

# DI AND VIV AND ROSE

By Amelia Bullmore

A Theatre by the Lake and Queen's Theatre Hornchurch production

## A VISUAL STORY

### RELAXED PERFORMANCE: TUESDAY 30 SEPTEMBER AT 11AM

This visual story is designed for visitors to the Relaxed Performance of Di and Viv and Rose. 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

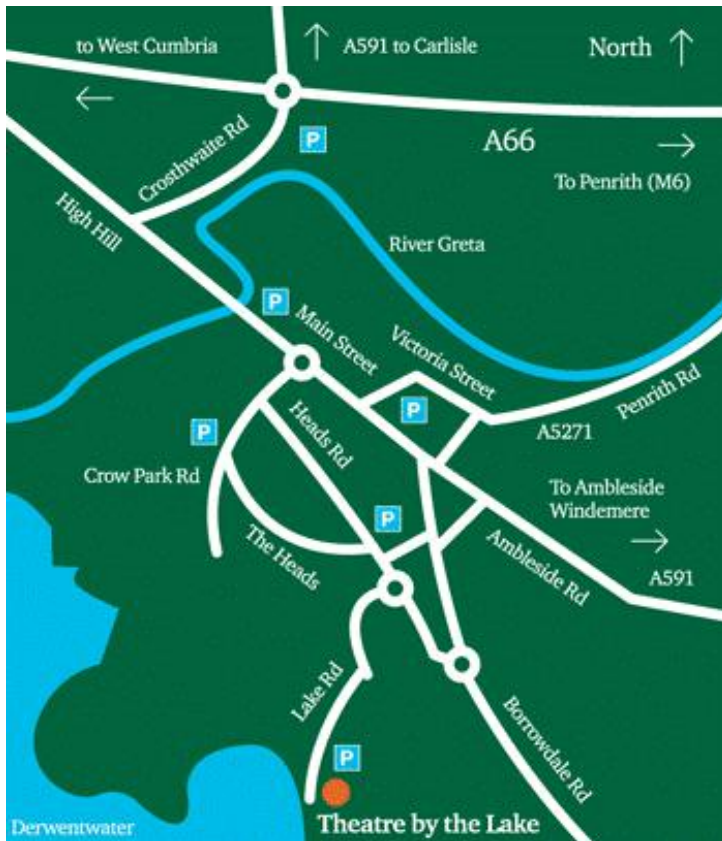
Please contact our Customer Experience Manager, Mary Elliott by email on [mary.elliott@theatrebythelake.com](mailto:mary.elliott@theatrebythelake.com) or by telephone on 017687 81103.

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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, it is 79cm wide, and is 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

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 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 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.



Because this is a relaxed performance you can get up out of your seats if you need to and move around, but be aware that the actors use all the entrances. 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, but please be aware of the actors when you go in and out, as they use the same entrances and exits.

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. 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

## DI AND VIV AND ROSE

### ABOUT THE SHOW

Di and Viv and Rose is a play with three actors in. It begins in 1983 at a university in a northern UK city, and then moves through the years all the way to 2010.

### THE SETTING

The first half of the play is set in the university halls of residence (where the students live) and then a house that the three characters share. In the second half the action moves around different locations, from a train station to a New York apartment to a hillside. The furniture and props move and change to show the different locations. The year is flashed onto the floor of the stage so you can follow the timeline.





# CHARACTERS

Here is a description of the characters in the play.

Di

Di is sporty and down-to-earth.  
She is also gay.



Viv

Viv is very clever,  
studies hard and  
has strong  
opinions.

Rose

Rose is a free spirit,  
likes to have fun  
and doesn't take  
her studies too  
seriously.





# THE STORY



It's 1983. The play starts with a snippets of scenes that show Di, Viv and Rose's first year at university. We see them settling into university life, meeting each other and making friends.

Fast-forward to their second year at university; the three friends get a student house together, which is owned by Rose's stepdad, Charlie. They make it homely.

We get to know the characters through their chats; Rose is interested in boys and sex, Di in dating, music and sport, and Viv is very focused on her studies and women's rights.



One night in their third year at university, a man breaks into their house and attacks Di while she is asleep in bed.

Viv and Rose comfort and support her afterwards.

While they are revising for their final exams, Rose finds out she's pregnant. She is very happy about this. She doesn't know who the father is.



Viv is offered a job to go and work for a woman who has become one of her role models - Nancy May Fleischman. The job is in New York - she is very excited.

The friends leave university and go their separate ways, but plan to stay in touch.

Over the next few years, the friends meet now and then to catch up with each other's lives.

Viv is enjoying life in New York, Di has met someone, Elaine, who she is happily in a relationship with, and Rose is a very tired new mum to twin boys (who turn out to be half-Japanese).





Jump forward to 1998. Viv is doing very well in her job, and pays for Di and Rose to visit her in New York. They have a great time exploring the city and going to a party together.

A year later. Di and Viv meet again at Rose's funeral.

Di gives Viv a box of things that Rose had kept - it is full of things from their old student house that Rose treasured. On the way home, Viv loses the box. This upsets them both.



It is 2010. Viv has come back to the UK to see Di because she is ill with cancer. Di explains she is recovering and should be ok. Di is angry that Viv hasn't been a better friend over the last few years. Viv is upset with Di.

By the end, they have made up and are friends again.



The play finishes with a hopeful moment - there is a flashback to the three friends dancing together. It shows them celebrating their friendship, even after all they've been through.



We look forward to welcoming you to Theatre by the Lake.  
We hope you enjoy the show!