

Northern Ballet



Relaxed Performances

Wednesday 26 October, 11am

Thursday 27 October, 11am

Stanley & Audrey Burton Theatre at Northern Ballet

This building guide and visual story is designed for visitors to the Relaxed Performances of Ugly Duckling. This document contains information about the ballet and lots of images to help prepare anyone who may be anxious or curious about their visit.

Photo credits: Emily Nuttall, Brian Slater, Fiona Heseltine, Jo Dean and clker.com. Illustration: Emily Nuttall.

The Theatre

The ballet is being shown at the Stanley & Audrey Burton Theatre at Northern Ballet. Here is a picture of Northern Ballet. There are travel instructions of how to get to Northern Ballet on our [How to Find Us page](#) of the website.



There is an accessible entrance to the Northern Ballet building, which is through the first door on your left as you look at the building. It has a power-assisted door and there is a button on the right that will open the door for you. The door opens outwards.



This is the foyer. The foyer gets busy before the show as lots of people wait here to go into the auditorium where the ballet will be performed.



There will be some decorations and crafts in the foyer for you to enjoy. (Seen from above here).



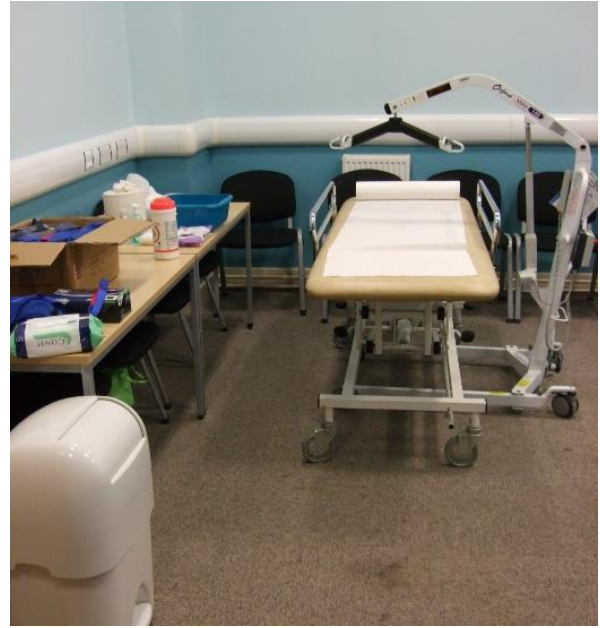
In the foyer is our Box Office and Reception. This is where you can collect tickets if you don't have e-tickets. If you have any questions about the performance or the theatre you can ask our Receptionists for help.



There are toilets on the left-hand side of the foyer as you enter the building, including an accessible toilet. If you need help to find these please ask a steward. A separate changing room is available during the Relaxed Performance.



A changing room with changing bed and hoist is available during the Relaxed Performance. This is situated through the door to the right of the café. A steward can direct you to the changing room. **You should bring your own sling to use with the hoist**, the bed is at a fixed height.



In the foyer there is a café area where you can buy drinks and snacks before the show or after the performance has ended. If you would like somewhere to sit before you go into the auditorium, there are some seats in the café.



The entrance to the theatre is next to the Box Office and Reception desk. The route into the theatre is level.



Stewards will be waiting by the door to the auditorium and as you go in, they will look at your tickets and show you where to sit. They will also give you a free programme, which gives you information about the performance you are going to see.



In the theatre is the auditorium, which is a large space with seating where you will sit to watch the performance. In front of this is the stage, which is where the performance will take place.



On your ticket you will find your seat number. Our stewards will help you find your seat. There might be some steps up to your seat. If you are a wheelchair user, the stewards will let you know where to go.



If you have a wheelchair or mobility aid which you would like to store during the performance, please let a steward know and they will store it at the back of the auditorium.

The door to the theatre will open 20 minutes before the show starts. You can take your seat when the theatre opens or if you prefer, you can wait until the show is about to start and then go in.

You can bring drinks into the theatre in plastic cups.

This is the stage where the dancers will perform the ballet. It is important that audience members do not go on to the stage, as it could be dangerous.



During a performance we try to be quiet so that we can hear the music, but in a Relaxed Performance you can make noise and move around if you need to. You can leave the auditorium at any point and come back as you wish.

The performance is 40 minutes long and it runs from start to finish without an interval (break).

Before the performance starts please make sure that you have turned off your mobile phone and please do not take photos during the show.



Ear defenders are available if you don't like loud noises. Please ask a steward if you require them.



Booster cushions are available which give small children more height in their seat. Please ask a steward if you require one.



A chill out space is available outside the auditorium if you need somewhere quiet to go either during the show or before and after the performance. This is situated through the door to the right of the café.



For more detailed information about the building, you can view our full Access Guide on the [Accessibility page](#) of our website.

Covid-19 Safety

Northern Ballet are working hard to ensure our performances are Covid Safe and enjoyable for everyone. We are following all Government advice.

You do not need to wear a face covering during your visit, but some people may prefer to.

There is hand sanitiser in the foyer, and hand soap in the toilets, which you can use.



Please be aware that our performances will be open at full capacity so you will be sitting directly next to other people.

We are cleaning the spaces before and after performances.

If you are feeling unwell on the day of the performance, have tested positive for Covid 19 or need to self-isolate, please don't come to the theatre. Contact our Reception staff and they will be able to help you:

- Rearrange for an alternative performance; or
- Provide alternative tickets for a similar event within the theatre; or
- Provide a full refund at the discretion of theatre staff

Visit the [Stanley and Audrey Burton Theatre website](#) for more information about Covid-19 safety.

If it would be useful for you to visit the theatre before the day of the show to have a look at the facilities, you would be very welcome to do this. To arrange a suitable time for a member of staff to show you around please call 0113 220 8000 and ask for Sam Moore from the Learning team.

Turn to the next page to learn about the characters in Ugly Duckling and explore the story.

The Characters

Ugly Duckling

Ugly Duckling looks different to the other ducklings, and runs away to try and find others like her. On her adventures, she learns that she is actually a swan and has been beautiful all along.



The Ducklings

Bright yellow and a bit mischievous, The Ducklings don't want to play with Ugly Duckling because she looks and dances differently to them.



Mother Duck

Mother Duck loves all of her family, including Ugly Duckling, but gets cross when they are naughty.



The Frogs

The Frogs love to have fun leaping and dancing around and they can jump very high.



The Cats

Black and sleek, the cats enjoy basking in the sun but they are quite unfriendly towards Ugly Duckling.



The Fox

The Fox appears to be charming and gracious, but he likes to make a snack out of ducklings!



The Swan Queen

The beautiful Swan Queen shows Ugly Duckling who she really is.



Stop reading here if you'd rather not know what happens in the story!

The Story

It is a bright sunny day and Mother Duck is cleaning her nest and waiting for her eggs to hatch.



The eggs start to crack and three little ducklings hatch. Mother Duck is very happy.



They all notice that one egg hasn't opened. Mother Duck kisses the egg and tells The Ducklings to wait for it to hatch.



But the three ducklings are very naughty and play with the egg. They throw it back and forth, until they drop the egg and it cracks.



The fourth duckling looks very different to the others. She is grey, fluffy and ragged and she doesn't dance the same as the other ducklings either.



But Mother Duck loves all of her ducklings and decides to take everyone to the pond to swim.



The Ducklings go into the water one by one but when the lifeguard sees Ugly Duckling, he points to a sign that says 'Ducks Only' and won't let her join in with the others. Ugly Duckling is very sad and runs away.



As Ugly Duckling walks between the reeds she comes across a pair of frogs who jump and dance in front of her. She tries to join in their fun but she cannot leap as high as them and the frogs hop away leaving Ugly Duckling feeling sad.



Ugly Duckling then comes across two black cats. The cats curiously inspect her, dancing, nudging and poking her. But Ugly Duckling cannot dance like a cat and they leave her alone. Ugly Duckling is sad.



As night begins to fall, Ugly Duckling falls fast asleep. Suddenly a beautiful Swan Queen appears and dances in the moonlight. Ugly Duckling wakes up and watches the Swan Queen in delight. She dances with the Swan Queen and everything feels right.



As the sun rises on a new day, a fox sneaks up behind Ugly Duckling. When she bumps into him, the fox bows like a perfect gentleman and gives her a flower.



The fox and Ugly Duckling have a picnic. The fox is very charming but then puts salt & pepper on Ugly Duckling and tries to eat her! Ugly Duckling tries to run away but the fox chases her back and forth until she traps him in the picnic blanket and he falls into the pond.



Ugly Duckling is on her own again and winter arrives. She is cold and lonely and tries to keep warm.



A furious snowstorm arrives and swirls around Ugly Duckling and she disappears.



Then something extraordinary happens as Ugly Duckling discovers that she is not a duckling at all, but a beautiful swan! As winter melts away, Ugly Duckling dances joyfully like a true ballerina.



Ugly Duckling meets the frogs, cats, and ducklings in the reeds and they are all amazed as they watch her dance.



The Swan Queen arrives and everyone watches her dance with Ugly Duckling. Then she takes Ugly Duckling to join a flock of swans. All of the other animals wave goodbye as Ugly Duckling swims away!



The End!

The audience will clap to say thank you to the dancers, musicians and all the team who made the performance happen.