

- *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time*, adapted for the stage by Simon Stephens from Mark Haddon's novel, is directed by Hannah Goodwin. The production opened at Belvoir St Theatre on Thursday, August 22, 2024.
- The show runs for approximately **2 hours and 40 minutes**, including one interval.
- *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time* is set in the late 1990s, in Swindon, England and London, England. The action of the play takes place over the course of several months during a school year.
- The production features eight actors: four actors consistently portray the roles of Christopher, Ed, Judy, and Siobhan, while the other four take on multiple characters. Each role is distinguished by shifts in costume, accent, and physicality.
- The production is presented in a slightly **heightened naturalistic style**. The story is told from the point of view of the 15-year-old protagonist, Christopher Boon. Christopher has written a book about his investigation into the killing of his neighbour's dog, and his teacher, Siobhan, narrates this book to the audience, driving the play's action. The production plays with the concept of Christopher's book, incorporating it into the story as a school play. At times, the actors break this narrative frame, revealing that they are rehearsing a play within a play.
- The play contains 2 Acts (or parts). An 'appendix' takes place on stage at the conclusion of Act 2.
- The play's action unfolds across various indoor and outdoor locations, including Christopher's home, his school, Swindon Rail Station, a moving train, and Judy's flat in London.
- During the production, the character Christopher is shown experiencing intense meltdowns, stress, and sensory overload.
- The story refers to a pet dog being killed by a garden fork, which some students may find distressing. The dead dog is depicted on stage as a chalk outline.
- Early in Act One, Christopher is taken to the police station after hitting a policeman. At the station he is asked to empty his pockets. Christopher responds, 'Is that in case I have anything in them that I could use to kill myself or escape or attached a policeman with.'
- The play contains a scene in which Christopher and his father, Ed, argue intensely. During the argument, Christopher pushes his father and Ed hits Christopher.
- The production references family breakdown and an extramarital affair between Judy, Christopher's mother, and Mr. Shears, their next-door neighbour. At one point, Christopher asks, "Do you mean they were doing sex?"
- The show contains spoken references to family violence. In one instance, Christopher's mother, Judy, recalls a frustrating argument with her husband, Ed, telling Christopher, "I hit him [Ed], which was wrong, but I was so upset." Judy also tells Christopher that because of her affair with Mr Shears, Ed was "really angry" and said, "...I couldn't talk to you."
- During Act Two Christopher is seen onstage holding a Swiss army knife. Christopher produces the knife at a time of stress and threatens his mother and father.
- *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time* contains **coarse language**, used in the context of everyday speech and during moments of heightened emotion. Some characters also use "Jesus" and "Christ" as part of their vernacular.
- The production contains a spoken reference to a magazine called 'Men Only.'
- This production includes the use of **haze**, onstage **smoking of e-cigarettes**, **blackouts**, and occasional loud noises. Further sensory advice, including a Visual Story, Sensory Guide, and a Timetable (tracked synopsis) is available on our website [here](#).
- Some students may need a briefing on theatre etiquette. Please ensure **mobile phones are turned off completely**, **refrain from eating in the theatre**, and **avoid taking notes during the performance**. Students should understand that the performance is live and that the actors can see and hear them in the audience.
- Dedicated 11:30 AM Schools Performances are followed by a **Q&A session with the cast**, where students can ask about anything they didn't fully understand.