

Welcome to RED RIDING HOOD at Theatre Royal Stratford East

RELAXED PACK & A VISUAL STORY



Relaxed Performance¹ – Thursday 30 December 2021, 2pm

The running time² of RED RIDING HOOD is 135 minutes with a 20-minute interval³.

This visual story⁴ is for visitors attending the Relaxed Performance of RED RIDING HOOD.

This relaxed performance has been adapted to suit those who would benefit from a more relaxed theatre environment.



GETTING HERE

Our address is:

Theatre Royal Stratford East

Gerry Raffles Square

London, E15 1BN

The theatre is a short walk via the Great Eastern Road from Stratford railway station and Stratford bus station.

Stratford railway station is served by London Underground, DLR, TfL Rail and London Overground services.

The theatre does not have onsite parking. The nearby multi story car park at the Stratford Centre is available, as well as limited parking spaces in the Stratford Picturehouse car park.



ENTRANCE

Here is our building. The red arrow is pointing to the main entrance. These doors will be open from 10am.

The entrance is step free and the doors have an assistance button to open the door if not already open, and there is a ramp.

These doors will lead you into the **Ground Floor Foyer**.



INSIDE THE THEATRE GROUND FLOOR FOYER

This is the main Ground Floor Foyer⁵. You may be asked to wait here before entering the **auditorium**⁶ (the room where the show is performed).

This area can get rather busy before the show starts.

At this point, the entrance to the **box office** will be to your right.



BOX OFFICE

This is the **Box Office**⁷. This is where you can collect your **ticket(s)**⁸ from one of our Box Office assistants⁹ and find information about other shows/events, as well as book tickets. To meet accessibility needs, we have a lowered section of the counter. Our amazing Box Office team can also look after any large bags/items during your visit if needed.

If you have an **eTicket**⁹, you will not need to collect your ticket(s) from the Box Office as they would have been emailed to you or can be downloaded from your online account¹⁰ on the Theatre Royal Stratford East website. However, visitors with an eTicket booking are still welcome to stop by the Box Office.

As you leave the Box Office, you'll return to the Foyer. Feel free to take a seat or visit our shop – which can be found on the second right in the Foyer.



SHOP – THE AVIS BUNNAGE FOYER

This is our **shop**, situated in the Avis Bunnage Foyer, named after the actress. You can buy a selection of sweets and merchandise¹¹ to enjoy. There is also a limited seating area available.



LIFT

A lift is available within the Avis Bunnage Foyer to take you to First and Second Floors.

If you find there is no available seating in the Foyer/Shop areas, you will find seating spaces in our bar.

As you leave the Avis Bunnage Foyer and turn right, you will be able to see the door that leads to the Ground Floor toilet facilities.



ACCESSIBLE TOILETS

Here is the door to the toilet facilities. We have an unlocked accessible toilet facility available also. If the door to the accessible toilet is locked, please ask a member of staff for the key.

You will find our **theatre bar and restaurant** is located next to the bar.



THEATRE BAR AND RESTAURANT

Here is our theatre bar and restaurant¹², called Island Vibez Kitchen Stratford.

It has an open and friendly atmosphere with plenty of seating available and dimmed lighting.

This area can also get busy before a performance, and you may hear some loud noises.

The bar sells a range of drinks, and food is also available to order.

Visitors can take their drinks into the auditorium. However, we ask only drinks in a plastic cup/bottle are taken into the auditorium. Hot drinks cannot be taken into the auditorium.



ENTRANCE/EXIT FROM THE BAR

The bar and restaurant can also be accessed from Gerry Raffles Square. A button-automated door and accessibility ramp is in place for those who may wish to enter/exit the building via the bar.



THE AUDITORIUM

The auditorium is where the audience¹³ sit when watching the performance. The stage¹⁴ is a space in the auditorium where the performance will take place.

The auditorium will open approximately 45 minutes before the show starts. You can find the time the show starts in your confirmation email and on your ticket.

You will need your ticket to enter the auditorium. Your ticket will tell you your seat number¹⁵, as well as other information such as the performance start time.

One of our Front of House Assistants¹⁶ will check and scan your ticket. They can help guide you to your seat and assist you during your visit.

SEATING

There are three different seating areas within the auditorium.

The Stalls¹⁷

The Jean Brown Dress Circle¹⁸

The Upper Circle¹⁹

There will be plenty of time for you to get comfortable before the show. If you find that you want to be seated in different part of the auditorium, one of our Front of House team will be on hand to help you.

During the performance, the doors will remain open – however they will be covered by a curtain.

STALLS

The Stalls seats can be accessed on the **GROUND FLOOR**. Actors²⁰ may come into this area during the performance. For **RED RIDING HOOD**, the cast will come into the audience.

Wheelchair users will be assisted by one of our Front of House Assistants when entering the auditorium.

Our accessible entrance to the Stalls is via a fire exit – these will lead you directly to the rear of the Stalls.

If you are already inside the building, one of our Front of House assistants will guide you through the Foyer and the main entrance to the fire exit door situated in Gerry Raffles Square.

ROW G within the Stalls offers a wider seating space to meet accessibility needs. Space is also available at the rear of the Stalls. There are six wheelchair spaces within the Stalls.

JEAN BROWN DRESS CIRCLE

The Jean Brown Dress Circle is a raised seating area, and may not be suitable for audience members with mobility issues. The Jean Brown Dress Circle is on the **FIRST FLOOR** and can be accessed with the use of the stairs or the lift. There are **16** steps from the ground floor foyer to the Jean Brown Dress Circle. There are further **6** stairs to the First Floor foyer where the toilets are located – including an accessible toilet. There are steps inside the Jean Brown Dress Circle.

UPPER CIRCLE

The Upper Circle is our second, and highest, raised seating area. This can only be accessed on the **SECOND FLOOR** with the use of the stairs or the lift. Accessible toilets are situated in the **Foyer Area** on this floor. There are 14 steps from the Dress Circle to the Upper Circle. There are 4 steps between the Foyer Area and the entrance to the Upper Circle.

ACCESSIBILITY

We encourage people to feel comfortable with sharing their access requirements with the Box Office team when booking tickets. We have accessible toilets on all levels of the building.

If you find that your designated seat does not meet your accessibility requirements, please raise this with one of our Box Office team members or one of our Front of House team members.

SOCIALLY-DISTANCED PERFORMANCES

We understand some of our visitors are not ready to return to busy theatres. The socially-distanced performances for **RED RIDING HOOD** are Thu 09 Dec at 7pm and Thu 30 Dec at 2pm. These performances will have a gap of at least 1 metre between customer groups and the overall capacity will be under 30%.

USEFUL INFORMATION ON THE DAY

Performance times

The show is shown in two halves with a 20-minute break in the middle (called the interval) and is a total of 2 hours and 30 minutes long. The show starts at 2pm and will finish at about 4:30pm.

Show changes

For this Relaxed Performance some of the sound and lighting and some other small aspects of the show have been altered in order to provide a calmer experience. You are welcome to move freely in and out of the auditorium whenever you like.

The actors will sometimes come down into the aisles and interact with the audience. You can talk and interact with the actors or you can just watch.

There is a relaxed attitude to noise making – especially as this is a pantomime! So, if you would like to clap, cheer, sing along and talk, you are welcome to.

What is the show about?

RED RIDING HOOD is a Pantomime which means it is a show based on a fairy tale but has lots of jokes, songs and dances. Pantomimes always welcome the audience to join in by singing, clapping, cheering or boo-ing: you can join in or you can watch quietly.

This pantomime tells the story of RED RIDING HOOD, a young girl from Stratford-on-the-Avon, who needs to deliver a basket of essential goodies to her grandma. She goes on a thrilling quest in the Little Wood and discovers many secrets! **You'll have to watch to find out more...!**

Chill out zone

If you find the theatre experience distressing or overstimulating during your visit, everyone is welcome to visit our **CHILL OUT ZONE**.

Chill Out Zones offer a comfortable and spacious environment where you can relax. The chill out zone can be found on **Level 1** in the **Ken Hill Bar**.

If you are seated in the Stalls and decide to leave the theatre early, you can exit via a back door at the rear of the Stalls. This will lead you to Gerry Raffles Square.

MEET THE CHARACTERS

The people who will be performing on stage are known as Actors. As part of the performance, they will be playing characters to tell a story. Before the performance starts, the actors will come on stage and introduce themselves.



RED RIDING HOOD

Our main character. Red lives with her mother in Stratford-on-the-down. She is caring and kind, but also quite naive. She can hear a mysterious sound coming from the Little Wood and sets out on a mission. Her red hooded jacket was weaved by her granny and contains magical powers.



GRANNY HOOD

The pantomime dame. She is a herbalist (someone who knows lots about plants and how they can be used for medicines). Granny lives in the middle of Little Wood.



WOLF

Our villain and the baddie in the show! Wolf lives in Little Wood and eats whatever he can. **He's** determined to stop Red Riding Hood from getting to her Granny.



WOLFIE

Wolfie is the son of Wolf – and is the complete opposite. He is **free-spirited and energetic**. He's also got a **secret that he's afraid to tell his father**.



MUM (Goldilocks Belinda Hood)

Red's mum, who is **obsessed with herself!** She wants to be an influencer and will stop at nothing to be famous online.



WOODY

Red and Mum's neighbour. Woody is a **woodcutting huntsman** (or 'sustainable forester'). He may be a potential love **interest...**



BOW PEEP

Bow Peep has lost their sheep! A friend of Red's who helps on Red's journey. Will they find their sheep?



STUDENTS & MISS SUNNY

In the opening scene we meet Red Riding Hood and several students as well as their teacher Miss Sunny.

Guide to the lights and sound (Warning, there may be some spoilers!)

- There are many sound effects in the show. If you are sensitive to sound, you may wish to wear ear defenders or sit further back in the auditorium.
- There are coloured flashes and puffs of smoke during the performance, these are controlled special effects and pose no danger to you.
- We have the main house lights on at a low level to help you move around if you need to.
- Characters in the show may call out to you to join in, you do not have to join in if you do not want to, but feel free to make as much noise as you want!
- Sometimes characters can be cross with one another, but this is just the actors pretending and no one is actually annoyed or upset (in fact, the actors really like each other!).
- **A 'dead bird' falls from the ceiling to the floor** – this is not a real bird and is actually a stuffed pretend bird.
- **The evil Wolf 'eats' several of the characters. Don't worry** – no-one is actually eaten or harmed during this scene. In fact, they later appear **inside the Wolf's stomach!** This is all to make it fun and silly and none of the characters are actually in danger of being hurt.
- Towards the end of the show, the actors move around the aisles on the sides of the stalls, dress circle and upper circle.

WHAT HAPPENS? (please note, this contains spoilers)

In the opening scene our main character, Red Riding Hood, hears a mysterious sound where something is calling out for help – The Seasons Tree. A leaf falls from above. We then meet **Red's schoolmates and teacher Miss Sunny who are preparing for the arrival of Fairy Berry to judge Stratford-on-the-Downs cooking competition.**



Little Bow Peep suddenly bursts in looking for their sheep, which have gone missing. Little Bow Peep tells the group how animals all over the village have started going missing. Miss Sunny tells them all to stop being silly and suspends Red Riding Hood from school.



We meet Granny Hood, who enters from the Stalls. Granny introduces herself to **the audience and explains how she's waiting for her basket of essential goods.**



Red arrives home to tell her mum about hearing the Seasons Tree, the **disappearing animals and getting suspended from school, but Red's Mum isn't** interested. She wants to be an influencer and is waiting for packages to arrive. A delivery person arrives several times with many packages.



Woody the Huntsman enters and explains that all the trees in the woods are connected – called the Wood Wide Web.



Red heads into the Little Wood to deliver Granny her basket of essential goods.

Bow Peep and Wolfie bump into each other in the woods. Bow Peep is looking for their sheep. Wolfie is looking for his dad (the Wolf). Wolfie explains that he loves to dance. Wolfie then leaves. Bow Peep asks the audience to look out for the big bad Wolf, who appears behind her.



Wolf then sings his song about being hungry and eating all the animals. He smells Red Riding Hood and wants to eat her! He realises that he cannot eat her because of her magical Red Hood that was weaved by Granny using special plants. Red leaves safely.



Wolfie re-enters and can hear the seasons tree. He finds his dad who explains **that he needs to find a way to get Red Riding Hood's hood.**

Wolfie later bumps into Red Riding Hood. Wolfie offers to take the basket to Granny Hood.

We're now at Granny Hood's house is remember how she used to work at the Palace and make such amazing food. Wolfie arrives with the basket of essential goods and they attempt to make a cake. Granny accidentally tells Wolfie how the big bad Wolf can stop the magic in Red Riding Hood's hood.



Bow Peep, Woody and Mum all meet and are panicking about what's happening. Something bad is about to happen to Granny! The characters each frantically sing and dance to a routine, before Wolf appears in Granny Hood's house. He then eats Granny and takes her place.

INTERVAL (20 minutes)

We return to the action with Wolf now dressed as Granny! Wolf then proceeds to **eat Bow Peep, Mum, Woody and Red! They each end up inside the Wolf's stomach (don't worry, they're not hurt) and have to work out how to escape. There's only one way out of the Wolf – through his bowels!**



Each of **the characters escape from the Wolf's bowels successfully and** unharmed. They all talk about what they need to do to Wolf as punishment. They chase the wolf through the auditorium and threaten to liquidise the Wolf in a big blender. Before they can they realise they need to save the Seasons Tree and work together. They each recognize their errors and make up. They save the Seasons Tree by combining all their energy and singing.



WELCOMING AUDIENCES BACK

We are committed to stopping the spread of Coronavirus.

The health, safety and well-being of our audiences, artists and staff is of paramount importance. We're taking every measure to ensure everyone feels safe and welcome when visiting Stratford East.

All safety measures will be reviewed and updated as government guidelines change.

- We ask visitors to not attend the theatre if you are displaying any symptoms of Covid 19. Our exchange policy offers maximum flexibility and confidence when booking. Our friendly box office team will be happy to help.
- Visitors over 11 years old are encouraged to wear a facemask when in the building (except when eating or drinking). However, we do understand some people may have reasons that excuse them from wearing one – the Box Office can provide a sticker which indicates this if you feel you need this.
- Contactless tickets - you can access your e-ticket from your Stratford East online account. You do not need to print your e-ticket. If we have your mobile number on record, you'll also receive your e-ticket via text.
- We accept both cash and card payments, as well as contactless payments.
- Hand-sanitising stations will be available throughout the building.
- We encourage all staff and visitors to respect other people's space and to be considerate of others.
- Enhanced cleaning throughout the building.

We have also carried out a risk assessment for employees working within our building and are committed to maintaining a safe workplace and to meeting our duty of care to our employees. Key steps that we are taking cover:

- Self-declarations for staff and visitors regarding health.
- Increased cleaning, hand sanitizer stations across the building.
- Whilst, under government guidelines, social distancing and wearing a face covering are not mandatory, we are still encouraging our staff to wear them in busy or enclosed spaces, unless they are exempt.
- Regular Lateral flow testing for staff.
- Asking our staff to declare their vaccination status

For more information, please refer to the 'Welcoming Audiences Back' page on our website.

If you have any questions regarding our safety measures, please email:
tickets@stratfordeast.com

Or you can contact our Box Office phone number:

020 8518 8818

GLOSSARY

1. **Relaxed Performance:** Relaxed performances are open to all audience members and can be useful for those with an Autistic Spectrum Condition, sensory and communication disorder, learning disability and anyone who would benefit from a more relaxed theatre environment. These performances allow movement in and out of the auditorium and there is less emphasis on the audience being quiet during the performance. Often the show has been slightly adapted in terms of reducing or removing loud sounds and flashing lights. There will also be a separate chill-out room for any audience members that require it.
2. **Running Time:** This is the length of time a performance will last.
3. **Interval:** This is a short break in the middle of a performance where the audience can enjoy a drink, visit the toilets or exit the auditorium for a short while.
4. **Visual Story:** A story that uses images to tell the story of the play and highlight key moments within it.
5. **Foyer:** A waiting area at the entrance of a building.
6. **Auditorium:** A large space where the audience can view the performance from.
7. **Box Office:** An area where tickets can be purchased and collected from, as well as ask for more information about the theatre, current productions and upcoming shows.
8. **Ticket/Tickets:** A small piece of card, which has specific details written on it such as names and seating arrangements, and allows the named person to enter the auditorium.
9. **eTicket:** Like a card copy of a ticket, only a contactless version. It contains the same information, and would have been sent to you via text or can be access through your Theatre Royal Stratford East online account. You will need to access this in order to gain access to the auditorium.
10. **Online account portal:** This is the section of the website where you can view your details, bookings and eTickets.
11. **Merchandise:** Goods that are sold in the shop.
12. **Theatre Bar & Restaurant:** A service in our theatre that provides a range of drinks and food to be consumed during your visit.
13. **Audience:** A term given the group of people who have come to watch a performance.
14. **Stage:** This is the area of the auditorium where the performance takes place. Many actors and performers may be on stage at one time.
15. **Seat Number:** Each seat in the theatre has a specific number. You can find the number on the top of each seat.
16. **Front of House Assistant:** Front of House Assistants throughout the theatre **to assist our customers during their visit. They're here to check everyone's tickets, provide access assistance, provide information and guide people through the building.**

17. Stalls: The name given to the seats on the Ground Floor that are directly in front of the stage. This seating area also provides wheelchair accessibility.
18. Dress Circle: The name given to the raised seating area on the First Floor.
19. Upper Circle: The name given to the second raised seating area on the Second Floor.
20. Actors: A term given to a person who performs different characters. You will see them appearing on stage.