

LARK RISE TO CANDLEFORD

by Tamsin Kennard | Based on the book by Flora Thompson | Directed by Bryn Holding

A Theatre by the Lake and Watermill Theatre co-production, in association with Hammerpuzzle Theatre Company

A VISUAL STORY

RELAXED PERFORMANCE: THURSDAY 16 APRIL 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 or by telephone on 017687 81103.

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- About Theatre by the Lake
- About the play – Lark Rise to Candleford

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 'end on', with the stage at one end and the audience seated in front.



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 10 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

LARK RISE TO CANDLEFORD

ABOUT THE SHOW

This play has six actors in - they sing and play musical instruments. It's set around the end of the 19th Century in the Oxfordshire countryside.

THE SETTING

The first half of the play is set in a village called Lark Rise. The action moves around the village, so the set changes to become a house, a schoolroom, a country lane, a pub. The second half of the play is set in the town of Candleford. The set changes to become a post office.



CHARACTERS

Here is a description of the characters in the play.



Laura

A kind and curious young girl who learns about life as she moves between her village and the nearby town.



Edmund

Laura's playful and curious brother, who dreams of adventure and a bigger life.



Mother

A practical and loving but firm mother who wants her children to follow a safe and sensible path.



Father

A serious and sometimes distant man who cares a lot but struggles to show it.



Uncle John

A kind and thoughtful man who encourages Laura's love of reading and thinking for herself.

Dorcas Lane

An independent, confident woman who is the Candleford postmistress.



Godfrey Parish

A young journalist who briefly inspires Laura and shares her love of ideas and books.

THE STORY



Laura looks back on her childhood in Lark Rise...

She spends her early days with her brother Edmund, playing, dreaming and discovering the world together.

Laura learns to read and loves books, finding excitement and escape in stories.

Her parents think books are a waste of time and try to put her off them.



At school, Laura feels different from the other children and begins to sense she doesn't quite belong.



As she grows older, Laura feels restless and unsure of her future, longing for a life beyond Lark Rise.

A long-awaited trip to Candleford opens her eyes to a bigger, busier world full of new sights and possibilities.



At her uncle's house in Candleford, Laura finds a treasure of books and is encouraged to think for herself.

Laura meets Dorcas, and she gets a job working in Dorcas' post office.





Laura begins work, learning new skills and meeting a wide range of people from different walks of life, which she enjoys.

She meets Godfrey, who shares her love of ideas and encourages her to think for herself and what she wants, rather than go along with what other people want for her.



Laura visits her family in Lark Rise, seeing them, and herself, more clearly than before.

Looking back, she realises that an ordinary life can still be rich with love, growth and meaning.



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

We hope you enjoy the show!