

OF MICE AND MEN

By John Steinbeck

A Theatre by the Lake, Derby Theatre, Hull Truck Theatre and Octagon Theatre Bolton production

A VISUAL STORY

RELAXED PERFORMANCE: THURSDAY 1 MAY AT 11AM

This visual story is designed for visitors to the Relaxed Performance of Of Mice and Men. 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

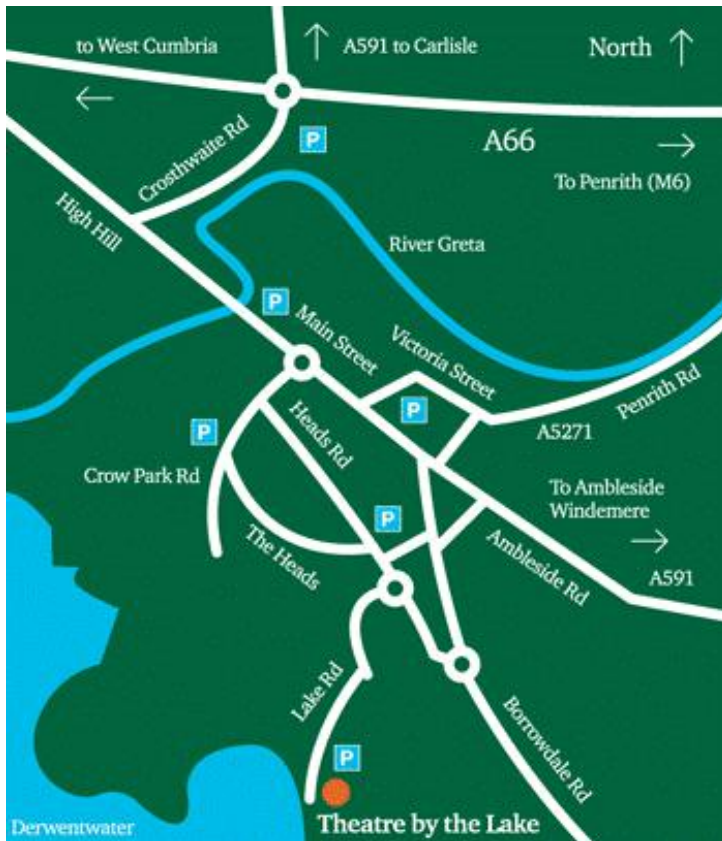
Please contact our Customer Experience Manager, Mary Elliott by email on mary.elliott@theatrebythelake.com or by telephone on 017687 81103.

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- About Theatre by the Lake
- About the play – Of Mice and Men

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 10am. 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 second floor on the circle. 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 9:30am. 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 'end on', with the stage at one end and the audience sitting in front of it.



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 a 15 - 20 minute introduction where the actors introduce themselves.

WHAT HAPPENS AFTER THE SHOW?

When the play has finished you are welcome to stay as there will be a chance to meet the actors in the bar area. 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

OF MICE AND MEN

ABOUT THE SHOW

Of Mice and Men is a play with 11 actors in. There is also a puppet dog.

There is haze and some gunshots in the show, but don't worry, the gun isn't a real one and nobody gets hurt in real life!

THE SETTING

The story is set in the 1930s in California on a ranch (a farm). The set moves to show different settings where the action happens; a river, a bunkhouse and a barn.



KEY CHARACTERS

Here is a description of the characters in the play.



George

George is in California looking for work, because where he comes from (in the south of the country) there is no work. He travels with his best friend, Lennie, who he looks out for.



Lennie

Lennie is George's friend, and is as tall as a giant. He has learning disabilities.

Curley

Curley is the ranch boss' son. He has just got married and is paranoid that his wife is spending too much time with the other men.



Curley's Wife

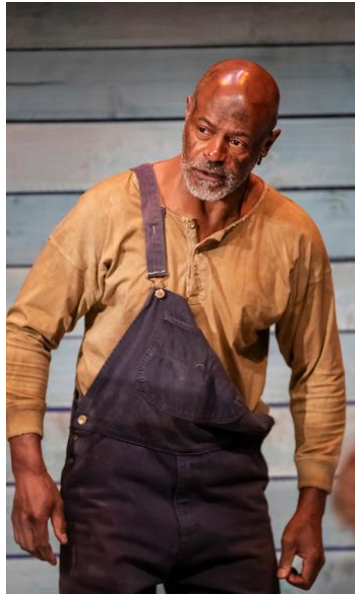
She is bored and lonely and spends her time wandering around the ranch looking for people to talk to.





Candy and his dog

Candy was in an accident on the ranch which left him blind. He can't really work anymore but the boss keeps him on as a cleaner. He has an old dog.



Crooks

Crooks is a Black man who is a stable hand and is made to sleep in separate quarters from the white workers and not join in with their games. Because of this he is very lonely.



Slim

The other ranch workers



Whit

Carlson



The Boss



THE STORY



George and Lennie are two workers on their way to find work at a ranch in California. George is small and smart. Lennie is big and has a learning disability. He loves soft things, but he sometimes hurts them without meaning to. Lennie is very close to George and depends on him. George gets upset when he finds Lennie holding a dead mouse and throws it away. Even though George says life would be easier without Lennie, they care about each other a lot. They dream of one day owning a farm where Lennie can take care of rabbits. George tells Lennie this dream to help him feel happy before they sleep.

The next day, George and Lennie arrive at the ranch. George does the talking because he's worried about how people will react to Lennie. He lies and says they are cousins and that Lennie was hurt by a horse as a kid. They get the job.



They meet Candy, an blind worker and an old dog.



They meet Slim, a respected worker who has a dog that has just given birth to a litter. Another worker, Carlson, says Candy should take a puppy from Slim's dog and put his old dog down.

They also meet Curley, the boss' angry son, who doesn't trust anyone around his new wife. Curley's wife comes in and flirts. George tells Lennie to stay away from her.



Later, Slim says it's rare to see friends like George and Lennie. George says they've been friends since they were kids. He explains that Lennie often causes trouble, like at their last job, where Lennie touched a woman's dress and they had to run away.

Slim agrees to give Lennie a puppy, which makes Lennie happy.

Carlson keeps pushing Candy to let him put down his old dog. When Slim says it would be kinder for the dog, Candy finally agrees.

Carlson takes the dog outside and promises to make it quick and painless. He shoots the dog.





Slim goes to the barn, and Curley, angry and looking for his wife, follows him.

Meanwhile, Candy hears George and Lennie talking about their dream of owning land. He offers his savings to join them, and they all agree to keep it a secret.

Slim returns and scolds Curley for being jealous. Curley, still mad, picks a fight with Lennie. Lennie crushes Curley's hand. Slim tells Curley not to get them in trouble, or everyone will laugh at him.



One night, most of the men go out, and Lennie stays with Crooks and Candy. They tell Crooks about their dream of owning their own farm.

Curley's wife comes in and flirts. She sees Lennie's face and guesses he hurt Curley, which makes her laugh.

The next day, Lennie accidentally kills his puppy in the barn. Curley's wife finds him and tries to comfort him. She says she's unhappy with her life and wanted to be a movie star. Lennie says he likes soft things, so she lets him touch her hair. He grabs too hard, she screams, and Lennie panics - he accidentally breaks her neck.



Lennie runs to the river, the safe place George told him to go if there was trouble. Back at the ranch, the men find out what happened and get ready to hunt Lennie down.

George finds Lennie first. Lennie is surprised that George isn't angry. George gently tells Lennie their dream one last time, about the farm and the rabbits. As the other men get closer, George sadly shoots Lennie to protect him from a worse end. Here the play ends.

[For a full list of content warnings, please visit our website here.](#)

We look forward to welcoming you to Theatre by the Lake.