



# Relaxed Performance Information Pack for Josephine

Sunday 13 February, 11.30am



**Box Office Telephone:** 0116 242 3595

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

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



# Contents

Hello and What is a Relaxed Performance?.....	2
Important Information for Your Visit.....	3
Getting to Curve.....	4 - 5
About the Show.....	6
The Cast.....	7 - 8
Josephine – An Easy Read Story.....	8 - 18
Visual Story: Your Visit to Curve.....	19 - 25
Theatre Map.....	26

## Hello!



We are looking forward to welcoming you to **Curve** for our **Relaxed Performance of Josephine**. We hope you are excited to see the show!

This pack will give you more information about the performance and our theatre ahead of 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 may 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 **Studio** doors will be closed, audience members will be free to come and go from the **Studio** if they need a break from the show. There will also be a relaxed attitude to noise during the show, and the sound and lighting will be adapted to more comfortable levels.

## Important Information for Your Visit



Whilst the wearing of face masks is no longer mandatory from **Thursday 27 January 2022**, we are continuing to ask all audience members to wear a face covering once inside our building, and whilst watching the performance (except when eating and drinking).

We understand some visitors are unable to wear a face covering for health or well-being reasons and ask that you please consider a face shield or visor instead.

Whilst it is not a requirement for entry to our building and we will not ask for proof, we encourage all audience members to take a **Lateral Flow Test** ahead of visiting us.

All members of Team Curve will keep wearing masks and continue to take part in a regular testing programme.



In addition to face coverings, we continue to have in place a number of Covid-safety measures throughout the building to ensure everyone is as safe as possible, including increased ventilation and enhanced cleaning.

All Covid-safety measures are regularly reviewed in line with Government guidelines, please visit our website at [www.curveonline.co.uk/plan-your-visit/faqs/](http://www.curveonline.co.uk/plan-your-visit/faqs/) for the latest information.

## Getting to Curve

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

Here is a map of where Curve is in the **Cultural Quarter**, and the surrounding area.



## Getting here by Car

The nearest car park to Curve is the **NCP Rutland Centre Multi-storey 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 Multi-storey Car Park** for a reduced rate of **£5.50** – please validate your car park ticket at our Box Office during your visit.

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.

Due to the temporary closure of **St Margaret's Bus Station**, regional bus services are currently terminating at alternative stops around the city. For more information, please see [www.leicester.gov.uk/media/5k3bqvgd/smb-replacement-stops-map.pdf](http://www.leicester.gov.uk/media/5k3bqvgd/smb-replacement-stops-map.pdf), or contact service providers directly for the latest information on your service.

For more information on your nearest bus stop, visit the Leicester City Council website at [www.leicester.gov.uk/transport-and-streets/travelling-by-bus/](http://www.leicester.gov.uk/transport-and-streets/travelling-by-bus/), or call **Traveline** on **0871 200 2233**.

## Getting here by Train

**Leicester Train Station** is less than a 10-minute walk away via **Charles Street**. For the latest service information, please visit [www.nationalrail.co.uk](http://www.nationalrail.co.uk).

## About the Show



**Josephine** is a play. A play is a story told by people acting on **stage**.



There is music in the play.  
The music is quite loud.  
Sometimes the characters might shout.



The play takes place in '**Café Josephine**' in 2021 and also travels in time to the 1910s, 1920s, 1930s, 1960s and the 2020s.



The play is about **Josephine Baker** who is a dancer, activist and World War Two spy.

Some of the other actors will pretend to be different people during the story. The people are called **characters**.



The running time for **Josephine** is **60 minutes with no interval**.

The performance is recommended for **ages 7+**.

## The Cast

There are four characters in this production of **Josephine**.



This is **Ebony Feare**.

Ebony is an actress.

Ebony plays **Josephine** →



“I’m **Josephine Baker**. I am a singer, dancer, spy and activist. This play is about my life and all the events I have achieved in my life. I have come back from ‘the beyond’ to meet **Marie** and **Jack** who are my grandchildren and remind them of everything I achieved in my life.”



This is **Sadi Masego**.

Sadi is an actress.

Sadi plays **Marie** →



“I’m **Marie**. I’m **Jack**’s sister and help run Café Josephine with him. I am also **Josephine**’s granddaughter but I don’t know that **Josephine** has come back from the beyond.

Sometimes I will be playing different characters in **Josephine**’s life. I will do this by changing my voice and the way I move. Sometimes my character might shout and be loud.”



This is **Jack Benjamin**.

Jack is an actor.

Jack plays **Jack** →



“I’m **Jack**. I’m **Marie**’s brother and also help run Café Josephine with her. I am also **Josephine**’s grandson but I don’t know that **Josephine** has come back from the beyond.

Sometimes I will be playing different characters in **Josephine**’s life. I will do this by changing my voice and the way I move. Sometimes my character might shout and be loud.”



The fourth character in the show is **The Beyond**.

“I’m **The Beyond**. You will only hear my voice. I am here to help **Josephine** teach **Jack** and **Marie** about her life.

I represent the afterlife, and it is me that gives permission for **Josephine** to travel back to earth.”

## Josephine – An Easy Read Story

### **Spoiler Alert!**

Overleaf is a summary of the story which means we tell you what will happen. This might be helpful to know before you come to the theatre, but if you want the story to be a surprise then we suggest you don’t read these pages. Please don’t share these with other people as they might want the surprise too.

## Act 1, Scene 1— The Café



**Josephine** arrives from **The Beyond** and performs her shadow dance.



**Josephine** realises that no one knows who she is.

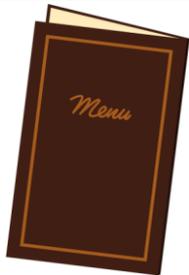
**Josephine** makes a plan to make sure she will be remembered.



**Josephine** is in **Café Josephine**, a themed café based on her. However, it is just about to close.



**Jack** and **Marie** both run the café. They are packing boxes with things from the café because it is closing down.



They are excited about a new customer and get ready to take **Josephine's** order.

**Jack** and **Marie** don't recognise **Josephine**.



**Josephine** asks about the café and the theme.



**Jack** gets very excited and tells **Josephine** about the stories from **Josephine's** life.

**Jack** rings the bell and they are taken to St. Louis in the 1910s.

## Scene 2— Rent Parties



1910s



**Josephine** has travelled to St. Louis.

**Jack** explains that when Josephine was younger she worked as a maid to support her family.



**Josephine** and her mum, **Carrie**, are throwing a party for all of their friends, to raise money to pay the rent.



Lots of guests start to arrive at the party. **Josephine** collects the money.



Momma **Carrie** and **Josephine** dance.



Momma **Carrie** and **Josephine** talk about **Josephine** moving away to dance on Broadway.



**Jack** dings the bell and everyone travels back to **Café Josephine**, in the present.

### Scene 3— Back In The Café



**Josephine** talks to **The Beyond** about **Jack** and **Marie** misremembering her story.



**Marie** tells **Josephine** about the riots in St. Louis.



**1917**



**Marie** dings the bell to travel to St Louis in 1917.

### Scene 4—Riots of East St. Louis



**Marie** tells the story of the Riots in East St. Louis in 1917.



**Josephine** remembers running away from the riots.



**Marie** talks about the damage of the riots on the people and the city.



**Jack** dings the bell and everyone travels back to **Café Josephine**, in the present.

### Scene 5— Back In The Café



**Jack** and **Marie** argue about the riots and if they should tell people about them.



**Josephine** talks to **The Beyond** about how scary the riots were and that it is important to tell everyone about them.



**Jack** dings the bell.

### Scene 6—Dixie Steppers Audition



**Jack** becomes a different character in this scene. The actor is now playing the role of **Sam**, who is a trumpeter.



**Sam** auditions to be in a show on Broadway by dancing.



**Josephine** also auditions for the show. **Josephine** tries dancing, magic and impressions.



**Josephine** gets a job in the theatre as a dresser for the actors.

### Scene 7— Road To Broadway



**Jack** tells the audience about **Josephine** working backstage.



A dancer called **Estelle** breaks her ankle and **Josephine** goes on stage in her place.



**Josephine** hears of a new dance school opening in Paris. **Josephine** gets on the next boat to go to Paris.

### Scene 8— Paris



**1920s**



**Josephine** explores the freedoms of Paris in the 1920s.



**Josephine** becomes a famous dancer in Paris.



**Josephine** eats at a café and gets recognised. The chef gives Josephine some bananas which turns into a skirt of Bananas. The Banana Skirt.



**Marie** dings the bell and everyone travels back to **Café Josephine**, in the present.

Scene 9— Banana Skirt



**Marie** and **Jack** argue about showing **Josephine** The Banana Skirt.



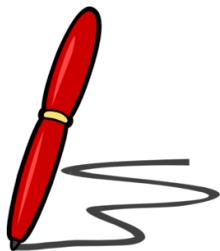
**Marie** and **Josephine** recite a poem about **Josephine** and her Banana Skirt dance.



**Marie, Josephine** and **Jack** argue about showing the banana skirt again.

**Jack** and **Marie** ding the bell and travel back to 1940.

## Scene 10—Word War Two vs March On Washington



The actors playing **Marie** and **Jack** play lots of different characters. Josephine is greeted by a number of her fans.



1963

**Marie** dings the bell and they travel to Washington in 1963.



A man and woman are waiting to hear **Josephine** speak at the March on Washington.



1940s

**Jack** dings the bell and they travel to 1940s France.



**Josephine** has become a spy and is going on a secret mission.



**Josephine** is almost captured but tricks the German officer into letting her go.



1963

**Marie** dings the bell and travels back to 1963, Washington DC.



**Josephine** gives the speech she gave at the March on Washington.



1945

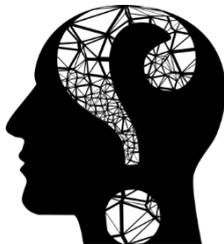
**Jack** dings the bell to take them to France, 1945.



**Josephine** receives a medal for her bravery.



**Marie** and **Jack** fight over the bell.



**Josephine** talks to **The Beyond** about how she is remembered.



**Josephine** finds out her son, Henri, started the Café in memory of her.



1951

**Josephine** dings the bell and takes them to the Stork Club, 1951.

**Scene 11, The Stork Club**



**Josephine** sits at a table and orders a meal at the Stork Club.



The waiter refuses to serve **Josephine** her food, because of the colour of her skin.



**Josephine** makes a call on the phone to her lawyer and to civil rights groups in order to protest her treatment.

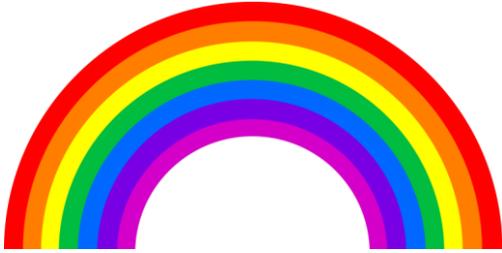


**Marie** dings the bell back to the café.

**Scene 12 — Back In The Café**



**Jack** and **Marie** wonder how **Josephine** knows so much about her life.



**Josephine** talks about her adopted family called The Rainbow Tribe.



**Josephine** dings the bell and shows us an argument between **Josephine** and her son, **Henri**.



**Josephine** dings the bell back to the café.

### Scene 13— Shadow Dance Part 2



**Josephine** lies to **Jack** and **Marie** by telling them she only knows about her life because she was an old friend.



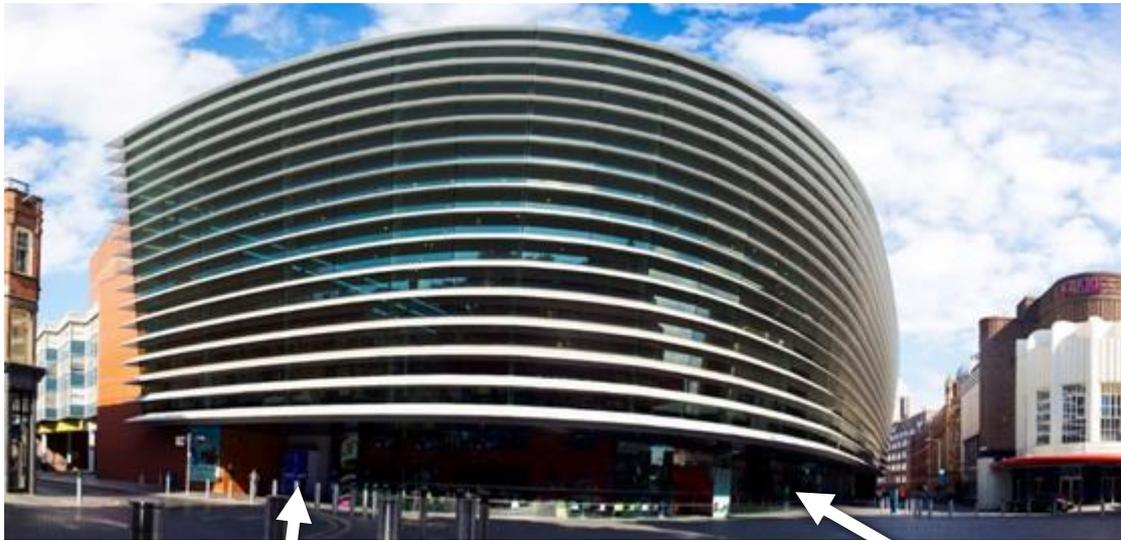
**The Beyond** arrives to take Josephine back to 'Infinite Nothings' where people go when they are forgotten.



**Josephine, Jack** and **Marie** dance one last time.

## Visual Story: Your Visit to Curve

**Curve** is a large, round building with a glass front, as shown below. The outside of Curve looks like this:



**Halford Street Entrance**

what3words: ///wide.wiping.dared

**Rutland Street Entrance**

what3words: ///driver.other.ideal

There are two main entrances into 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, and multi-coloured lighting surrounding them.

**Halford Street**



**Rutland Street**



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**.

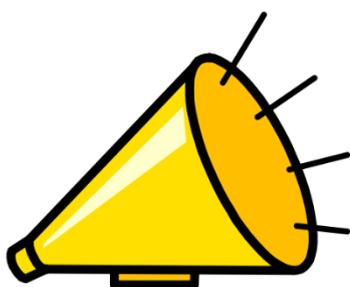


As you make your way around the **Foyer**, you will notice lots of pictures on the big red walls. This is our **production gallery**, and features pictures from previous productions.



A number of **automatic hand sanitiser points** are available around the building. To use these points, simply hold your hand beneath the dispenser.

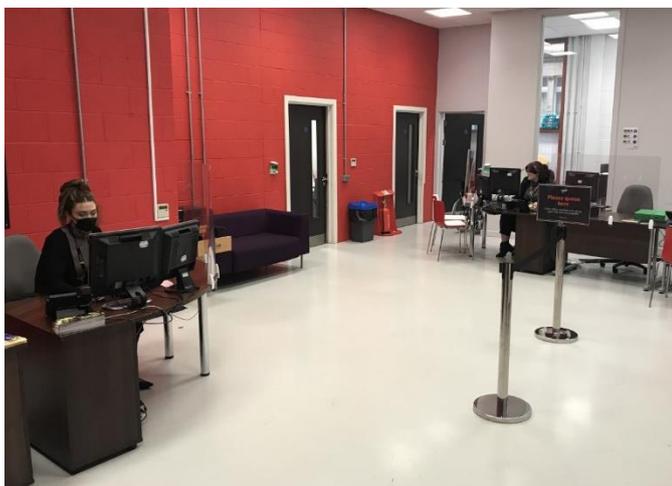
Push dispensers are also available around the building.



Before the show there will be some loud announcements in the **Foyer** telling you how long it is until the show begins. These will be at a quieter level during the **Relaxed Performance**.



It may also be noisy in the **Foyer** as other audience members will be arriving to see the show. You might like to cover your ears or wear a pair of ear defenders during this time.



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 Multi-storey Car Park** next door to **Curve** can be validated at the **Box Office** for **£5.50**.



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**.

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**.

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

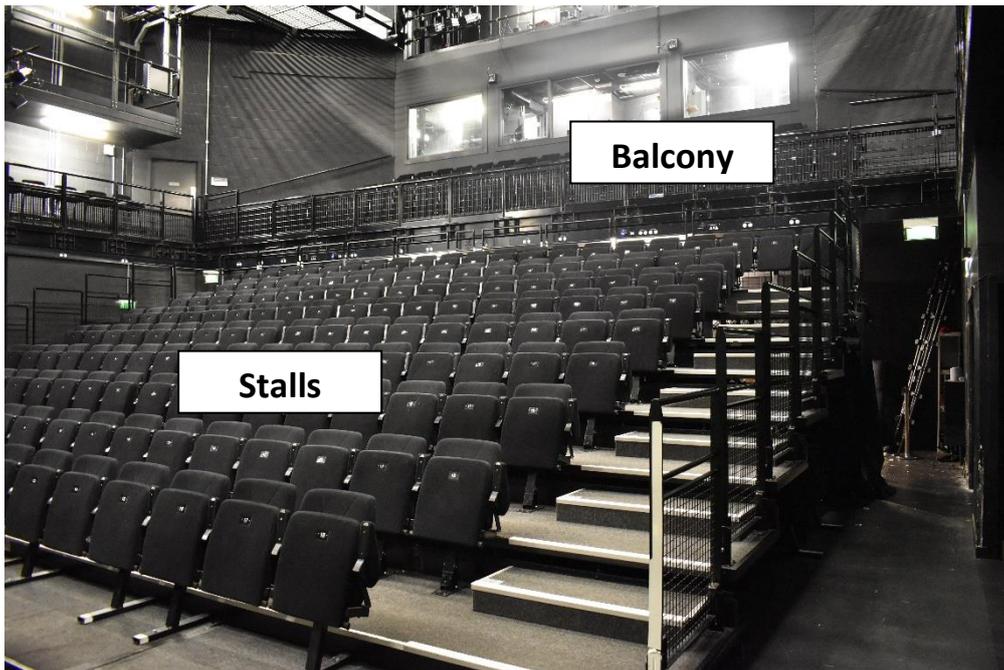
A **R.A.D.A.R** key is available at the **Green Room Café**.

The toilets look like this:



There is also a **Changing Places Facility** with adult hoist on the **Ground Floor** next to **Theatre Door 4**. Please note you will need to bring your own hoist straps to use this facility.

You will be watching **Josephine** in the **Studio**. Here is a picture of the seats in the **Studio**. This is where you will sit to watch the performance.



Your **ticket** will tell you if you are sitting in the **Stalls** (ground floor, enter through **Studio Door 1** or **6**) or in the **Balcony** (upstairs, enter through **Studio Door 10**).

Your ticket will also tell you what door to enter through and where to sit.



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. They will be wearing black shirts with a colourful Curve logo.

When you enter the **Studio**, the lights will be on and it may be noisy as the audience will be excited to see the show. You might like to **wear your ear defenders** to soften the noise and bring a comforter to use before the performance starts.

Your tickets will tell you which **row** your seats are on, and their **number(s)**.



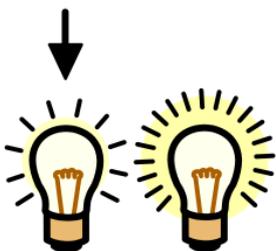
When you enter the **Studio**, you will see the **set** for the show on **stage** where the actors will perform the show. The **set** is the name for everything you see on **stage**. For **Josephine**, the **set** is a café – this production picture shows some of the props and scenery used to create the café **set**.



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

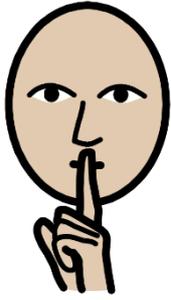
**Booster seats** are available if you can't see the stage comfortably, and a member of our **Visitor Experience Team** can get one for you.

They will also be happy to help you with anything else you may need to enjoy the performance.



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

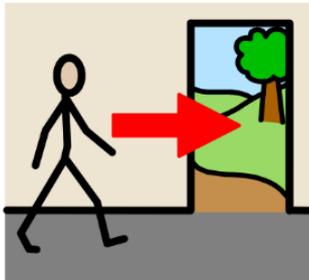
The doors will remain open throughout the performance, so you can leave the space at any time and return when you're ready.



If you would like a break from the performance, you can visit our **quiet space** on the **Mezzanine (Level M)** or in **Alcove 4** opposite the Box Office.

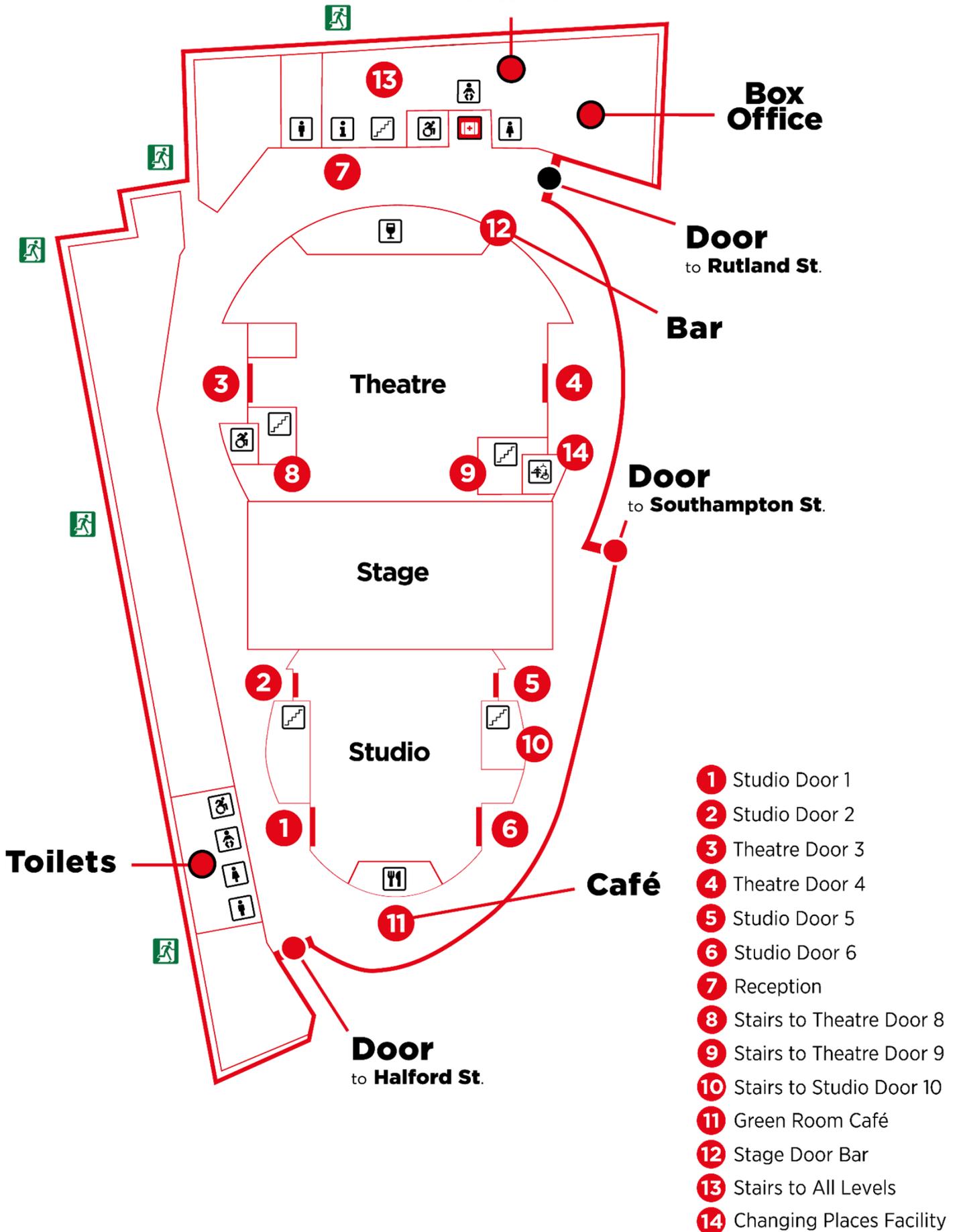


When the show has finished, the cast will come back onto the stage and bow. The audience will clap to show the cast they enjoyed the performance. You can also clap if you would like to!



At the end of the show, the lights will get brighter. You can leave the **Studio** when you are ready to.

# Theatre Map – Ground Floor





**We hope you find this information pack helpful ahead of your visit to Curve. Enjoy the show!**

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

For more information about Accessibility at Curve, please visit [www.curveonline.co.uk](http://www.curveonline.co.uk), or call our **Box Office** on **0116 242 3595**.

This information pack was created by **Nicola Allen**,  
**Audience Development and Access Officer** at Curve in collaboration with  
**The Egg Assembly at Theatre Royal Bath.**

Production photography by **Paul Blakemore**.