Theatre Royal Plymouth

Visual Story for the Chilled Performance of

Thursday 13th December 2018 at 8.00pm in The Lab

This visual story is designed for visitors to the Chilled Performance of ***Bulls****. This guide will help you prepare for your visit, understand what to expect during the performance and help you find your way around the Theatre Royal Plymouth.

General Information about the Theatre Royal Plymouth

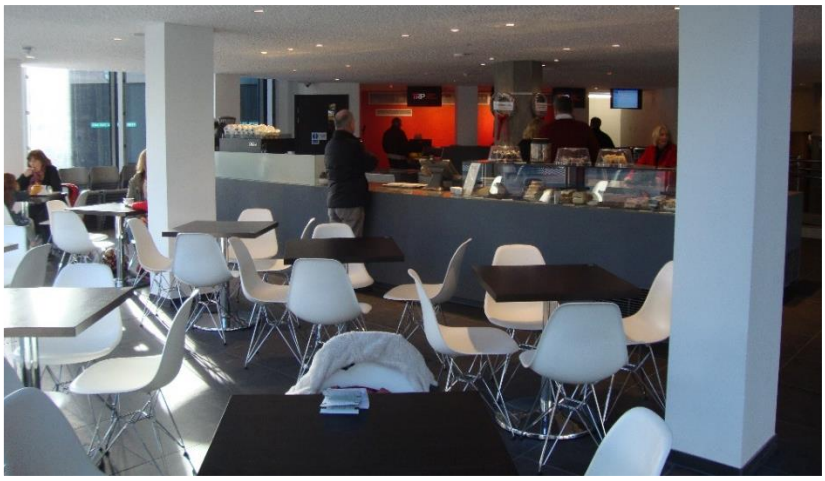
This is what the main entrance to the Theatre Royal Plymouth looks like from the outside:

The foyer can get busy before the show. There are places where you can sit down and have some lunch if you arrive early.

The Box Office looks like this. If you need to collect your tickets when you arrive, please queue here and someone will help you.

Food, drink and toilets

There is a café and bars where you can buy food and drink before ***Bulls**** starts and after the show.



There are toilets on every floor of the theatre, including accessible toilets suitable for wheelchair users.

The accessible toilet on the second floor requires a radar key, please contact a member of staff if you need it.

Theatre Royal Plymouth staff

When you arrive at the theatre there will be ushers who will answer any of your questions, help you find your way around and show you where to go to find your seats.

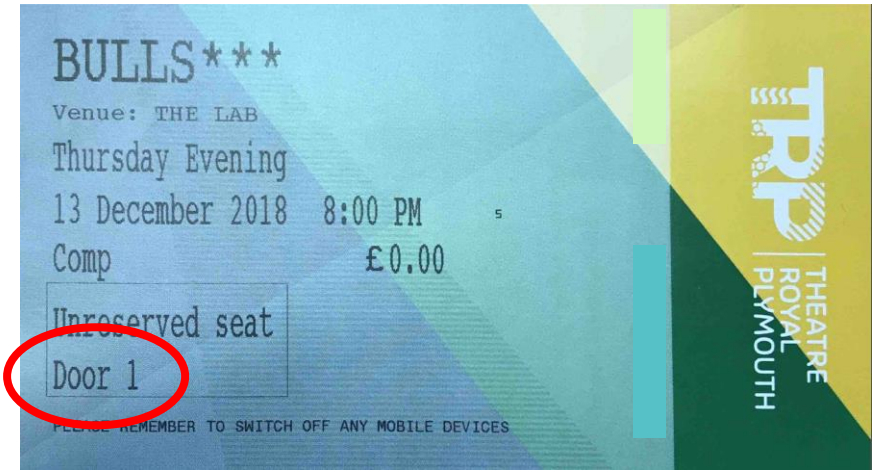
The Theatre Royal Plymouth staff are always happy to help and answer any questions. They wear a uniform which looks like this:

You can also ask questions to anyone wearing a Theatre Royal Plymouth lanyard around their neck.

The Lab Auditorium

The auditorium is the part of the theatre where the audience will sit while they watch ***Bulls****.

The door number that you need to go to find your seats is printed on your ticket. It is unreserved seating in The Lab so just choose where you would like to sit when you enter.



You will have time before the performance starts to find your seats and get comfortable.

During the performance

The performance of Bulls*** will stay unchanged but there will be a more casual approach to noise and movement in the auditorium.

You can talk and make as much noise as you like!

You can leave the auditorium whenever you like. The actors will point out the exits at the start of the show, and there will be ushers who can help you during the show. There will also be a 'chill out zone' if you need a break and a drink of water.

How long does Bulls*** last?

The performance will start at 8 pm, and will last for about 1 hour. You can arrive half an hour before, so you can look at the auditorium, and find a seat you like.

Things we do in the show

There will be some loud music in the show. Sometimes, we will use this to tell you what sort of feeling a scene has (happy, sad, excited). We will also use it when the characters go to loud places, like a bar, or the stadium. If it is too loud, you can cover your ears. You could also bring ear-defenders if you wanted to, or leave the auditorium.

We will use some coloured and flashing lights. This is for when the characters are in a big stadium. We will also use some video projection, to show you things which aren't in the same space as the actors, like past memories.

There will be swearing in the show - but don't worry, the character is allowed to say words which people normally aren't allowed to!

We have chosen to tell this story through a style called physical theatre, which involves lots of movement. The movement will include some lifts, rolls, falls, and balancing on a big ball. Sometimes things will happen quite suddenly. These things might look quite scary and unsafe. But don't worry, we have worked with a professional movement director, who has made sure that everything the actors will do is very safe, and they know how to look after themselves and each other.

In between each scene, we show a clock on the back wall and the actors will do some slow motion movement which might not make sense. Don't worry if you don't understand. At the end, you will know what they were doing!

We are using a simple set, which is made from rope, metal buckets, and a few tools. We have chosen these items because they are the sorts of things which would exist where the characters live - on a ranch, which is like a farm. Some of these buckets will be hung from the ceiling of the theatre. You might feel worried that they could fall down. Don't worry - we have checked all the ropes and the knots to make sure that they are safe, and no one can get hurt.

We will show you some of the bulls in the story through turning objects into puppets. This isn't what the objects are usually used for, but here they are being used to help us tell our story. We are asking the audience to use their imagination to imagine that the objects are a bull.

At the end of the show:

At the end of the show, the lights on stage will go down, and then the actors will come back on stage and take a bow.

Next, everybody will clap. They are clapping to show the actors that they liked the show and to thank them for their performances. You can join in clapping if you want to, or not. You can also cover your ears or leave the auditorium if it is too noisy.

After they have finished clapping, people will leave the theatre. The ushers will show you where to go.

About BULLS***

BULLS*** is a story set in America, in current times. In America, they have a sport called Professional Bull Riding,

The aim of Professional Bull Riding is to stay on a bucking bull for 8 seconds. It is very dangerous and very exciting. This is a sport which is mostly done by men.

Here is a photo of professional bull riding:

Here is some information which will help you understand this sport:

When they are riding bulls, the cowboys and girls use a rope to stay on the bull. You will see rope being used a lot.

The bull riders are not allowed to touch the bull with their free hand.

The bull riders have to stay on for 8 seconds to qualify.

To compete in the bigger competitions, the cowboys and girls have to win a certain amount of money, and score a certain number of points.

To calculate a score, the judge scores both the rider and the bull. The bull gets a score out of fifty, based on how difficult his bucking pattern is (if he twists and turns and jumps lots, he will get a big score). The rider also gets a score out of fifty, based on how well they ride the bull.

There are lots of commentators in this world. Their job is to tell the audience about the way the cowboy or girl rides. Sometimes, their voice suggests they are saying something nice, when actually their words show they are not being very nice.

About the story:

This story is about Rosie Abbot. Rosie is a young woman who is bored with her role in life. Her Mum wants her to become a 'rodeo queen'. A rodeo queen is a woman who is crowned 'queen of the rodeo' because of her skill in a series of categories, such as riding horses, showing a talent, and giving a speech.

One day, Rosie accidentally rides a bull. When she does this, she feels really excited and alive, so she decides to start training to ride bulls professionally. Her mum doesn't want her to do it, so she has to keep it a secret. On her journey, Rosie meets lots of people who don't think she should ride bulls because she is a woman.

Rosie also meets Mason. Mason and Rosie start training together, and become best friends. As Mason and Rosie get better at bull riding, they go on the road, touring around different rodeos, before getting to the big finals of the sport.

Although the things on stage might seem real, they aren't - it is just the actors pretending, to tell a story.

Meet the characters

Rosie Abbot: Rosie is the hero of this story. She is played by Megan, who is shown in the photograph.

Rosie is energetic, funny and passionate. She says what she thinks, which sometimes offends or upsets other characters, like her mother. Rosie swears a lot - but don't worry, she is allowed to. Sometimes she gets angry, but it's ok, this is just a feeling.

Because Rosie is a woman, lots of people think she shouldn't be riding bulls. Rosie likes to prove people wrong - if they say she can't do something, she is sure to try it and show that she can!

Lots of the smaller characters in the show talk about Rosie in a way which isn't very nice. But don't worry - it's just part of the story.

Rosie has a best friend, Mason, and a mother, Grace. Rosie's father is important to the story, but he isn't here any more. You will find out what happened to him later on in the story.

Mason Johnson: Mason is Rosie's best friend. He is played by Reon, who you can see in the photograph above.

Mason is a cowboy who has been riding bulls for many years. Now, Mason is ready to retire. He wants to start training other bull-riders, so he offers to help Rosie to become a bull-rider. They become best friends.

Mason is a quiet and thoughtful character. He is very focused and hard-working.

At one point in the show Mason and Rosie have an argument - but don't worry, they are still friends. It is just part of the story.

At one point in the show Mason gets badly injured while he is riding a bull. Don't worry though - he is ok. It is just part of the story.

Grace Abbot: Grace is Rosie's mother. She is played by Lucy, who you can see in the photograph above.

Grace is a very strong woman, who has done lots of things in her life. Rosie describes her as 'a fighter' and 'stubborn', which means Grace doesn't give up or give in very easily. Grace and Rosie are similar in this, and sometimes they find it hard to understand each other because they are too alike.

Grace and Rosie have several arguments because of their differences. But don't worry - they come back together at the end of the story.

Grace runs the family ranch, which is like a farm but in America. Grace's business is in 'stock contracting': breeding bulls. Because Grace's husband is no longer around, she has been solely responsible for looking after Rosie for a number of years.

When Grace was younger, she was a 'rodeo queen'. Grace wants Rosie to be just like her, and become a rodeo queen. She finds it difficult to accept that Rosie wants to do something different, and ride bulls.

Grace doesn't always show what she is really feeling. Really, she is very worried about Rosie, and just wants to protect her. But sometimes she says or does other things, because she doesn't want to show this to Rosie. Sometimes she gets angry, but it's ok, this is just a feeling.

Other characters: All of the actors will also plays lots of smaller characters. They will show this by changing their voices and their body language.

For example, when Lucy plays Rusty who owns the bull-riding school, she will hunch her shoulders over, and make her voice lower, and her American accent will get stronger.

We hope you enjoyed the show and wish you a fantastic Christmas!

Upcoming relaxed performances at Theatre Royal Plymouth

The Gingerbread Man
Saturday 5th January 2019 3.00pm

Dick Whittington
Wednesday 9th January 2019 12.30pm

Snow White and the Happy Ever After Beauty Salon
Wednesday 23rd January 2019 1.00pm