

THEATRE  
ROYAL

ROYAL  
CONCERT  
HALL



Relaxed Performance

Thursday 10 March

7pm

Notes for Parents/Carers

## **The Theatre Royal**

- Customers are free to walk around the auditorium during the show.
- The auditorium doors will remain open throughout the show.
- The main doors to the building will be closed and we will have members of staff situated by all doors to prevent anybody leaving the Theatre unaccompanied.
- On the Stalls level the auditorium doors will lead to a chill out area in the circular seating area underneath the main staircase.
- On the Dress Circle level the auditorium doors will lead to a chill out area which is situated 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**

- Throughout this performance the houselights in the auditorium will remain on at all times.
- Whilst the lighting effects will be reduced, there are a few points in the show where lights will be used to signify police cars. More detail about this can be found in the notes below.

## The Sound

- The show is quite noisy in places, and even though we have reduced the sound a lot there may still be one or two points in the show where sound may be louder. In particular, the sounds of police cars and helicopters.
- Some people may wish to wear ear defenders. We have a limited number that will be given out on a first come, first served basis.
- Please also be aware that due to the nature of this audience there may be loud noises that come from other customers

## Timings

- The doors to the auditorium will open at 6pm.
- The performance will start at 7pm.
- There will be an interval of 20 minutes beginning at 7.55pm.
- The show will recommence at 8.15pm
- The show will finish at 9.15pm

## The Actors

- The cast do talk directly to the audience.
- In the second half, the actors playing Ben's mum and dad will sit with the audience in the stalls. They do not interact with the audience.

## **Merchandise**

The merchandise will consist of a range of David Walliams' books.

## **Feedback**

We welcome your feedback! We are committed to providing Relaxed Performances in the future so it is important that we receive as much feedback as possible so that we can improve for next time.

We would of course also like to hear what we have done right and what has really worked. A feedback form will be sent via email to those customers who have provided us with their email address. If you would like to receive a hard copy through the post, please let a member of staff know.

**WARNING!!!** The following notes contain information about 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.

Please be aware, the actors in this performance will be playing lots of different characters which can be a little confusing! The play, along with being very funny, deals with some serious issues around the theme of growing old.

### **Act One**

#### **Scene 1**

Ben doesn't like to visit his Granny and Fridays, he just wants to read his Plumbing Weekly magazine instead.

## Scene 2

Ben arrives at Granny's house and he has cabbage soup for tea which he hates!

## Scene 3

Ben goes to the Newsagents to fetch his plumbing magazine. Raj, who works in the Newsagents tells Ben that just because his Granny is old, it doesn't mean she's boring.

## Scene 4

Ben and Granny are playing scrabble, until Granny tells Ben its bedtime, even though it's only eight o'clock! She starts to tell him a bed time story about squirrels and he pretends to go to sleep.

## Scene 5

Ben has a bad dream. When he wakes up, he phones his Mum and Dad to ask for them to come and take him home.

## Scene 6

When Ben is having breakfast, he opens a tin from one of the shelves, because he thinks there are biscuits in it. The tin is full of jewellery, diamonds and rubies!

## Scene 7

Ben asks his Mum and Dad if he can stay with Granny that night, so Dad goes to call Granny on the phone. Ben's Dad tells them that Granny is busy, so Ben runs out to see what Granny is up to.

## Scene 8

Granny leaves her house dressed all in black and rides her mobility scooter to a jewellery shop. She is going to break the window but Ben stops her. Granny tells Ben that she is an international jewel thief called The Black Cat.

## Scene 9

When Ben gets back home, his Mum and Dad ask him where he's been. He tells a lie and says he's been dancing. His Mum and Dad are very excited and decide they will enter Ben in a junior dance competition.

### Scene 10

Ben tries on all the dance competition costumes his Mum has made for him. The costumes are all rather silly!

### Scene 11

Granny tells Ben a story about stealing some earrings from a lady in India. **During this story, 2 pretend elephants and a person dressed up as a bear will come onto the stage.** Ben tries to persuade his Granny to steal the Crown Jewels.

### Scene 12

Ben pretends he is rehearsing his dance, but he's really reading his Plumbing Weekly magazine.

### Scene 13

Bee works on his plan to steal the Crown Jewels at school. He imagines what would happen after him and his Granny have stolen the Crown Jewels. As he imagines lots of television reporters, police, newspapers and soldiers, actors come onto the stage to show us what he is imagining. *The scene is quite noisy with the helicopter noises, air raid sirens and the sound of dogs barking. There will be blue flashing lights and flashlights.*

Interval of 20 minutes

## Act Two

### Scene 14

Ben and his Mum and Dad visit Granny at the hospital. Ben tells Granny all about the plan he has made to steal the Crown Jewels.

### Scene 15

Ben is back at home and is getting ready to visit Granny again, but his dad reminds him he's going to the dance competition - oh no!

### Scene 16

Ben and his Mum and Dad are at the dance competition. *In this scene, the actor playing Flavio will interact with the audience, and the actors playing Mum and Dad will come and sit in the audience.*

### Scene 17

Granny arrives and Ben leave to steal the Crown Jewels.

### Scene 18

Ben and Granny are on the mobility scooter and they accidentally go on the motorway.

### Scene 19

Granny and Ben swim in the river and up the sewage pipe to get in the Tower of London.

### Scene 20

Ben and Granny try to steal the Crown Jewels but the Queen of England stops them.

### Scene 21

The police search Granny's bag and house but do not find the Crown Jewels. Granny tells Ben that she is not very well.

### Scene 22

Ben's Mum and Dad are worried because they do not know where Ben is.

### Scene 23

Ben and his Mum and Dad are visiting Granny in hospital. Mum's tells Granny that Ben is doing so well in schools, they have decided to get him a treat - his own black cat. *Granny passes away after this scene - this is not shown on stage.*

### Scene 24

Ben goes to the newsagents to tell Raj that Granny has passed away. Raj tells Ben that a tin of jewels was given to a charity shop and everyone thought they were fake jewels - but they are actually real!

### Scene 25

Ben is with his Mum and Dad, watching the Queens Christmas speech. *The actress playing the queen will ask the audience to dance.*

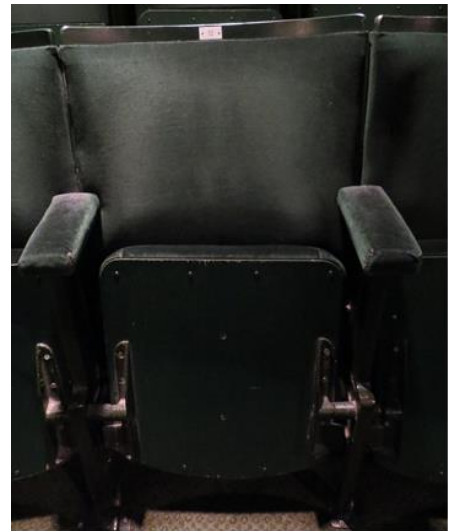
*The cast will come back on stage to bow.*

Below are some PECS you may find useful for your visit.

## The Theatre Royal



## Seat





## Male Toilets



## Female Toilets



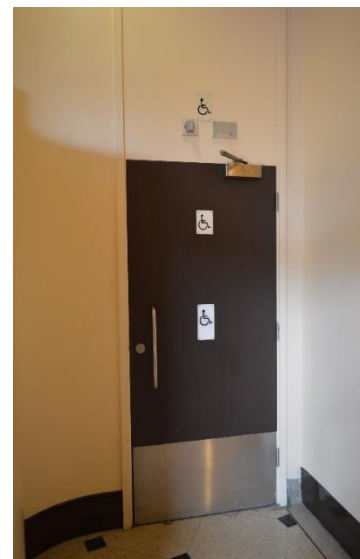
## Steward



## Ticket



## Accessible toilet



## Front Doors

