

Rare Earth Mettle

Sensory Synopsis: A Guide to Sights, Sounds and Emotional Triggers

This is a sensory synopsis for *Rare Earth Mettle*. It is intended to help those with sensory and communication requirements prepare for the experience of attending the performance. Our aim is to warn you of any moments with loud noises, flashes of light, sudden or surprising movements or heightened emotion.

Should you have any questions regarding any aspect of *Rare Earth Mettle*, please email boxoffice@royalcourttheatre.com

KEY:



Where you see this symbol, we are alerting you to moments that might be **emotional**.



Where you see this symbol, we are alerting you to moments that might surprise or shock you, such as **sudden movements**.



Where you see this symbol, we are alerting you to **flashes of light or sudden/extreme lighting changes**.



Where you see this symbol, we are alerting you to **loud noises or changes in music/sound**.

WARNING: This document contains some information which may give away aspects of the plot.

- Haze, strobe, flashing lights and laser effects are used in the performance. We have attempted to highlight the points at which these are present.

- *Rare Earth Mettle* contains adult and sexually explicit language and swearing.

- The characters in *Rare Earth Mettle* are often in a state of high emotion or extreme tension. This can cause them to speak loudly and shout throughout the performance.

ACT ONE: MARCH 2020

SCENE ONE



The lights in the auditorium turn of to signal the start of the play.



We hear sounds.



There is light focused on a hole in the stage.



A big clear ball is raised out the hole in the stage.
The ball swings.



Sand falls from the bottom the clear ball.



We hear train noises.



KIMSA wheels set pieces around the stage.
They move quickly.



The door covering the hole in the stage is closed.



The sound gets quieter.



The lights on stage get brighter.



We hear pan flute music.



The music gets quieter until it can no longer be heard.



KIMSA places a metal bucket on the floor.



There is swearing in this scene.



There is mention of underwear in this scene.



There is mention of religion in this scene (specifically Catholicism).



ANNA is wearing blue sterile gloves.
There is mention of illness and hospitals in this scene.



There is mention of snakes in this scene.



There is mention of testicles in this scene.



There is a single strobe flash when HENRY takes a photograph of ANNA.

SCENE TWO



We hear music.



A large white frame fills the stage.



Actors move set pieces and bring on chairs.



Colourful lights shine on the stage.



Five actors dance to the rhythm.



We hear laughter.



The term “special” is discussed in relation to Greta Thunberg.



CALISTA and ANDREA both wear shoes that click when they walk around.



There is mention of giving birth in this scene.



CALISTA, JUSTIN, HYWEL and JO all turn their heads and look at ANDREA at the same time.



Two set pieces that look like potted plants are turned around.

SCENE THREE



The lights on stage get darker.



Actors turn the chairs around.



Actors walk over the white frame to exit the scene.



A screen comes down to fill the frame.



There is mention of the National Health Service (NHS) in this scene.



There are mentions of medical terms and diseases in this scene.



There is mention of the Covid-19 virus in this scene.



There is mention of ill mental health in this scene.



A laser shines a blue curved line onto the screen.

SCENE FOUR



We hear music



The screen lifts until it is no longer visible.



A backdrop with a blue sky and clouds hangs down in the middle of the stage.



JO enters the scene quickly.



JO's shoes click on the stage.



There are mentions of testicles in this scene.



The term "special" is discussed in relation to Greta Thunberg.



There is swearing in this scene.



HENRY puts his hand down his pants to apply cream to his testicles.



HENRY snaps his fingers.



HENRY speaks in a loud voice.

SCENE FIVE



Music plays



Lights turn blue.



The screen moves up until it is out of view.



The lights go dark.



KIMSA stands in a square spotlight.



Actors roll pieces of set around him.
They move quickly.



Lights on the stage turn red, green and purple.



The music gets distorted.



KIMSA and INTI dance.



The lights get brighter.
There is an warm glow on stage.



KIMSA climbs the telephone pole.



NAYRA's shoes click on the stage.



There is swearing in this scene, including the use of extreme swear words.



There are references to sex in this scene.

SCENE SIX



Music comes on.



The lights get more dim.



ANNA stands in a square spotlight near the back of the stage.



A large glass tank with fake rats at the bottom is suspended on the stage.



This scene takes place in a lab.
There is mention of medical tests and doctors.



There is mention of alcoholism in this scene.



There is mention of blackmail and bribery in this scene.



AISLING is uncomfortable.



There is mention of death in this scene.



There is mention of smoking cigarettes in this scene.



There is mention of having a crush on someone.



There is mention of blood in this scene.



There is mention of poor mental health in this scene.



There is mention of drugs in this scene.



There is mention of suicide and anxiety in this scene.



There are references to the Brexit vote in this scene.

SCENE SEVEN



Upbeat music plays.



The lights turn blue.



The rats are raised until they are no longer visible.



Green squares briefly light up on the floor of the stage.



Multicoloured balloons are brought onstage.



The lights turn red, green and purple



The actors clap in unison.



The actors dance.



The actors clap in unison again.



INTI lights a match at the front of the stage.
We see a small flame.



We hear a crowd chatting.



Music fades away.



The lights get brighter and white.



There is mention of genitals in this scene.



There is swearing in this scene.



KIMSA shouts.
He knows that ANNA lied to him.



We hear music with a rhythmic shushing.



There is mention of abuse in this scene.



KIMSA shouts.
He is trying to get someone's attention.



Music plays louder.



The music fades away.



KIMSA is upset.



The lights turn more orange in colour.

SCENE EIGHT



Music plays while the actors remove the balloons and move set pieces around.



The lights on stage are dark.



JO and HENRY stage in a large rectangle of light.



HENRY shakes his body.



The lights change.
There is now dim light on the whole stage.



There is mention of sperm and ejaculation in this scene.



There is mention of breasts in this scene.



KIMSA is sat at the back of the stage in darkness.
He moves occasionally.

SCENE NINE



Music plays.



Lights get more orange in colour.



Set pieces are moved forward.



The lights dim and turn blue.



There are mentions of snakes in this scene.



There are mentions of illness and hospitals in this scene.



There is mention of blood cancer in this scene.



There is mention of pregnancy in this scene.



There is mention of death in this scene.

SCENE TEN



Music plays.



The light is more orange in colour.



Set pieces are moved around the stage.



An airport set piece is rolled onstage.
A cloudy blue sky is lowered onto the stage.



NAYRA and INTI walk around in a circle with their suitcases.



We hear an airport.



There is mention of medicine in this scene.



There is mention of cancer in this scene.



There are references to the Covid-19 pandemic in this scene.



ANNA gives NAYRA a face mask.

SCENE ELEVEN



Music plays.



Lines of blue laser light move across the stage to a beat.



The lights go up.



A light grey cloud background is lowered onto the stage.



HENRY enters carrying a bat.



He points a remote and a green light fills the stage.



We hear a baseball video game.



HENRY swings the bat multiple times.



We hear a cracking noise as the bat makes contact with the virtual ball.



The lights alternating flashing red and green after each swing.



The white frame is lowered onto the stage.



The lights get brighter.



The sound of the video game gets quieter.



HENRY continues swinging the bat as he speaks with CALISTA and JUSTIN.



HENRY turns off the baseball noise with a remote.



JUSTIN, CALISTA and HENRY are in a heated discussion.



There is mention of blood in this scene.



There is mention of HENRY's mother being ill.



HENRY fires CALISTA.



HENRY turns the baseball game back on.



He swings the bat some more.



There is mention of hospice care in this scene.



HENRY shouts the last line of the scene.



HENRY swings the bat one last time.



There is a loud ball hit noise.



The lights go black.

INTERVAL



The lights in the auditorium will get brighter.



After a break of around 20 minutes the lights will get dim again to signal the start of Act Two.

ACT TWO: JULY 2020

SCENE ONE



Music plays.



A big clear ball is raised out the hole in the stage.
The ball swings.



The white frame is lowered onto the stage.



We hear the beeping of medical equipment.



KIMSA carries ALEJANDRA in his arms.



ANDREA closes the hatch.
She lays a yoga mat on the floor.



HENRY runs on stage.



HENRY clicks his fingers at ANDREA.



We see KIMSA and ALEJANDRA in the background.



ALEJANDRA is connected to an intravenous drip.



There is mention of cancer in this scene.



There is mention of death in this scene.

SCENE TWO



Music plays.



NAYRA steps over the white frame.



NAYRA speaks into a microphone.



We hear a celebrating crowd.



The lights at the front of the stage are bright and white.



In the background we see a television with NAYRA's picture on it.



There is mention of the Covid-19 pandemic in this scene.



Television sounds cut NAYRA off.



The lights at the front of the stage get dark.



The Simpsons plays on the television.



The white frame is raised out of view.



KIMSA and ALEJANDRA play fight over the remote.



ALEJANDRA's iv comes out of her hand.
This is painful.



ANNA enters carrying medicine.



ANNA scolds KIMSA and ALEJANDRA.



KIMSA turns the television off.



ANNA reinserts ALEJANDRA's cannulas.

SCENE THREE



Music plays.



Set pieces are moved around quickly.



The sky backdrop is lowered onto the stage.



Balloons are brought back onto the stage,



INTI and NAYRA clap.



The music stops.



HENRY enters the scene clapping his hands.



There is mention of cancer in this scene.



There is mention of stillbirth in this scene.



HENRY and NAYRA argue.
They both raise their voices.

SCENE FOUR



Music plays.



Set pieces are turned around.



The balloons and flags are carried offstage.



The lights are blue.



There is mention of a child dying in this scene.

SCENE FIVE



Lights turn blue.



Rhythmic music plays.



ANNA stands in a square spotlight.



The lights go dark.



Haze is used in this scene.



There is a cone of green lasers which points towards the audience.



ALEJANDRA and KIMSA walk through the cone of light.



The laser disappears and the lights get brighter quickly.



There is swearing in this scene.
This includes the use of an extreme swear word.



INTI laughs.



The lights turn blue.



KIMSA stands in a square, white spotlight.



KIMSA uses hand sanitiser.



The spotlight turns off.



There are green lights on the stage moving from left to right in time to the music.

SCENE SIX



KIMSA is carrying a large bag and shaking it towards the ground.



The lights turn red, purple and green.



The white frame is lowered onto the stage.



The Edison Motors team dance.



The lights get brighter and whiter.



HENRY enters the scene and steps over the frame.



JO's shoes click on the stage.



HENRY shouts.



HENRY giggles.



There is mention of being “crazy” in this scene.



HENRY sits cross-legged on the floor.



JUSTIN yells.



JUSTIN, HYWEL and JO walk over the white frame.



Music plays.



Lights get slightly less bright.



HENRY’s mother has died.



There is mention of death and a funeral in this scene.



JO shouts at HENRY.



JO says that she is full of regret.



There is swearing in this scene.

SCENE SEVEN



Guitar music plays.



The lights get dim.



Large red letters spelling “FINN” are thrown on to the stage.



The white frame lifts until it is out of view.



The lights get much brighter.



KIMSA is watching *El Aprendiz*, the Colombian version of The Apprentice.



There is swearing in this scene.



There is mention of sex in this scene.



There is reference to the size of a person’s penis in this scene.



KIMSA turns the television off.



KIMSA and HENRY drink beer.



There is mention of drowning in this scene.



HENRY and KIMSA clink their beer bottles together.

SCENE EIGHT



Music plays.



Pink lasers shine on the floor.
They first appear as a grid and then morph and move around.



A blue sky backdrop is lowered onto the stage.



The lights turn purple, green and red.



HENRY and PALMER dance.



The music stops.



The lights turn bright white.



HENRY is blackmailing PALMER.



HENRY and PALMER shout at one another.



HENRY jumps up from his chair.



HENRY says that PALMER is “very attractive”.

SCENE NINE



We hear a glitching noise.



The lights go out quickly.



Upbeat music plays.



The set piece is turned around to reveal the airport set.



AISLING and ANNA dance.



We hear airport noise. It fades away.



There is mention of a pandemic.



There is mention of medication and antibiotics in this scene.



There is swearing in this scene.



There is mention of sexually transmitted disease in this scene.
The lights go dark.

SCENE TEN



Pan pipe music plays.



The airport set is wheeled offstage.



The blue-sky backdrop is raised out of view.



Multi-coloured balloons are carried onstage.



The lights are bright.



We hear a lively town.



There is mention of underwear in this scene.



INTI blows a horn.



There is swearing in this scene.



HENRY clicks a suitcase open.



HENRY imitates a trumpet noise.



KIMSA and NAYRA both speak loudly.



The lights get a bit darker.



Lights go dark.



Upbeat music plays.

SCENE ELEVEN



The lights turn blue.



The music fades away.



KIMSA yells with joy.



HENRY bows to KIMSA.



HENRY is upset with KIMSA.



There is mention of testicles in this scene.



There is mention of sickness in this scene.



ANNA enters carrying a bag of chemotherapy medication.



There is mention of roadkill in this scene.



There is mention of vaccination and other medical terminology in this scene.



ANNA and HENRY argue.



The lights slowly get brighter throughout the scene.



There is mention of smoking in this scene.



There is mention of tumours in this scene.



There is mention of death in this scene.



ANNA and HENRY shout.



HENRY falls to the ground and stamps his feet.



ANNA offers to stop ALEJANDRA's chemotherapy if HENRY buys a specific pharmaceutical company.



There is mention of being sectioned in this scene.

SCENE TWELVE



Slow, lilting music plays.



The lights get dark.



ANNA stands in a square spotlight.



Spotlights circle around the stage.



The Edison Motors team moves around the stage.
A chair is placed in the centre.



We hear a crowd cheering.



The front of the stage is lit, but the back is dark.



Music plays quietly in the background.



Music is louder.



A laser projects a moving image of a train then reveals a car.



Music stops.



Lights go out.

CURTAIN CALL.

END.

