

# 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.



If you use a wheelchair or mobility scooter, you will come in through our level access entrance.

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.



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.





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 either be sitting in the Stalls or the Dress Circle.

The Stalls are the seats on the ground floor in front of the stage.



You will go down this corridor to get to your seats in the Stalls. There are a few steps. You will go past the toilets and the Stalls Bar before you get to the auditorium.





If you are sitting in the Dress Circle, you will go up the stairs in the foyer.



The Dress Circle is the first level of seats above the Stalls. There will be a few steps going down to your seat.

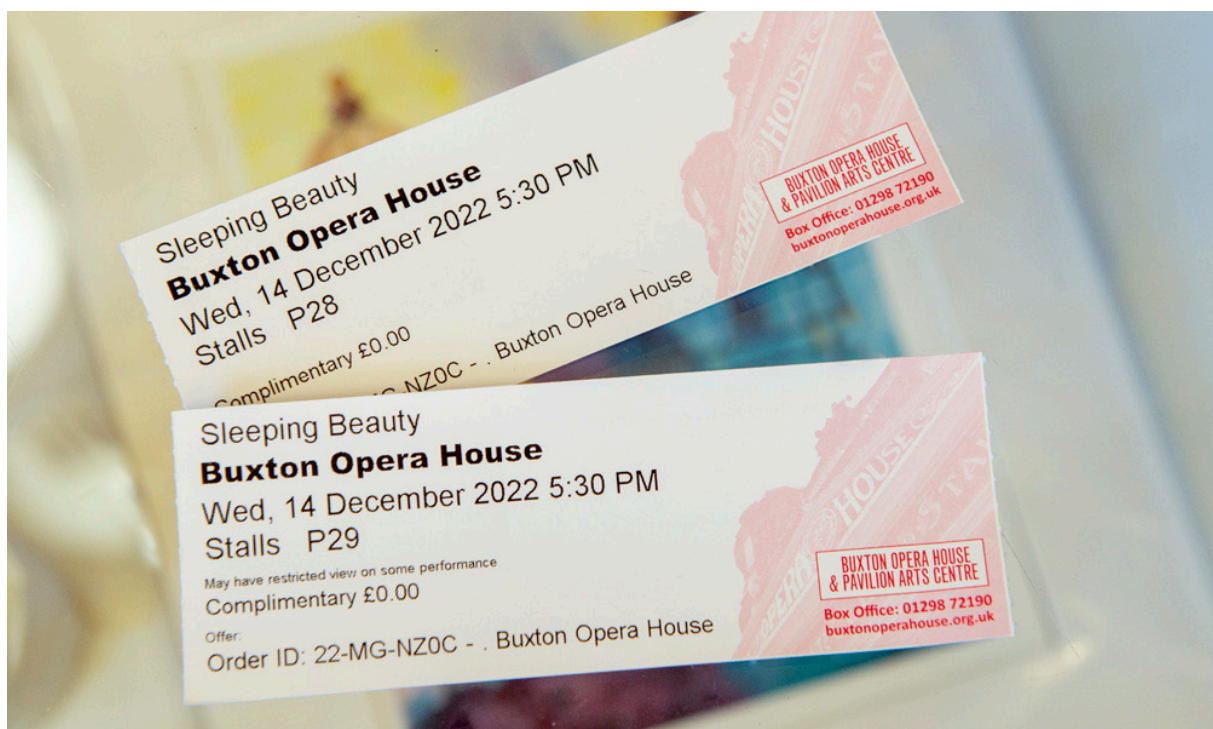




There are three bars where you can buy your drinks and sweets if you want them. These may become crowded and noisy as lots of adults and children will be excited to see the show.



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.





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 Sleeping Beauty.

There are lots of people on stage, these people are called actors.

These two actors are called James, who is playing the part of Carabosy, and Matt who is playing the part of Jock.

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 your seat to relax for a while in our chill out area.





If you need a bit of quiet time, there is a chill out room on the first floor in the Dress Circle Bar. 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 with your hands, or you can wear ear defenders. Talk to one of our Volunteers if you would like to borrow some.



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 to you can stay in your seat until the crowd has gone and then leave the theatre.

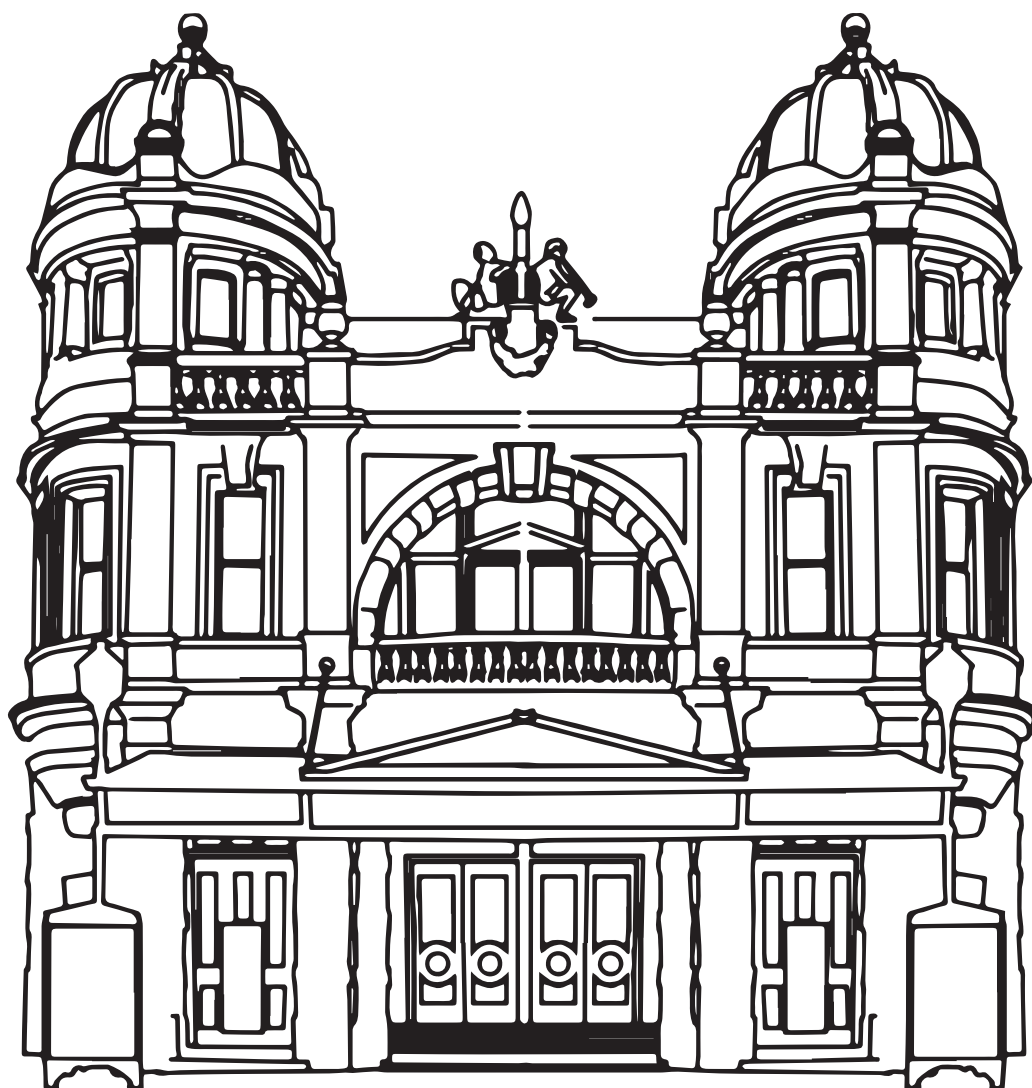
You will leave the theatre through one of the exits.

A Volunteer can show you the way.





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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](mailto:customerservice@boh.org.uk)**

**Customer Service**

Buxton Opera House, 5 The Square, Buxton, Derbyshire SK17 9JY