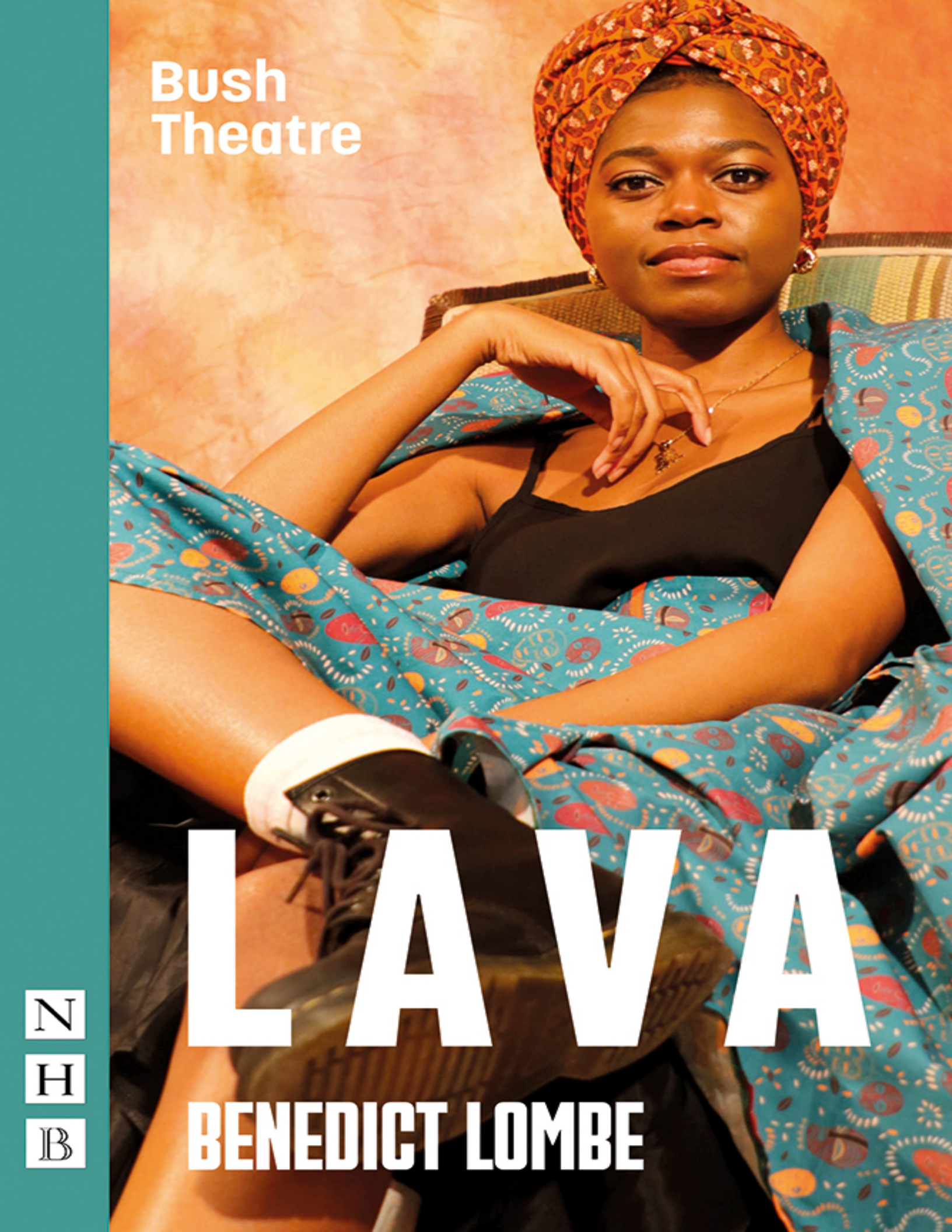




**Bush
Theatre**

LAVA

BENEDICT LOMBE

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Benedict Lombe

LAVA



NICK HERN BOOKS

London

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For my people:

*the ones who paved the way
the ones who walk alongside me now
and the ones who will come after us.*

Lava was first performed at the Bush Theatre, London, on 12 July 2021. The cast and creative team were as follows:

HER	Ronke Adékoluejo.jo
<i>Director</i>	Anthony Simpson-Pike
<i>Designer</i>	Jasmine Swan
<i>Lighting Designer</i>	Jai Morjaria
<i>Sound Designer</i>	Josh Anio Grigg
<i>Projection Designer</i>	Gino Ricardo Green
<i>Movement Director</i>	DK Fashola
<i>Composers</i>	Francis Botu, Andrew Wildgoose and Jacob Wye
<i>Dialect Coach</i>	Esi Acquaaah-Harrison
<i>Dramaturg</i>	Deirdre O'Halloran
<i>Casting</i>	Chandra Ruegg
<i>Production Manager</i>	Jerome Reid
<i>Company Stage Manager</i>	Crystal Gayle
<i>Assistant Stage Manager</i>	Sarah Goodyear
<i>Production LX</i>	Pete Rickards

All other characters voiced by Jaimi Barbakoff and Ben Norris

Notes on the Play

Speech in *italics* should be pre-recorded audio by other voices.

Scenes are numbered in the text but intended to flow into each other.

A full stop between lines indicates a new thought or swift passage of time.

Speech in brackets can be a shift in tone or under the breath (like a side-note).

Words in ***italics and bold*** are song lyrics.

Staging

This play can be staged however you see fit.

In our production, the stage became a lava lake.

Rusted pillars jutted out of the ground and volcanic rock was peppered all around.

A giant cardboard box, half-melting into the lava, towered over everything like a volcano.

This ebook was created before the end of rehearsals and so may differ slightly from the play as performed.

Thanks

I am grateful to so many people who nurtured my mind and my soul, allowing this play to come into existence.

My parents; my Mama and Papa, whose refusal to settle taught me bravery before I even had the words for it. My brothers, my co-conspirators, who turned the cross-continental journeys we undertook into unforgettable adventures. My nephews, whose joy, wit and spark push me to fight for a world that might one day be deserving of them. And Paddy Gervers, whose remarkable kindness, patience and care held me throughout this process.

Dan Bailey, thank you for starting this journey with me; for always allowing me to tell this story with integrity and never wavering in your trust in what this could become. Deirdre O'Halloran, thank you for your wisdom. Lynette Linton and the entire Bush Theatre Team, thank you for welcoming me and this play into your house.

And last, but never least, Anthony Simpson-Pike and Ronke Adékoluejo. You are magic.

- Bx.

Characters

A Black woman plays all characters.

HER, *late twenties, Black woman (London accent of choice)*

MAMA, *mid-fifties, Black woman (Congolese accent)*

PARTNER, *late twenties, white man (East London Cockney accent)*

AFRIKANER TEACHER, *late thirties, white woman (Afrikaner accent)*

SOUTH AFRICAN TEACHER, *late thirties, Black woman (Zulu or Sotho accent)*

DOCTOR, *late forties, white woman (RP accent)*

Recorded Voice-overs

PASSPORT OFFICE, *mid-thirties, white man (RP accent)*

THEM, *late twenties, white man and/or woman (various British accents)*

PUPIL 1, *thirteen, white girl (Northern accent)*

PUPIL 2, *thirteen, white boy (Northern accent)*

REPORTER, *late thirties, white woman (RP accent)*

JOURNO 1, *mid-thirties, white man (West London accent)*

JOURNO 2, *late thirties, white woman (East London accent)*

PRODUCER, *mid-fifties, white woman (West London accent)*