

Theatre by the Lake presents

A LITTLE PRINCESS

adapted by Amanda Dalton from the novel by Frances Hodgson Burnett

A VISUAL STORY

RELAXED PERFORMANCE: THU 30 NOVEMBER AT 11AM

This visual story is designed for visitors to the Relaxed Performance of 'A Little Princess'. This pack contains information about the play and lots of images to help prepare anyone who may be anxious about their visit. This visual story also has information to help you to find your way around Theatre by the Lake.

SPECIAL TOURS OF THE BUILDING

We offer special tours of the theatre to customers booking for our Relaxed Performances. On a day of your choice, one of our friendly members of staff will show you around the theatre so you can get to know it a bit better. You'll see the Front of House areas, including the café, toilets and where the 'chill-out space' will be on the day of the performance. You'll also see the auditorium, including where you'll sit to watch the show.

TO BOOK A TOUR

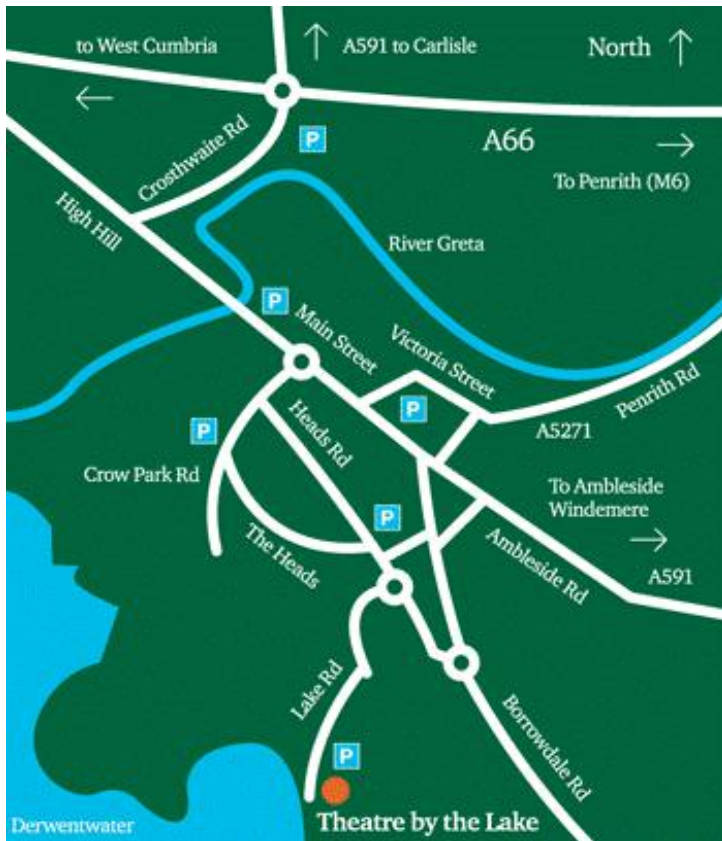
Please contact our Customer Experience Manager, Mary Elliott by email on mary.elliott@theatrebythelake.com or by telephone on 017687 81103.

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SECTION ONE: THEATRE BY THE LAKE

WHERE IS THE PLAY?



The play is being shown at Theatre by the Lake in Keswick. The theatre is located next to a lake called Derwentwater. To walk to the theatre from the town centre, follow signposts for 'The Lake'. If you wish to use a satnav, the postcode is CA12 5DJ.

There is a car park next to the theatre. This is a council car park so you have to pay to park there – make sure you have plenty of change, or you can pay by card. There are a limited number of parking spaces for Blue Badge holders, where the first three hours are free.

Here is a picture of the theatre from the outside:



ACCESS

Lift access is available to all floors of the theatre. There is only one lift, located in the café on the ground floor, shown here:



There are toilets on each floor, suitable for wheelchair access. On the first floor, there is an additional ambulant disabled toilet. These are clearly signposted.



INSIDE THE THEATRE

You can view a [360 virtual tour of the theatre](#) here. This is the foyer (the inside entrance area):



The theatre will open at 10am and the auditorium will open at 10:30am on the day of the performance. Lakeside Restaurant next door is open from 9:30am – 5pm. If you would like to book a space to sit and eat a packed lunch inside the theatre then please get in touch with us and we'll be able to arrange.



If you would like somewhere to sit, there are seats on the first floor on the mezzanine. This will be a quiet area if you wish to have some 'chill out time' before, during or after the performance.

On the ground floor, there is a café (called The Spotlight Café) which will be open from 10am until 2pm. The café sells hot and cold drinks and snacks. You can pre-order drinks for the interval, which will be waiting for you when you come into the café during the break.



Ice creams will be on sale in the foyer and you can take them into the auditorium. Groups can pre-order ice creams and we can bring them into the auditorium for you at the interval, if you would prefer not to leave your seats. Please speak to Box Office staff for details.

You might notice some people walking around with walkie-talkies. This is the Customer Experience team and they are there to make sure that everything runs smoothly. They will check your tickets and help you to find your seats. They can also answer any questions that you may have about the play or about the theatre.

You can take your bags and coats into the auditorium with you. You can just pop these on the backs of your seats or underneath them. You may also take in any hand held electronic devices that you may need.

INFORMATION ABOUT THE AUDITORIUM, THE STAGE AND THE SET

The auditorium is the part of the theatre where the audience sits when they are watching the play.

The stage is the area where the actors perform the play.

The set is the name for all the scenery, furniture and objects used on stage in a play.

WHAT DOES THE AUDITORIUM LOOK LIKE?

This show is played 'end on', with the audience sitting on one side in front of the stage.



Because this is a relaxed performance you can get up out of your seats if you need to and move around. You won't be allowed to go on to the stage unless you are asked by the actors. You can leave the auditorium if you need some quiet time or if you need to use the toilet.

You will have some time before the show to find your seats and get comfy before the play begins. These are the seats in the auditorium where the audience sit.

HOW LONG DOES THE PLAY LAST?

The play is about 2 hours and 30 minutes long with a 20 minute interval.

WHAT HAPPENS AFTER THE SHOW?

When the play has finished you are welcome to stay for a question and answer session, where everyone will get the chance to ask the actors questions. You can leave the auditorium at any time, and you can still use the toilets and chill-out area after the show.

SECTION TWO: THE PLAY

A LITTLE PRINCESS

ABOUT THE SHOW

'A Little Princess' is a play with 9 professional actors and 3 companies of 8 young actors (aged 11-14), they are the Youth Cast and play school girls in the story. The play is set in the 1930s, mainly in Lancashire, but partly in India too. There are also animal puppets in the show.

THE SET

Most of the action takes place in Miss Minchin's Academy for Young Ladies, a boarding school in Lancashire. Occasionally, scenes take place in India, where the main character, Sara Crewe, is from. Lighting and music is used to show a change of place.



KEY CHARACTERS

Here is a description of the characters in the play.

Sara Crewe

An 11 year old girl with an Indian mother and a British father. She has spent her childhood in India.



Becky

a servant girl who works at Miss Minchin's Academy.

THE PUPILS OF MISS MINCHIN'S ACADEMY

Lavinia Smythe

The school bully.

Lottie Legh

Lavinia's sidekick.



Ermengarde St John

Lavinia and Lottie's classmate, who is often the butt of their jokes.

The Youth Cast play the other girls in the school.



THE TEACHERS OF MISS MINCHIN'S ACADEMY

Miss Maria
Minchin

The Headteacher



Miss Amelia
Minchin

Miss Minchin's
sister



Monsieur
Charles
Dufarge

The French teacher



Captain William
Crewe

(played by the same actor
as Charles Dufarge).

Captain Crewe is a
captain in the British Army
and Sara Crewe's father.



Ishan Ramdas

The storyteller and friend
of the Crewe family.

THE STORY



The play begins with Captain Crewe and his daughter, Sara, getting ready to travel from their home in India to England. Sara is being sent to continue her education in an English boarding school.

Sara arrives at her new school, Miss Minchin's Academy for Young Ladies, and everyone at the school is very curious about the new pupil.



Sara and her father say goodbye and he returns to India to his job in the British Army.



Sara has a doll named Rupmati, who helps her to think up stories. Sara is feeling sad because she misses her home, so she tells a story to cheer herself up.

On Sara's first day in class, she meets Ermengarde and sticks up for her against Lavinia's nasty jibes. Sara and Ermengarde become friends.

Miss Amelia thinks Sara will be behind in her studies and will need to work hard to catch up with the rest of the class. Sara proves her wrong by being very good at lots of subjects, including French.



Back in India, Captain Crewe has decided to leave the army and return to England for good. He says goodbye to his friend, Ramdas.



Meanwhile, Sara is making friends and settling in at her new school. She loves to tell stories, and this makes her popular with her classmates, apart from Lavinia, who doesn't like Sara getting all the attention.

Miss Minchin finds out about Sara's storytelling and is very cross because she thinks it is a distraction to the girls' learning and a waste of time. She bans the girls from telling stories.



Captain Crewe sends money for the girls to have a Christmas party. While they are decorating the school hall ready for the party, Sara gets news that her father has died on his journey to England.



Now a penniless orphan, Sara is made a servant at the school and sent to live upstairs with the other servant girl, Becky.

Meanwhile, Ramdas has travelled to England to look for Sara. When he finds her, he tells her some important news...

But we'll save that last bit of the story as a surprise!



We hope that you enjoy the show and your visit to Theatre by the Lake.