



VISUAL STORY

This visual resource is for children and young adults visiting the Unicorn Theatre to experience **Whatever The Weather**.

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

SOUND

Throughout the experience, you will hear music throughout. It changes throughout the piece, sometimes there is a snowstorm rave and the music picks up, and sometimes it is softer when the sun comes out.

Ear Defenders are available from ushers at any time throughout the experience.

You will also hear some sound effects when interacting with certain areas of the experience, like **thunder**, **puddle splashing** and **ice crackling**.

We have adjusted the volume on all sound effects to be lower during relaxed performances.

LIGHTING & EFFECTS

During the experience, the lighting will change. Sometimes it is darker in the space, and sometimes it is brighter. Sometimes there is only light on one part of the experience, and sometimes in the entire room. The experience contains moments of lighting fading in and

out and changing colour. We have slowed down any light effects during relaxed performances.

AUDIENCE REACTIONS

During the experience you can play and interact however you want to as long as you are doing so safely. Inside, there are many areas with different objects to explore like **snowballs, icicles, rain sticks** and **cloud pillows**. There are many places to sit, lay down, explore and build with.

Whatever way you want to interact with the experience is fine. You can play with parts of the experience separately, combine many things together, play with others or by yourself, or take some time to enjoy the quieter places in the space.

During the experience, other audience members might react to what is happening in the room, 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.

During the experience 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 experience when you feel ready.

The experience is approximately 40 minutes long. There is no interval.

THE BUILDING

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

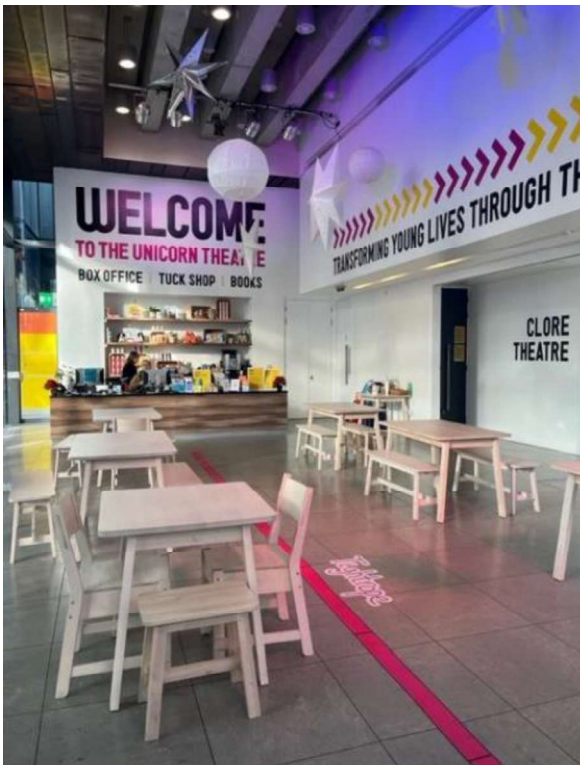
This is the main entrance of the theatre.



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.



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



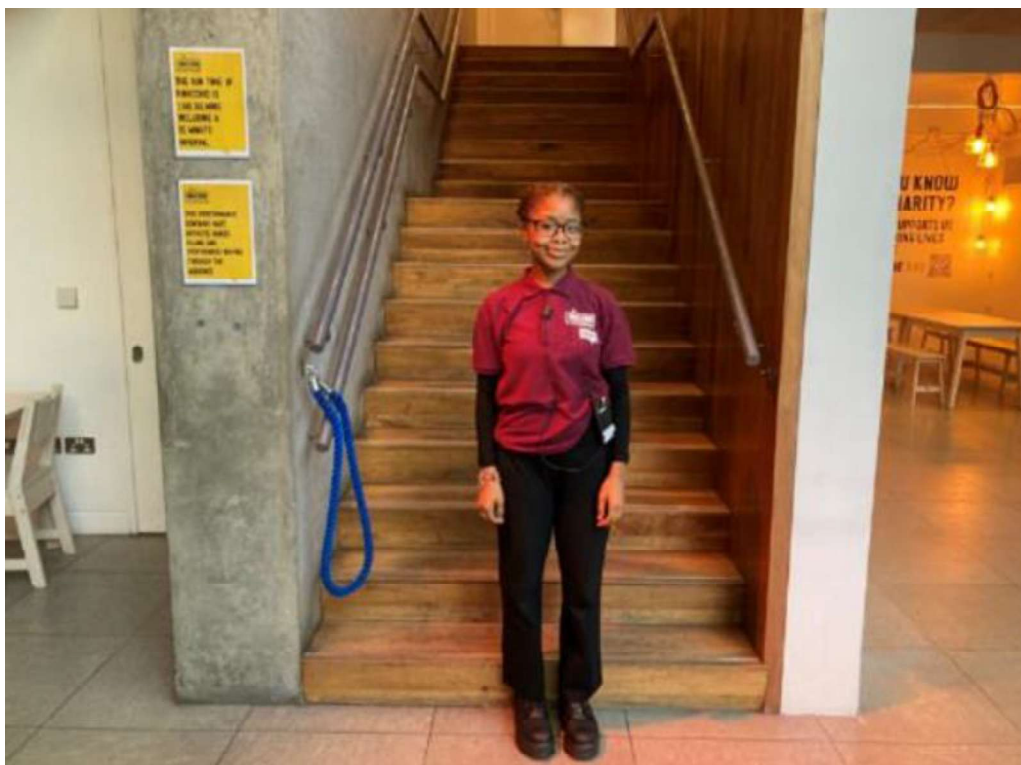
This is where you can ask us any questions about your tickets. You can also buy a book, snack or ice cream before the show!

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.



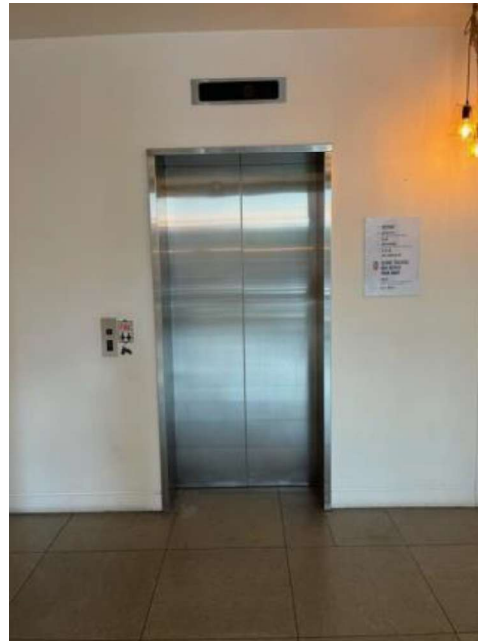
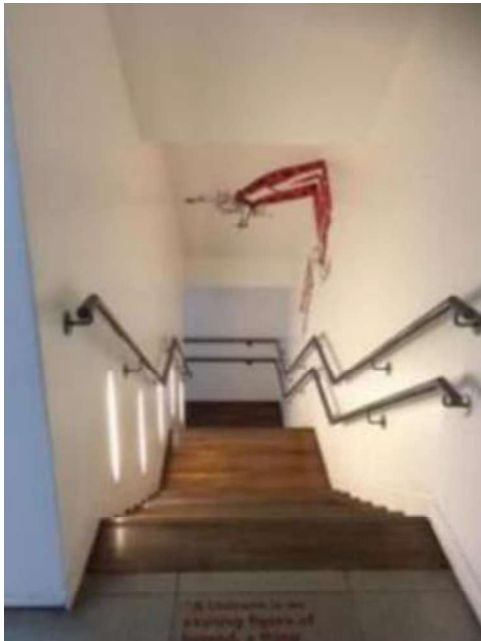


When you arrive at the theatre, you will be met by one of the **Ushers**, who will be wearing a dark red shirt with USHER written on the front and back like the one you see here.



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.



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 on the Ground Floor next to the Box Office and Tuck Shop.

Before you enter the theatre, you will be asked to leave your shoes, coats and bags in the shelves opposite the theatre entrance.



Once you have done this, you're ready to head inside.

When you enter the theatre, you will wait in the rain area where the experience will begin.



The **rain area** has a shiny, blue floor with a path of shiny silver puddles. These puddles are slightly raised with a soft, uneven surface that make a splashing sound when stepped on. Surrounding the rain area is a silvery curtain. Beyond the curtain is the rest of the play space, but you won't be able to see this straight away as the lights will not be on yet in these areas. You will hear the sound effects of rain and some gentle thunder.

When the experience begins, a voice from above will introduce themselves as **Weather**. **Weather** describes all the different ways they can be – **thunder, drizzle, mist** - with **sound effects** that match each way.

Weather welcomes everyone to their world and will tell you some of the ways that you can play.

As **Weather** describes each of the play areas in the room, these will light up and reveal themselves one by one.

Weather asks you to follow your imagination to wherever it takes you and asks you to play with **curiosity** and **kindness**.

They ask that at the end of your experience, everything is returned to where it belongs.

Weather tells everyone that when the journey is over, to find the rainbow to make your way back home.

After this, you're now free to go through the curtains and play in the space!

THE AREAS

SNOW BALL DEN

This section is a **white, soft play area** with a long sofa with a tall backrest and a table at one end made of the same **soft material**. On the floor, there is a soft play mat filled with **different textures**. Piled up in this area is lots of white, fabric snowballs. Some are very small, and some are very big!



SNOW STORM / NORTHERN LIGHTS

In the corner of the room is a **tall, netted area** with entrances on both side that has the Northern lights projected onto both sides of it, this is a bluey green. Inside of the net the area is bigger than it looks from the outside, with lots of room to move around inside. At opposite ends of the net are two large fans, covered in decorative ice. During the experience a snowstorm will begin! The fans will come on, and small pieces of confetti will be blown up into the air. The **fans might be a little loud** when you get up close, but you can ask for some ear defenders from the Ushers, or you can cover your ears.



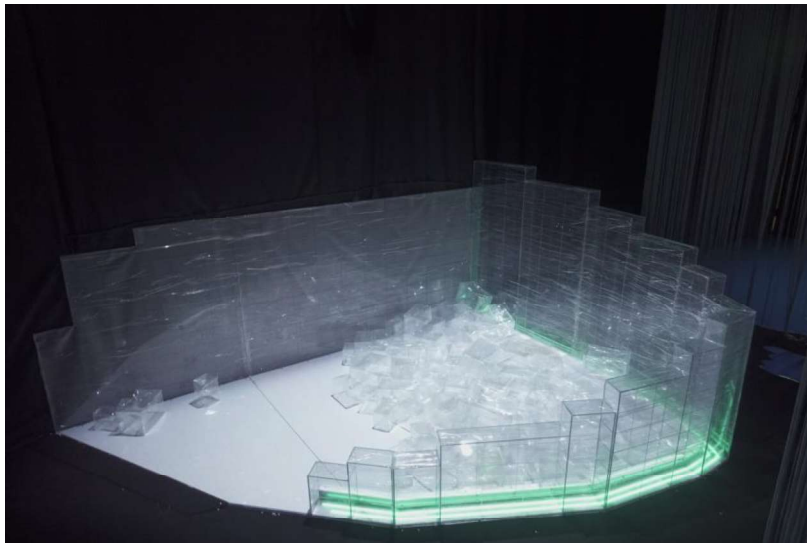
ICE CAVE

The Ice Cave is covered in an icy blue, semi-transparent fabric with big, tunnelling, open entrances. As you enter the cave, sensors in the floor will trigger and make a crackling noise under your feet. There are many see through disks of big and small sizes on the floor that represent icicles dripping. These disks are great for stacking, rolling, stepping and viewing through. Along the roof of the cave are icicles made of a silvery fabric. You can take these off and play with them, and when you are done you can reattach them to the roof by finding the magnetic points that connect them.



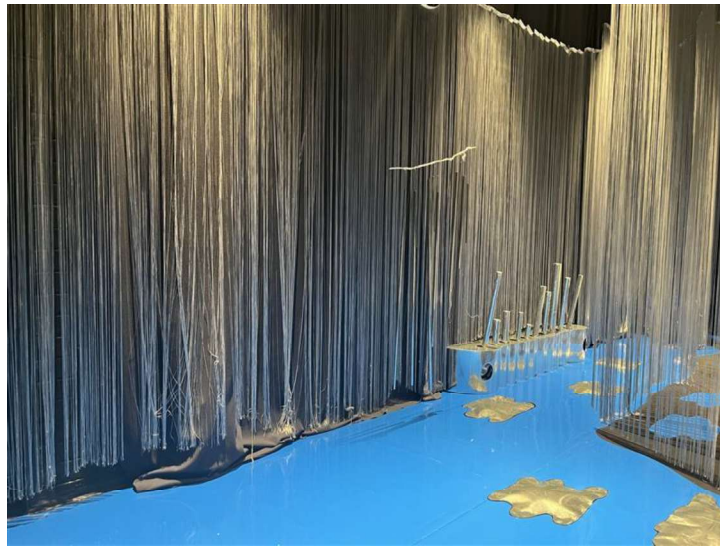
ICE BLOCKS

This area is contained within an ice block walled sculpture. Inside of the walls are lights that turn the blocks to a cool blue. On the floor there are lots of transparent, plastic blocks which you can stack and make structures with. Be care not to step on them!



RAIN AREA

This is the area where your journey begins. The floor is a shiny blue with a sliver path of puddles that make a splashing noise when you step on them. Along the wall is a long box full of rain sticks. If you turn these sticks upside down, they make a gentle trickling sound from inside. This box is also perfect for sitting on. Next to the box is a hoop of shiny blue fabric attached to the ceiling. This area is surrounded by a silvery fringe curtain that's easy to move through.



CLOUD BED

In the centre of the room is a bed of cloud shape pillows of lots of sizes. Above the pillows the sun shines down soothingly, and more clouds hang down from the sun filled with gentle lights. These clouds can be pushed & swung, and they thunder when touched. Do not swing body weight from these clouds. You can also relax and hang out on the bed



SNOW BRANCHES

These objects are long, furry white bendable sticks which will stay in whatever shape you create with them.



ENDING

At the end of your journey, the Weather's voice will be heard again, encouraging you to return the objects to where you found them for the next group of people to find.

Lights will highlight each area as the Weather reminds you of where things go back to.

The Weather will then say it's time to find the rainbow that will lead you back home.

At this point, rainbow lights will appear over the doorway to the exit, and the lights will fade lower in the other areas of the room. It's time to leave, back out to the foyer.



Now that your journey is over, it's time to collect your belongings from the cubbies, and put your shoes back on.

Thank you for coming to the Unicorn Theatre!

A NOTE ON SAFETY

This is an immersive playscape. A place for you to play, discover and have fun. There are a few key guidelines on safety to help you enjoy the space:

- Avoid swinging or putting body weight on the hanging clouds, on the rain curtains or wind chimes – they are not weight bearing.
- Please do not climb on the wall of the ice block area, the fans of the snowstorm area, or the back wall of the snow area.
- Moving through rain curtains, be aware they may become tangled, so please avoid running.
- The ice tunnel is made of bendable material however please do not put weight on this or bend.
- Avoid putting weight on any of the curtained areas.
- Items in the space are shared and not designed to be chewed.

We ask that adults take an active role in supervising and supporting the children in their care as they explore - we also encourage you to play too and experience the space. Please help us look after the environment by treating the space with care, ensuring your children follow guidance, and listening to any instructions from our Unicorn team.

Most importantly, have fun and enjoy the experience!