Welcome to this introduction to ‘The Legends of Them by Sutara Gayle, AKA Lorna Gee, co-created and directed by Jo McInnes.

These introductory notes are designed to support audiences with sight loss, providing information on relevant visual elements of the performance including details on the performer, style of the performance, the setting and costumes. For those who will benefit from exploring the space there will be a touch tour at 12pm, before the 1:30pm performance on Saturday the 21st of December. The performance runs for approximately 75 minutes without interval.

Information on the Royal Court’s website tells us… ‘A memory: reggae pioneer hears her radio debut from Holloway Prison. Another: the Brixton uprising, sparked by the police shooting of her sister. Now: a silent retreat, seeking spiritual guidance from her brother Mooji and Nanny of the Maroons. A raucous, transcendent night out full of high-octane musical numbers and sharp comedy, ***The* *Legends of Them*** offers a roof-raising mixtape of Sutara’s extraordinary life – and the legends that have guided her.’

**Please note** - this production contains references to: Racism, misogyny, homophobia, sexual assault and violence against women and girls. Police brutality. Drug taking / drug abuse. Suicide and strong language.

Black British actor and acclaimed international reggae artist Sutara Gayle, takes us on an autobiographical journey through adversity, identity crisis and self-discovery. Her story unfolds in a fragmented way that at times mirrors the chaos and turbulence of her journey, mixing high-energy music with poignant storytelling, and humor. We delve into significant personal and historical events, including the Brixton uprising in the mid 1980’s, and time at a spiritual retreat in India, often these moments are accompanied by the use of projection or video.

We’re with Sutara as a child and troubled teen into adulthood, meeting many influential people from her life including her mother Euphemia, her sister Cherry, her brother Mooji, her ancestor, Nanny of the Maroons. Some characters we hear in voiceover, others are voiced by Sutara with a shift in her tone, accent and posture.

Sutara is a tall and statuesque Black British born woman of Jamaican descent. She has warm brown skin, her face has high cheekbones, and a radiant smile, her full lips often accentuated by bright lipstick. Her hair is shaved at the sides with a Mohican style nest of tight bleached curls on top. She has a strong physique and moves with a grounded elegance that commands attention. Her posture is upright and regal, and her steps exude purpose and resolve. When she arrives, she is wearing a loose and comfy all-in-one jumpsuit with wide-hareem-style trousers and thin straps over her muscular shoulders. The all-in-one is in a light cotton material that’s a patchwork of patterned squares in tones of turquoise and dark blue, teal, and soft yellow. Around her neck is a long string of toning beads and her feet are bare. Underneath the all in one she has a black Lycra knee length sleeveless body.

As we take our seats in the Jerwood Theatre Downstairs, the stage is open to us, it’s about 12 metres wide and 8 metres front to back. The setting is simple using minimal items. Dominating the central back wall is a huge tower of speakers, wider at the base, at about 4 metres rising to

 about 9 metres in height.

Lighting is used to dramatic effect throughout, taking us to the different locations in the story, sometimes shrouding the space in stark, turbulent shadow or dappled tones, at other times light blazes brightly out to us. A number of lights are concealed within the speaker stack, with more lighting just above in a bank of three rows of 6 lights. On the floor at the back are a few other lights that cast an atmospheric up-lit glow. There’s also a pole lined with 10 or so lights attached to either side of the theatre’s proscenium.

Stretching across the space a few metres in front of the speakers is a sheer black screen, barely visible in the dim lighting. This creates a backdrop for projection used during the performance which is sometimes abstract images, or patterns as well as more naturalistic video footage. In front of the screen in the centre of the space is a simple table with a couple of plain chairs pushed up to it. On the table is a copper-toned pitcher and beakers.

**Cast and Production Credits**

The Lighting Designer is **Joshie Hariette**

The Sound Designer is **Elena Pena**

The Composer and Musical Director is **Christella Litras**

The Projection Designer is **Daniel Batters**

Dramaturg and co-creator is **Nina Lyndon**

The Writer and performer is **Sutara Gayle** AKA **Lorna Gee**

The Associate Director is **Martina Laird**

and the Director and co-creator is **Jo McInnes**

This is the end of the introduction to ***The Legends of Them*** at the Royal Court Theatre. If you have any questions or need further assistance, please contact the box office on 020 7565 5000.