

TRIBES

By Nina Raine

Mar 3-26, 2017

Frequently Asked Questions

1. What is *Tribes* about?

Directed by ACT's Artistic Director, John Langs, *Tribes* is the story of Billy, a young man who lives with an intellectual, chaotic, and sharp-tongued family. Arguments and insults regularly fly around the dinner table, all while Billy silently watches the scene unfold—he has been deaf since birth. He has managed to adapt to his family's unconventional ways, but they've never really returned the favor. His world is turned upside down when he meets Sylvia, a young woman on the cusp of deafness herself. A massive hit in London and New York, and winner of the Drama Desk Award for Outstanding Play, *Tribes* is the humorous and touching coming-of-age story about the struggle for self-identity and what it truly means to be understood.

2. When does *Tribes* run and how are tickets purchased?

Tribes runs Mar 3-26, 2017 in the Allen Theatre at ACT. Tickets are available online at acttheatre.org, by phone at 206.292.7676, and in-person at 700 Union Street, Seattle.

3. What is the age-appropriateness of the play?

ACT leaves the decision about age-appropriateness to the parents, but due to graphic language throughout the play and adult content, we suggest the play for ages 16 and older.

4. Are deaf actors cast in *Tribes*?

ACT is thrilled to have Joshua Castille make his Seattle debut in *Tribes* in the role of Billy. Joshua is a Deaf actor from Los Angeles previously seen in Deaf West's production of *Spring Awakening* on Broadway and ABC Family's *Switched at Birth*.

5. Is *Tribes* accessible to the Deaf/ Hard of Hearing (HH) community?

Yes. ACT will be installing the Figaro MobiTxt Closed Captioning System (CC) in both of our Mainstage theatres, starting with *Tribes*. **CC will be available for all performances**, and ASL interpretation will be available at the following performances and audience engagement events:

- Thursday, Mar 16, 7:30pm (with pre-show Dig Deep event that explores the themes of the play)
- Saturday, Mar 25 at 8:00pm
- Sunday, Mar 26 at 2:00pm (followed by a moderated Cast Chat)

6. *Tribes* is set in England, so why is American Sign Language used in the show instead of British Sign Language?

The Artistic team made a well-researched and intentional decision when choosing to use American Sign Language in *Tribes*, as opposed to British Sign Language. Even though the story of *Tribes* takes place in the UK, every major production of *Tribes* in the United States has used American Sign Language for one key reason: Deaf Americans coming to see the show know ASL, not BSL. We arrived at the same decision as other accessibility directors and sign masters from across the country; it's important to give stage-time to characters using

American Sign Language, to make this under-represented language more well-known and celebrated in regional theatre. Ryan Schlecht, the production's Sign Master, is a Deaf American theatre-maker, who worked closely with ACT at every step of production to build the ASL you see in TRIBES.

7. Describe the Figaro MobiTxt Closed Captioning System. How can patrons reserve?

The Figaro system supports Closed Captioning on individual tablets attached to a “gooseneck” stand on the arm of the patron’s seat. The captioning will be run manually by an operator at each performance so there will be no delay in the display. Formatting, font size and color can be chosen from a selection of standard settings by the patron. A personal 4”x 6” tablet may be reserved ahead of time by calling or emailing the Ticket Office with the performance date/ time you are attending (206.292.7676 or service@acttheatre.org). The devices can be picked up in the Union Street Lobby (inside main front doors) or from the House Manager on duty.

8. How are ASL tickets purchased?

ASL performance tickets may be purchased online, by phone at 206.292.7676, at the ACT Ticket Office at 700 Union Street, or by emailing the Ticket Office at service@acttheatre.org.

9. Is Tribes accessible to Deaf-Blind patrons?

Yes. Deaf-Blind patrons are welcome at the ASL performances, and their Support Service Provider (SSP) will receive a complimentary ticket. Tickets can be arranged by calling the Ticket Office at 206.292.7676, at the ACT Ticket Office at 700 Union Street or by emailing the Ticket Office at service@acttheatre.org. Additionally, Deaf Spotlight will be happy to assist Deaf-Blind patrons with securing tickets by emailing deafspotlight@gmail.com. Please let Deaf Spotlight or the ACT Ticket Office if you will need a SSP ticket.

10. Where can Deaf/Hard of Hearing (HH) patrons request additional assistance and advance copies of the script?

ACT is grateful for the support of Deaf Spotlight to ensure that our Deaf/HH patrons have a wonderful time in our theatre. Should you require any additional assistance or would like to request a copy of the script in advance, please contact Deaf Spotlight at deafspotlight@gmail.com.