



Dementia Friendly Performance Information Pack
for West Side Story

Wednesday 8 January, 2.15pm

Box Office Telephone: 0116 242 3595

Box Office Email: [tickets\[at\]curvetheatre.co.uk](mailto:tickets@curvetheatre.co.uk)

Address: Curve, 60 Rutland Street, Leicester, LE1 1SB

This information pack is written in Arial, pt. 18 (Large Print).

If you would like this information in an alternative format, please email us on [access\[at\]curvetheatre.co.uk](mailto:access@curvetheatre.co.uk).

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Hello!

We are looking forward to welcoming you to Curve for our Dementia Friendly Performance of West Side Story. We hope you are excited to see the show!

This pack is designed to give you a bit more information about the performance and our theatre, to help you prepare for your visit.

Our Dementia Friendly Performances are tailored to meet the specific needs of people living with Dementia. They include adaptations to the show, clearer visual markers and signage around the theatre, and a relaxed attitude to movement and audience responses during the show.

Getting to Curve

Our address is Curve, 60 Rutland Street, Leicester, LE1 1SB.

Getting here by Car

The nearest car park to Curve is the NCP Rutland Centre Car Park, next door to the theatre. The address for the car park is 56 Halford Street, Leicester, LE1 1TQ, and it has seven access spaces.

Visitors to Curve can park at NCP Rutland Centre for a reduced rate of £5.50 – please show your ticket at our Green Room Café, Stage Door Bar or Box Office to receive this discounted rate.

Other nearby car parks include Queen Street Car Park (LE1 1QD), NCP Lee Circle (LE1 3RE, four access spaces) and Highcross John Lewis Car Park (LE1 4QJ, 70 access spaces).

There is also a drop-off point outside our theatre.

Getting here by Bus

All Leicestershire bus services have stops within a three to 10-minute walk of Curve. Services that stop on or near Humberstone Gate or at Haymarket Bus Station are the closest.

Getting to Curve

Getting here by Bus (Continued)

Regional bus services terminate at St Margaret's Bus Station, Gravel Street, LE1 3AG (12 minutes' walk from Curve).

For more information on your nearest bus stop, visit

www.leicester.gov.uk/transport-and-streets/travelling-by-bus/, or contact Traveline on 0871 220 2233.

Getting here by Train

Leicester Train Station is less than a 10-minute walk away via Charles Street.

Show Warnings

West Side Story contains violence, themes that may be unsuitable for children, loud sounds, a gun shot, smoking on stage, semi nudity and theatrical haze.

More details can be found in the Useful Information section below.

If you have any concerns about the content of West Side Story, please email us on [access\[at\]curvetheatre.co.uk](mailto:access@curvetheatre.co.uk) or speak to a member of our Visitor Experience Team on the day.

Useful Information

The approximate running time for West Side Story is 2 hours and 15 minutes, including a 20-minute interval.

The show will start at 2.15pm, and finish at approximately 4.30pm. Act 1 is 1 hour 10 minutes and Act 2 is 45 minutes.

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Useful Information

The music in the show is performed live by a 15-piece orchestra conducted by our Musical Director George Dyer, and sang by members of the company.

You will see the orchestra on a balcony at the back of the stage at selected moments throughout the show.

There will also be lots of dancing throughout the performance. You can sing and dance along during the show if you would like to!

There will be different lighting states throughout the show, with some moments in brighter lighting and other moments in darker lighting.

There will be no strobe lighting during this performance, and the lights in the auditorium will also remain on at a low-level during the performance.

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Useful Information

There will be some scenes in the show where the Jets and the Sharks fight with each other. During one of the fights, a member of each gang is also stabbed with a knife, and will appear to pass away.

The knife used in the show is not real and no-one is actually being hurt, however the actors have been specially trained in stage fighting to make these moments look real.

In the last scene of the show, one of the Jets is shot with a gun by one of the Sharks. There will be a quick, loud bang, and the actor who has been shot will appear to pass away.

The gun used in the show is not real and no-one has really been hurt.

West Side Story – The Story

Act 1

Our show begins at the Immigration Station, Ellis Island and other locations around New York as the Puerto Rican Sharks make their way into the Jets' American neighbourhood. There's a disagreement between the rival gangs, which is stopped by Lt. Schrank and Officer Krupke (Song - Prologue).

Desperate to keep a grip on their neighbourhood, the leader of the Jets - Riff – suggests they challenge the Sharks to a fight – called a rumble. He plans to invite the Sharks' leader Bernardo to the fight that night at the neighbourhood dance (Song - Jet's Song).

Riff visits his friend Tony - a former member of the Jets - at Doc's Drugstore (a shop), where Tony works. Riff wants Tony to come along to the dance. Tony doesn't want to at first but soon agrees. He also feels something good is about to happen (Song - Something's Coming).

West Side Story – The Story

In a bridal shop we meet two of the Shark girls, Maria and Anita. Maria is the sister of Bernardo, and Anita is Bernardo's girlfriend. Maria is to be married to Bernardo's friend Chino, but she tells Anita that she is not in love with him.

Later that evening we go to the neighbourhood dance. A challenge dance takes place between the rival gangs (Song - The Dance at the Gym Blues, Song - Promenade, Song - Mambo, Song - Cha-Cha).

Tony and Maria spot one another across the room. Despite the tensions on the dancefloor, they dance together and fall in love.

Bernardo is unhappy with Tony and Maria dancing together and asks Chino to take his sister home. As another disagreement breaks out, Riff and Bernardo agree to meet later at Doc's shop.

Desperate to see Maria again (Song - Maria), Tony finds her building. They get to know each other better and agree to meet again at the bridal shop (Song - Balcony Scene, Song - Tonight).

West Side Story – The Story

In the meantime, Shark girls Anita, Rosalia and Consuelo are discussing whether Puerto Rico or America is the better place to live, with Anita liking America and Rosalia liking Puerto Rico (Song - America).

At Doc's shop, the Jets are keen to start the fight. Riff encourages them to let out their aggressions (Song - Cool), as the Sharks arrive to discuss the details of the fight.

As things get heated, Tony arrives and suggests the fight should just be a fist-fight, with no weapons involved. There's a whistle to mark the arrival of Lt. Schrank.

The gangs quickly talk to each other and act like nothing is going on, but Schrank knows better and tries to find out where the fight will be taking place. As the gangs leave Doc's shop, Tony tells Doc about his love for Maria.

West Side Story – The Story

The next day at the bridal shop, Maria is helping Anita to close the store, excited to see Tony again. Anita tells Maria about the fight, just as Tony arrives, picks Maria up and spins her around with a smile.

After Anita leaves the store, Maria asks Tony to stop the fight and he agrees to. Before he goes, the couple imagine their wedding, using two small scraps of fabric as 'rings' (Song - One Hand, One Heart).

The gangs prepare for the fight (Song – Tonight Quintet), before meeting under the Highway. Tony arrives as the fight begins and tries to stop it, but the rival gangs continue to sneer, punch and kick one-another (Song - The Rumble).

Riff draws a knife and tries to hurt Bernardo, but Bernardo turns him around and stabs him. Angry, Tony quickly grabs the knife and kills Bernardo as the curtain falls and the gangs run away.

West Side Story – The Story

At the start of Act 2, we join Maria, Rosalia and Consuelo in the bridal shop as she continues to daydream about seeing Tony again (Song - I Feel Pretty).

As Rosalia and Consuelo leave, Chino arrives and tells Maria that Tony has killed her brother, Bernardo.

Maria insists that Chino is lying, shouting at him to leave the shop. Tony arrives and she hits his chest with sadness, but she still loves him. As they agree to run away together, we go to a dream world where everyone is friendly and peaceful (Song -Somewhere).

We re-join the Jets after the fight in a street on the West Side. To cheer themselves up, they mock Officer Krupke and the other adults who don't understand them with a silly song called Gee, Officer Krupke.

West Side Story – The Story

Jet girl Anybodys arrives and tells the boys that she has been spying on the Sharks. She has found out that Chino is looking for Tony with a gun. The Jets set out to find Tony.

Maria and Tony have spent the night together. Sad after losing Bernardo, Anita arrives as Tony quickly leaves down the fire escape of the building – he tells Maria to meet him at Doc's shop. Angry that Maria has been with Tony, Anita tells her she should find another boy (Song - A Boy Like That).

Maria tells Anita that she loves Tony (Song - I Have A Love), and Anita tells her that Chino is out looking for him with a gun. As Lt. Schrank arrives to question Maria about her brother's death, Anita goes to Doc's shop to tell Tony to wait for Maria.

The Jets have gathered at Doc's shop as Anita arrives. They say and do lots of horrible things to her, but Doc breaks the group up. Feeling hurt, Anita tells the Jets that Chino has shot Maria. Doc tells Tony the news, and Tony goes out to find Chino.

West Side Story – The Story

Whilst searching the neighbourhood, Chino appears and shoots Tony with the gun just as he sees Maria running towards him. Maria holds Tony in her arms as he passes away.

The gangs move towards Maria and Tony, but Maria takes Chino's gun, pointing it at crowd and telling them that they have all killed Tony.

Upset, she sits beside his body, as the gangs gather round and the curtain falls (Song - Finale).

Your Visit to Curve

Curve is a large, round building with a glass front.

There are two main entrances to the building – one by our Green Room Café (Halford Street), and another by our Box Office (Rutland Street).

Both entrances have a set of glass double doors. Both doors can be opened by pressing the silver button on the wall or rail, but the Rutland Street doors will open outwards automatically as you move towards them.

There is level access into the building from both entrances.

When you enter the building, you will be in the Foyer.

Our Foyer is one big circle which wraps around our two performance spaces – the Theatre and the Studio – so it's really easy to find your way around.

Your Visit to Curve

As you walk around the Foyer you may notice lots of large pictures on the big, red walls.

This is our production gallery, and features pictures from previous productions here at Curve.

There will be some loud announcements in the Foyer telling you how long it is until the show begins, and other useful information. These will be at a quieter level during the Dementia Friendly Performance.

It may also be busy and noisy in the Foyer as other audience members will be arriving to see the show.

In the Foyer inside the Rutland Street doors, you will find our Box Office.

This is where you can collect your tickets for the show or buy tickets if you have not already booked.

Your Visit to Curve

Other audience members will also be collecting their tickets, so there might be a small queue.

Car parking tickets for cars parked in the NCP Rutland Centre Car Park next door to Curve can be validated at the Box Office for £5.50. This ticket is valid all day.

In the Foyer you will also find our Green Room Café and Stage Door Bar.

Here you can buy a drink, snack or ice cream to enjoy before the performance, or during the interval.

There may be a small queue at the Café before the performance and during the interval.

Free tea and coffee will be served in the auditorium during the interval of our Dementia Friendly performance. For all other refreshments, please visit our Green Room Café or Stage Door Bar.

Your Visit to Curve

If you need to use the toilet before you take your seats, there are male, female and accessible toilets near the Green Room Café and Box Office.

A R.A.D.A.R key is available at the Green Room Café. The toilets look like this.

There is also a Changing Places Facility with adult hoist on the Ground Floor next to Theatre Door 4.

You will be watching West Side Story in the Theatre.

The Theatre is our biggest performance space at Curve, and there are lots of soft, red seats.

Your ticket will tell you if you are sitting in the Stalls (ground floor, enter through Theatre Door 3 or 4) or in the Circle (upstairs, enter through Theatre Door 8 or 9). Your ticket will also tell you what door to enter through and where to sit.

Your Visit to Curve

If you are sat in the Circle, you will have to climb a number of stairs or take the public lift next to Theatre Door 3 to access Theatre Door 8 or 9.

A member of our Visitor Experience Team can help you find the right door and your seat by looking at the letters and numbers on your ticket.

The Visitor Experience Team will be wearing black shirts with a colourful Curve logo. There will also be additional team members around the building wearing red t-shirts with a white Curve logo on the front. You can ask them for any help you may need.

We will open the Theatre doors around 45 minutes before the show starts, so you can find your seat and get comfortable in the space.

Your Visit to Curve

When you enter the Theatre, the lights will be on and it may be noisy as the audience will be excited to see the show.

You will need to pull the bottom of your seat down to sit on it.

If you would like us to store your wheelchair or walker during the performance, or if you need assistance with transferring to a theatre seat, please speak to a member of our Visitor Experience Team.

When the show is about to start, the lights in the Theatre will be dimmed but it will never go completely dark.

If you need a break from the performance, you can visit our quiet space in the Studio, next door to the Theatre. A member of our Visitor Experience Team can help you find it.

You can return to the performance when you are ready.

Your Visit to Curve

During the performance, there will be a 20-minute break called an interval. The lights will get brighter and the Theatre will get noisier during this time.

In the interval, you can visit the Green Room Café for a drink or a snack, use the toilet, or just take a break from the Theatre space.

Free tea and coffee will be served in the auditorium during the interval of our Dementia Friendly performance. For all other refreshments, please visit our Green Room Café or Stage Door Bar.

When the interval has finished, the audience will come back into the Theatre and sit in their seats. It will get darker in the Theatre again.

Your Visit to Curve

When the show has finished, the cast will come back onto the stage and bow. The audience will clap and cheer to show the cast they enjoyed the show.

Our West Side Story cast members will also come into the Theatre to say hello to you after the performance. If you would like to meet our company, please stay in your seats at the end of the show.



We hope you find this information pack helpful ahead of your visit to Curve.

If you have any comments on this information pack, please email us on [access\[at\]curvetheatre.co.uk](mailto:access[at]curvetheatre.co.uk).

For more information about Accessibility at Curve, please visit www.curveonline.co.uk, or call our Box Office on 0116 242 3595.

We look forward to welcoming you!

Photography credits: Luke Billings, Matt Cawrey, Ellie Kurttz and Tom Wren. Production Photography: Ellie Kurttz