

THE FARMER'S WIFE

A new play by Hannah Khalil | Inspired by the memoir by Helen Rebanks

A Theatre by the Lake production

A VISUAL STORY

RELAXED PERFORMANCE: TUESDAY 29 SEPTEMBER AT 11AM

This visual story is designed for visitors to the Relaxed Performance of The Farmer's Wife. 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

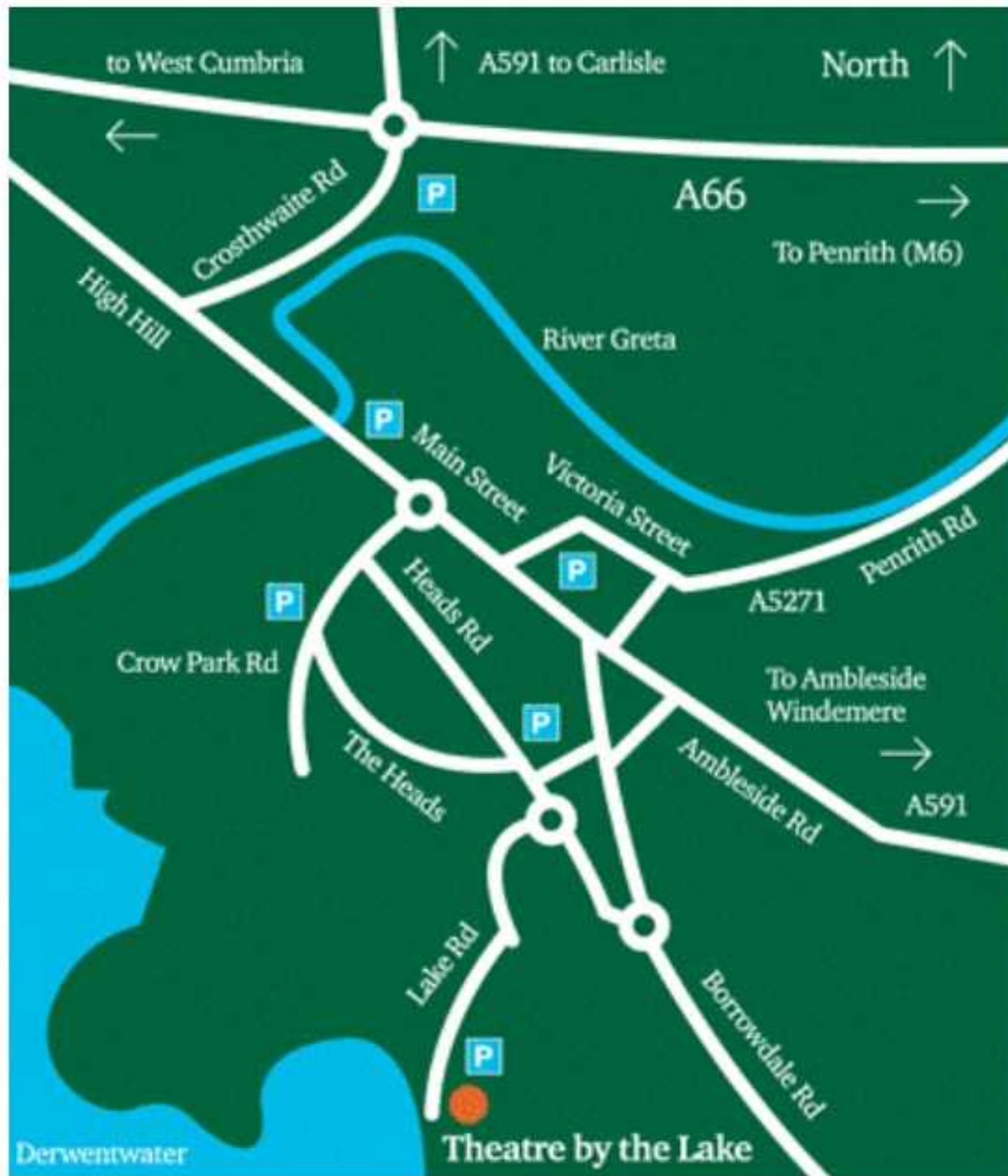
Please contact our Customer Experience Manager, Mary Elliott by email on mary.elliott@theatrebythelake.com or by telephone on 017687 81103.

CONTENT

- About Theatre by the Lake
- About the play – The Farmer's Wife

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 10:30pm 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 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 after the show, which will be waiting for you when you come into the café at the end.



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 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 90 minutes long and there is no 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

THE FARMER'S WIFE

ABOUT THE SHOW

This show has three actors in it. It is set during the course of one day on a farm in Cumbria.

THE SETTING

All the action takes place in the farmhouse kitchen and on the farm.



CHARACTERS

Here is a description of the characters in the play.



Oldest

She is the grandmother of the family trio
and a farmer's wife.



Older

Oldest's daughter, who is also a
farmer's wife.



Young

Older's daughter, who helps
on the farm and dreams of
becoming farmer.

THE STORY



It's the start of a busy day on the farm. Older is in the kitchen with a long list of things that need doing. The farm dog - which we don't ever see - gets into the kitchen and messes it up. Oldest helps Older to tidy up.

Older finds her mum's chocolate cake recipe and decides to make a cake for an event that is happening later that day (she doesn't say what the event is). She doesn't have time to make the cake but she insists on baking one.



Young comes home from a rehearsal of *Midsummer Night's Dream* with the local Cumbrian Young Farmers. She is playing Titania, the Queen of the Fairies, but is unsure of whether or not she'll continue. Older tries to encourage her to stick with it because she's worried she spends too much time around the farm and not getting out meeting new people.



Young helps Older fill in a form to get money for solar panels for the barn. They talk about how hard it is running the farm with all the hard work there is to do and bills to pay.

Young says she has lots of ideas for how they can make money to keep the farm going. Older is not so sure.



Older keeps ignoring calls from a solicitor, saying she is too busy today and has to finish making the cake.

Oldest urges Older to tell Young about the hard decisions she is making about the future of the farm. Older puts it off.



The dog gets in the kitchen again and knocks the chocolate cake on the floor, which upsets Older and makes her decide to give up.

Young finds a 'sold' sign and confronts Older about the sale of the farm. She is very angry.



Neighbours arrive at the house for the event.

Their support helps change Older's mind about the farm sale and she decides not to sell. With Young's help she'll try to make it work.



There is a twist at the end of this story and also a surprise... but we will save that for you to discover yourself.

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