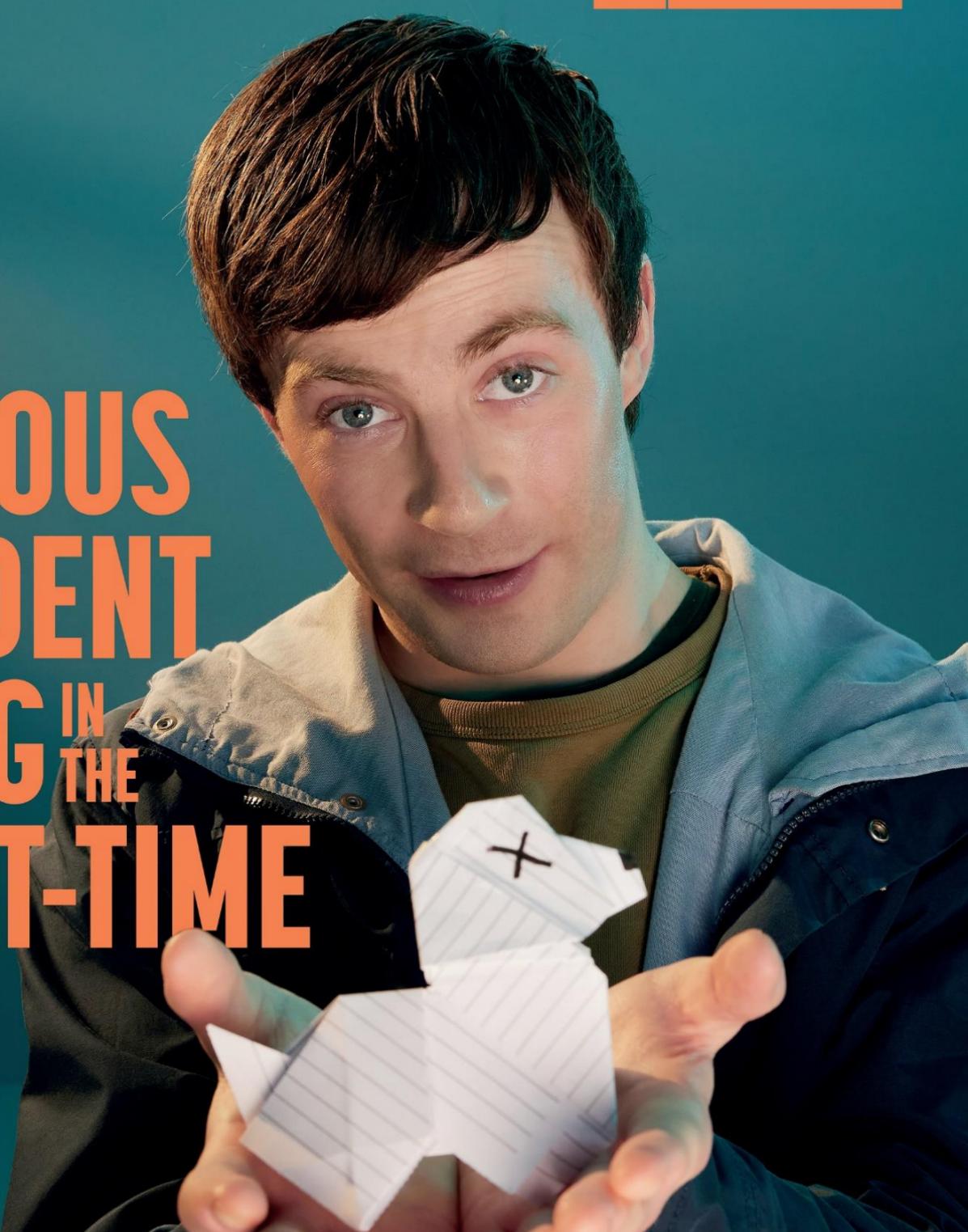




BELVOIR ST  
THEATRE



THE  
**CURIOUS  
INCIDENT**  
OF THE **DOG** IN THE  
**NIGHT-TIME**

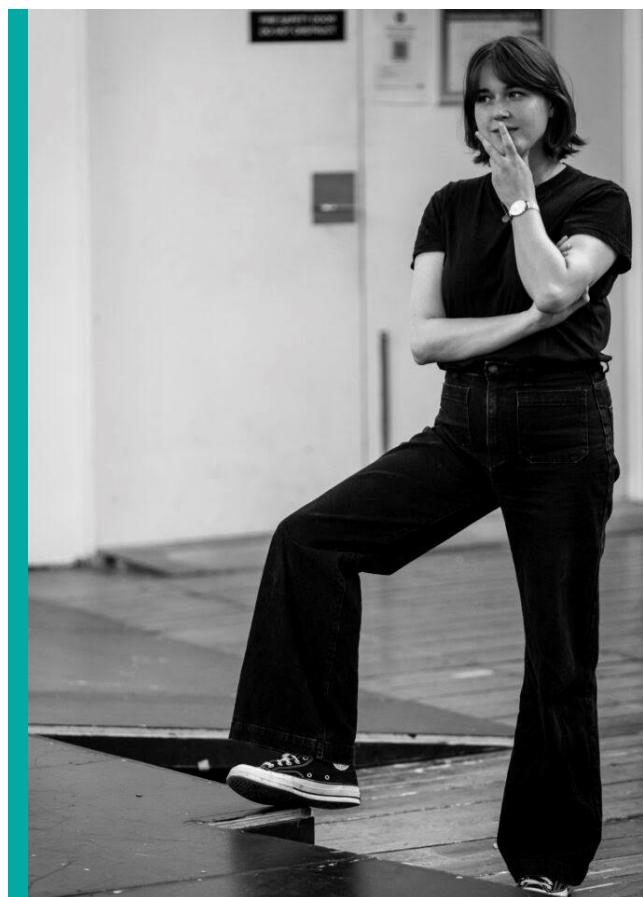
17 Aug – 22 Sep

**A SENSORY  
FRIENDLY GUIDE**



# WELCOME TO BELVOIR ST THEATRE

## A MESSAGE FROM OUR DIRECTOR, HANNAH



Hi! I'm Hannah, the Director of *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time*.

We are so excited to welcome you to Belvoir St Theatre, to watch this beautiful story and production.

To make sure you're aware of what to expect before arriving at our theatre, we have put together this guide for you which should answer any questions you may have about the show. It will also share with you how the performance will run, and what you can expect to see!

We also have a visual story available on the website if you'd like to know more about the theatre.

Thank you for coming, and we hope you enjoy the show!



**BELVOIR ST  
THEATRE**

# YOUR TRIP TO BELVOIR ST THEATRE

## First, let's answer some questions you might have

### Is this show sensory-friendly?

Yes! The production of *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time* aims to be **sensory friendly**, with this guide providing a detailed timeline of all the noises, volume levels and sights you will see in the production.

There is also a theatrical device within the show that will warn you when loud sounds or bright lights are coming. The actors will explain this to you at the start of the show.

### Is there a particular day I should come?

No matter which session you come to, you will always be looked after by our friendly staff whilst you're at Belvoir St Theatre.

Belvoir St Theatre will also be running a 'Relaxed Performance' of *Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time* on September 14<sup>th</sup> for anyone who wants to experience the theatre in a more relaxed environment. This run of the show will feature much quieter sounds and the lighting overall will be less intense.

### What do I do if I need to leave?

If you feel uncomfortable and feel like you need to leave, you can! Our friendly team will be in the theatre with you to help you into and out of your seats.

You'll be shown to the Green Room which is a low sensory area. Loud noises will be discouraged. You can view the stage on a screen from that room without any noise if you would just like to watch instead, without having to experience the lights and sounds.



# YOUR TRIP TO BELVOIR ST THEATRE

## What does our theatre look like inside?



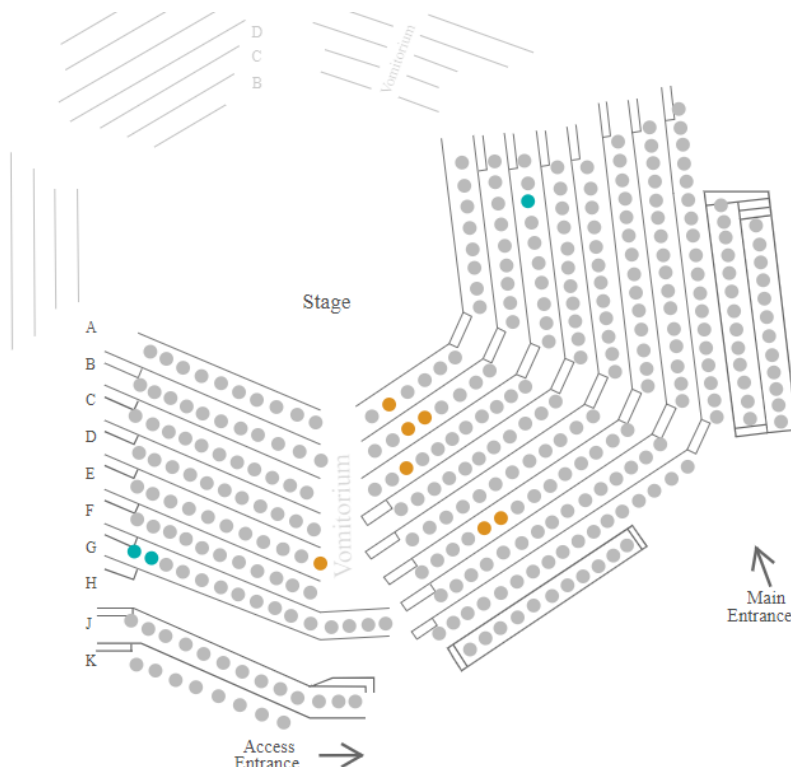
Belvoir St Theatre is one of Sydney's biggest theatre companies, based in Surry Hills.

The stage is set in the corner of a huge room with the seats wrapping around the stage. This might look a little different to other stages you've seen.

You will have to walk down some stairs to access your seat.

If you would like to look at more photos of the space, look at our [Visual Story](#) here.

## Where are all the seats positioned?



In this room are 345 seats, and there is space at the back of the room to stand if you prefer to stand! Just let one of our friendly staff know.

# ABOUT THE SHOW

## What is it about?

Christopher, fifteen years old, is an extraordinary thinker. He's exceptional at maths and observes things nobody else sees. Everyday life is a little trickier – he has never ventured alone beyond the end of the street, he detests being touched, and he's wary of strangers.

Now he's in the front yard, it's seven minutes to midnight, and Mrs Shears' dog is lying dead at his feet, a garden fork in the neck. He's going to be the chief suspect, isn't he? So, who can solve the mystery? Nobody but Christopher, and what he uncovers takes him on a journey that even he couldn't have predicted.

We have provided a Timed Synopsis (Timetable) that tells you what happens in the story and when.



## What are the main themes?

Family

Honesty

Bravery

Logic

## How long will this run for?

The production will run for 2 hours and 45 minutes. Act 1 will run for 68 minutes, then there will be a 20-minute interval, and then Act 2 will run for 60 minutes.

At the end of the performance, once the cast has come out to bow and the audience is applauding, there will be an extra bit of performance, called the *Maths Appendix*. It's a dance about maths!



BELVOIR ST  
THEATRE

# ABOUT THE SHOW

## The Cast



**Nicholas Brown**  
Mr Shears and  
Others



**Roy Joseph**  
Policeman and  
Others



**Tracy Mann**  
Mrs Alexander and  
Others



**Brandon  
McClelland**  
Ed



**Daniel R. Nixon**  
Christopher



**Matilda Ridgway**  
Judy



**Ariadne Sgouros**  
Mrs Shears and  
Others



**Brigid Zengeni**  
Siobhan

## THINGS TO NOTE

- There are 8 cast members who all play different characters, and some cast members play multiple characters
- This play is set in Swindon in the United Kingdom, so you will hear different accents throughout the play

# SENSORY GUIDE

## ADVICE ABOUT THE THEMES AND PRODUCTION ELEMENTS

### Production Advice

This production contains:

- Music and some loud shouting from the cast
- Loud applause from the audience at the end of the show, which will vary with each audience
- High-level coarse and ableist language
- Violent behavior including depictions of violence
- References to domestic violence, self injury, meltdowns, sensory overload
- (*forewarned*) Loud noises and moments of visual intensity to reflect parts of the autistic experience.

### Technical Advice

This production contains: haze, dynamic sound and lights, and the use of electronic cigarettes.

### Sensory Support

Limited numbers of sound guards will be available from box office to borrow on request, throughout the season.

Foam ear plugs and quiet fidgets are also available at the box office – you don't need to return these.



# SENSORY GUIDE

## GENERAL CONSIDERATIONS

- The runtime of this show is approximately 2 hours 45 minutes with one 20-minute intermission
- It is recommended that you stay in your seat during the acts, and stretch your legs in the intermission of the show
- If you do need to leave your seat, you can rise out of your seat and look for one of our friendly ushers who will use their torch to help you see your way through the seats and up and out of the theatre

## SENSORY GUIDE IMPACT KEY

- On the 2 next pages you will find our Sensory Guide – this will take you through the timeline of events in the show, and what auditory, visual and emotional impacts the show might have. See below a key which will help you navigate the guide.
- Auditory Impact has been measured by a decibel reader and anything over 70 decibels is listed below. Anything over 85 decibels is specifically referenced.



Auditory  
Impact



Visual  
Impact



Emotional  
Impact












# SENSORY GUIDE

The below guide will provide spoilers within the show. The spoilers are in reference to sounds, lights or themes which may need to be forewarned. If you do not want the show spoilt, please contact Box Office instead to discuss the production's sensory warnings.











## ACT 1

Throughout the play the death of a dog is frequently referenced. No dead dog is seen, and the death occurs before the play commences.

SCENE	MINUTES	DESCRIPTION	SENSORY IMPACT
1. Garden	3	Mrs Shears discovers her dog is dead and swears several times (the F*** word!).	 
1. Garden	6	Christopher is held by police and becomes distressed and groans. Christopher hits the policeman.	 
3. Police Station	8	A policeman tries to take Christopher's watch off him and Christopher gets upset.	
7. Home	17	Mention of Christopher's mother dying two years earlier.	
9. Home	20	Another mention of Christopher's mother dying.	
12. Street	24	Christopher knocks on neighbours' doors and has loud conversations with them.	
15. Home	31	Ed shouts 'I will not have that man's name mentioned in my house'.	
18. Park	40	Mrs Alexander discusses an affair between Christopher's mother and Mr Shears.	

# SENSORY GUIDE




















## ACT 1 (continued)

SCENE	MINUTES	DESCRIPTION	SENSORY IMPACT
20. Beach	42	Judy squeals happily as she walks in the water at the beach.	
21. Home	44	Ed gets angry at Christopher. He yells and hits Christopher. He also swears. <b><i>Decibel 90+</i></b>	 
22. Detecting	48	The lights have changes of colour that wash the whole stage in this scene.	 
25. Home	61	Christopher discovers his mother isn't dead. <b><i>Decibel 80+</i></b>	 
26. Home	64	Ed admits to killing Wellington the dog. He swears again.	
26. Home	67	Christopher decides to leave home. Lots of yelling from people trying to help him.	 

**INTERVAL**  
**20 minutes**












# SENSORY GUIDE

## ACT 2

SCENE	MINUTES	DESCRIPTION	SENSORY IMPACT
27. School Room & School Hall	2	Christopher yells at someone pretending to be a police officer.	
30. Swindon	5	Christopher has a loud conversation on the street with a lady.	
31. Swindon Train Station	7	This scene is in a train station and is very noisy and has lots of bustling. <b>Decibels 80+</b>	  
31. Swindon Train Station	12	Christopher must navigate an underpass.	
32. On Train	14	A police officer tries to grab Christopher, and he screams.	 
32b. Back to Reality	17	Christopher must use a public bathroom and touch public surfaces. There is a pulsing light and loud noise. <b>Decibels 80+</b>	 
32b. Back to Reality	18	Christopher is left on the train with other passengers.	
35. Platform	20	Christopher is in another train station. Moving lights and very loud sounds. Christopher pulls out a knife. <b>Decibels 80+</b>	  
36. Platform	25	Christopher loses his pet rat on the train tracks. <b>Decibels 80+</b>	
37. Tube Train	27	Christopher is in a tube station (an underground train). There are moving lights.	  
39. Outside Judy's house	31	Judy tries to touch Christopher, and he screams	







# SENSORY GUIDE

## ACT 2 (continued)

SCENE	MINUTES	DESCRIPTION	SENSORY IMPACT
40. Inside Judy's House	32	Judy begins to howl when she finds out Ed said she was dead.	
41. In Christopher's Bedroom at Judy's	34	A policeman tries to question Christopher. Christopher, Judy and the policeman yell.	
42. Middle of the night Corridor outside Christopher's Bedroom	36	Ed tries to take Christopher back to Swindon. Judy, Ed and Roger yell at each other.	
42. Middle of the night Corridor outside Christopher's Bedroom	37	A policeman comes to take Ed away. <b>Decibels 80+</b>	
43. Judy's Kitchen	40	Judy yells when Roger isn't kind to Christopher.	
44. London St at Night	42	Judy yells because Christopher is walking outside at night. She's also frightened.	 
45. Hampstead Heath	44	Christopher is upset and yells for a long time when Judy tells him he can't do his exam. <b>Decibels 80+</b>	 
48. Judy's Home	46	Roger isn't nice to Christopher. He grabs at Christopher.	 

# SENSORY GUIDE

## ACT 2 (continued)

SCENE	MINUTES	DESCRIPTION	SENSORY IMPACT
50. Home	48	Ed yells at Judy when he sees they are in his house. Christopher does loud drumming against a chair.	
56. Home	56	Ed tries to talk to Christopher who is upset.	 
56. Home	57	Christopher is excited and yells the name of his new puppy.	
Maths Appendix	64	Lot of singing and dancing! <b><i>Decibels 90+</i></b>	 

**At the end of the performance the audience may clap and yell out.**

**It will be quite loud and bright!**

