Things Hidden Since the Foundation of the World – Pre show Information

This information is to help you decide if Things Hidden Since the Foundation of the World is for you. Content notes, including what happens in the show, are further in the document.

The Space

* There is space for the performance and the audience is on seats on risers
* On stage there are screens, which have projections
* There are two levels

The Performers

* The performers are:
* Javaad Alipoor
* Asha Reid
* Raam Emami
* Me-Lee Hay

Lighting and Sound

* There will be speaking over music. If this is difficult there is a captioned performance on 18 November
* There will be bright colourful projections that flash rapidly
* There will be flashing lights

Participation

* Javaad will talk directly to you.
* The performance assumes that you have a smart phone with a connection to the internet. Javaad will ask you to look up things on Wikipedia and look through links on the internet. You don’t have to if you don’t want to.
* Javaad will also ask you and other people in the audience if any of you has heritage from the Global South and who your Tom Jones is. You don’t have to answer if you don’t want to.

Access Information

* The performance is 90 minutes long
* There is no interval
* The performance space has step-free access via a lift
* All performances are Relaxed this means you can move or make noise if you need to and can go in and out of the performance space
* There will be a captioned performance on 18 November
* There will be a BSL interpreted performance on 25 November. The BSL interpreter will be Sumayya Si-Tayeb
* Latecomers will be permitted
* Ear defenders and fidget toys are available for anyone who might find these useful
* There is an accessible toilet on every floor of the building
* There is a chill out space outside the performance space that is available anytime the building is open
* Please keep your phone switched on and silent for the start of the show

Content Notes

Things Hidden Since the Foundation of the World is about how we find things out. InI1992 Iranian popstar and refugee Fereydoun Farrokhzad was murdered. We don’t know who did it. But the show is also about how true crime podcasts, comparing one thing to another, and the internet let us feel like we know most things. The show will talk about murder, including a detailed description of the murder scene and how Farrokhzad was possibly murdered. There is some swearing.

Detailed Content Notes

The show starts with Javaad telling you about Farrokhzad and his mysterious murder. Javaad also tells you about the void – the things you don’t know and how you learn things. He tells you a little about his life, growing up in Bradford with his father who is an Iranian refugee and an English mother. But he stops - that is not the show that you are watching.

Then Javaad tells you about the internet. He asks you and the rest of the audience to look up things on Wikipedia and see where you end up if you follow the links. Javaad explains the idea of subaltern groups. Subaltern groups are people whose lands have been colonized and they can’t access power in the colonial government.

Javaad introduces Raam. Raam explains that he has spent his life moving between Iran, Canada and the US. He plays music and he’s a podcaster whose podcast in Persian is listened to by millions of people. He’s famous, but only to Iranians.

Then, a podcast called Death in the Gaps starts. The host talks about how podcasts are set up and then she tells you that this podcast will be about the murder of Fereydoun Farrokhzad. The host explains the theories around Farrokhzad’s murder, including the rumours that he was gay and murdered by his lover.

Raam talks about his life in LA, falling in love and singing in Persian. Then, one of his songs was used to accompany video footage of green protests in Iran. Raam’s life explodes.

Javaad explains that Farrokhzad hosted a tv program and was amazing and beloved by Iranians.

The host of Death in the Gaps talks about what we do and do not know about Farrokhzad’s murder. The host explains that Farrokhzad was not on good terms with the Iranian government. The host talks about the strangeness of fame and who and what you know. The host asks, did the Iranian government have him killed?

Raam talks about all the people who reached out to him after he becomes famous. Then, he goes back to Iran and leaves. His father is arrested and tortured to death by the Iranian government. His mother is imprisoned by the government. Raam is so upset. In despair, he starts a podcast where he talks about all the hard things. Many, many people listen to it.

Javaad explains that most of the Scots entries on Wikipedia were written by a US teenager inspired by Braveheart. Javaad explains that the internet is actually mostly people, not computer programs.

Death in the Gaps explains the theory that Farrokhzad was killed by Iranian government.

Raam tells the story of how he was visited by the Canadian secret service. The Canadian secret service explains that Raam’s name is on a list of people the Iranian government wants to kill. Raam starts to meet other people who live with that kind of threat. He explains that he’s accidentally helped people talk about what they do and think.

Death in the Gaps plays, rapidly talking about how we know and understand things. Javaad and the host of Death in Gaps talk through a detailed description of the murder of Farrokhzad.

Javaad talks about what we know about the world and what we don’t know about the world.