

# mercury theatre colchester

## Main House Technical Specification & Production Pack

Updated February 2019

The information contained in this pack is subject to change and should be used in consultation with the theatre's Technical and Production departments.

**Colchester Mercury Theatre Limited** Balkerne Gate Colchester Essex CO1 1PT

Telephone (01206) 577006 Box Office (01206) 573948 Fax (01206) 769607

e-mail [info@mercurytheatre.co.uk](mailto:info@mercurytheatre.co.uk) web [www.mercurytheatre.co.uk](http://www.mercurytheatre.co.uk)

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**Artistic Director** Daniel Buckroyd  
Registered in England no. 441035

**Executive Director** Steve Mannix  
Registered office as above

VAT no. 205 4029 49

Charity registration no. 232387

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# Welcome!

Welcome to the Mercury Theatre, we look forward to hosting you and your production and hope that we can make it as enjoyable and as smooth as possible.

Please read through the following production pack and do not hesitate to get in touch with any members of the Production department should you have any queries. On our technical page you will find DWG plans of the Main House, DWG files of the studio will follow soon. You can also find a copy of the Mercury theatre Health and Safety policy, please read ensure the visiting company manager has read this prior to their arrival.

We do ask that you send your own technical requirements to the theatre at least six weeks in advance of your arrival, our Technical Manager will then have the opportunity to discuss with you anything that might arise from this and we can work with you to ensure we maintain the highest production standards.

Due to the difficult access for articulated vehicles we ask that you specify clearly in your technical rider what vehicles you will be bringing, and all arrival times. Any articulated vehicle requires our technical team to assist in the reversing of the vehicle to our building and for drivers that have not visited us before, this can take up to an hour (experience dependant) due to traffic and the narrow street. We normally average 20 minutes to park articulated vehicles.

You will find a kit list of all our sound and lighting equipment in this pack, if you would like to use equipment not covered by this list please contact us. We can also arrange to hire additional equipment on your behalf at competitive rates.

There are some facilities and equipment that will be subject to an additional charge to cover ongoing maintenance/running costs or additional staffing. Please contact the Technical Manager to discuss the recharges that might be payable for your production or event.

We hope you find everything you need and we look forward to hosting you soon.

Many thanks

**Mercury Theatre Production Department.**

# Contacts

## Theatre Address

Mercury Theatre  
Balkerne Gate  
Colchester  
Essex  
CO1 1PT

To access the theatre using SatNav, use the postcode CO1 1NF

## Production and Technical Staff

Head of Construction – Phil Attwater

[phil.attwater@mercurytheatre.co.uk](mailto:phil.attwater@mercurytheatre.co.uk)

01206 245 473

Deputy Production Manager (Technical) – Ben Wills

[ben.wills@mercurytheatre.co.uk](mailto:ben.wills@mercurytheatre.co.uk)

01206 245 511

Technical Department – [technical.admin@mercurytheatre.co.uk](mailto:technical.admin@mercurytheatre.co.uk)

Deputy Technical Manger – Kiaran Kesby

Senior Technician (Sound) – Dominic Beale

Senior Technician P/T (Stage) Roger Mills Lewis

Technicians – Kate Cirne, Jim Bonner

Junior Technician – Darryl Ward

Technical Apprentice – Woody Whymark

Stage Management Department – [sm@mercurytheatre.co.uk](mailto:sm@mercurytheatre.co.uk)

Stage Manager P/T – Rebecca Raggett - [rebecca.raggett@mercurytheatre.co.uk](mailto:rebecca.raggett@mercurytheatre.co.uk)

Deputy Stage Manager – Emilie Leger

Assistant Stage Manager – Becky Larter

Assistant Stage Manager – Esther Patchick Malkinson

## Workshop

Workshop Assistant – Harriet Wheatley

## Wardrobe

Wardrobe Manager – Corinna Vincent

[corinna.vincent@mercurytheatre.co.uk](mailto:corinna.vincent@mercurytheatre.co.uk)

01206 245 506

Assistant Wardrobe Manager - Chantelle Cox

# General Information

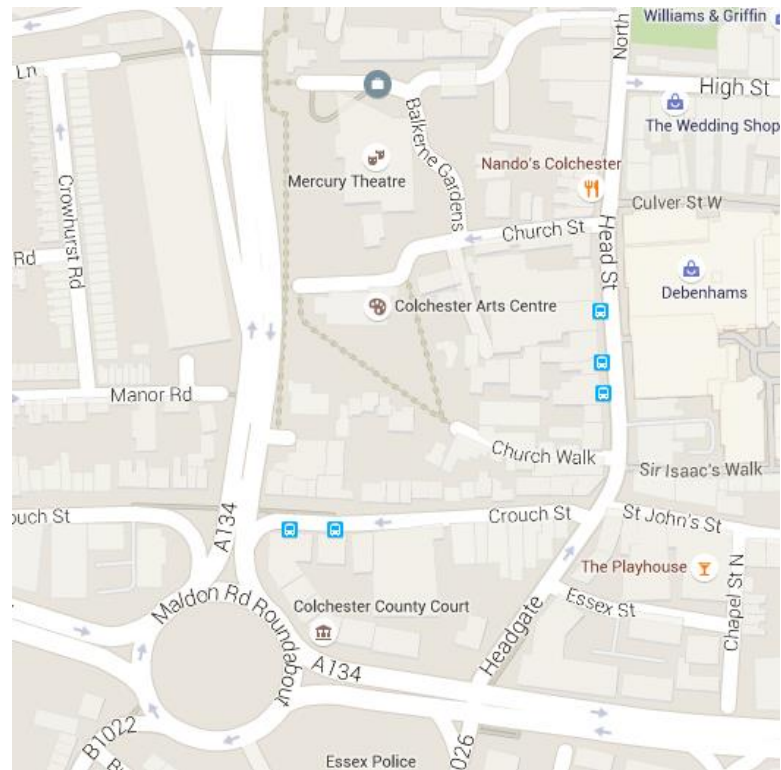
The Mercury Theatre is situated in the heart of Colchester, built in 1972, The Mercury Theatre is East Anglia's most active producing theatre with productions throughout our seasons that are produced in-house under our "Made in Colchester" brand. We have two performance spaces, our main house and our studio space that host a wide variety of performances and events

## How to find us

### Driving

The Mercury is only a 5-minute walk from Colchester Town Centre with great local bus links and is within walking distance of both Colchester North and Colchester Town station.

The nearest car park to the theatre is St Mary's Car Park (CO3 3AA). For customers parking in St Mary's we offer £1.50 car parking (for both evening and matinee performances). Please note there are no longer entrance and exit barriers at the car park. Please note you will need to buy your discounted parking voucher in advance and it must be displayed in your windscreen when parking. Please allow plenty of time to find a space as car parks do get busy at peak times. If St Mary's car park is full you may also park in Middleborough car park with a pre-paid voucher from the theatre.



### Train

We are only an hour from Liverpool Street railway station by train. There are trains every hour to and from London. Walking from the station takes around 20 minutes

### Taxis

PDQ Cars 01206 540 540

Five Sevens 01206 577 777

### Bus

Our closest bus stop is on Head Street (outside the Odeon / Nando's) – postcode: CO1 1NH.

## Access

Access to the theatre for vehicles is a left turn from Head Street into Church Street, a very narrow street with shops and bars either side. Please inform us within your technical rider what size vehicle you are bringing as we are required to marshal any vehicle larger than a long wheelbase van to ensure the safety of pedestrians, buildings, and of course your incoming production. If you are touring an articulated lorry this requires four members of Mercury Theatre staff to ensure the safety of all involved, and is mandatory for all articulated lorry deliveries and collections. Please make sure that you consider this when scheduling your crew call for get ins/outs. Due to the narrow streets and the difficulties around our access it can take up to an hour to park an articulated vehicle, again please allow this time in your scheduling. Any concerns regarding this then please do not hesitate to get in touch with our Technical Manager.

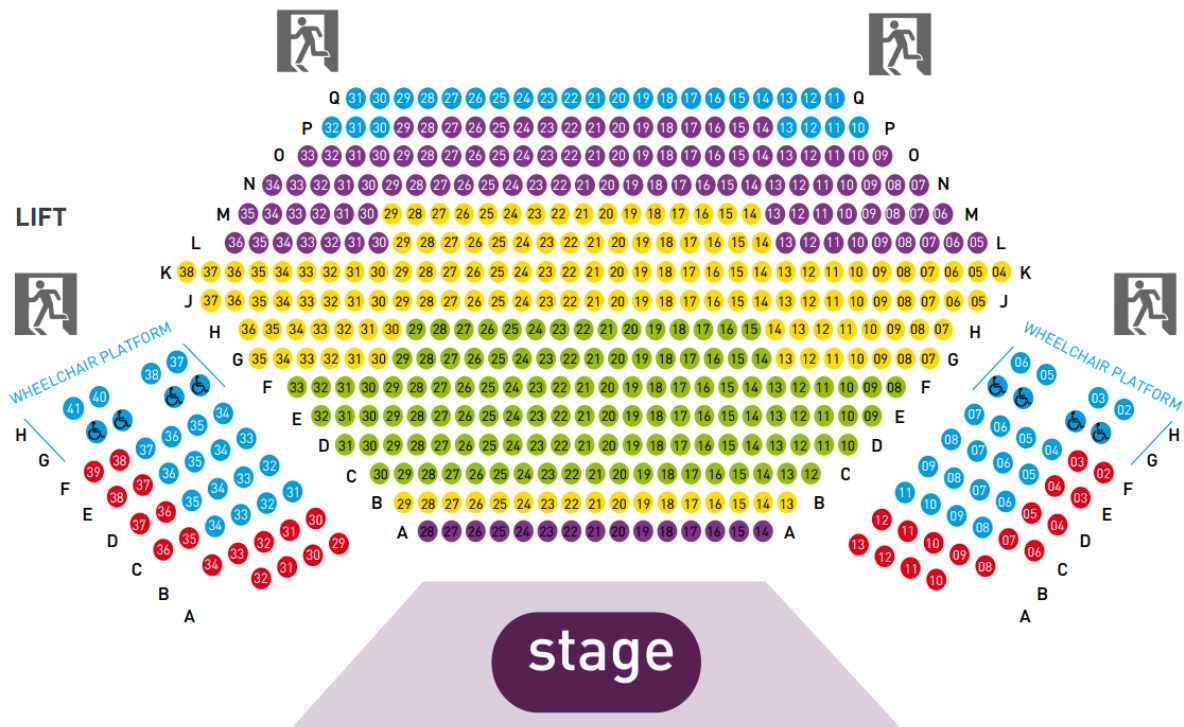
## Parking

Due to on-going building works, we can only allow one vehicle to park on site. If there are more than one vehicle, you are able to purchase a ticket from box office to park in St Mary's car park (2 minute walk from the theatre). Any questions please refer them to the technical department. Other vehicles may pick up and drop off but should make alternative arrangements for parking, please see our [How to Find Us](#) section for more details.

# Main House

## Auditorium Information

Our Main House auditorium has a maximum capacity of 489 seats, over a single tier raked auditorium. Either side of our auditorium we have our slip position seats, please discuss any sight-line issues you may feel we will encounter due to these seats.



If you require a sound desk in the auditorium this will take up seats P17-24 (inc) and Q17-24(inc).

The use of a sound desk in the auditorium should be discussed with our Producers at the contract stage but also made very clear when you send through your technical rider. Any rider where it is not expressly mentioned that a sound desk is required in the auditorium will have the seats put on general sale for audience members.

## Prompt Desk, Comms, and Show Relay

Prompt Desk is located DSL, and cannot be moved. From here you can make backstage calls, FOH announcements and operate bar bells.

There are fourteen Cue-Light channels operated from the Prompt Desk and there are positions all around the stage on our facilities panels to run Cue Lights from.

Our Prompt Desk has HD colour and Infra-Red cameras.

HD colour video feeds of the stage are in the following positions permanently and cannot be moved:

- MSL Wing
- DSR Wing
- Pit
- Control Room (Infra-Red also)
- Fly Floor, at both ends
- Green Room
- Bar

Audio show relay is in all dressing rooms and the Green Room. We do have facility to project the main house video feed in the studio with sound as well.

We do not have wireless Comms, however we have Comms positions available for use at each facility panel around the stage. Should you require Comms please include this in your technical rider.

# Stage Dimensions

Depth: 12.1 metres with pit covered  
10.6 metres with pit open

Width: 7.0 metres with pit covered  
8.84 metres with pit open, measurement is taken 1.5metres upstage

At 4.45 metres from downstage edge:12.3 metres (widest point of stage)

At 10.55 metres from downstage edge 5.2 metres (narrowest point of stage US)

Prosc. Width Open stage.

Distance between DS masking flats 10.7 metres.

Prosc. Height 5.732 metres

Wing space SL 3.00 metres Dependant on masking

Wing space SR 1.00 metres Dependant on masking.

Pit Orchestra pit for up to 10 musicians. The first 1.5 metres of the stage floor consists of removable panels to open up the pit. Rostra are available. Please discuss use of the Orchestra Pit with the Technical Manager.

Rake None

Crossover Upstage, No off stage route.

## Flying

Grid Height	13300mm
No. of C/W Bars	14 Double purchase bars
Max weight limit	225Kg
House Tabs	Navy blue house tabs. Please note lanterns cannot be rigged on bridge 1 if in use.

Please note due to the design of the stage. Each C/W bar are at different lengths.

C/W No.	Bar Length	SWL
FOH Tabs	8315	-
1	8340mm	225Kg
2	8950mm	225Kg
3	9760mm	225Kg
4	10480mm	225Kg
5	11160mm	225Kg
6	10490mm	225Kg
7	9800mm	225Kg
8	9100mm	225Kg
9	8430mm	225Kg
10	7750mm	225Kg
11	7050mm	225Kg
12	6360mm	225Kg
13	5680mm	225Kg
14	5000mm	225Kg



# Lighting

## Control

ETC Gio Lighting Desk (4096 outputs)

-With touch-screen monitors, accessories and wireless network access.

ETC Ion Lighting Desk (1024 outputs)

- Used as tracking backup.

ETC fader wing, 2x10 – Please note this may be being used in our studio space, please make it clear in your technical specification if you require this item.

Three universes of DMX distribution

Universe 1: Dimmers, Houselights and Independents.

Universe 2: Distributed for moving lights and effects over stage.

Universe 3: Distributed for moving lights and effects at stage level and auditorium.

Further universes may be achieved, however should you require this, it should be discussed in advance with the Technical Manager.

## Power

Power Supplies 63A 3ø supplies located DSL and DSR.

13A sockets throughout theatre including dedicated sound supply.

Distro 63A 3ø to 18 ways at 16A 1ø distro. Permanently located on SR at fly floor level and fed from DSR 63a 3ø supply.

63A 3ø to 3 ways of 63a 1ø distro. X1 63a to 32a Jumper Available. If additional power convertors are required, please organise with the technical manager prior to arrival.

Power Phases Yellow Phase – SR Patch Floor & Pitt  
Blue Phase – SL Fly Floor & Stage  
Red Phase – Bridge 1,2,3 & Towers Auditorium L & R

Cabling 13A extensions  
15/16A TRS cable  
32A 1ø Cable (limited stock)  
Socapex cable and spiders.  
Selection of IWBs with Socapex connections.  
Selection of jump cables and 15A/16A splitters.

All of our lanterns, IWB's, patch panels, socapex spiders etc are all on 15a. Should you be touring 16a dimmable fixtures please ensure you provide enough 15a-16a converters for your rig.

If you require use of our 63A 3-phase supplies or our distro please notify us at least six weeks in advance to help us make sure we can accommodate your needs.

## **Dimming**

Strand LD90 - 180 ways at 2.5kw per circuit (15a sockets/Socapex)  
4 ways at 5kw per circuit (32a Ceeform or 4 x 15a per circuit)  
15 ways of Independent non-dim channels (15a sockets)

## **Main House Lantern Stock**

### Profiles

4 Selecon 5.5/13 1000w Pacific (M size)  
34 Selecon 12/28 800w Pacific (M size)  
24 Selecon 23/50 800w Pacific (B size)

### PARs

60 Par64 CP62 Black (CP60/61 on request in advance, CP62 fitted as standard)  
6 Par56 (short/black)  
6 Par56 (short/chrome)

### Fresnels and PCs

4 Assorted 500w Fresnel/PCs (without barn doors)  
20 Cantata F (1KW)  
6 Patt743 (1KW)  
3 Cadenza F (2KW)

### Other generic lanterns

14 Iris1 (1KW)  
6 Nocturne (1KW)  
- Various 230v P16 birdies (Available on request)  
- Various 12v P16 birdies (Available on request)

### Followspots

2 Robert Juliat Victor 1800w (Use may be recharged)

## Intelligent Lighting and Effects

These items are subject to availability and may be recharged.

- 6 LED PAR (used as working lights)
- 10 LED 1m Battens.
- Various LED strip and DMX controllers. (Available on request in advance and do incur charge)
- 2 Look Solutions Unique 2.1 Haze machines (Request in advance and do incur charge)
- 2 Look Solutions Vipers Smoke machines (Request in advance and do incur charge)
- 1 Pea Souper Mini Fogger (Request in advance and do incur charge)
- 2 Look Solutions Tiny CX Smoke machines (Request in advance and do incur charge)

## Accessories

- 34 Selecon 12/28 Top Hats
- 24 Selecon 23/50 Top Hats
- 35 500mm De-rigs
- 9 Wheel based Tank Traps
- 17 B-Size Gobo Holders
- 20 M-Size Gobo Holders
- 10 Iris's

## Notes about Lighting

If you would like to use equipment not covered by this list, please contact us as we do have a stock of miscellaneous lighting equipment. We can also arrange hire equipment at competitive rates.

Please note there are times when some of the equipment listed here is unavailable for use. Please contact us with your requirements 6 weeks in advance of your visit so we can do our best to ensure the equipment you wish to use is available.

Please check our side elevation as all three of our FOH bridges have limits to their coverage of the stage. The lighting towers in the auditorium have a minimum rigging height due to proximity to audience members. 'Tower 3' (the furthest from the stage) has additional restrictions due to our wheelchair positions which are not shown on our current plans. If you would like details or advice, please contact us.

A permanent ladder position for stage booms is provided behind the proscenium. flats DSL and DSR.

Lanterns rigged on FOH Bridge 1 or Counterweight Bar 1 obstruct the line of our House Tabs, preventing their use. Where shows are overplaying or during 'one-nighter' weeks, it may not always be possible to offer house tabs due to lanterns rigged for the other shows.

We have facility panels throughout the theatre providing outlets for dimmable channels, independent channels, DMX, effects, working lights, 13A power, cans and cue lights.

# Sound

## General Information

For shows that require sound operation in the auditorium please ensure you inform the Technical Manager at least six weeks in advance of your visit in order that the required seats are not sold. Our line arrays are very powerful and designed to fill the space whether it be for a presentation talk, a play, or a full band. Please discuss your requirements with the Technical Manager or Sound Technicians if you have any further questions. We do advise that for performances that tour their own system you check our system first before unloading yours from your vehicle as we may save you time and lifting!

## Permanently Installed System:

*Left & Right* - Meyer M1D Array (5 units per side)  
*Front Fills* - Meyer UPM1 (5 units in total, in mono)  
*Subs* - USW1P sub speakers (2 units in total, in mono)  
*Rears* - Community CSX35 (2 units in total)

## Control:

1 Yamaha M7CL-48  
1 Yamaha O1V96i  
1 Yamaha TF5  
2 Yamaha MY-16 AT Dual ADAT I/P card  
1 Yamaha MY-AE 8 way analogue I/P card (with 8 way O/P loom)  
1 Allen and Heath ZED-16FX Mixer

## Additional Speakers

These items are subject to availability and may be recharged  
4 EV SX200 (2 with flying frames)  
6 Tannoy V8 (6 with flying frames)  
8 JBL Control 1 (8 with hanging brackets)  
4 Community SLS915 (3 with flying frames)

## Amps

4 Carver PM700 (8 channels in total)  
3 Crest V650 (6 channels in total)  
2 Samson Servo 300 (4 channels in total)

## Playback

*These items are subject to availability and may be recharged*

1 MacBook Pro with Qlab v3  
1 MacMini with Qlab v3 (Complete with tracking back up)  
2 M-Audio Profire 2626  
CD Playback

## Tie-Lines

*XLR Tie lines around stage and in the pit, fully-patchable to desk input looms at control room or FOH mixing positions.  
Patchable Speakon tie lines to facility panels around the theatre for foldback or effect speakers.*

## Microphones

*These items are subject to availability and may be recharged*

2 Shure SM58  
2 Shure SM58 Beta3  
1 Shure SM571  
1 Shure SM57 Beta3  
1 Shure 55SH  
5 AKG SE300B (AKG CK92 Capsules)  
1 AKG CK91  
3 AKG C451EB  
3 AKG CK98 (Rifle/Shotgun Capsule)  
2 AKG Perception 170  
3 AKG CK8 (Rifle/Shotgun Capsule)  
3 Audio Technica AT Pro 44  
1 LD Systems D1011  
2 Dynamic Switch Microphones  
1 Sennheiser E602  
1 Shure PG52 (Kick)  
3 Shure PG56 (Snare/Tom)  
2 Shure PG81 (Overheads)

## Radio Mics

*These items are subject to availability and hire charges*

20 Sennheiser EW300 G3 Receivers  
20 Sennheiser EW300 G3 Beltpack Transmitter (Lemo)  
2 Sennheiser EW300 G3 Handheld Transmitter

*Unless otherwise agreed in contract any requirements above four G3 microphones will be hired to you at the rate agreed with the Technical Manager in advance. Riders should be sent at least six weeks before visiting and this can be discussed at this stage.*

*We carry a selection of miniature and headset mics for use with Beltpacks. Please contact us to confirm what is available.*

*We carry a selection of DI boxes and mic stands, please ask for details.*

## Audio/Visual

Projection equipment is subject to availability and hire charges. Please ensure the Technical Manager has your requirements to ensure the equipment is available for your use.

### Projector:

Epson EMP-8300 Video/Data Projector available for hire with selection of lenses and remote shutter. VGA or composite video inputs. Please contact the Technical Department to discuss your projection requirements.

Please ensure that if you are bringing an Apple product you supply the correct adapter to use VGA

### Screen

14' x 10' Fast-fold screen. Can be flown or freestanding with Front or Rear Projection surface.

### Video Playback

DVD players, Mac and Windows based computer systems available to hire. Please contact the Technical Department to discuss your requirements.

### CCTV Cameras and Monitors

A HD colour and Infra-Red cameras are permanently installed at rear of auditorium provides a stage relay feed to the prompt desk, fly floor and green room.

Additional CCTV cameras and monitors may be available for hire. This includes two 32" LCD monitors that are permanently installed in the auditorium facing the stage.

A DVD recording can be made from our Colour Camera feed, to be agreed in advance.

### Video Distribution

Additional video equipment is subject to availability and recharges

Patchable video tie-lines (BNC) throughout the theatre.

BNC Video splitter.

VGA and Composite Video Cabling and adaptors.

## Dressing Rooms

Dressing Room 1 (ground floor) 3.9m x 2m 3 people

Dressing Room 2 (first floor) 3.9m x 2m 3 people

Dressing Room 3 (first floor) 3.9m x 2m 3 people

Dressing Room 4 (first floor) 3.8m x 4.5m 6 people

Dressing Room 5 (first floor) 5m x 3.2m 7 people

Dressing Room 6 (first floor) 3.2m x 2.3m 4 people

Please note, only dressing room 1 has direct level access to the stage.

On some occasions Dressing Room 1 is unavailable due to studio events. There may be times when not all dressing rooms are available (e.g. when shows are overplaying).

If you require more space than above additional rooms may be available for hire.

Access The stage area, green room and Dressing Room 1 are all at the same level. A lift FOH provides access to the other dressing rooms, the foyer and bar.

Male and Female accessible toilets are available backstage.

If your company has specific access requirements please contact the technical department in advance and we will do all we can to make sure they're accommodated.

Shower Facilities Accessible showers are provided in both the male and female toilets on the ground floor backstage.

## Wardrobe Facilities

Washing machine, dryer and Pro press steam iron available by prior arrangement.

## Internet Access

There is wireless internet access available in the auditorium and backstage areas. For login details please check signage backstage or speak to one of the Technical Services department on arrival.

We do not have a dedicated company office, but on request can arrange use of our computer network for internet and printing.

## Mercury Rising

We are currently in the process of a redevelopment project across the whole venue, and as such parts of the building are under construction at various times. Our parking and load in has been restricted slightly due to this but we still have full access for get-ins. However, at this busy time we ask that companies are communicative with their requirements for vehicles and parking as well as access times. It is crucial we know accurate arrival times, quantity of vehicles, and size of vehicles that are arriving in order to provide you with accurate information. Parking is strictly limited to one large vehicle, or two small vehicles. Eg One Van/Truck, or two cars. There is a multi-story car park five minutes' walk away, St Mary's, and is easily accessible from the Theatre.

We assure you that all building works have been planned with the Theatre Production schedule in mind, and there will be no impact to the performances, or to any rehearsals. Your performance is our priority, and we want you to have the best experience possible, in order to provide an equally brilliant experience to our audience.

If you have any concerns or questions please don't hesitate to get in touch with Ben Wills, Deputy Production Manager.