

**STRIKE
A LIGHT**
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fuel

**AN EVENING
WITH AN
IMMIGRANT**

VISUAL STORY

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INTRODUCTION

Award-winning poet and playwright Inua Ellams, born to a Muslim father and a Christian mother in what is now considered to be Boko Haram territory, left Nigeria for England in 1996 aged 12.

Littered with poems, stories and anecdotes, Inua tells his ridiculous, fantastic, poignant immigrant-story of escaping fundamentalist Islam, finding friendship in Dublin, performing solo at the National Theatre, and drinking wine with the Queen of England, all the while without a country to belong to or a place to call home.



ABOUT INUA ELLAMS



Born in Nigeria, Inua Ellams is a poet, playwright and performer, graphic artist and designer. He is a Complete Works poet alumni and facilitates workshops in creative writing where he explores reoccurring themes in his work - Identity, Displacement and Destiny - in accessible, enjoyable ways for participants of all ages and backgrounds.

He founded The Midnight Run (an arts-filled, night-time, urban walking experience.) The Rhythm and Poetry Party (The R.A.P Party) which celebrates poetry and hip hop, and Poetry + Film / Hack (P+F/H) which celebrates Poetry and Film. He is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Literature.

Theatre includes: The 14th Tale (Arcola/National Theatre/UK tour); Black T-Shirt Collection (UK/World tour); The Riddler (Theatre 503); Barber Shop Chronicles (also UK tour), Three Sisters (National Theatre); New Dogs (Soho); The Calm (RSC); The Half-God of Rainfall (Kiln); An Evening with an Immigrant (UK & international tour).

Awards include: Edinburgh Fringe First Award 2009; The Liberty Human Rights Award; The Live Canon International Poetry Prize; The Kent & Sussex Poetry Competition; Magma Poetry Competition; Winchester Poetry Prize; Best Theatre Production for The Half-God of Rainfall, Black British Theatre Awards; The Hay Festival Medal for Poetry.

<https://www.inuaellams.com/>

WHAT WILL YOU SEE & HEAR?

An Evening with an Immigrant is staged very simply. You will see Inua on stage sitting on a bar stool with an iPad and a microphone. He tells his story through poetry. Music is a key part of Inua's story and there are songs that accompany his words throughout. Here is a photograph of a previous performance:



Are there any content warnings for this show?

Yes, this performance includes stories of immigration. These themes may be triggering for people with lived experience of immigration. We urge our audience members to be aware that some of the themes within An Evening with an Immigrant could be potentially re-traumatising and emotionally distressing. Staff members at the venue will be able to sign-post and offer links to specialist organisations if needed.

ACCESS

This performance will be BSL interpreted and captioned.
BSL interpretation will be provided by Jacqui Beckford.



Venue staff, wearing identifiable shirts and lanyards, will be able to direct you to the best place to sit to see Jacqui and/or captions.

The Friendship Cafe is wheelchair accessible.

Please get in touch with info@strikealightfestival.org.uk if you have any questions about access.



Fuel leads the field in independent producing in the UK's live performance sector, collaborating with curious, insightful and skilled theatre makers to create fresh experiences for adventurous people.

Since 2004, we have evolved a pioneering producing model that develops innovative ideas through attentive collaboration, a spirit of curiosity, and an emphasis on trust. We have developed a reputation for spirited and surprising new theatre, deep relationships with a wide range of artists, and a passionate commitment to inclusion and care for young and diverse audiences.

We have produced shows, festivals, films, installations, podcasts, apps and books. In doing so we have supported the artistic development of over 120 lead artists or companies and reached more than 1.5 million people, live and digitally. We have hosted over a hundred internships and been recognised with awards for our work.

fueltheatre.com

Instagram, Facebook, Bluesky, LinkedIn: @fueltheatre



STRIKE A LIGHT



At Strike A Light, we create events that people never imagined would or could happen in their city. We tell people's stories through performance and create brilliant participation opportunities for young people.

Gloucester is a diverse city and we make sure that the people we work with, the shows we programme and the companies we support reflect this.

We believe that the arts can change lives and that everyone, regardless of background and circumstance, should be given opportunities to watch, make and participate.

So far, Strike A Light have welcomed thousands of audience members, supported dozens of performers and companies to create new shows and given hundreds of young people the chance to take part in arts activities – often for the first time.

Audiences have danced on rooftops, made a meal for 100 people, been part of a National Theatre show, explored Gloucester's housing estates with a group of teenagers, become part of a flashmob, eaten fish and chips while young people performed a beatbox show and watched high quality national touring work in empty shops, churches, community centres, schools and Gloucester streets.