

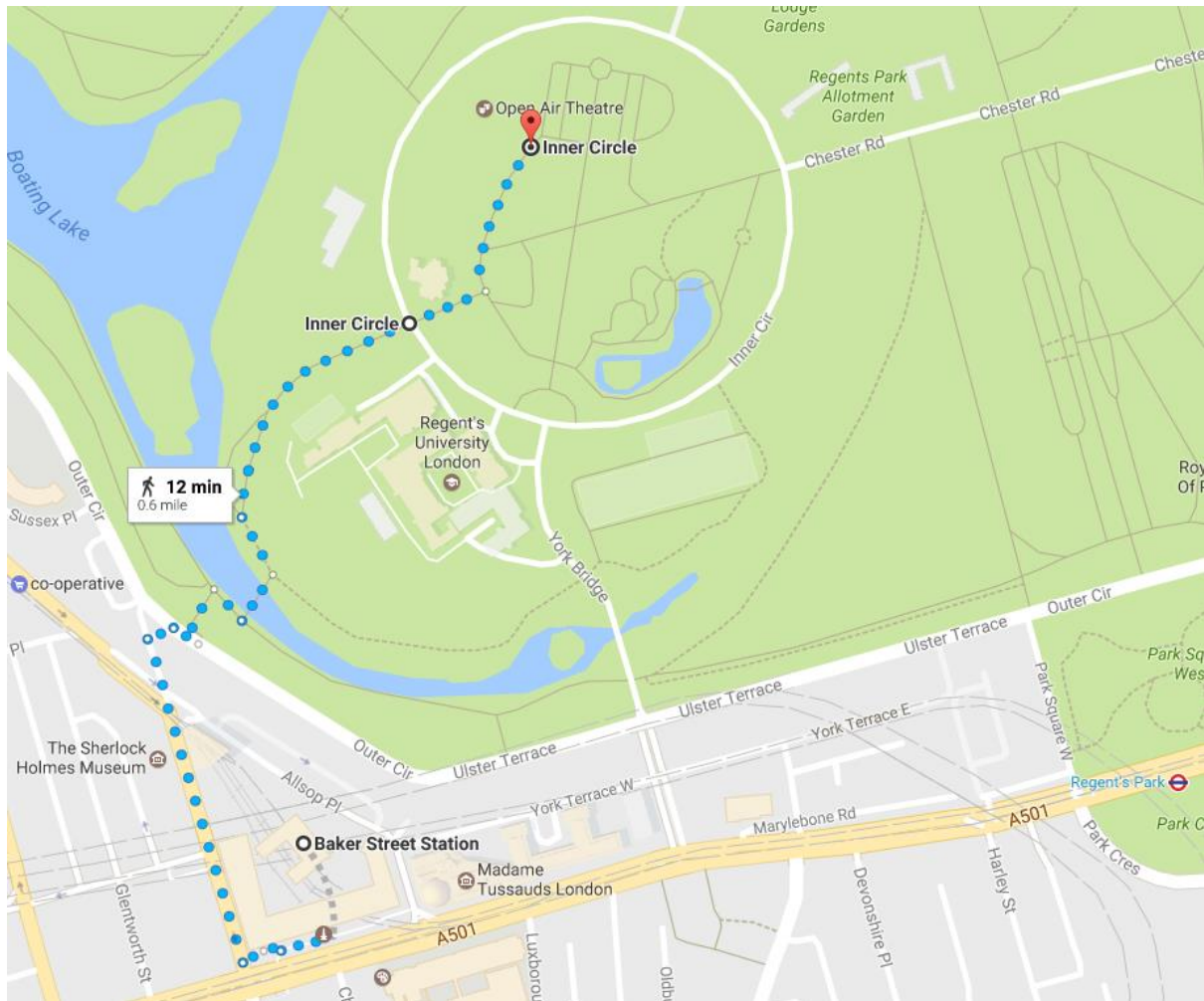
VENUE FACT PACK for our **AUTISM-FRIENDLY PERFORMANCE** of
OLIVER TWIST created for everyone aged six and over



YOUR JOURNEY TO **REGENT'S PARK OPEN AIR THEATRE**

The theatre is located in Queen Mary's Gardens, right in the heart of Regent's Park.

There are parking spaces (including disabled parking spaces for Blue Badge holders) on the Inner Circle. Parking costs £2.40 per hour with a maximum stay of four hours (plenty of time to see the performance and explore Regent's Park).



The nearest station is Baker Street (a 12 minute walk to the theatre). This map shows the best route to take. Your journey to the theatre will take you through Regent's Park and you will cross a bridge over the Boating Lake. This part of the park is home to lots of birds so you might see many herons, geese, seagulls and pigeons.

ARRIVING AT THE **THEATRE**



On the day of the performance, the Box Office will be open from 9am.

If you need to collect your tickets, come to the counter and a member of staff will be able to help you.



The gates to the theatre will open at 9.30am. If you already have your tickets, a member of staff will welcome you and show you where to go from there.



If you need easier access, you can come through the Theatre Exit Gate from 9.30am onwards. A member of staff will be there to let you in.

INSIDE THE **THEATRE GROUNDS**

When you come through the main box office entrance, turn left and walk down the ramp.



To the left, you will see a picnic lawn with picnic tables. Feel free to relax here before the performance or during the interval.

To the right, you will see our Summer Café where light snacks (such as sandwiches and cakes - please ask the staff for allergen information) can be bought. The bar itself is further along. If you're thirsty, jugs of tap water will be placed along the whole length of the covered bar area.

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Mens' and Ladies' toilets are located opposite the picnic lawn, including two accessible toilets.



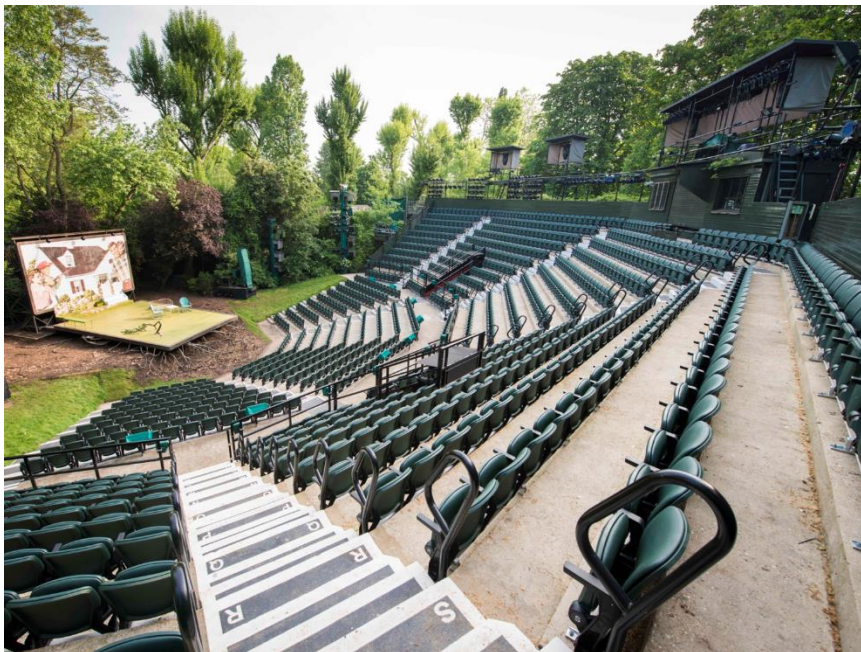
If you need help, have any questions, or would like to buy a programme, there are lots of friendly staff members. They will be wearing red shirts.

GOING INTO THE **AUDITORIUM**



You can take your seats whenever you like. On your ticket, it will let you know which gangway (1, 2, 3 or 4) to enter through, and the gangway numbers are on the ceiling of the bar.

Inside the auditorium, an usher will check your ticket and show you where your seats are.



The auditorium is very large and is completely uncovered! Every seat offers a great view of the stage.

When it's time for the performance to begin, you'll hear some bells. This is to let everyone know that they should take their seats.

THE PERFORMANCE

Before the performance starts, the actors will introduce themselves and the characters they play from the stage. We may also demonstrate a couple of the stage effects that are used during the performance, to show you how they work.

The play lasts for approximately two hours including a twenty minute break, called the interval.

Unlike other theatres, we can't turn off the lights! So the theatre will not go dark when the play starts.

Actors might come and walk around in the auditorium. They might talk to you but you don't have to talk to them if you don't want to.

There might be lots of noise. If you want to join in, please do. Please read our Show Guide to find out more about the production itself. We will update this when we get closer to the performance.

As the auditorium is uncovered, there may be noise from planes and helicopters overhead and sometimes pigeons or other birds fly into the auditorium.

If you want to leave the auditorium at any time, there's a chill out area in our Studio. The Studio is opposite the picnic lawn and a member of staff can show you the way. You can relax in there before going back in.

THE INTERVAL

During the interval, you can go to the toilet, walk around the grounds or just stay in your seat.

At the front of the auditorium, you can buy an Ice Cream. There are different flavours, including vanilla, chocolate, mint chocolate chip and strawberry. *(All of our ice creams contain milk and eggs. 'Mint Chocolate Chip' contains soya.)*

THE WEATHER

The weather makes every performance unique! It's best to come prepared for all types of weather - so make sure you bring a sun hat, sun cream and waterproof jacket or rain poncho. Umbrellas are not allowed in the auditorium.

If it's a sunny day, the auditorium can be very hot. So make sure that you drink lots of water and are wearing sun cream and a hat.

If it's only lightly raining, we'll carry on with the performance as planned. If it's heavy, we might delay the start of the performance until it gets lighter. If it gets heavier during the performance, we might pause the performance and you can take shelter under the covered bar area.



Sometimes, it rains so much and for so long that we might have to cancel the performance. It is rare that this happens and we try our very best not to!

Whatever the weather, performances are never cancelled before the advertised start time. This is a free performance, so section 5.7 of our terms and conditions (exchanging tickets for weather-related cancellation) does not apply and tickets are non-exchangeable and non-refundable in any event.

AFTER THE PERFORMANCE

At the end of the performance, some audience members will clap to let the actors know that they enjoyed it. You can clap if you want to.

The actors will come back on stage to bow (called a curtain call).

In a traditional theatre, the lights would then go up, but we can't do that in the daytime! After the actors have bowed and left the stage, you'll know that the performance is over.

It could be quite busy as people leave the auditorium. If you'd like to, you can wait in your seat and leave when it's a bit quieter.

You can leave the theatre the way you came (via the Box Office) or, if you prefer, you can leave via the Theatre Exit Gate at the bottom of the picnic lawn.

To get back to Baker Street, turn left out of the Theatre Exit Gate (back onto the Inner Circle) and take the first right into the park itself. This will take you back the way you came, across the boating lake.

We hope you enjoy your visit, but if you have any questions, please contact us on 0845 673 2151*, or email education@openairtheatre.com

* calls cost 2ppm plus your telephone company's access charge.