



What is a relaxed performance?

A relaxed performance is where the ambience of the auditorium and theatre 'rules' are relaxed. These performances are ideal for people with learning disabilities or autism, or anyone who would benefit from a more relaxed environment. A relaxed performance will have:

- Heightened lighting where you sit in the auditorium
- A 'chill-out' room where you and the people you come with can go to if they need quiet time during the show.

What is a sign interpreted performance?

Signed performances are for the benefit of people who use sign language. Trained British Signed Language (BSL) signers usually stand to one side of the stage and interpret the script used by the performers at the same time as it is being performed. BSL shows are identical in production, content and quality to standard performances, so are also entirely suitable for audience members who don't require the BSL interpretation.

What is an audio described performance?

During an audio described performance, the action of the play is described through a headset by trained people so that you can follow what is happening at the same time as the rest of the audience. This live verbal commentary doesn't go over what is being said onstage - it's kept to an essential minimum so that you get what you need when you need it.

Touch tours take place before the audio-described show. They are hosted by two describers who they will hear later through headsets. They are escorted by them to the stage to look, touch and feel the set and costumes.

Audio notes are recorded for each audio-described performance and sent out before the show. They describe the characters in the show, the plot, the look and feel of the show, and any other directorial notes that are important for you to know about. The notes are repeated live just before the show starts.

Key Vocabulary and Drama Techniques

Musical Theatre

- Musical theatre is different to other styles of theatre in that it combines songs, spoken dialogue, and dance to tell a story. A musical gives as much importance to the songs and music as other elements of the production

Understudy

- Covers for lead roles when they are poorly, on holiday or need a rest.

Swings

- They cover all the ensemble parts, learning all lines and dances.

Ensemble

- They play lots of different characters throughout the show, along with actors who play specific lead roles.

Vocal Expression

- A singer has to perform a song in a way that helps the listener understand the feeling and emotion of the song.

Choreographer

- Creates the dances and teaches them to the cast. They must ensure all of the cast know their movement and are confident performing it.

Musical Director

- Teaches the songs to the orchestra and performers. Conducts the orchestra in performance

Performer

- Learns the songs, choreography and dialogue for their role, rehearses and performs these combining the three disciplines

Director

- Oversees the creative aspects of the production. They make all the key decisions and work with lots of other roles. They help actors, giving 'notes' to improve their performances and agreeing the blocking (or movements) of the actor

