

BRASSED OFF

adapted for the stage by Paul Allen | based on the screenplay by Mark Herman

A VISUAL STORY

RELAXED PERFORMANCE: THU 11 JULY 11AM

This visual story is designed for visitors to the Relaxed Performance of **Brassed Off**. 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

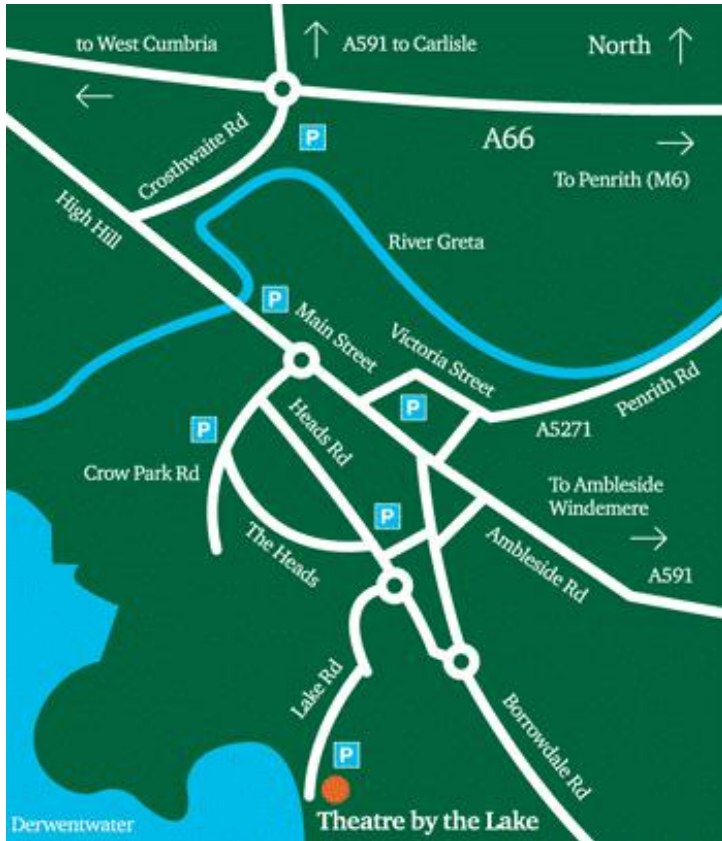
Please contact our Customer Experience Manager, Mary Elliott by email on mary.elliott@theatrebythelake.com or by telephone on 017687 81103.

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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 Café Restaurant next door is open from 9:30am. 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 10:30am. 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 Spotlight café 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 'in the round', with the stage in the middle and the audience sitting around it on all sides.



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 including a 20 minute interval. Plus an introduction where the actors introduce themselves, and question and answer time at the end.

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

BRASSED OFF

ABOUT THE SHOW

Brassed Off is a play with 10 actors (some of them play instruments too), 2 child actors, plus several members of a community brass band. The play is set in a made-up coal-mining town in Yorkshire, called Grimley, in 1994.

THE SET

The action mostly happens around different parts of the town; in the band rehearsal room, on the streets around the town, and in the colliery changing rooms.

A colliery is a coal mine and the buildings and equipment that are part of it.



KEY CHARACTERS

Here is a description of the characters in the play.

Danny

The conductor and leader of Grimley Colliery Band. He's Phil's dad, and grandad to Shane and his little brother and sisters.



Harry

Harry and Jim are best friends, they are miners at the Grimley Colliery and both play in the brass band.



Jim



Andy

Andy is also a miner and in the band. He likes to play snooker, but he often loses.



Gloria

Gloria grew up in Grimley but left to go to London. In the play she returns to Grimley for her job and joins the band.



Phil

Phil is a miner and band player too, and has been in prison for his part in the 1984 Miners' Strike.



Sandra

She is Phil's wife and mother to Shane and his brother and sisters.

Shane

An 8 year old boy who helps narrate the story. He's the eldest son of Phil and Sandra.



Vera

She's married to Jim and works in the local supermarket.



Rita

She's married to Harry and cares a lot about the closure of the colliery. She campaigns to keep it open.

THE STORY



The play begins in 2024 with Shane, now an adult, looking back on his childhood. The characters come alive on stage and he introduces them all, and begins to tell the story of what happened in 1994...

Harry, Jim, Andy and Phil talk about Grimley colliery closing. if this happens they will all lose their jobs.



Phil comes home and he and Sandra argue about having no money. They worry about how they will feed their family and pay their debts if the colliery closes.



Vera and Rita talk about what will happen if the colliery closes. They will be the ones going out to work while their husbands live on the dole and struggle to find jobs.

Rita asks Vera to help her stand against the colliery closing. Rita stands every day outside the colliery waving a placard that says 'The miners will never be defeated'.

It's band practice and Danny is disappointed with how well the band is playing. He reminds them they have the semi-finals of the National Brass Band Championships in just a few weeks time, and it's important they win it.

Gloria turns up at the rehearsal and asks if she can join the band. They let her and she turns out to be a very good player.



The band go to Saddleworth in Lancashire to play at a competition. There is a lot of drinking involved and things get messy! Danny is unhappy with how they've played and gives them a telling off.



After the competition, Andy spends the night with Gloria. Andy finds out that Gloria works for the British Coal Board as a surveyor. She explains she is trying to help keep the colliery open, but Andy says her efforts won't be of any use as he thinks they've already decided to close the colliery. He also worries about what the others will think when they find out Gloria is involved.

Phil gets a job as a children's entertainer to help bring some money in. He also buys a new trombone because his old one has broke.

Meanwhile, the miners vote whether or not to take the redundancy money, which means the colliery closes, or to reject the offer and fight to keep it open.



The band play at the semi-finals and they win!

Meanwhile, the result of the vote is announced; Grimley Colliery will close.

After the concert, Danny collapses and ends up in hospital.



Sandra finds out that Phil has spent money they don't have on a trombone. This is the final straw and she decides to leave him, taking the children with her.

Everything gets on top of Phil with his wife leaving, his dad being ill, and the guilt of voting to take the redundancy money instead of fighting to keep the colliery open. He attempts to take his own life. Luckily he fails and lives to fight another day.

It's the day of the National Brass Band Championships and the band go to London to take part...

But we will leave the result and the ending as a surprise for you!



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