



THE GRUFFALO

Notes for parents/carers



Timings

- The doors to the auditorium will open at 3.30pm
- The show will start at 4.30pm
- There is no interval for this performance
- The show will finish at 5.25pm
- Spoken announcements will give warnings that the show is about to start.
- There may be an announcement just before the show asking for mobile devices to be switched off and advising that photography or filming of any kind is not permitted. If you need to use an iPad to help with your enjoyment of the show, please do so.

The Theatre

- Customers are free to walk around the auditorium during the show
- The auditorium doors will remain open throughout the performance
- The main doors to the building will be closed and we will have members of staff situated there to prevent anybody leaving the theatre unaccompanied
- There will be a chill out area on the Dress Circle foyer
- The chill out area will have a mixture of beanbags and chairs but we will be reducing the amount of chairs and tables so these areas will be free from clutter

The Lighting

- There are day-time and night-time lighting states in the show.
- At the beginning of the show there is a very quick change from the golden wood to a dark blue lighting state and back again.
- Towards the end, after the Mouse finds the nut, the stage will go to pitch black. There is no strobe lighting or flash photography in this production.
- At the end of the show the lights will come up and there is a finale to clap and sing-a-long to.
- Throughout this performance the houselights in the auditorium will remain on at all times
- There are no moving and chasing lights throughout the show. There are no big flashes, strobe lights or pyrotechnics used

The Set

When you arrive in the auditorium you will see a golden woodland scene on stage, the stage lighting will be down low with the sound of birds tweeting in the background.



The Sound

- There are day-time and night-time lighting states in the show. At the beginning of the show there is a very quick change from the golden wood to a dark blue lighting state and back again.
- Towards the end, after the Mouse finds the nut, the stage will go to pitch black. There is no strobe lighting or flash photography in this production.
- At the end of the show the lights will come up and there is a finale to clap and sing-a-long to.
- For this relaxed performance, we will be keeping some of the house lights on so that the auditorium will not be in total darkness.
- The show contains recorded music, live singing and woodland sound effects that help set the scene.
- Mouse has some high pitched squeaks in the show.
- The Gruffalo will roar loudly at times. There is one very loud roar with an echo just before the Gruffalo makes his big entrance.
- The Storytellers will at times make high pitched 'ping' noises when describing the nut.
- For this relaxed performance, we will be turning the overall level of the sound down so that it is not too loud during the performance.
- Some people may wish to wear ear defenders. We do have some ear defenders available to borrow but you may feel more comfortable bringing your own
- Please also be aware that due to the nature of this audience there may be loud noises that come from other customers

Songs from the show include:

1. Mouse's Dream (The Nut)
2. A Hole / New World (The Wood)
3. 1-2-3-4-5 (Fox's song)
4. Woodland Air Force Club (Owl Song)
5. When I Have a Party (Snake Song)
6. G-G-G-Gruffalo
7. What Gruffalos Do

The Characters

The characters in the play are:

- The Gruffalo
- Mouse
- Fox
- Owl
- Snake
- Narrators

The show is made up of three actors who play different roles. There is one female actor who plays the part of Mouse and two male actors who play Narrators. One of the male actors also plays all three predators (Fox, Owl and Snake) and the other eventually becomes the Gruffalo!

The stage adaptation includes all the rhyming text of the book and is driven along with music, songs, lots of fun and some audience participation. The characters will speak directly to the audience, so feel free to sing-along and answer back when prompted.

The actors' faces are visible and the costumes are minimal to facilitate the very physical style of the performance.

THE GRUFFALO

The Gruffalo is big and loud! He may be frightening, but he is also silly. He likes to talk to the audience. At one point in the show, the Gruffalo runs away from the Mouse and comes down into the audience asking you whether you can save him.

Elliot Rodriguez - Storyteller/ Gruffalo

Elliot is one of the storytellers and also plays the Gruffalo.

Here is Elliot as the Storyteller



Here is Elliot as the Gruffalo



MOUSE

Mouse is young and brave and full of clever tricks to scare off the predators that are hoping for a tasty lunch. Mouse may ask for the audiences help during the show to scare away the woodland creatures. Mouse and the Storytellers are dressed in costumes similar to combat gear.

Rebecca Newman- Mouse

Rebecca starts the show as a storyteller and plays the Mouse

Here is Rebecca as Storyteller.

Here is Rebecca as Mouse



THE PREDATORS

One actor plays the three hungry predators, Fox, Owl and Snake. He has different costumes for each character.

Jake Addley - The Storyteller // The Fox // The Snake // The Owl

Here is Jake as Storyteller



Fox is a bit of a wheeler-dealer and tries to trick Mouse in to coming back to his lair so he can eat her for his lunch...

Here is Jake as Fox



Snake is a maraca-shaking party animal! He likes to sing and dance and be the centre of attention. He likes eating mice too and tries his best to hypnotise Mouse so that he can eat her.

Here is Jake as Snake



Owl is an eccentric, old air force pilot! He likes to eat mice and tries to get Mouse to come back to his tree-house so he can eat her for his lunch.

Here is Jake as Owl



UNDERSTUDY

We have one male actor who is an understudy, which means he performs if somebody else is ill. You might see him playing Gruffalo or Predators.

Ashley Sean Cook - Understudy



WARNING!!! The following notes contain information about the plot of the show. If you do not want or need to know what will happen then please do not read these notes. However some people may find them useful to help prepare for the visit in advance.

What is the play about?

The Gruffalo is based on the much loved children's book by **Julia Donaldson & Axel Scheffler** and is adapted for the stage by acclaimed theatre company Tall Stories, known the world over for their physical, musical and story-telling style of theatre.

The story follows a little brown mouse through the deep dark wood as she encounters a fox, an owl and a snake, in the search for nuts, and includes two narrators / story-tellers who guide the Mouse on her adventure.

All of these animals want to eat Mouse, but she outwits each of them by describing an imaginary monster, the Gruffalo, with terrible tusks and terrible claws and terrible teeth in his terrible jaws, whose favourite food just happens to be a fox, an owl and a snake! The frightened animals flee to Mouse's refrain...'Doesn't he know, there's no such thing as a Gruffalo!'

But then Mouse comes face to face with the very creature she imagined and the monstrous Gruffalo is hungry! Mouse bravely tells the Gruffalo, that she, the mouse, is the scariest animal in the wood.

Laughing, the Gruffalo plays along and agrees to follow Mouse back through the forest, meeting each of the three predators in turn, who take off at the sight of the pair. Each time Mouse seemingly scares one of the animals away, the Gruffalo becomes more impressed and when eventually Mouse announces her intention to eat the Gruffalo, "But now my tummy's beginning to rumble. My favourite food is - Gruffalo crumble!" the Gruffalo is terrified and makes his escape. The show ends with Mouse finding a good nut to eat.

PECS

Below are some PECS that you might find useful for your visit to the Theatre Royal.

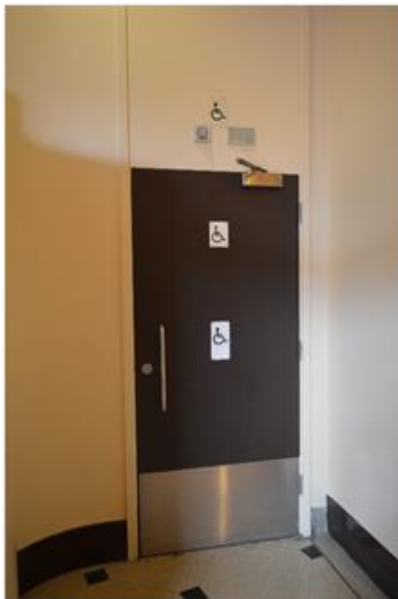
The Theatre Royal



Seat



Accessible toilet



Front Doors



Ticket



Male Toilets



Steward



Female Toilets

