

MERCURY



Written by William Shakespeare
Directed by Ryan McBryde

Relaxed Performance
Mercury Theatre

Welcome to Mercury Theatre Colchester.

This visual story is designed for visitors to the Relaxed Performance of **The Comedy of Errors**

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.



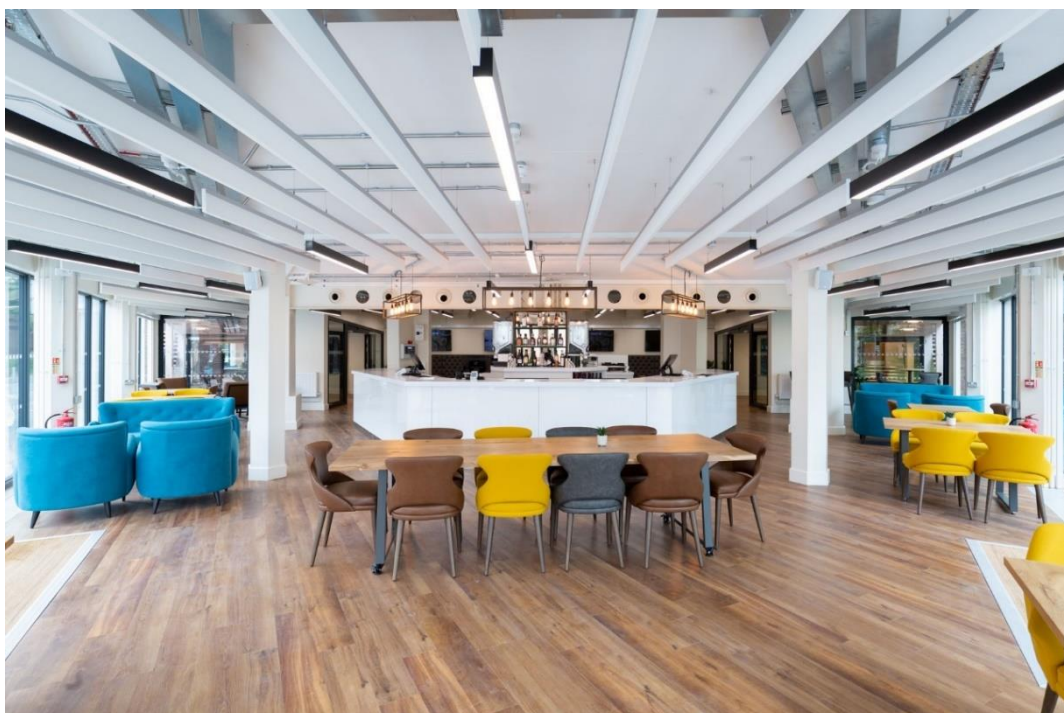
The upstairs bar will be open throughout the show and will be one of our two break out spaces. There is a TV located in the space which will be live streaming the show so you can still watch, even if you need to leave the auditorium for a bit. There is also an accessible toilet located in the upstairs bar area.

The upstairs bar will not be in use for the relaxed performance so any drinks or snacks will need to be bought downstairs in the main café bar instead.

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 you can get away from it all for a bit. 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 ask 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 now 530 seats in total.



The actors and the characters they play

Many actors in The Comedy of Errors play multiple characters. We have listed all of the characters played by the actors below.

The cast will be introduced in the pre-show talk as part of the Relaxed Performance.



Antipholus of Ephesus is played by **Mike Slader**



Antipholus of Syracuse is played by **Daniel Burke**



Dromio of Ephesus is played by **Nichole Bird**

Dromio of Syracuse is played by **Danielle Bird**





Adriana and Balthazar are played by **Rosalind Ford**



Luciana, Nestor and Officer are played by **Lucy Keirl**



Egeon, Angelo and Dr Pinch
are played by **Michael Lambourne**



Duke Solinus and Calypso are played by **Aaliyah Zhané**

Emilia and Nell are played by **Jess Dives**



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

Some of the cast also play instruments throughout the show and the Musical Director, Jess Dives, who also plays the characters of Emilia and Nell in the show.

The instruments in the show include drums, trumpet, saxophone, double bass, clarinet, keyboard, accordion, ukulele, acoustic guitar and other percussion instruments.

What happens during Comedy of Errors?

The performance is split into two halves. The first half, Act One, lasts around 1 hour. Act Two lasts approximately 50 minutes.

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 brought on stage in the pre-show talk. Pre-show talks occur during Relaxed Performances of The Comedy of Errors at the usual start time of the show.

 = Visual stimulus

 = Sound stimulus

Act 1



As part of the opening, the drums are played in the upstairs band area. The drums are loud to begin with but the volume decreases and the drums are played a low level throughout the show.



The Comedy of Errors central plot is about two sets of twins, Antipholos and Dromio.


While sailing home to Syracuse, the family are shipwrecked in a violent storm. Egeon, their father, manages to save only one of the Antipholus and one of the Dromio babies and takes them home to Syracuse.

He has not seen the rest of his family since.


Antipholos of Syracuse and Dromio of Syracuse visit Hotel Ephesus where they unknowingly meet their twins, Antipholos of Ephesus and Dromio of Ephesus.

Both Dromio's are played by Nichole and Danielle Bird who are real life twins.




 While Egeon explains the story of his children, strobe lighting is used at the back of the stage. Egeon explains the violent storm and the strobe lighting is used to this effect.




 Slapstick is used throughout the play as part of the comedy of the piece.

END OF ACT ONE

Act 2

 Dr Pinch brings a box onstage – when it opens smoke exits and the box is also used as a trap door later in the scene where characters emerge as part of a chase scene.

 During the chase sequence multiple characters run through up the auditorium steps next to the audience, go through the back of the auditorium and come back through and down the stairs. They do not interact with the audience or run through aisles.

If you are attending a performance of The Comedy of Errors which is not a relaxed performance, during this sequence the characters will run through an aisle of the audience and sit in free seats.



During the same chase, there are some bright lights which turn and points out to the auditorium, lighting the characters as they run past the audience.





At the end of the show and as part of a celebration, balloons drop on to the stage. The balloons differ in size and are likely to move into the auditorium.

The balloons are held above the stage throughout the duration of the show. We cannot rule out that some of the balloons may burst during the show, however, we have done what we can to make this situation unlikely.

Ear defenders are available outside both of the auditorium doors and can be used for the whole show free of charge. Please return them to the tables provided at the end of the show, thank you.



END OF ACT TWO

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