

MERCURY



Written by Guy Unsworth
Directed by Ryan McBryde

Relaxed Performance
Mercury Theatre

Welcome to Mercury Theatre Colchester.

This visual story is designed for visitors for the Relaxed Performance of ***Sleeping Beauty***.

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

If you need any assistance when you are in the Mercury Theatre, please ask a member of our team and they will be happy to help.

For relaxed performances, ear defenders will be available on trestle tables outside the auditorium doors.

If you require ear defenders while watching a non-relaxed performance, please ask a member of the Box Office team.

Where is the show?

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



Entering the Theatre



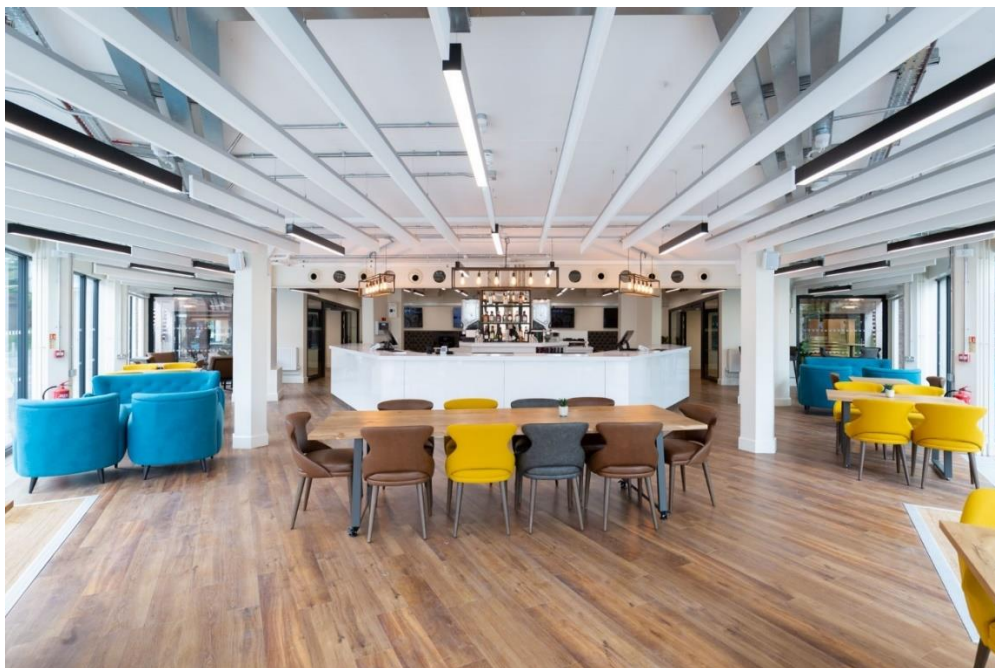
You enter the theatre via the doors above. The doors are automatic and will open in towards the Box Office.

Box Office



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.

Café Bar



In the Café Bar you can purchase drinks, slushies, popcorn and snacks.

It may be very busy here before the performance starts, during the interval and at the end of the performance. If you would prefer a quieter area you can go to the breakout spaces in the upstairs bar or the Creative Engagement space.

Toilets

The main toilets are on the ground floor. The female toilets are located just outside the box office, and the male and accessible toilet are at the opposite 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.

Upstairs Bar



The upstairs bar is located on the first floor and will be accessible throughout the show. This is one of our two break out spaces.

There is a TV 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 a new accessible toilet in the upstairs bar area.

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

Creative Engagement Space



Our second break out space is the Creative Engagement Space, which is also on the first floor. This is only available as a breakout space during relaxed performances.

You cannot watch the show in this space, but you can get away from it all for a bit. There will be cushions, mood lights and more to interact with in here.

Auditorium



The show will be taking place in the auditorium. When you arrive at the auditorium doors, a member of our Customer Experience team will scan your

ticket and direct you to your seat.



The Actors and the Characters they play:



Alexandra Barredo as Luna

Luna is played by **Alexandra Barredo**.

Luna is born a Princess, but doesn't know it.

Luna grew up with Dame Maris Piper and Spud.

She fights for what is right and is the people's best friend.

Luna is the Mercury's version of Sleeping Beauty.

Maris Piper is played by **Anthony Stuart Hicks**.

Dame Maris Piper is Spud's mother and also takes care of Luna. She is a hard worker. Dame Maris Piper knows how dangerous Aunt Carabosse is, and avoids her.



Anthony Stuart Hicks as Maris Piper



Dale Superville as Spud Piper

Spud Piper is played by **Dale Superville**.

Spud is Dame Maris Piper's son.

Spud is a trainee chef.

He is silly and charming.

Fairy Fizz is played by **Sasha Latoya**.

Fairy Fizz has magical powers.

She is super cool, super fun and spreads happiness wherever she goes.



Sasha Latoya as Fairy Fizz



Jaimie Pruden as Carabosse

Carabosse is played by **Jaimie Pruden**.

Carabosse is the Wicked Queen.

She is Luna's aunt.

She is evil and jealous.

Carabosse is a master of disguise.

Prince Istuna is played by **Philip Catchpole**.

Prince Istuna is the Prince of the Kingdom of Coggeshall.

He is charming and slightly goofy.



Philip Catchpole as Prince Istuna



Matthew Forbes as Polo the Penguin

Polo the Penguin is played by **Matthew Forbes**.

Polo is a Pet Penguin.

Polo is Luna's best friend.

Polo is cheeky, funny and great at giving hugs.

Female Ensemble Swing is played by **Shelby Speed**.

She plays a number of characters including:

- Queen
- Townsperson
- Ice Sprite
- Demon



Shelby Speed as a Demon



Nick Brittain as Timothy

Male Ensemble Swing is played by **Nick Brittain**.

He plays a number of characters including:

- King
- Townsperson
- Timothy
- Ice Sprite
- Demon

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 who 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 the performance?

The performance is split into two halves. The first half; Act One; lasts around 1 hour 5 minutes. The second half; Act Two; lasts approximately 50 minutes.

After Act One, there is an interval. This is a 20-minute break in the performance. During this time, you can leave the auditorium if you would like, or you can stay in your seat.

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

In the following pages, we have highlighted any sections which we think you should be aware of in case you are sensitive to a particular stimulus, 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 mentioned on the next pages will be played or brought on stage in the pre-show talk.

Pre-show talks occur during Relaxed Performances of Sleeping Beauty at the usual start time of the show.

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

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.

The Story

Sleeping Beauty is set in Costa del Colch. It tells the story of Luna – who is just about to turn 18 years old and is excited about her birthday. However, the wicked Queen of Costa del Colch; Carabosse; has banned all birthday celebrations.

Carabosse is actually Luna's aunt, but Luna does not know this. Luna also doesn't know that she is really a Princess and when she turns 18 she should become Queen of Costa del Colch.

Carabosse is determined to stop Luna from finding this out and taking her rightful place as Queen of Costa del Colch.

Carabosse tricks Luna into pricking her finger on the needle of a spinning wheel. Carabosse then places a curse on Luna and she falls into an everlasting sleep. Only true love's kiss can break the curse and wake Luna.



Luna's friends Fairy Fizz, Dame Maris Piper and Spud set off on a magical journey to find Luna's true love, defeat the evil Aunt Carabosse and save Princess Luna!



Sleeping Beauty Visual Story

The following pages outline key moments which may be of interest.

Please note that not all of the scenes are included, as not all scenes have moments of interest.

Key	
	Visual stimulus
	Sound stimulus

Throughout the performance, various characters will ask the audience to help and speak to them – you can answer if you want to!



When Fairy Fizz appears throughout the performance, she will encourage you to say ‘whoop whoop’. You are welcome to join in, but you don’t have to if you don’t want to.



When Dale appears he may ask you to shout ‘Mashed Potatoes’ and wiggle your thumbs. You can join in, but you don’t have to if you don’t want to.

Act One




Just before the show, there may be silence in the auditorium. You will then begin to hear music as the performance begins.


Scene Two: The Town Square




When Spud Piper arrives on stage on his scooter, he crashes. This causes a loud noise – but don’t worry, Spud doesn’t get hurt.

There is a second crash noise when Spud leaves the stage, which may be loud.

 The lights on stage go off and it is dark after Spud says to Maris 'Mum, in a certain light you are as beautiful as Barbie'. This only lasts a few seconds, and the lights will remain on in the auditorium.


 There is dramatic music when Queen Carabosse appears.

Scene Three: The Forest

 There is dramatic music when Queen Carabosse enters.

Queen Carabosse will encourage the audience to boo and hiss at her. This may get loud in the auditorium. You do not have to boo or hiss if you don't want to.

Scene Four: Maris' Kitchen


 When Maris and Spud Piper are baking their cake, Maris throws the ingredients to Spud. Spud tries to catch them in a mixing bowl, but sometimes he misses.


The ingredients get messier and messier. Spud gets squirted with milk and water. Maris puts a cream pie in Spud's face.


Maris, Polo and Spud continue throwing cream pies, milk and squirting water, so the stage gets messy. This won't be near the audience though, so you won't get dirty.




 There is a loud knocking sound.


 The stage light go off and it is dark. Maris, Spud and Polo appear in the corner and there is a spotlight on them. The stage is dark for approximately 2 minutes.

 Carabosse appears from inside the cake and surprises Maris, Spud, Luna and Polo.

 When Carabosse appears from inside the cake, there is a thunder noise.



 Carabosse screams because Luna keeps saying the words 'Happy Birthday'. This is a loud noise.

 The lights flash when Carabosse screams.

Scene Five: The Forest



Carabosse is disguised as an Old Dressmaker who has a magical spinning wheel.



The spinning wheel is brought on stage by two people dressed as mannequins. They move in a strange way.



Carabosse tricks Luna into pricking her finger on the needles of the spinning wheel. Luna falls to the floor as she is placed under a curse. There are flashes of lightning.



There are thunder sounds as Luna touches the needle and falls to the floor.



Maris, Spud and Polo appear as Luna falls. They believe she is dead, but she is not – she has just lost all of her energy.



Maris, Spud and Polo talk about how Luna has been placed under a deadly curse.



There is a flash as Fairy Fizz appears on stage. Fairy Fizz casts a magic spell which changes the deadly curse to a sleeping spell.



Fairy Fizz asks the audience to rub their hands and pat their knees to help create snow.



There is a sound of rain and thunder.



The Ice Sprites enter through both auditorium doors. They walk down the steps and on to the stage.

Scene Seven: Ice Palace



While Luna sleeps, she begins to dream. On stage, you will see one version of Luna who is asleep and another version who is dancing with Prince Istuna.

This is because one of the Ice Sprites swaps places with Alexandra, who plays Luna. Alexandra begins dancing with Prince Istuna, while the Ice Sprite is sleeping, dressed as Luna.





There is a small amount of fog on stage during this scene.

End of Act One


Act Two

Scene Two: The Arctic Tundra


 A lady penguin arrives on the stage and she dances with Polo. A group of junior penguins arrives on stage and dances in the background.

 The junior penguins are wearing flippers as they dance, which may be a little bit noisy.




 Polo and the lady penguin move towards each other, and the lady penguin grabs Polo suddenly. The lady penguin removes her head and we discover it was Carabosse in disguise.

 Carabosse drags Polo off stage.

 Carabosse threatens to release a box of rats in to the auditorium. Don't worry, this is just a joke.

Scene Three: The Ice Palace

 Maris Piper slaps Prince Istuna three times. These are not real slaps, and Prince Istuna does not get hurt.



Each time there Maris slaps Prince Istuna, there is a slap noise.



Maris Piper punches Spud Piper. This is not a real punch, and Spud does not get hurt.



When Maris punches Spud, there is a punch noise.



Prince Istuna kisses Luna on the forehead and she wakes up.

Scene Four: Haunted Corridor



There are images of Carabosse hung on the wall of the haunted corridor.

Carabosse's two servants are on stage throughout this scene.

They appear as demons, and are wearing red masks and outfits (shown in the picture below).



The junior chorus appear on stage dressed as demons. There are 8 junior demons and 2 adult demons on stage during Carabosse's song.



There is thunder and two growls. Spud screams each time he hears a growl.

Spud carries two maracas onto the stage and shakes them.



A demon comes and dances behind Fairy Fizz. You can warn her by shouting 'It's behind you!' if you want to.

The demon then comes back again and dances around Fairy Fizz. The demon carries Fairy Fizz away.



Maris Piper sings La Bamba and more demons appear on stage. When Maris stops singing, she looks at the demon and the demon runs away.

Scene Five: Carabosse's Evil Lair



Polo the Penguin is trapped in a cage.



Demons enter the stage and circle around Luna, Prince Istuna, Fairy Fizz, Maris, Spud and Polo.

One demon grabs Prince Istuna.



When Carabosse says 'Operation Inferno' there are red lights at the back of the stage.

Carabosse transforms into a dragon. The photo below shows what the dragon looks like.



We hear the dragon roar three times, and noisy footsteps as it stomps on to the stage. These may be quite loud. The dragon is on stage for approximately 5 minutes.



The dragon's wings flap and her mouth moves. The dragon approaches Maris, Spud, and Luna throughout this scene.

There is a battle, as Luna tries to take the key of the cage from around the dragon's neck.



Luna breaks a bar from the cage. Luna uses the bar to fight the dragon.

Maris, Fairy Fizz, Spud and Prince Istuna fight with the demons. Spud manages to get the key and unlock the cage, setting Polo free.



The dragon traps Luna in a corner. Polo grabs the dragon's tail and pulls her back.



The dragon roars again.

Scene Seven: The Town Square



Carabosse is disguised as the town statue, so it appears to 'come alive'.

Carabosse tries to cast spells on Luna and Prince Istuna, but she misses each time.



A person dressed all in black takes the Royal Sceptre from Carabosse and hands it to Luna.



Fairy Fizz casts a spell on Carabosse and transforms her into a female penguin.

Scene Seven: Song Sheet



Maris and Spud sing 'I'm Gonna Be (500 Miles)' and ask the audience to join in. The words are below if you would like to sing too:

I'm Gonna Be (500 Miles)

I would walk 500 miles
And I would walk 500 more
Just to be the man
Who walks a thousand miles
To fall down at your door!
Da da da da (da da da da)



End of Act Two

If you would like a shout out, or if you would like our cast to say Happy Birthday to you or a member of your group during the show, please fill out this form:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSftykjEu4zWhb0yEOncmHRNQrQLTmtX8CGc18yLSzIJ9rY1Q/viewform>

We receive a lot of requests, so we cannot guarantee that your shout out/ 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 on 01206 577006 and ask to speak to our Creative Engagement team

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