Grenfell: in the words of survivors Context and History

On June 14, 2017, a 24-story housing development in North Kensington, London caught fire. 72 residents of Grenfell Tower died in the tragedy.

Prior to the tragedy, a refurbishment of Grenfell Tower took place including installing a cladding system to the outside walls. Many of the materials used in the system were highly combustible.

How have survivors and bereaved families been involved in making the play?
This is a verbatim play made directly from the words of survivors and bereaved of the Grenfell tragedy. Over the course of several years, playwright Gillian Slovo interviewed people about the impact of the tragedy.

Throughout the development of the play, the National Theatre consulted with a wide range of organizations based in North Kensington, including community and youth groups, cultural organizations and educational institutions. The National Theatre established an advisory group, made up of survivors, bereaved, and community leaders who continue to consult on the production and wider project. St. Ann’s Warehouse has been in conversation with contributors around bringing their story to New York.

Will St. Ann’s Warehouse and/or the National Theatre be making a profit from this play?
Neither St. Ann’s Warehouse nor the National Theatre will be making any profit from this work. We believe this is an important story of international significance that deserves to be told on an international stage.

St. Ann’s Warehouse, a 501c3 not-for-profit organization, and the National Theatre, a UK-based registered charity, are investing in both the production of this play and the community programs developed in partnership with local schools and organizations.

What audience support is in place for audience members affected by the play?
Audience support is paramount to this project.

St. Ann’s will provide a quiet space and an open-door policy where audience members will be free to go in and out of the theater as needed. Digital screens will be provided for those who would like to continue watching the play in the lobby of the theater.