Access Leeds Theatre Newsletter
September 2018

Access Leeds Theatre

Access Leeds Theatre is a partnership between Carriageworks Theatre, City Varieties Music Hall, Leeds Grand Theatre, Leeds Playhouse, Northern Ballet and Opera North. We aim to provide information about accessible theatre performances in Leeds, all in one place to make it easier for you to find something you’d like to see. We are proud to be the first regional collective producing a comprehensive newsletter for patrons using accessible performances.

We offer a number of services to help ensure that everyone can enjoy a high-quality theatre experience in Leeds, including audio described, sign interpreted, captioned, relaxed, and dementia-friendly performances.

Please read on for more details of the services provided by each organisation.

We welcome your feedback so please let us know if you feel there is information missing or if it could be made clearer.

accessleedstheatre@gmail.com

We recommend you always speak to the Box Office at any venue and let them know what service you would like to use when booking. They are always happy to help and have great advice about the best seats and discounts.
“Back in the land of the living” is what I said after seeing my first accessible ballet. The touch tour on stage, the unique workshop and the audio description are all vital elements to help me attend the theatre, even after being registered blind.”

Northern Ballet audio described performance attendee
What is it all about?

Audio Description

Audio Described performances are designed to improve the experience of blind and partially-sighted patrons. The customer can use a small headset to listen to a live description of the action on stage. The description happens in between dialogue and in harmony with the music to bring to life the emotions and action of each scene. Some performances have integrated audio-description where the describer is usually one of the actors onstage talking into a discrete microphone. Most venues also offer patrons a touch tour which takes place on the actual set before the show and includes being able to interact with props and costumes. Some also send out advance information on CD or a link to an audio file.

How do I use it?
To use this service ask Box Office to reserve you a headset when you book your tickets and a place on the touch tour if you would like to attend it.

British Sign Language

A Signed performance is the usual full production with the addition of a British Sign Language interpreter who stands on or to the side of the stage interpreting the show for BSL users.

How do I use it?
If you wish to use this service please let the Box Office know and they will advise you on the best seating to view the interpreter.
**Captioning**

Open captioning allows theatre goers with varying degrees of hearing to view the full text as it is spoken or sung, including sound effects and off-stage noises. These appear on a scrolling screen, positioned on or at the side of the stage.

**How do I use it?**

To use this service, book your seats through Box Office and they will advise you on the best seating to view the caption units.

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**Relaxed Performance**

Relaxed Performances were pioneered by Leeds Playhouse and are now also offered at Northern Ballet and Carriageworks Theatre. They are specially selected shows with slight adaptations to make it suitable for people with learning disabilities. A relaxed performance always includes a relaxed attitude to noise (voluntary and involuntary) in the auditorium.

**How do I use it?**

Patrons with additional needs are welcome at any performance at any theatre, so always discuss any additional help you may need with Box Office staff. However, if you think you would enjoy a more relaxed environment, relaxed performances offer support specifically for patrons with additional needs. Bookings are taken through Box Office where access requirements can be discussed at the time of booking.
Dementia-Friendly Performance

Pioneered by Leeds Playhouse, dementia-friendly performances make slight adaptations to technical aspects of the show, offer flexible seating options and always keep a relaxed attitude to audience responses and movement in the auditorium. In the Front of House space they have a Quiet Room, clearer visual markers and signage, and additional staff and volunteers trained to sensitively and respectively welcome people living with dementia and their supporters to a show. They also send out supporting materials beforehand.

How do I use it?
Bookings are taken through Box Office where access requirements can be discussed at the time of booking.

“Our daughter loves going to the theatre and with her being deaf it is great that you have signed shows so she can enjoy it to the fullest.” Susan Mucur, West Yorkshire Playhouse BSL performance attendee
Upcoming Audio Described performances

Please note, all details subject to possible change. Always let the box office know you are booking for the accessible service so they will notify you if anything changes.

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Details</th>
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<tr>
<td>5 - 29 Sep</td>
<td>Leeds Playhouse&lt;br&gt;<strong>Road</strong>&lt;br&gt;Wednesday 5 Sept - Saturday 29 Sept (audio-description is integrated into all performances)&lt;br&gt;Tel. 0113 213 7700&lt;br&gt;Email: <a href="mailto:info@leedsplayhouse.org.uk">info@leedsplayhouse.org.uk</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Wed 3 Oct</td>
<td>Opera North’s&lt;br&gt;<strong>Tosca</strong>&lt;br&gt;At Leeds Grand Theatre&lt;br&gt;Wednesday 3 October, 7.30pm&lt;br&gt;Touch tour, 6.15pm&lt;br&gt;Audio describers, Maggie Mash and Lynn Thornton&lt;br&gt;Tel. 0844 848 2720&lt;br&gt;Email <a href="mailto:boxoffice@operanorth.co.uk">boxoffice@operanorth.co.uk</a></td>
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<td>27 Oct 1 Nov</td>
<td>Leeds Playhouse&lt;br&gt;<strong>Europe</strong>&lt;br&gt;Saturday 27 October, 3pm&lt;br&gt;Thursday 1 November, 7.30pm&lt;br&gt;Tel. 0113 213 7700&lt;br&gt;Email: <a href="mailto:info@leedsplayhouse.org.uk">info@leedsplayhouse.org.uk</a></td>
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<td>Sat 8 Dec</td>
<td>Northern Ballet’s&lt;br&gt;<strong>The Nutcracker</strong>&lt;br&gt;At Leeds Grand Theatre&lt;br&gt;Saturday 8 December, 2pm&lt;br&gt;Touch tour, 11.30am&lt;br&gt;Tel. 0844 848 2700&lt;br&gt;Email: <a href="mailto:boxoffice@leedsgrandtheatre.com">boxoffice@leedsgrandtheatre.com</a></td>
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<td>Date</td>
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<td>15 Dec</td>
<td>Leeds Playhouse</td>
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<td>9 Jan</td>
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<td>Sun 6 Jan</td>
<td>Leeds Grand Theatre</td>
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<td>9 &amp; 12 Feb</td>
<td>Leeds Playhouse</td>
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<td>Tues 12 Feb</td>
<td>Leeds Playhouse</td>
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<td>Wed 20 Feb</td>
<td>Opera North’s</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sat 16 Mar</td>
<td>Northern Ballet’s</td>
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21 & 30 Mar

Leeds Playhouse
Hamlet
Thursday 21 March, 7pm
Saturday 30 March, 3pm
Tel. 0113 213 7700
Email: info@leedsplayhouse.org.uk

Sat 23 Mar

Leeds Grand Theatre
Benidorm Live
Saturday 23 March, 2.30pm
Tel. 0113 205 3899
Email: accessperformance@leedsgrandtheatre.com
Upcoming Signed performances

Please note, all details subject to possible change. Always let the box office know you are booking for the accessible service so they will notify you if anything changes.

11 & 22 Sept
Leeds Playhouse
Road
Tuesday 11 September, 7.30pm
Saturday 22 September, 3pm
Tel. 0113 213 7700
Email: info@leedsplayhouse.org.uk

Wed 3 Oct
Leeds Playhouse
Salt
Wednesday 3 October, 7.30pm
Tel. 0113 213 7700
Email: info@leedsplayhouse.org.uk

Fri 5 Oct
Leeds Playhouse
Blackthorn
Friday 5 October, 7.30pm
Tel. 0113 213 7700
Email: info@leedsplayhouse.org.uk

Wed 10 Oct
Opera North’s
The Merry Widow
At Leeds Grand Theatre
Wednesday 10 October, 7.30pm
Signer: Paul Whittaker
Tel. 0844 848 2720
Email boxoffice@operanorth.co.uk
16 Oct
3 Nov
Leeds Playhouse
Europe
Tuesday 16 October, 7.30pm
Saturday 3 November, 3pm
Tel. 0113 213 7700
Email: info@leedsplayhouse.org.uk

Thu 29 Nov
Leeds Grand Theatre
Jersey Boys
Thursday 29 November, 7.30pm
Tel. 0113 205 3899
Email: accessperformance@leedsgrandtheatre.com

29 Nov 29 Dec
Leeds Playhouse
A Christmas Carol
Thursday 29 November, 7pm
Saturday 29 December, 2pm
Tel. 0113 213 7700
Email: info@leedsplayhouse.org.uk

Thu 13 Dec
Carriageworks Theatre
Beauty and the Beast
Thursday 13 December, 6.30pm
Signer: Ann Marie Bracchi
Tel. 0113 376 0318
Email: boxoffice@leeds.gov.uk

Thu 20 Dec
Leeds Grand Theatre
Shrek
Thursday 20 December, 7pm
Tel. 0113 205 3899
Email: accessperformance@leedsgrandtheatre.com

Wed 23 Jan
Carriageworks Theatre
Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs
Wednesday 23 January, 7pm
Signer: Ann Marie Bracchi
Tel. 0113 376 0318
Email: boxoffice@leeds.gov.uk
28 Jan
6 Feb
Leeds Playhouse
Kes
Monday 28 January, 7pm
Wednesday 6 February, 7pm
Tel. 0113 213 7700
Email: info@leedsplayhouse.org.uk

Wed 6 Feb
Leeds Playhouse
Random
Wednesday 6 February, 8.45pm
Tel. 0113 213 7700
Email: info@leedsplayhouse.org.uk

Wed 20 Feb
Opera North’s
The Magic Flute
At Leeds Grand Theatre
Wednesday 20 February, 7pm
Signer: Paul Whittaker
Tel. 0844 848 2720
Email: boxoffice@operanorth.co.uk

Sat 23 Feb
Leeds Playhouse
Dinner 8:55
Saturday 23 February, 3pm
Tel. 0113 213 7700
Email: info@leedsplayhouse.org.uk

5, 11 & 23 Mar
Leeds Playhouse
Hamlet
Tuesday 5 March, 7pm
Monday 11 March, 7pm
Saturday 23 March, 3pm
Tel. 0113 213 7700
Email: info@leedsplayhouse.org.uk

Thu 21 Mar
Leeds Grand Theatre
Benidorm Live
Thursday 21 March, 7.30pm
Tel. 0113 205 3899
Email: accessperformance@leedsgrandtheatre.com
Upcoming Captioned performances

Please note, all details subject to possible change. Always let the box office know you are booking for the accessible service so they will notify you if anything changes.

Tue 18 Sep
Leeds Playhouse
Road
Tuesday 18 September, 7.30pm
Tel. 0113 213 7700
Email: info@leedsplayhouse.org.uk

Mon 29 Oct
Leeds Playhouse
Europe
Monday 29 October, 7.30pm
Tel. 0113 213 7700
Email: info@leedsplayhouse.org.uk

Sat 10 Nov
Leeds Playhouse
Partition
Saturday 10 November, 3pm
Tel. 0113 213 7700
Email: info@leedsplayhouse.org.uk

18 Dec 12 Jan
Leeds Playhouse
A Christmas Carol
Tuesday 18 December, 7pm
Saturday 12 January, 2pm
Tel. 0113 213 7700
Email: info@leedsplayhouse.org.uk

26 Jan 1 Mar
Opera North’s
The Magic Flute
At Leeds Grand Theatre
Saturday 26 January, 4pm
Friday 1 March, 7pm
Tel. 0844 848 2720
Email boxoffice@operanorth.co.uk
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<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Contact Details</th>
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<tr>
<td>Sat 16 Feb</td>
<td>Kes</td>
<td>Saturday 16 February, 3pm</td>
<td>Tel. 0113 213 7700, Email: <a href="mailto:info@leedsplayhouse.org.uk">info@leedsplayhouse.org.uk</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Sat 16 Feb</td>
<td>Random</td>
<td>Saturday 16 February, 8.45pm</td>
<td>Tel. 0113 213 7700, Email: <a href="mailto:info@leedsplayhouse.org.uk">info@leedsplayhouse.org.uk</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Fri 15 Mar</td>
<td>Hamlet</td>
<td>Friday 15 March, 7pm</td>
<td>Tel. 0113 213 7700, Email: <a href="mailto:info@leedsplayhouse.org.uk">info@leedsplayhouse.org.uk</a></td>
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Upcoming Relaxed Performances

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2 & 3 Nov
Northern Ballet’s
Puss in Boots
At the Stanley & Audrey Burton Theatre,
Northern Ballet
Friday 2 November, 11am
Saturday 3 November, 11am
Tel. 0113 220 8008
Email: info@northernballet.com

Sun 2 Dec
Leeds Playhouse
A Christmas Carol
Sunday 2 December, 12.30pm
Tel. 0113 213 7700
Email: info@leedsplayhouse.org.uk

6 & 27 Dec
Carriageworks Theatre
Beauty and the Beast
Thursday 6 December, 2pm
Thursday 27 December, 2pm
Tel. 0113 376 0318
Email: boxoffice@leeds.gov.uk

“This is the first time we have arranged a trip to a Relaxed Performance and I have been amazed at the enthusiasm from our parents and children for this event. I am also very pleased with how the Playhouse has responded to our attending and the flexibility on tickets, and the discount.”

Relaxed Performance group booker at Leeds Playhouse
**Upcoming Dementia-Friendly Performances**

*Please note, all details subject to possible change. Always let the box office know you are booking for the accessible service so they will notify you if anything changes.*

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<tr>
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<th>Event</th>
<th>Venue</th>
<th>Details</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sat 8 Dec</td>
<td>A Christmas Carol</td>
<td>Leeds Playhouse</td>
<td>Tel. 0113 213 7700 Email: <a href="mailto:info@leedsplayhouse.org.uk">info@leedsplayhouse.org.uk</a></td>
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Carriageworks Theatre

*Image: Carriageworks Theatre exterior*

Carriageworks Theatre is a modern venue located on Millennium Square programming a wide variety of theatre and comedy for the whole family. We are also the proud home of the Leeds Civic Arts Guild, Carriageworks Theatre Academy for young people and various classes open to the Leeds community.

Carriageworks Theatre has two theatres, the main auditorium with 349 seats and The Studio with 55 - 70 seats.
Accessible toilets: Situated on all levels of the building

Wheelchair spaces: 9 spaces in the Main Auditorium, 8 on level 1 and 1 on level 2. 4 spaces in The Studio

Sound amplification: Induction loop system installed

Access from street to seat: Lift access to all levels of the Main Auditorium and The Studio from either the Millennium Square or Great George Street entrance to the Electric Press. Some seats require a few steps up or down.

Flat route: Lift access to all levels of the Main Auditorium and The Studio from either the Millennium Square or Great George Street entrance to the Electric Press

Guide dogs: Welcome in the auditorium. A bowl of water can be provided on request.
The City Varieties is one of only 4 surviving music halls in the U.K. and the world-famous home of *The Good Old Days*. Recently restored to its former Victorian glory, the music hall presents the very best in modern comedy, music and entertainment as well as the ever popular family pantomime.
**Accessible toilets:** Situated on stalls and circle level

**Wheelchair spaces:** 8 in total. 4 on stalls, 2 on circle and 2 on upper circle

**Sound amplification:** Induction loop system installed. Please ask box office staff when booking for advice on the best seats to use this service.

**Access from street to seat:** Lift access to all three levels of the auditorium from the box office entrance on Swan Street

**Flat route:** Lift access to all three levels of the auditorium from the box office entrance on Swan Street

**Guide dogs:** Welcome in the auditorium.
Leeds Grand Theatre

Leeds Grand Theatre opened in November 1878 with a performance of Shakespeare’s *Much Ado About Nothing* and has continued to entertain audiences ever since. The theatre now offers the very best touring productions, including performances from the National Theatre and our resident companies Opera North and Northern Ballet.
Accessible toilets: Situated on stalls and dress circle level

Wheelchair spaces: 10 in total. 6 on stalls, and 4 on dress circle

Sound amplification: Infra-red system in operation. Headsets are available from foyer for a £5 refundable deposit. Please ask box office staff when booking for advice on the best seats to use this service.

Access from street to seat: 6 steps from street to foyer and then lift access to most of auditorium (excluding upper balcony) from foyer. Some areas of the auditorium do have steep stairs and may not be suitable for people with limited mobility. Please ask box office if you have any concerns

Flat route: Wheelchair lift from box office to foyer and then lift access to most of auditorium (excluding upper balcony) from foyer

Guide dogs: Welcome in the auditorium. A bowl of water can be provided on request
Leeds Playhouse

Image: Map of Leeds Playhouse Pop-Up Theatre and entrance

During our redevelopment in 2018-19 we are transforming one of our workshops here on site to create a unique 350 seat Pop-Up theatre and a home for an ensemble company of actors who will join us for the year. See the map above for how to find us.

We have a range of facilities to meet people’s requirements including level access from Front of House Area to Rows A and B in the Pop-Up theatre, and to the accessible toilets.

Please contact box office on 0113 213 7700 for more information about our facilities during this time.
Northern Ballet is the UK’s leading narrative ballet company. We tour extensively throughout the UK and bring together stunning classical dance, vivid, exciting theatre and live music to create productions based on well-known stories, providing an ideal introduction for first-time ballet visitors.

A number of our main-scale performances are audio described by VocalEyes, enabling visually impaired patrons to enjoy the story of the ballet and the emotion and quality of the movement, accompanied by music played live by the Northern Ballet Sinfonia. Northern Ballet audio describe productions on tour throughout the UK.
Audio described performances are preceded by a free Touch Tour Insight, which introduces elements of the production to aide visually impaired patrons in their understanding of the show. They can hear a description of the scenery, feel the props and costumes and discover the shapes and quality of the movement from the ballet with the aid of Company dancers.

Northern Ballet also has a purpose-built studio theatre in Leeds City Centre, the Stanley & Audrey Burton Theatre, which is fully accessible to those with disabilities. The building has accessible toilet facilities, a hearing loop in the foyer and an infrared hearing system in the studio theatre.

The Stanley & Audrey Burton Theatre

**Accessible toilets:** Situated in the foyer outside the auditorium  
**Wheelchair spaces:** At least 2 spaces in the auditorium  
**Sound amplification:** Hearing loop in foyer. Infrared hearing system in the auditorium  
**Access from street to seat:** Flat access through foyer to auditorium  
**Guide Dogs:** Welcome throughout the building, including the auditorium
Opera North

Opera North is an award-winning national opera company based in Leeds and touring throughout the North of England, inspiring audiences, engaging communities and challenging preconceptions. We produce a busy programme of main stage productions, but also aim to create opportunities for everyone to engage with the arts. Through our work and performances we strive to reflect and engage community life in the North whilst contributing unique, vital and truly original material to the world of opera.

All the theatres we tour to are accessible spaces. For more details on the accessibility of individual theatres, please visit the individual venue websites. In Leeds, we perform in Leeds Grand Theatre (see above), the Howard Assembly Room (see below) and Leeds Town Hall.

All operas sung in a foreign language, and some sung in English, have surtitles displayed on screens each side of the stage - see our website for specific details about each show.

For all our productions, we provide an audio guide for blind and partially-sighted customers describing the set, the costumes, the synopsis and cast list. This is available to listen to on our website from the opening night of each production.
Howard Assembly Room

The Howard Assembly Room is a captivating, inspiring 300-capacity performance venue located inside The Leeds Grand Theatre and managed by Opera North. This beautifully restored venue is loved for its rich and varied programme of music, film, words and performance, and has welcomed world-class musicians, performers and writers including Brad Mehldau, The Unthanks, Dhafer Youssef, The Tallis Scholars and Joanna MacGregor.
Howard Assembly Room, Entrance via Leeds Grand Theatre

Accessible toilets: Situated on the dress circle level of Leeds Grand Theatre (no. 2 in the lift)

Wheelchair spaces: 2 wheelchair spaces in the auditorium. More available on request.

Sound amplification: Induction loop system. Headsets available on request.

Access from street to seat: Wheelchair lift via Leeds Grand Theatre box office from street level to foyer, or 6 steps. Lift access from the foyer to the Howard Assembly Room (no. 3 in the lift) and balcony level (request assistance).
Contact details

Carriageworks Theatre
Box office: 0113 376 0318
Email: boxoffice@leeds.gov.uk
Website: www.carriageworkstheatre.co.uk
Address: Carriageworks Theatre, The Electric Press. 3 Millennium Square, Leeds, LS2 3AD

City Varieties Music Hall
Box office: 0113 243 0808
Administration: 0113 391 7783
Email: boxoffice@cityvarieties.co.uk or learning@cityvarieties.co.uk
Website: www.cityvarieties.co.uk
Address: City Varieties Music Hall, Swan Street, Leeds, LS1 6LW

Leeds Grand Theatre
Box office: 0844 848 2700
Administration: 0113 297 7042
Email: boxoffice@leedsgrandtheatre.com or accessperformance@leedsgrandtheatre.com
Website: www.leedsgrandtheatre.com
Address: Leeds Grand Theatre, 46 New Briggate, Leeds, LS1 6NZ

Leeds Playhouse
Box office: 0113 213 7700. Textphone dial 18001 then 0113 213 7700
Relaxed Performance info: maria.thelwell@leedsplayhouse.org.uk
Email: info@leedsplayhouse.org.uk
Website: http://www.leedsplayhouse.org.uk
Address: Leeds Playhouse, Playhouse Square, Quarry Hill, Leeds, LS2 7UP
Temporary box office address (2018/19): 19 Eastgate, Leeds, LS2 7LY

Northern Ballet
Box office: 0113 220 8008
Administration: 0113 220 8000
Email: info@northernballet.com or learning@northernballet.com
Website: www.northernballet.com
Address: Northern Ballet, Quarry Hill, Leeds, LS2 7PA

Opera North (and Howard Assembly Room)
Box office: 0844 848 2720
Administration: 0113 223 3629
Email: access@operanorth.co.uk
Website: www.operanorth.co.uk
Address: Opera North, 46 New Briggate, Leeds, LS1 6NU
Useful Links

To join the Access Leeds Theatre mailing list please email accessleedstheatre@gmail.com or call Alice Gilmour on 0113 223 3629

For more information on access in theatre please visit: www.sceneandsound.co.uk/

For more information on captioning please visit www.stagetext.org

For more information on audio description please visit:
www.vocaleyes.co.uk
www.see-a-voice.org.uk
www.mindseyedescription.co.uk

Access Partners of Leeds Playhouse are Irwin Mitchell Solicitors:
http://www.irwinmitchell.com/

For accessible theatre in London visit:
http://www.officiallondontheatre.co.uk/access/

For accessible theatre in Scotland visit:
http://www.scottishtheatres.com/accessguide.php

To view our privacy policy, please click here.