

**BUXTON OPERA HOUSE
& PAVILION ARTS CENTRE**

Buxton Opera House Visual Story

This guide is a visual resource for children and adults with Autism Spectrum Disorder, visiting the theatre. This resource is intended to help prepare any visitors for a new experience and to help them to become familiar with the surroundings.

Welcome to Buxton Opera House.
This is a theatre for children and adults.



The venue has 4 wooden doors and you will walk through these doors into the foyer. There could be lots of people when you come in, it can be noisy.

This is the Box Office. You can buy or collect your tickets from here. You may have to stand in line with other people and wait your turn.



Andy, Nick and Bernadette work in the Box Office, they will give you your tickets.



Andy



Nick



Bernadette

Sometimes there will be people selling toys and programmes in the foyer.
You might also hear some announcements over the speakers to tell you
when the performance is about to start.

You will see lots of Volunteers in white shirts with a name badge.
Volunteers are here to help you if you have any questions.

Here are some of the volunteers you might see on the day:



The Opera House is a large building with a foyer and four seating levels. These are called Stalls, Dress Circle, Upper Circle and Gallery. You will be sitting in the Stalls, these are the seats on the ground floor in front of the stage



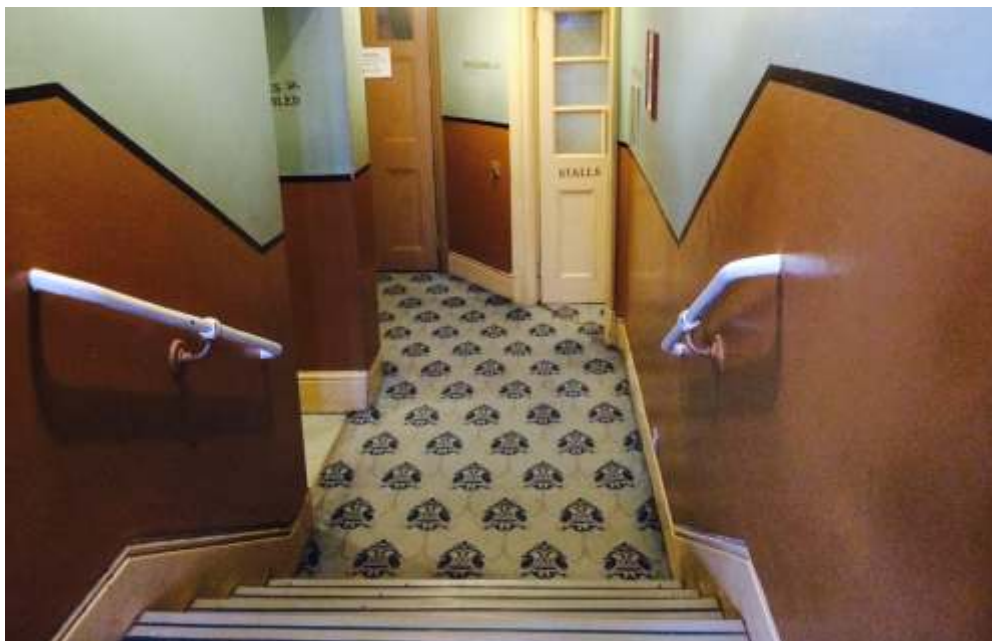
There are three bars where you can buy your drinks and sweets if you want them. These may become crowded and noisy as lots of adults and children will be excited to see the show.



If you look at your ticket you can see where you need to go.
The letters and numbers on your ticket tell you where to sit, it is not a choice.



Your seat is in the Stalls you will go down this corridor.



There are a few steps. You will go past the toilets and the
Stalls Bar before you get to the auditorium.

A Volunteer will look at your ticket and tell you where your seat is. The lights will be slightly darker in the auditorium than in the corridor and foyer.



You will find a letter at the end of each row and a number on the seat.
A Volunteer will help show you the way.



The Auditorium is a large room with lots of seats which will be full of lots of other people.



All seats face the stage so you can watch the show. There will be lots of other people sitting near you and it will be quite noisy. There is a curtain across the stage that will go up when the show starts



The show you are seeing is called Dick Whittington. There are lots of people on stage, these people are called actors.

These two actor's names are Gabrielle who is playing the part of Alice Fitzwarren and James who is playing the part of Sarah the Cook. James wears a brightly coloured costume and makeup.



When the show is going to start the lights will get a little darker. Everyone will try to be quiet and sit still. Some people will make some noise but this is nothing to worry about.



When the performance is going to start you will hear a voice asking everyone to turn off their mobile phones. This voice is coming through a speaker and it will be loud so everyone can hear it. If you haven't sat in your seat yet, you should now.

The actors will come out onto the stage and the show will begin.

During the performance you might hear the actors make a joke.
Some of the audience may laugh. You can laugh too if you like.



During the show you might see something that makes you feel sad.
You can feel sad if you like, that's okay. If you would like to take some time
out you can leave the seating to relax for a while.



If you need a bit of quiet time, there is a chill out room on the first floor. These signs will show you the way:



This is what the room looks like. On the day there will be cushions on the floor for you to sit on, background music and tables with books on for you to look at.



Halfway through the show there is a break called an 'interval'. It will last about 20 minutes. The curtain will come down to cover the stage. The lights will come on and you can go to the toilet or go and get an ice cream or ice lolly.



After the interval you will hear a voice telling everyone that the second part of the performance is about to begin. If you are not already in your seat you should go back to it and sit down.

At the end of the show everyone will clap their hands to show the actors that they have enjoyed the show. You can clap your hands if you like.



If the clapping is too loud you can cover your ears.

When the show has finished you can leave the theatre to go home. Everyone will start to leave the theatre at the same time so it can get busy. If you want you can stay in your seat until the crowd has gone and then leave the theatre.

You will leave the theatre through one of the exits.
A volunteer can show you the way.

If you have any problems or questions on the day, please ask the Duty Manager.

We hope you enjoy your visit to Buxton Opera House, if you want to tell us about or suggest ways to improve our relaxed performance then please email or write to us:

customerservice@boh.org.uk

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