



Relaxed Performance Information Pack for West Side Story

Saturday 4 January, 2.15pm



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



DAVID WILSON HOMES
WHERE QUALITY LIVES

Our Relaxed Performance of West Side Story is kindly sponsored by **David Wilson Homes**.

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Hello!

We are looking forward to welcoming you to **Curve** for our **Relaxed 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.

What is a Relaxed Performance?

Relaxed Performances are open to everyone but are especially tailored to support audiences with additional needs who may benefit from a more relaxed performance environment. This can include children, young people and adults with neurodivergence, such as autism, learning difficulties and other sensory or communication needs.

Throughout the performance the lights will remain on, and whilst the **theatre** doors will be closed, audience members will be free to come and go from the **theatre** if they need a break from the performance. There is also a relaxed attitude to noise during the show.

The show's sound and lighting will be adapted to more comfortable levels, and the script may also be tweaked to soften or remove surprising moments.

Age Guidance and Show Warnings



Warning

The age guidance for **West Side Story** is **14+**. The performance also contains **violence, themes that may be unsuitable for children, loud sounds, gun shots, smoking on stage, semi nudity and theatrical haze**. More details can be found in the **Useful Information** section below.

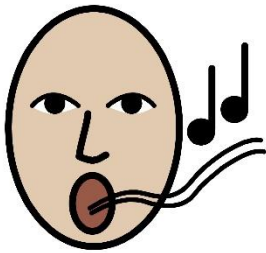
If you have any concerns about the content of **West Side Story**, please email us on access@curvetheatre.co.uk or speak to a member of our **Visitor Experience Team** on the day.

Useful Information



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

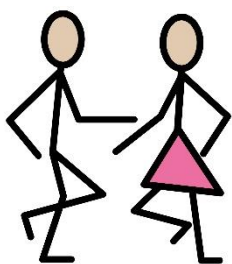
The show will start at **2.15pm**, and finish at **approximately 4.30pm**. **Act 1** is **1 hour 10 minutes** and **Act 2** is **45 minutes**.



Singing

West Side Story is a **musical**, so there will be lots of **singing** throughout the performance.

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.

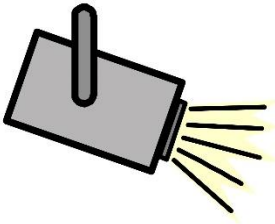


Dancing

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!

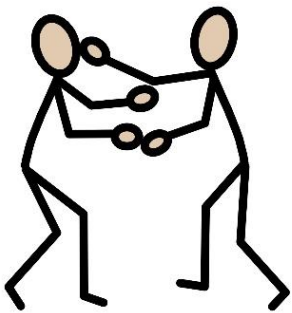
Useful Information



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

Lights

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.



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 are also stabbed with a knife, and will appear to pass away.

The knife used in the show is not real, however the actors have been specially trained in stage fighting to make these moments look real.

Fighting

No-one is really being hurt, but these moments might be a bit scary, or make you feel sad. It's okay to feel that way.



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 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.

Gun

This moment might also be a bit scary, or make you feel upset. It's okay to feel that way.

West Side Story – The Story

Look for the 🎵 as this shows where the songs are during the show!

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** (🎵 **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 (🎵 **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 (🎵 **Something's Coming**).

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 (🎵 **The Dance at the Gym Blues**, 🎵 **Promenade**, 🎵 **Mambo**, 🎵 **Cha-Cha**).

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

West Side Story – The Story

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

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 (♪ **America**).

At **Doc's** shop, the **Jets** are keen to start the fight. **Riff** encourages them to let out their aggressions (♪ **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**.

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.

West Side Story – The Story

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’ (♪ **One Hand, One Heart**).



The gangs prepare for the fight (♪ **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 (♪ **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.

Act 2



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 (♪ **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 (♪ **Somewhere**).

West Side Story – The Story



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**.

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 (**♪ A Boy Like That**).

Maria tells **Anita** that she loves **Tony** (**♪ 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**.

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 (**♪ Finale**).

Your Visit to Curve

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

The outside of **Curve** looks like this.



Halford Street Entrance

Rutland Street Entrance

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.

Your Visit to Curve

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.

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

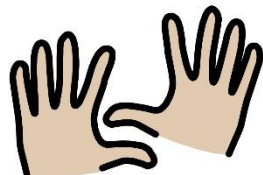
This is our **production gallery**, and features pictures from previous productions here at **Curve**.



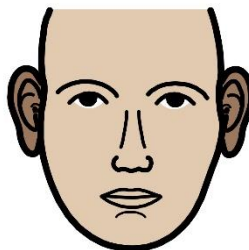
Your Visit to Curve

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

You can **cover your ears** or wear your **ear defenders** to soften the noise.



Cover your ears



Wear your ear defenders

There will also be some loud announcements in the **Foyer** telling you how long it is until the show begins, and other useful information.

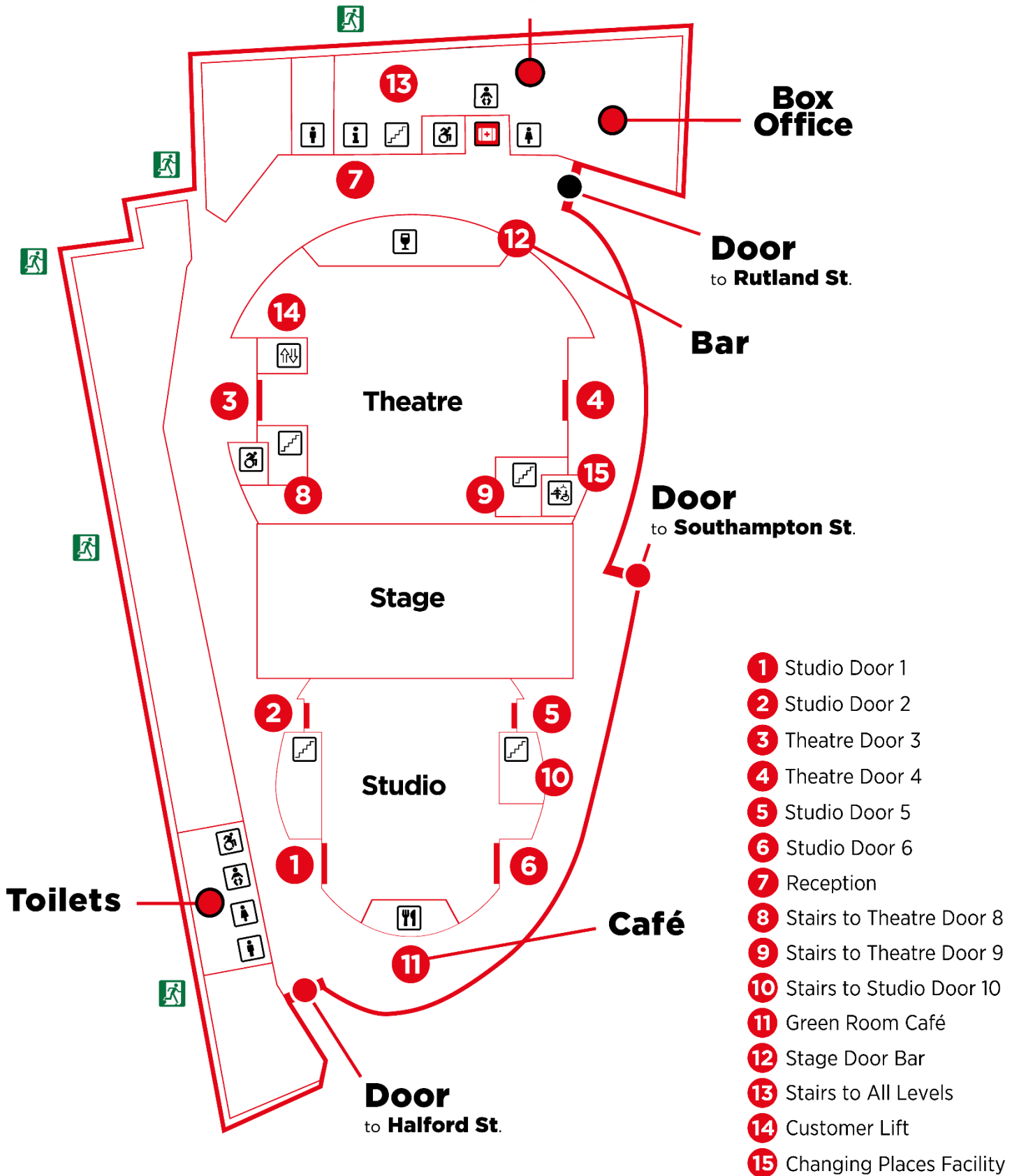
These will be at a quieter level during the **Relaxed Performance**.



Announcements

Your Visit to Curve

Here is a map of the **Ground Floor** of our Theatre.



Your Visit to Curve

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.

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**.

Your Visit to Curve

In the Foyer you will also find our **Green Room Café**.

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

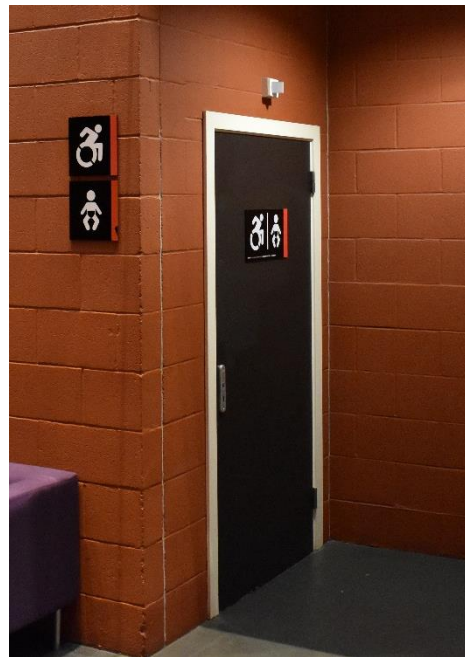
There may be a small queue at the **Café**.



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.



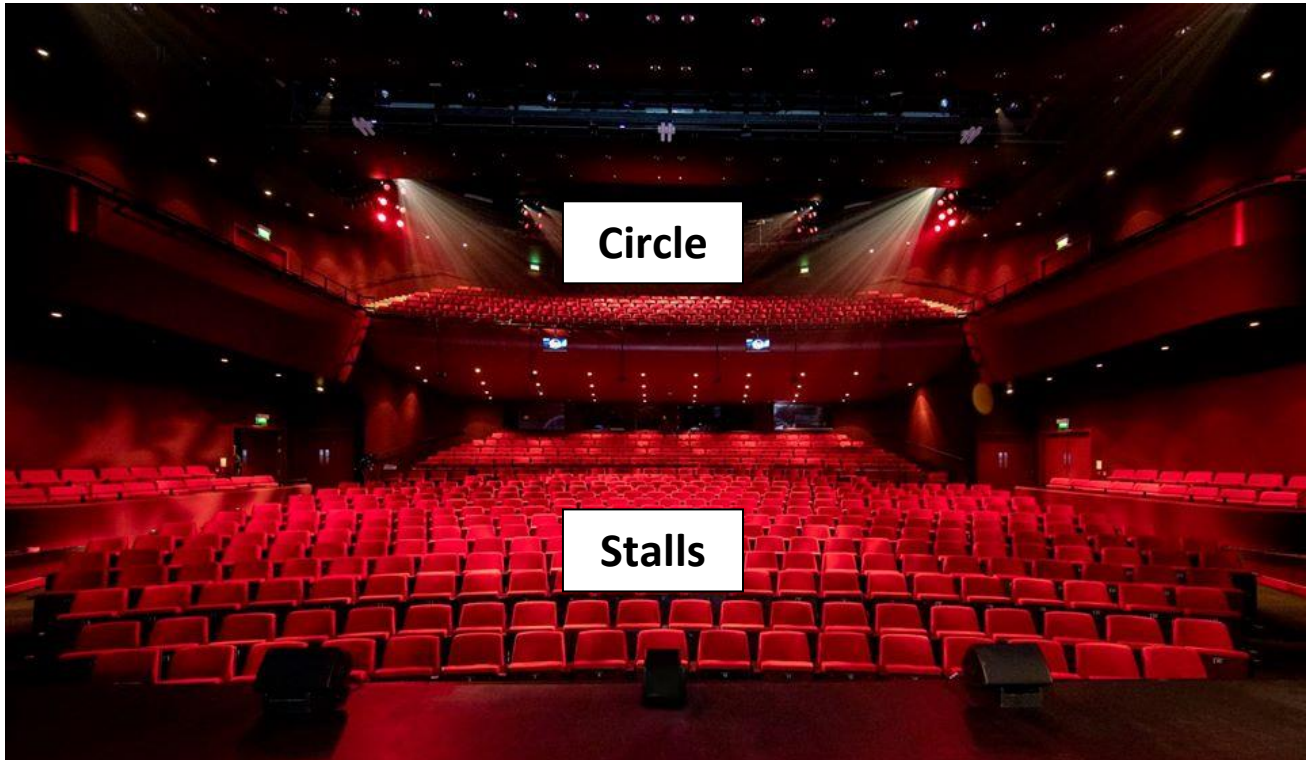
There is also a **Changing Places Facility** with adult hoist on the **Ground Floor** next to **Theatre Door 4**.

All hand dryers will be turned off during the **Relaxed Performance**, and paper towels will be provided.

Your Visit to Curve

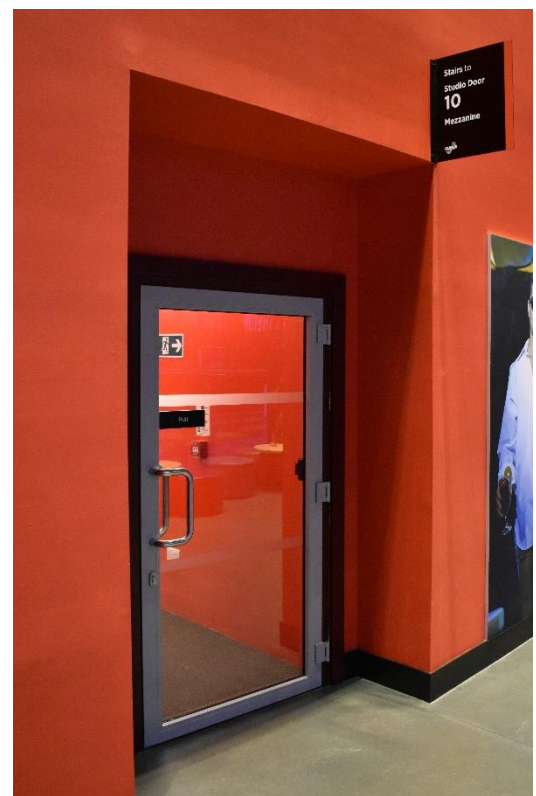
You will be watching **West Side Story** in the **Theatre**.

The **Theatre** is our biggest performance space at Curve, and there are lots of soft, red seats. Here is a picture of the **Theatre**.



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.

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**.



Your Visit to Curve



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.

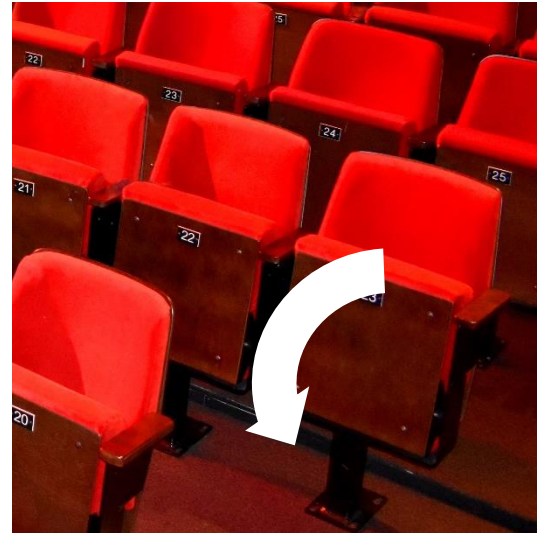


Your Visit to Curve

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 might like to **cover your ears** or **wear your ear defenders** to soften the noise, and bring a toy to play with before the performance starts.

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



Booster seats are available if you can't see the stage comfortably, and a member of our **Visitor Experience Team** can get one for you.

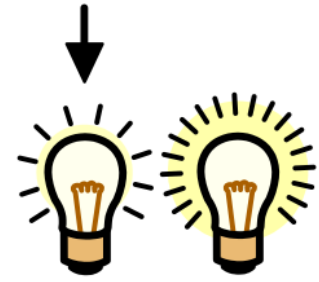
Before the show begins, a member of staff will make an announcement and say “**Welcome to our relaxed performance of West Side Story.**”

They will also give some information about what to expect in the show. This should take less than five minutes.



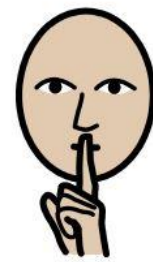
Your Visit to Curve

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



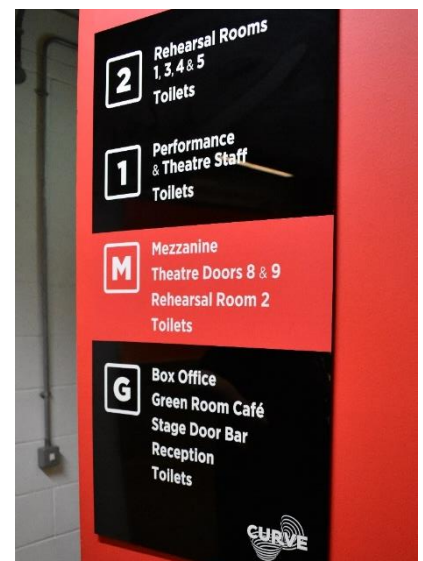
Lights dimmed

When the show begins everyone will try to be as **quiet** as they can so they can listen to the story and music, but you are welcome to make noise throughout the performance if you would like to.



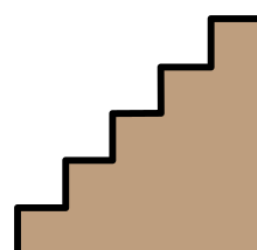
Quiet

If you need a break from the performance, you can visit our **quiet space** in **Rehearsal Room 2 (RR2)** on the **Mezzanine (Level M)**.

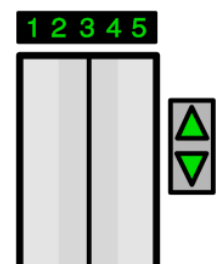


You can return to the performance when you are ready.

You will need to take the stairs or the public lift next to **Theatre Door 3** to access **RR2**, and a member of our **Visitor Experience Team** can help you find it.



Stairs



Lift

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.

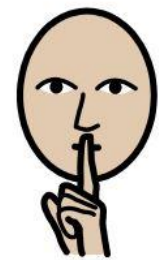
Interval

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.



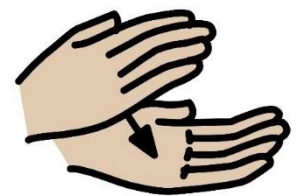
Lights dimmed

Everyone will try to be as **quiet** as they can so that they can listen to the story and music again, but its okay to make noise if you would like to.



Quiet

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.



You can also clap and cheer if you would like to!

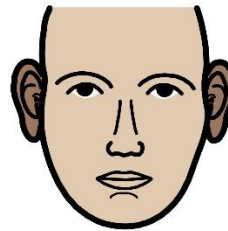
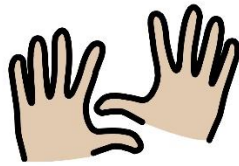
Clapping

Your Visit to Curve

It will be noisy during this time, but you can **cover your ears** or **wear your ear defenders** to soften the noise.



Wear your ear defenders



Cover your ears

When the show has finished, the lights will get brighter in the **Theatre**. You can then leave **Curve** when you are ready to.

We hope you enjoy the show!

Production Images



CURVE



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@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