being refused a backstreet abortion, Constance tells Laura that they can do it themselves. She pulls out and reshapes a wire coat hanger and walks Laura away. Laura is forced into early labour. Most of this action is hidden behind a bed but we can see Laura crying in pain. Constance's arms are covered in blood. We see Constance carrying a small bundle in a bloodied towel which she puts in a bucket. We hear a rustle coming from the bucket. Constance pushes and holds down another towel in the bucket and the noise stops. Laura looks down at her nightie and we see there is a lot of blood between her legs.

Act 5: Lena, a factory worker, played by the same actor as Laura, sits in bloodied clothes having given birth to a premature baby at work. Eddie tells Jack that they've found Lena's baby in the bin.

Simultaneously in a memory sequence, Constance appears with the bucket. Laura moans and asks Young Jack for help.

In the final moment of the play, Constance reappears to Jack with bloody hands.