



A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM VISUAL STORY

This visual resource is for children and young adults visiting the Unicorn Theatre to see a performance of **A Midsummer Night's Dream**.

This visual story is intended to help prepare you for a new experience and help you to become familiar with the surroundings and the performance.

This performance is **exciting, magical, and funny** and contains **flashing lights, loud noises and some brief audience interaction**.

THEMES

The performance has themes of **adventure, coming of age, love, family and magic.**

SCENES TO NOTE

There is one scene where Hermia, Lysander, Demetrius and Helena are arguing because they are confused by the magic the fairies have caused.

At the end of this scene, they will seem quite upset with each other, but don't worry, the fairies fix their mistakes.

There are occasions where the performers might sit near you or speak with you.

SOUND

Throughout the performance you will hear **jaunty, brassy music** when some characters enter the stage and some of the actors will **sing songs.**

You will also hear some **sound effects**, like **bird song, bursts of magic, and the sound of forest creatures.**

Don't worry, these sounds don't last long, and you can cover your ears if you want to.

We have adjusted the **volume** on all sound effects to be **lower** during sensory adapted performances.

LIGHTING & EFFECTS

During the performance, the lighting will change between scenes. Sometimes it is **darker** onstage, and sometimes it is **brighter**. Sometimes there is only light on **one part of the stage**, and sometimes on the **whole stage**.

We have slowed down any **flashing light effects** during sensory adapted performances.

The **house lights**, which are the lights in the audience seating area, will remain on at a **low level** throughout the performance.

AUDIENCE REACTIONS

During the show you might find something **funny**, you can **laugh** if you like.



During the show you might see or hear something that makes you feel **sad**. You can feel sad if you like, that's okay.



During the show, other audience members might **react** to what is happening onstage, by **laughing, shouting, screaming, clapping,**

being **surprised**, or **speaking out loud**. These moments may be quite **loud**.

You can **join in** if you want to or you can cover your ears if you want to.

During the show you might feel that you need to take some time out.

If you do, don't worry about it, **find an Usher** and let them know.

They will take you to the **chill out space** where you can relax and return to the show when you feel ready.

The performance is approximately **80 minutes**. There is no interval.

THE BUILDING

Welcome to the Unicorn Theatre! We are a theatre for children, young people, and adults.

This is the main entrance of the theatre.



There are some steps before you get to the front door.

There is also a ramp you can use to get to the front door.

When you enter through the front door, you will see a big space with lots of tables and chairs in an area called the Foyer. There may also be some buggies in the space.

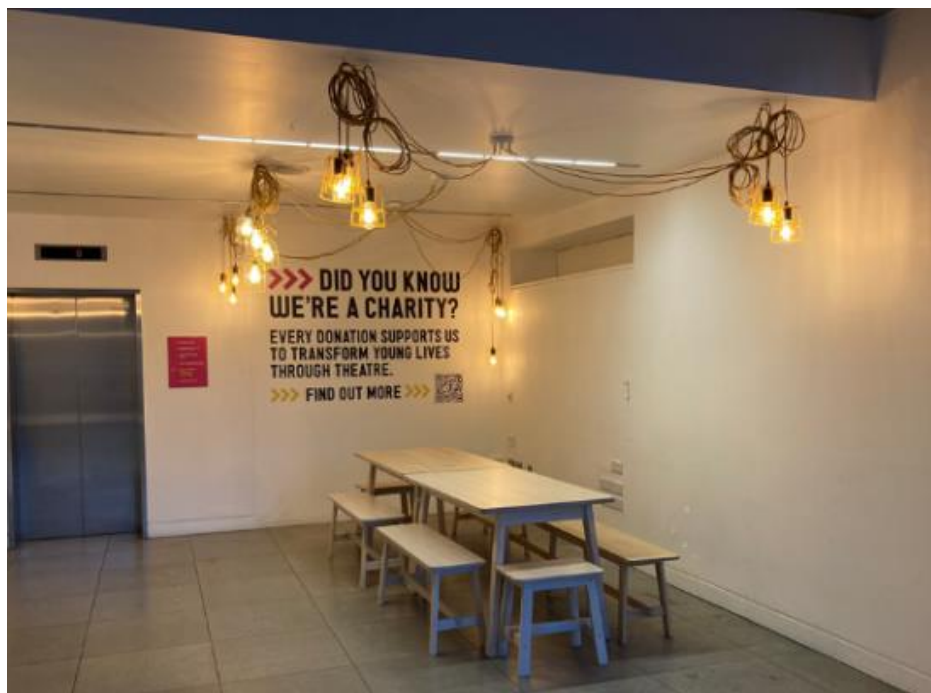


In the foyer, you will see the Box Office and Tuck Shop.



This is where you can ask us any questions about your tickets. You can also buy a book, cuddly toy, snack or ice cream before the show!

You might see some adults and children sitting at some of the tables having something to eat or drink. You can also bring your own drinks and snacks with you.



When you arrive at the theatre, you will be met by one of the Ushers, who will be wearing a dark red shirt with USHER written on the front and back like the one you see here.



You can ask an Usher if you have any questions and they will do their best to help you.

If you need to use the toilet, there are some **downstairs**. You can use the stairs going down one floor, or you take the lift to **Floor -1**.



These are the toilets downstairs.

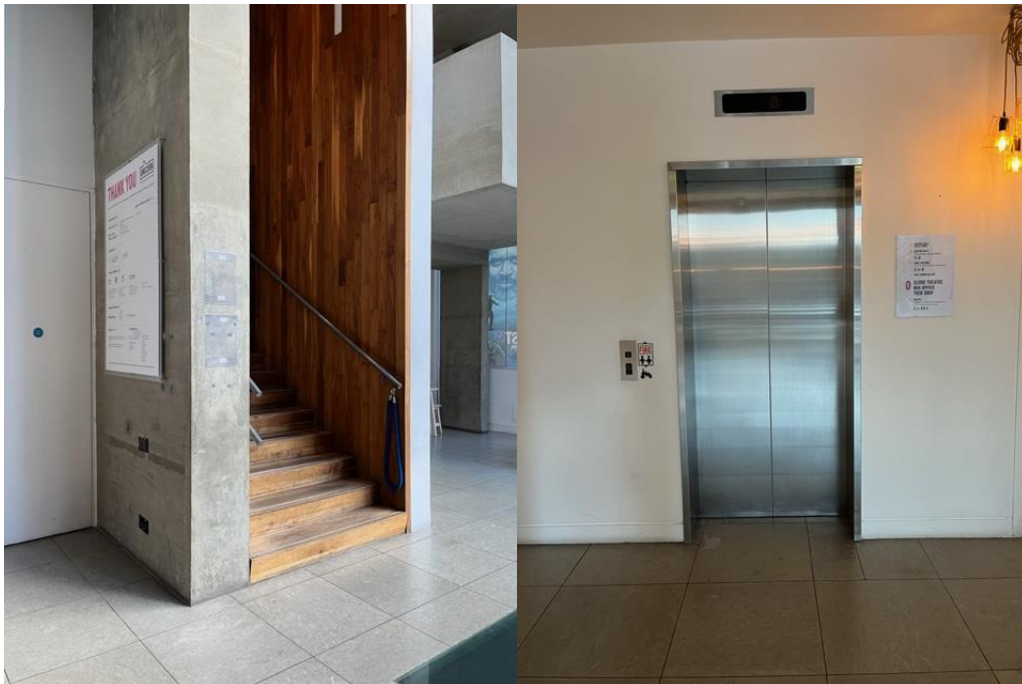


There are also some toilets upstairs, on Level 2 and 3. You can use the lift if you want to, or take the stairs up. These toilets are **family and all-gender**, so anyone can use them.



When it's time to see the performance, you will hear a **loud bell ring**.

That means it's time to go inside the theatre, which is upstairs on **Floor 3**. You can use the stairs, or take the lift.



When you get to Floor 3, you will go inside the Weston Theatre.



When you enter the **theatre**, you will see the **stage** where the actors stand and act.



The stage has wooden panels on each side, with some circles within the wood. Some of the wooden panels have doors. At the beginning, some of the circles will be lit with various colours. There are two tyres held together by some rope in the centre of the stage. On

either side of the stage, there are two ladders going up to an elevated section of the stage. **Atmospheric bird song will play** as you take your seats. The rest of the room is full of blue seats.



You can find your seat and make yourself comfortable. An usher can help you find your seat.

There are **8 actors** in the show.

This actor plays **Helena** and **Starveling**.



This actor plays **Puck**.



This actor plays **Lysander** and **Snug**.



This actor plays **Titania** and **Hippolyta**.



This actor plays **Oberon** and **Theseus**.



This actor plays **Demetrius** and **Flute**.



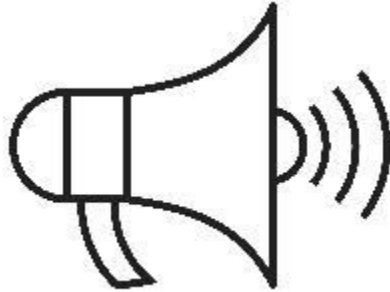
This actor plays **Bottom** and **Egeus**.



This actor plays **Hermia** and **Quince**.



One of the Unicorn staff members make a brief announcement before the show begins.



The **announcement** will welcome you into the space and tell you about how a sensory adapted performance works. They will also introduce the audience to our access assistant.

Then the **lights** will start to get **darker**.

THE SHOW

You will hear a **whoosh sound as the lights on stage get darker**. From the right stairs, Puck will appear with a **ball of light**. Puck is a fairy! You can say hello to her if you would like. She says hello to the audience, and introduces three other fairies.

You will **hear children's voices** as the Fairies speak to you followed by a **thud, music as the word 'ATHENS' is projected onto the set**.

The lights will get brighter as Theseus and Hippolyta are introduced, and you will briefly **hear music** as they enter the stage. They are speaking about their upcoming wedding. Hippolyta fell in love with Theseus as he is a good fighter.



Music plays again as Egeus arrives, he is upset because his daughter, Hermia, is in love with Lysander! But Egeus would like Hermia to marry Demetrius. As Hermia's father, Egeus believes that he has the right to choose who she can marry.

Hermia does not agree, she believes that she should fall in love and wed whoever she wants. Theseus explains that Hermia must choose wisely because if she does not marry who her father chooses, she could be put to death!



Lysander and Demetrius **argue** as Hermia and Lysander ask Theseus for permission to forgo her father's will. Theseus is sympathetic but says that Hermia should follow her father's judgement and marry Demetrius.

Lysander suggests that he and Hermia escape to the forest!
Tomorrow, they will meet and escape to the forest.



Lights will get **slightly darker** and **music plays** as Helena joins the two lovers. Helena is **upset** because she is in love with Demetrius who instead loves Hermia.

Helena wishes that Demetrius would love her. This frustrates both Helena and Hermia as Hermia wishes Demetrius would *not* love her. To make Helena happier, Hermia tells her that she will be running away with Lysander. **Music plays** as Hermia and Lysander exit.

However, Helena is still upset. Demetrius did once love her but not anymore. Therefore, Helena decides to tell Demetrius that Hermia and Lysander are planning to escape the city, hoping Demetrius will be thankful and start to love her.



In another part of Athens, **jaunty brass music will play** as five more colourful characters are introduced. **Lights will be darker and pulse** as they appear from the doors in the wooden panels. They are The Mechanicals, and they are a troupe of actors who will perform a play for Theseus and Hippolyta's wedding.

Peter Quince reveals all the roles. Nick Bottom will play Pyramus. He is a very enthusiastic actor who wants to play each role. When Bottom explains how he will play Pyramus as a tyrant, you will hear a **rumbling cinematic sound effect and the lights will get darker.**

Quince reveals the other roles, Bottom is so excited that he wants to play all the parts himself! He even wants to play the lion! When the Mechanicals leave, you will hear the **jaunty brassy music again as the lights get darker.**



In Fairy Land, you will see **the lights change to a purple shade and soft drumming music plays.** There will be fluttering projections of letters on the background of the wooden panels, and you will hear a **magical whoosh sound as Puck unties the tyre swing.** Puck will

explain to you and the fairies that Titania and Oberon are angry with each other.



Titania and Oberon appear on the stairs! They are fairies too. As they argue, there is a **low drumming, whooshing sounds and spinning blue lights**. They are arguing because Titania has a 'changeling boy' who Oberon wants but Titania is refusing to give him to Oberon



Oberon calls for Puck, and he asks Puck to find a magical flower. The juice of this flower when poured into someone's eyes when asleep will make them fall in love with the first person they see when they wake up. Oberon tells us that he will make Titania fall in love with a beast in revenge for not giving him the boy!

Oberon hears some people coming through the woods. It's Demetrius and Helena! Oberon makes himself invisible as he watches the two of them argue. **Lights will get darker** as Helena expresses how much she loves Demetrius, but he does not love her and asks her to leave him alone as he searches for Hermia.

When Puck returns, she brings the flowers! You will see pretty petals on the wooden panels behind them and a **twinkling sound plays**.

Oberon will use the flowers to make Titania fall in love with a beast and instructs Puck to also pour the flower juice into the eyes of

Demetrius, so he falls in love with Helena. Puck hasn't seen Demetris so Oberon tells Puck that she can recognise him by his Athenian clothing.

Lights get darker as the top part of the set is lit. You will hear whispering voices and happy music. This is Titania's bower and she is talking with her Faries. Whilst Titania sleeps and Oberon pours the juice of the flower in her eye and hopes she wakes when an ugly beast is nearby.

Lysander and Hermia are in the woods. Lysander is looking around the forest with his **flashlight**, this may be bright, but you can look away if you'd like. Lysander keeps bumping into the tyres and ropes and it makes him jump! This is funny and you can laugh if you want to.

As they cannot find their way, they agree to go to sleep. Lysander would like to share a bed, but Hermia says otherwise. The two of them fall asleep.



Puck finds them, believing them to be the Athenian man and woman – But she is mistaken! Oberon meant Helena and Demetrius. Puck casts a spell and pours the liquid into Lysander's eyes.

Helena and Demetrius walk through the forest, and Helena stumbles across Hermia and Lysander. She wakes Lysander up and because he has had the magic flowers poured into his eyes, he immediately falls in love with Helena when he awakes. **Soft music plays and the lights turn pink.** Lysander proclaims that he no longer loves Hermia and instead loves Helena now!

Helena, confused by Lysander's new love, thinks that he is mocking her by pretending to be in love with her. Angrily, Helena leaves and Lysander follows.

Hermia wakes up and is alone, she worries about where Lysander has gone and sets off to find him.

In another part of the Woods, **the lights turn green** and the Mechanicals are back to rehearse their play. Bottom leads the actors in a warmup, and you will **hear the jaunty music again as the actors make silly noises.**



Quince arrives, and they all discuss the performance. They are rehearsing the play. It's terrible! Bottom has a lot of silly ideas like making one of the actors play a wall and the actor playing Thisbe doesn't know their lines.

The actors are near where Titania sleeps. During the rehearsals, Puck appears and Bottom exits the stage to prepare for his big entrance. While gone, Puck casts a spell and when Bottom comes back, they have a donkey's ears on their head! This scares the other actors, and they run away **screaming. The lights will turn pink; music plays** as the other mechanicals exit in a panic.

Thinking the other actors are playing a trick on them, Bottom starts **singing** a song. The lights turn **colourful** and they will start **clapping** which wakes up Titania who was sleeping nearby.

As Titania has had the magic flower poured into her eye, when she wakes up and sees Bottom, she immediately falls in love with them. Although Bottom is confused, they are excited to be taken care of by Titania's fairies.



The lights get darker and Puck tells Oberon that Titania is in love with a monster! Oberon is happy about humiliating Titania. He asks Puck if she put the love potion in the Athenian man's eyes. As they are speaking, Hermia and Demetrius walk past. It is then that Oberon tells Puck that she made a mistake and put the flower in the wrong man's eye!

Oberon casts a spell on Demetrius which sends him to sleep. The **lights turn colourful and humming music plays** as they place the flower on his eyes.

Helena and Lysander enter **arguing**. Their arguing causes Demetrius to awake and, seeing Helena, he immediately falls in love with her as well!

Helena now thinks that both Lysander and Demetrius are mocking her and she reacts angrily as Hermia arrives. She is glad to find Lysander, but he rejects her as he now loves Helena!

Helena thinks that all three of the others are mocking her, while Hermia thinks Helena has stolen her love and they start to **argue**. Lysander and Demetrius both jump in to try and defend Helena but then start **arguing** themselves before all four storm off stage.



Oberon gives Puck another flower which can undo the magic of the first so she can fix her mistakes. Puck plans to undo the magic in Lysander so that he falls back in love with Hermia while Demetrius stays in love with Helena!

Puck uses magic to separate the four lovers and sends them to sleep. **The lights get darker and soft drumming plays** as Puck applies the new magic to Lysander's eyes; he will love Hermia again when he wakes. Puck and Oberon say when the four lovers wake the events of this evening will seem so strange, they'll all think it was a dream!

As the lovers sleep, Titania and Bottom are together. **Happy music plays** as Bottom is enjoying the treats Titania has given him. Oberon begins to pity Titania's love for Bottom, so he casts a spell that will remove the powers of the love potion and remove Bottom's donkey head. When she wakes up, she is very confused to have loved a donkey. **You will hear birdsong; music and the lights will get brighter as morning arrives.**



Theseus and Hippolyta arrive. They are confused to see the lovers asleep together, as they believed Demetrius and Lysander were enemies.

Theseus wakes them up and, just as Oberon predicted, the four all think the events of the prior night was a dream. Demetrius explains that he now loves Helena and wants to marry her instead of Hermia.

Seeing all four lovers now happy, Theseus and Hippolyta agree to pardon Hermia and allow her to marry Lysander. Theseus and Hippolyta ask the two couples to come with them to the temple, where all three couples will be married.

Soft twinkling music plays as Bottom appears looking for the Mechanicals so they can perform their play. Bottom also thinks the

events of last night were a dream and wanders off to find the other Mechanicals.

The rest of the Mechanicals are worried because they cannot find Bottom, and they are the only one who can perform the role of Pyramus in all of Athens! They stick their heads through the holes in the set as they look for him. Luckily, Bottom makes a dramatic entrance by **crashing through the wall!** They can do their performance for Theseus and Hippolyta.

The lights change as happy music plays at Theseus and Hippolyta's Wedding. Egeus tells them about the Mechanicals play and Hippolyta is very excited, so Theseus asks them to put the play on. **The actors may come and sit near you on the stairs** as they watch the play with you!



As expected, the play is terrible, but Theseus and Hippolyta find the awful performances very funny and enjoy the show greatly. This play is very silly and you can laugh if you want to!



The Mechanical's play ends with a dance. **The lights will change colour as the jaunty music plays again.** Even Theseus, Hippolyta and Puck join in!



The lights get darker and soft music plays as Puck brings an orb of light onto stage. Puck summarises the events of the show and asks if maybe...everything you've watched might have been a dream?



You will hear other people **clap**. You can **clap** if you want to.



The actors will all **smile and bow**.



That's the end of the show. Thank you for coming to the Unicorn Theatre!