A CHRISTMAS CAROL

Adapted from the book by Charles Dickens | Written by Matt Borgatti, Music & Lyrics by Will Dollard & Mary Erskine

Theatre by the Lake in association with Goblin

A VISUAL STORY

RELAXED PERFORMANCE: TUESDAY 24 NOVEMBER AT 11AM

This visual story is designed for visitors to the Relaxed Performance of A Christmas Carol. 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

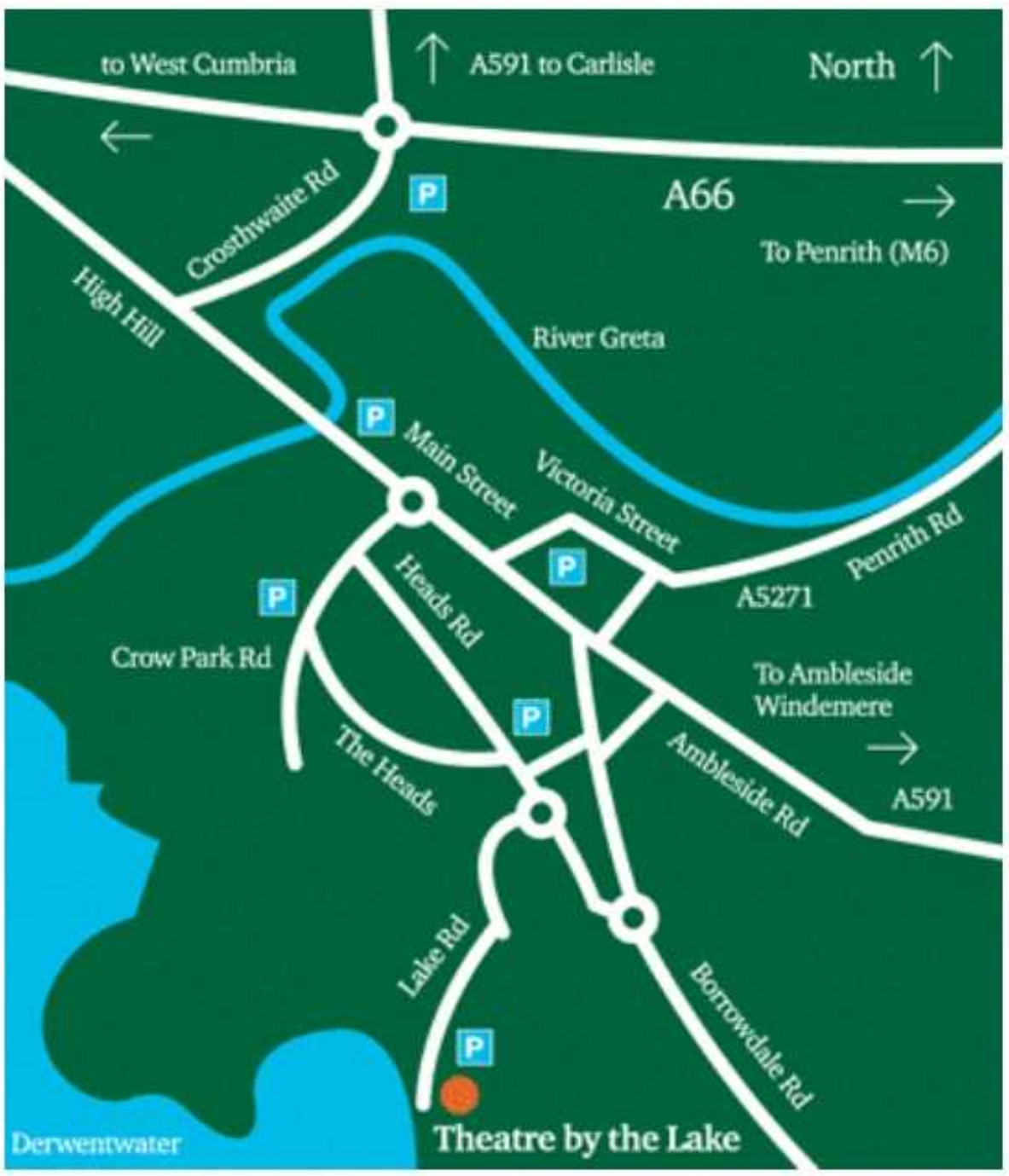
Please contact our Customer Experience Manager, Mary Elliott by email on mary.elliott@theatrebythelake.com or by telephone on 017687 81103.

CONTENT

- About Theatre by the Lake
- About the play – A Christmas Carol

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. If you have a Blue Badge you can park anywhere in the car park for free for up to 3 hours.

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 10am - 4pm. 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 the interval, which will be waiting for you when you come into the café during the break. The cafe will be closed at the end of the show but the Lakeside Café Restaurant next door is open for drinks and hot and cold food.



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 1 hour 50 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

A CHRISTMAS CAROL

ABOUT THE SHOW

This show has lots of songs in it and the actors sing and play musical instruments. There are seven actors and some of them play two or three characters, plus there are some puppets that play some of the characters.

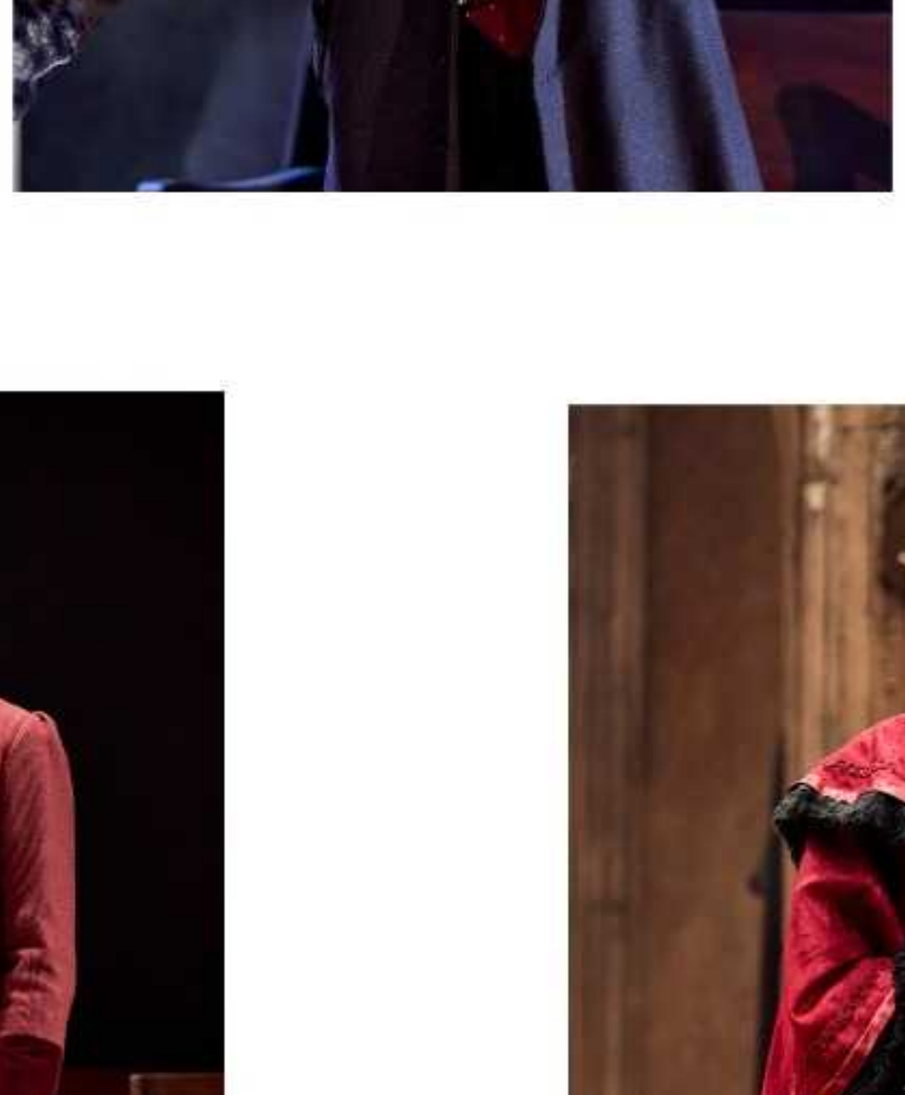
THE SETTING

It's set in the 1800s in a northern city, and some of the scenes are in Keswick. The action happens against the backdrop of an old church where a carol service is taking place.



CHARACTERS

Here is a description of the main characters in the play.



Ebenezer Scrooge

A miserable old man who runs a moneylender business.



Bob Cratchit

Bob works for Scrooge.



Fan

Scrooge's niece.



Choirmaster

He directs the carol service.



Christmas Past

A quiet ghost that shows Scrooge his past.



Christmas Present

A fun ghost that shows Scrooge the present day.

Christmas Future

A silent ghost that shows Scrooge the future.



Belle

Scrooge’s childhood friend.

THE STORY



It's Christmas Eve and Scrooge is in his moneylender's office.

Two people from a charity for the poor visit his office asking for a donation. He tells them no.

Fan visits to ask him to Christmas dinner, he turns down her invitation.

Bob Cratchit asks him for Christmas Day off, he says yes but isn't happy about it.



Scrooge leaves the office for home but ends up inside a church in the middle of a carol service.

He meets the Choirmaster, who turns out to be his dead friend, Jacob Marley, back from the grave to give him a message.



Marley tells him he is stuck in the afterlife and forced to wear chains because of all the bad things he did when he was alive.

He warns Scrooge the same will happen to him if he doesn't change his ways.

Scrooge doesn't want to listen to Marley and says his advice is nonsense.

Marley says he will be visited by three ghosts that will help change his mind.





The ghosts moves on to show Scrooge as a young man; his first job and his first love.

We see Scrooge working very hard to make lots of money so that he and his wife-to-be, Belle, will be happy. But this doesn't make Belle happy, and she decides to leave him.

Seeing these things makes Scrooge sad but it doesn't make him change his mind to be nicer.

The first ghost to visit is Christmas Present. She takes Scrooge back to his childhood in Keswick; he has unhappy memories of his school but also happy memories of playing in the Cumbrian fells with his friend, Belle.



The next ghost is Christmas Present. She shows Cratchit, in the present, enjoying Christmas with his family. His son, Tiny Tim, is sick.



The ghost and Scrooge also visit his niece's house, where they are playing games and enjoying themselves. Scrooge begins to join in a little.



The final ghost, Christmas Future, shows Scrooge his own funeral which no one goes to. They also visit the Cratchit's house, where Tiny Tim has died.

Scrooge begins to see that if he carries on living as he has, nothing will change. Maybe it's time to live differently...

Scrooge wakes up on Christmas morning a changed man.

He visits Bob Cratchit and Tiny Tim and makes Bob a partner of his business and tells them he's going to retire to Keswick.

Scrooge enjoys Christmas dinner with Fan and her family.

