

MERCURY



Written by Andrew Pollard
Directed by Donnacadh O'Briain

Relaxed Performance
Mercury Theatre

Welcome to Mercury Theatre Colchester.

This visual story is designed for visitors to the Relaxed Performance of **Beauty and the Beast**.

This visual story contains photos and information about the performance and the Mercury Theatre spaces to help prepare you for your visit.

Where is the show?

The play is being performed at the Mercury Theatre in Colchester.



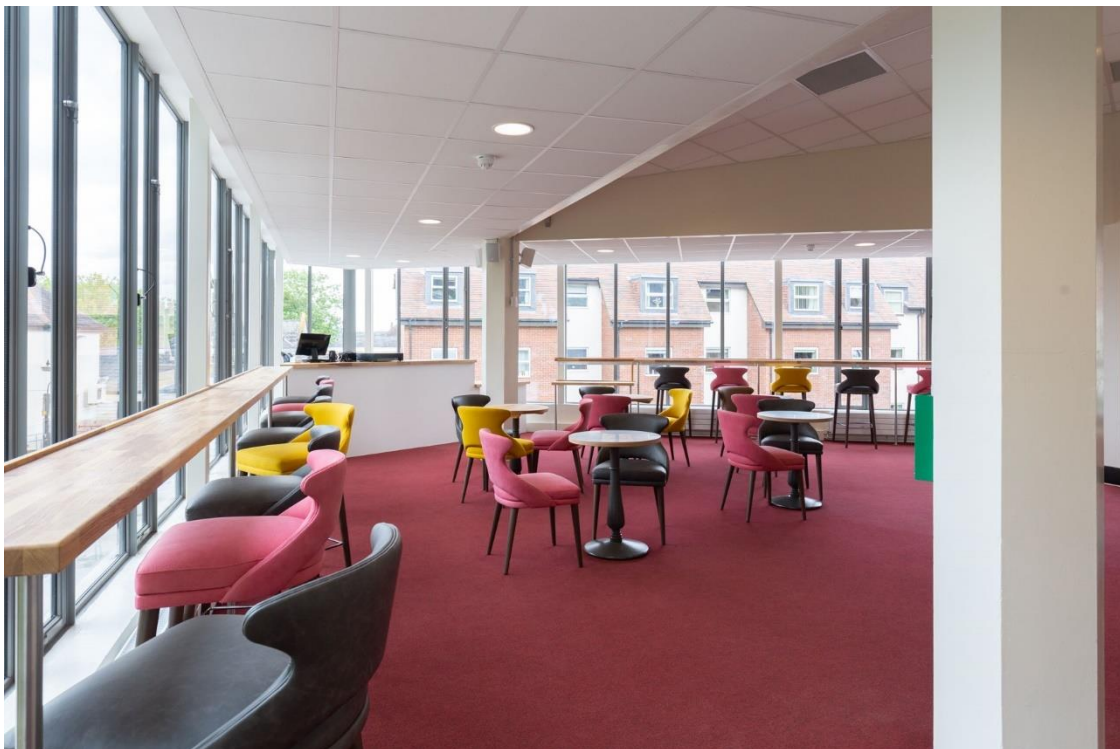
When you enter the theatre, you will be able to see our Box Office desk. This is where you can collect your tickets, buy snacks and your programme. It can sometimes be busy at this desk, especially before a performance starts.



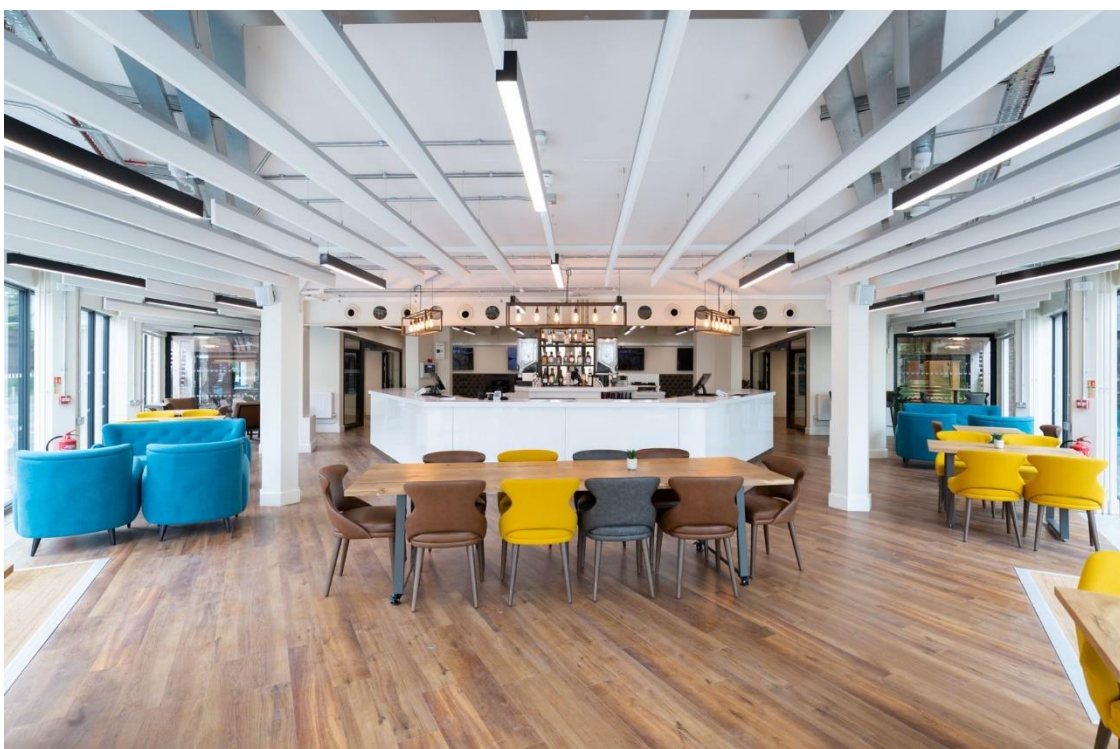
The upstairs bar will be open throughout the show and will be one of our two break out spaces. There is a TV located in the space which will be live streaming the show in case you need to leave the auditorium for a bit!

The bar will not be in use and any drinks or snacks will need to be bought downstairs in the main café bar instead. There is also a new accessible toilet in the upstairs bar area.

Upstairs Bar



Downstairs Café Bar



Our second break out space is the Creative Engagement Space – you will not be able to watch the show in this space but and there will be cushions, mood pillows and other items to play and interact with in here on the day!



The main toilets can be located on the ground floor, with the female located just outside the box office and the male and accessible toilet the other side of the café bar. If you have any issues finding these, please alert a member of our Customer Experience team who will be wearing Mercury branded t-shirts.

The show will be taking place in the theatre and you will sit in the auditorium – there are 530 seats in total.



The actors and the characters they play



Belle is played by **Alexandra Barredo**

Toadstool/Male Understudy is played by **Nick Brittain**





Prince Friedrich/Beast is played by **Daniel Jagusz-Holley**

Cupid is played by **Sasha Latoya**





Spite is played by **Jaimie Pruden**

Hemlock/Female Understudy/Dance Captain/Edith Pilaf is played by **Shelby Speed**





Betty Bon Bon is played by **Antony Stuart-Hicks**

Almondé is played by **Dale Superville**



The rest of the cast is made up of our junior chorus who take part in various scenes during the show.

The performance is accompanied by live musicians that sit underneath the front of the stage. The band is led by Paul Herbert, the Musical Director. The band includes piano, drums, percussion, bass guitar and a keyboard.

What happens during Beauty and the Beast?

The performance is split into two halves. The first half, Act One, lasts around 1 hour 15 minutes. Act Two lasts approximately 1 hour.

After the first half there is a break called the interval which lasts around 20 minutes. During this time, you can leave the auditorium if you would like to or you can stay in your seat.

You can leave your seat at any time during the performance as well if you need to.

The Story

We have highlighted any sections which we think you should be aware of in case you are sensitive to particular stimuli or just because we think you should be aware of a particular moment before you see it live on stage.

Some of the props/sounds and lighting effects in the pages below will be played or bought on stage in the pre-show talk. Pre-show talks occur during Relaxed Performances of Beauty and the Beast at the usual start time of the show.

There will be some tweaks to lighting and sound for the Relaxed Performance and other non-pivotal moments of the show.

Please note that where possible we have tried to leave some unexpected elements from the show out of the following pages.

However, there are various pictures and text explanations which reveal some surprises.

 = Visual stimulus

 = Sound stimulus

Throughout the show various characters in the show will ask the audience to help and speak to them and you can answer if you want to!

Act 1

Scene One – The Town Square of Colchesterre



At the beginning of the show, Cupid appears on stage. Cupid sings and speaks in French before realising that the audience speak English. Once she realises she speaks in English and does so for the rest of the show.




Cupid has a bow throughout the show. Although Cupid pretends to use arrows, no real arrows are actually used.





The junior chorus walk down the stairs through the auditorium and onto the stage.



Edith Pilaf begins to sing. As she begins to sing, a crackle of thunder is heard and a storm begins as we meet the villain of the show, Spite.


 Spite turns Fredriche into a Beast and we see his transformation onstage. The Beast has horns and when he comes on stage later in the show, he is much taller through the use of stilts.


 Almondé comes onstage and when he says ‘Oui Oui’, you can shout ‘poo poo’ back at him!

 Almondé brings out a water gun (referred to as a super-speedy-soda-squirter) on to the stage but in the relaxed performance he does not spray the audience. In all other performances, he sprays the water gun on to the first few rows of the audience.


Scene Two – Inside the Sweet Shop




 During the scene Almondé sits in a chair and there is a loud ticking noise which is used to represent a clock ticking down. Almondé answers as many questions as he can before the timer runs out.

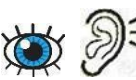
 When Cupid and Almondé try out Almondé’s creations, they both try an invisible gobstopper. Their mouths appear bigger and this is done by both characters using mouth guards.

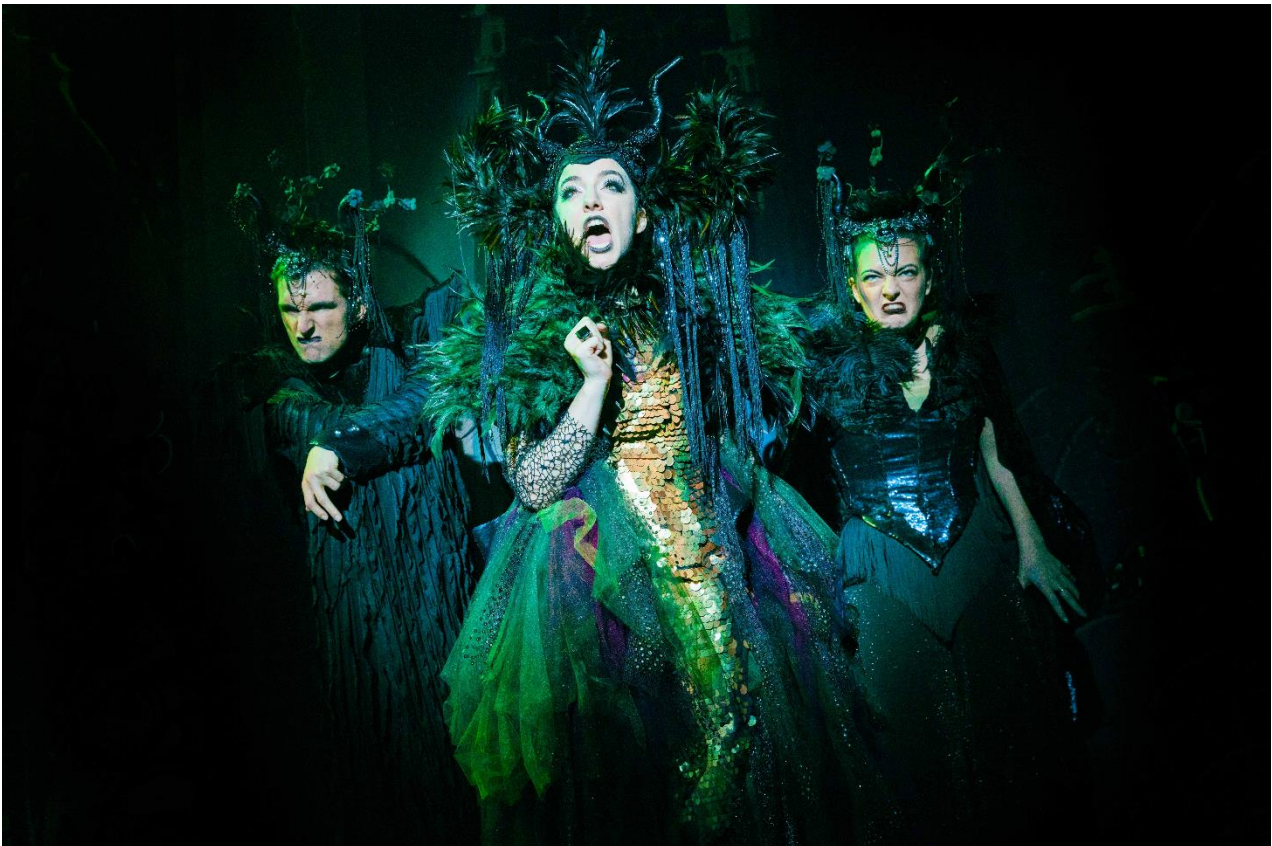
Scene Three – Map

 A cloth is seen on stage with various locations drawn on it. A light will move from location to location to represent the characters travelling across the map.

Scene Four – The Palace Gates


 Betty Bon Bon, Belle and Almondé walk offstage and after Betty Bon Bon has said “Don’t remember seeing this place on Booking.com!” storm sound effects return as Spite enters.


 During the song ‘Oughta Know’ which is sung by Spite, Toadstool and Hemlock who are dressed in dark outfits. At the end of the song there is a loud crack of thunder.





Scene Five – The Haunted Bedroom




 Almondé appears onstage with a candle; once he blows the candle out, it disappears and ends up in Betty's hand.

 Once Betty and Almondé get into bed, Almondé reads Liz Truss's autobiography. Once he puts down the book and attempts to go to sleep, a ghost appears at the window.

 A Woofnpoo (a long brightly coloured furry snake) appears on stage and moves across the walls. Almondé and Betty will ask the audience to let them know if they see one. If you see a Woofnpoo you can shout too!


 After Almondé sits down on a chair, he sees a ghost in the mirror and screams.

 Betty gets in bed believing Almondé is next to her, however, under the covers is a ghost. Almondé exits the wardrobe with a balloon and another ghost enters stage.

Giant puppet hands then appear from above the bedroom wall.




Scene Seven – The Palace Hallway

 After Almondé picks a rose, the Beast appears on stage.



Scene Eight – The Forest

 During this scene there are mummies and ghosts on stage. The image below shows the junior chorus in their mummy costumes.



END OF ACT ONE

Act 2

Scene One – The Palace Gardens



At the end of Belle and Beast's 'Romantic Montage' and just after they sing 'As It Was', Spite arrives on stage to loud storm sound effects.



Scene Eight – The Palace Ballroom



Because of Spite's spell, the Beast is slowly dying just as the last petal falls and the Beast dies. A cloth is then placed on the Beast and Belle confesses her love for him.

Dramatic music begins as the cloth rises in the air and vanishes. Prince Friedrich appears in the Auditorium and walks down and onto the stage. The Beast has transformed back into the Prince.

Scene Nine – Map



Betty and Almondé sing ‘Sweet Caroline’ and ask the audience to join in. The lyrics are below for you to use to sing along if you want to.

SWEET CAROLINE

Hands, touching hands
Reaching out, touching me, touching you...
Sweet Caroline
Ba-Ba-Ba!
Good times never seemed so good
Sweet Caroline
Ba-Ba-Ba!
I believe they never could
Oh! Sweet Caroline!

END OF ACT TWO

If you would like a shoutout, or you or someone you are coming with is celebrating a birthday, please go to https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSd-PjuSWnOiS_AQNi5wM_-FBPW-SuxQ6-C4qfnnFOHRObNggQ/viewform to fill out the form.

Because we receive so many requests, we cannot guarantee that your shoutout/birthday will be mentioned on stage.

We hope you enjoyed your time at the Mercury Theatre!

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to;

Call us: **01206 577006** and ask to speak to our
Creative Engagement team

Email us: taking.part@mercurytheatre.co.uk