



HOW DOES SANTA GO DOWN THE CHIMNEY? VISUAL STORY

This visual resource is for children and young adults visiting the Unicorn Theatre to see a performance of **How Does Santa Go Down the Chimney?**

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 **energetic, musical, and festive** and contains **audience interaction, flashing lights, loud noises and some brief pyrotechnics.**

THEMES

The performance has themes of **fun, adventure, kindness and challenge.**

SCENES TO NOTE

There is one scene where a group of dogs chase Santa and bark at him loudly. Don't worry though, Santa will be fine and will make friends with the dogs afterwards!

At the end of this scene one of the dogs will be sad when Santa leaves. It will all be okay soon though as Santa has left his new friend a gift!

There are occasions where the performers might ask for your help and will invite you onto the stage. You can say no if you don't want to take part!

SOUND

Throughout the performance, the actors will **sing songs**, and you will hear **recorded music**.

You will also hear some **sound effects**, like **a balloon deflating, chimes, crashing noises and the sound of a washing machine.**

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

Sometimes, the performers will **ask the audience questions, and the audience may answer and join in.** These moments may be **quite loud.**

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 **50 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.



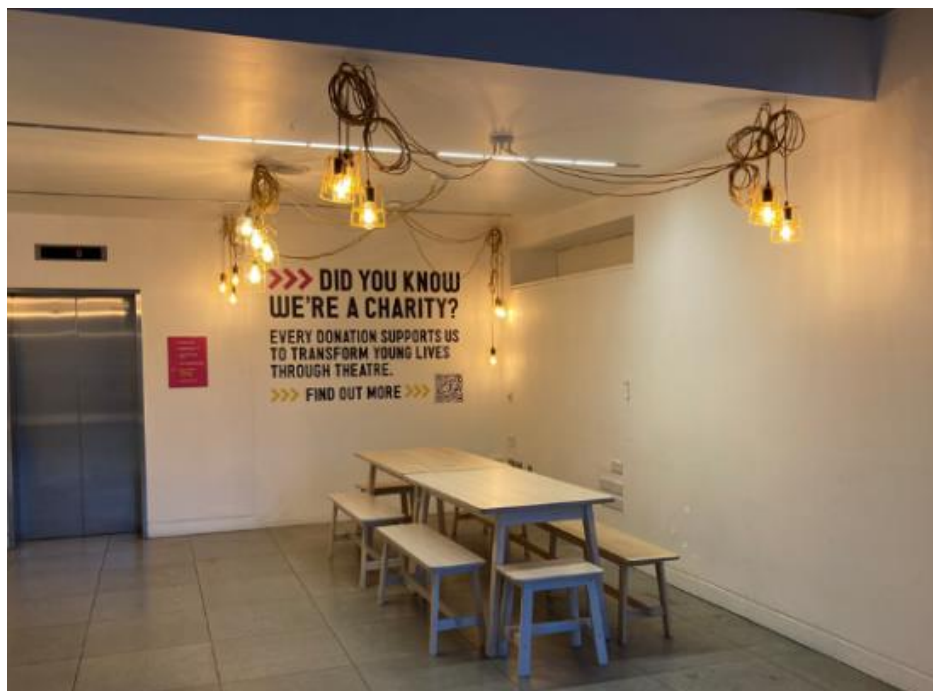
In the foyer, you will see the Box Office and Tuck Shop.



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.

There will also be a **large Christmas tree in the Foyer with lights on.** You might see some people taking photos next to the tree, and you can also go and have a look at the festive decorations.

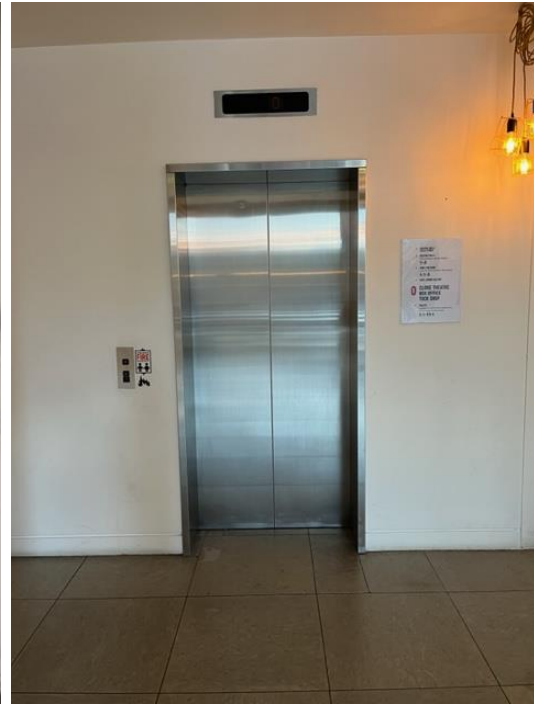


When you arrive at the theatre, you will be met by one of the Ushers, who will be wearing a dark red shirt with USHER written on the front and back like the one you see here.



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.

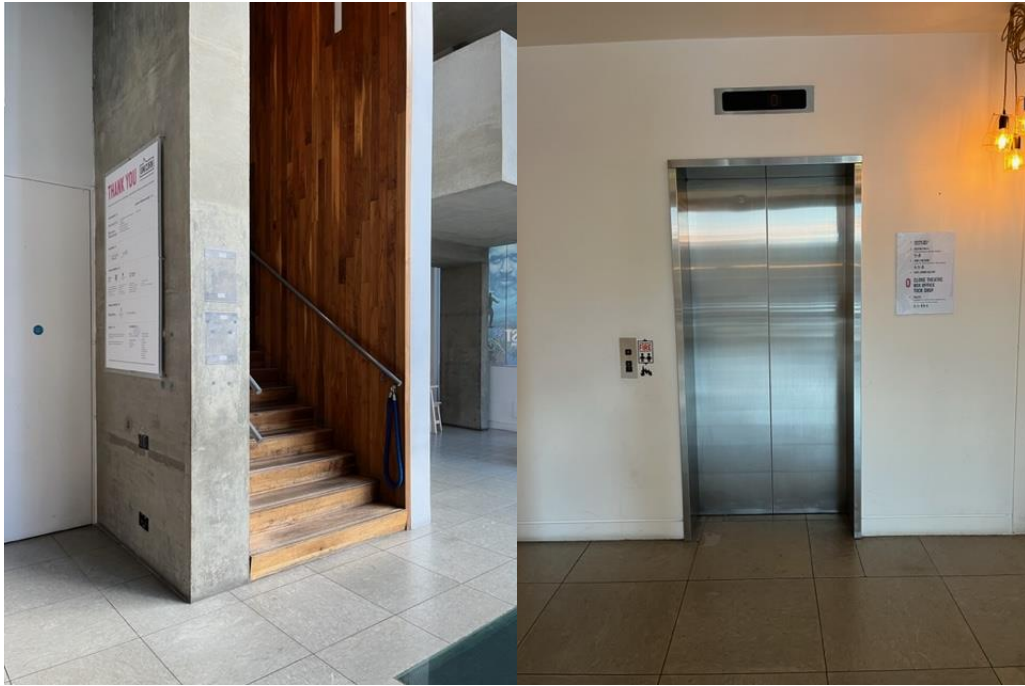


There are also some toilets upstairs, on Level 2 and 3. You can use the lift if you want to, or take the stairs up. These toilets are **family and all-gender**, so anyone can use them.



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 is covered in a **soft snow pattern** and has **two ramps with handrails and lights on either side**. At the top of the ramp there is a **chimney!** Below the ramps are some **red curtains** which will open and close throughout the show. At the back of the stage is a **black curtain** which has some small lights on. There is a **microphone on each side of the stage**. The rest of the room is full of **blue seats**.

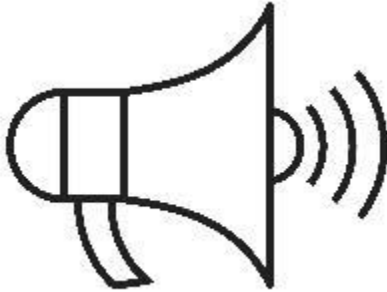


You can find your seat and make yourself comfortable. An usher can help you find your seat.

There are the **4 actors** in the show. They all play Santa and his reindeers.



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**, and you will hear the actors begin to **sing** as they enter the stage. You can sing along if you would like to!

THE SHOW

The lights will **change colour**, and you will hear **Christmas Music** as Santa appears from the top of a ladder next to the chimney!

Santa's Reindeers will appear and slide down the ramps while holding a rope. The lights on the rope will **flash red and green**. The reindeers will pull Santa along like they are in his Sleigh!



There will be a sound effect of a **loud rumble** as the sleigh crashes. Don't worry – no one will be hurt! Santa will slide down the ramp and fall over on stage. He'll also do some tricks such as a flip and some dancing.



One of the Reindeer will **use the microphones** to ask you how does Santa go down the chimney? You will hear a **chime noise** as a small Puppet version of Santa will appear in a **spotlight** near the chimney.



The Reindeer will ask if Santa needs to tighten his belt to make it down the chimney? Santa will appear on stage and try to get down a small chimney towards the front of the stage.

Santa has eaten too many mince pies and doesn't fit! One of the reindeer tries to help him tighten his belt to fit. But no matter how tight the belt is, he still cannot fit down the chimney!

After a few tries the reindeer will ask for help and **ask a member of the audience to help them tighten Santa's belt.** You can volunteer if you would like to.



With your help Santa thinks he can fit, however the belt is now too tight and Santa is almost about to burst out of it! Every time he moves one of the reindeers will deflate a ballon and make a **funny squeaky noise into the microphone.** This is very silly, and you can laugh if you want to!

Another Reindeer will **use the microphone** to ask if Santa shrinks himself down to the size of a mouse. **The lights will get darker**, and a small mouse puppet will appear and try and get down the chimney. However, the mouse will get distracted by a wedge of cheese which appears alongside a **small chime noise**.

Another reindeer will ask if Santa stretches out like a toffee. They will pull a giant Santa leg on stage before letting it go. It flies back offstage and you will hear a **loud crashing noise**.



Next, they will ask if Santa can turn himself into fire! **A small fire appears at the top of the platform.** The reindeer look at the fire and decide Santa probably doesn't turn into fire, and the fire goes out.



They ask is Santa goes down the chimney headfirst, or feet first? **A big boot is flown down from above the stage.**



They then ask if Santa gets stuck halfway down the chimney and needs his reindeer to give him a push down? The reindeer get excited about this and get some silver tubes to help knock Santa down the chimney. Luckily, Santa has a helmet on, so **he doesn't get hurt!**

The metal tubes make **musical notes**, and the reindeer tap out the tune of a **Christmas song**. Santa gets knocked down the chimney and lands very far down. There is a **crashing sound effect** as he reaches the bottom of the chimney.



They then ask if Santa has to do laundry when he arrives at a home because his suit gets sooty in the chimney. A mum wheels in a washing machine and puts lots of white cloths into it. When she walks away, Santa sneaks in and puts his bright red coat into the washing machine.



Watching the washing machine spin makes Santa sleepy, so he falls asleep and starts to have some silly dreams! There is a **spotlight** on the stage and then the **lights begin to swirl**.

Three more Santas appear on stage in their underwear. **A song plays** and they dance around the washing machine. They then will **dance into the audience**. The Santas may wave at you, and you can wave back if you would like to.



A small puppet version of Santa will then dance on top of the washing machine. He does some dancing, some jumps and some flips before flying under the red curtains at the back of the stage.



Once the washing is finished, Santa takes out a clean red coat and leaves. The mum comes back onstage to unload her washing, but Santa's suit has turned all her white washing pink! **This makes her upset and she cries loudly but don't worry, Santa has left her a special present which makes her happy again.**

Next, a reindeer comes to the microphone and asks: What if you don't have a chimney? There is a **loud "Dun Dun Dun!" sound effect**, and the reindeer look at each other. A reindeer decides to host a gameshow to figure out how Santa gets down the chimney if there is no chimney! A **gameshow theme tune plays**, and there are some **red flashing lights**.

The gameshow host will introduce three reindeer contestants. They will invite the audience to **give a round of applause**, and some audience members may clap. You can join in if you want. This moment may be **quite loud**.

The reindeer contestants act out different suggestions of how Santa enters a house without a chimney.

Then an actor will talk into a microphone and **will invite an audience member to speak into the microphone to suggest how Santa may get in the house**. They will walk into the audience to find someone to ask. **If you are asked what you think, you can give an answer if you want.**



The reindeer contestants will then act out the idea suggested by the audience member. The gameshow music ends.

Next, a reindeer asks if Santa flattens himself and slides under the front door. **Some Christmas jazz music plays**, and a reindeer wheels on a photocopier. They photocopy a mouse, and then they photocopy Santa to make him flat. A flattened Santa slides under the back red curtain.



Next, the reindeer ask if Santa enters the house whilst a baby watches TV. **The lights get darker**, and a TV comes onstage. A big baby in a pink outfit crawls along the top platform and watches the TV. Santa slowly climbs out of the TV and says hello to the baby who crawls away.

The TV is pushed off the stage and there is a **long, loud crash sound effect**.



The baby comes back playing the piano and **singing a song** about how her daddy hides a spare key. If Santa can find the spare key, maybe he can get into the house by unlocking the front door!

Santa and his reindeer try to interrogate baby to find out where her daddy hid the spare key. They **shine torches at her** and get **frustrated** at the baby. The baby tries to keep the hiding place of the key a secret but then tells them that her daddy hides the key under the flowerpot!



At the end of the song, the baby does a **loud evil laugh** and there is a **sound effect of thunder and lightning**.

Just when Santa thinks he knows where the key is hidden, there are lots of flowerpots and he doesn't know which one is hiding the key!

A key appears from the sky. The reindeer tries to reach and grab it but can't. **He asks the audience to help. He may ask you to come up on stage and grab the key, but you can say no if you don't want to do that.** This moment may be **quite loud**.

Next, they ask if Santa blows up the house with dynamite. **Lights will flash and action music will play.** Santa gets his dynamite ready, and the reindeer slide down the ramps with wire. There is then a **loud explosion sound effect**. Santa and his reindeer move in slow motion as they move through the exploding house.



Then, one of the reindeer asks what happens if you live in the flat. There is a **loud “Dun Dun Dun” sound effect**. Santa tries to ring the buzzer for a block of flats. Then a Deliveroo driver rides in on a

scooter and buzzes the buzzer. When the Deliveroo driver isn't looking, Santa hides in his bag so he can sneak into the flat!



Once Santa is in the flat, we realise that a dog lives there. One of the reindeer says that dogs must like Santa very much, but the dog sees Santa and starts to **bark at him loudly**. Don't worry though, **Santa will be fine and will make friends with the dogs afterwards!**



To stop the dog barking, Santa tries to give them treats. He even tries to scratch the dog's belly. **The dog pretends to try and bite Santa's hand, and then chases Santa around the stage, barking loudly. It's okay though, Santa won't be hurt.** Some music plays as the chase begins.

Santa tries to hide from the dog in the garden with some pigeons. The dog finds Santa, but then one of the pigeons attacks the dog. Don't worry though, the dog won't be hurt and neither will the pigeon!



Two more dogs run into the flat. They both bark loudly and join in with chasing Santa. **They will run into the audience and bark. This moment may be loud.**

Two of the dogs get tired and leave. Santa wrestles his hat out of the remaining dog's mouth and puts it on his head. As soon as Santa has his hat on, the dog stops barking as they realise it's Santa. Dogs love Santa!



Now that the dog knows the intruder is Santa, they can both be friends. There is a dream sequence where Santa and the dog do fun things together like skiing, skydiving, and having a picnic. **The lights get brighter, and music plays.**

The dream sequence ends when the dog wakes up and Santa disappears. **The dog howls as they are sad that Santa has gone.** Don't worry though, Santa has left the dog a special present, and this makes them **happy again.**

Santa leaves the flat the same way he got in. The Deliveroo driver pulls out his very heavy Deliveroo package, and Santa leaves him a special present. There is a **sound effect of magical chimes.**

Next, they ask if Santa just drops in. **A book drops from the ceiling. It may be a bit of a surprise, and this moment may be quite loud.**

Santa starts to creep into the house. One of the reindeer asks if Santa can see in the dark. **The lights will get much dimmer on stage,**

and there will be a sound of Santa bumping into something. The lights will then come back on.

One of the reindeer asks if Santa has night vision goggles. **The lights will go green on stage.** Santa will then trip up on a toy and slide down the ramp.

The reindeer will start to sing a song as Santa starts to tidy the stage. The Santa will leave the stage, and another one will enter on a bike. **The bike will ride around the audience and Santa will ring the bell.** When Santa rides the bike away, there is the **sound effect of a loud crash.** But don't worry, Santa isn't hurt.



The reindeer decide that Santa goes up the chimney the same way he goes down, but that no-one knows how he does it. Everyone is happy that Santa still visits our homes, even if we don't know how.

A large Christmas tree comes down from the ceiling. They ask an audience member to help turn the Christmas tree lights on. **If they ask you, you can go on the stage and help if you want to.** The twinkling lights are turned on.

At the end, **some sparklers will go off at the top of the stage.** This will **last for a few seconds**, and they are very sparkly. The actors **sing** and **dance** at the front of the stage. They **stamp their feet**.



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!