



ROYAL
OPERA
HOUSE

The Lost Thing

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Supported using public funding by

**ARTS COUNCIL
ENGLAND**

Attending a performance at the Royal Opera House Linbury Theatre



We are going to see a performance in the Linbury Theatre at the Royal Opera House.

We can get into the building using two different entrances.



Bow Street Entrance



Piazza Entrance

A performance is like watching a movie on the TV at home, except it's a lot bigger.

There is a big stage, with people called actors, singers and dancers. They are wearing costumes. There are bright lights and loud music. There are lots of other people who are also watching the performance, called the audience.

When we are going into the Royal Opera House, we will see a security guard. They may ask to look inside our bags.



The Royal Opera House has signs on the walls and pillars to help us find where we need to go. We can look out for these signs.

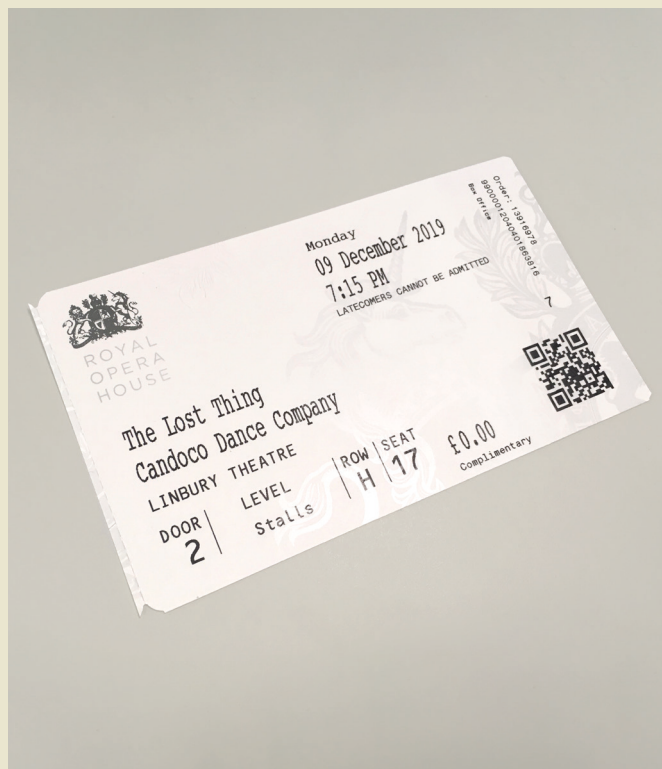


If we have any questions or are unsure what to do or where to go, we can ask the people who work at the theatre. They are called ushers.

Different members of staff wear different uniforms, but they all wear green lanyards with name tags around their necks.



We may already have our tickets, as paper tickets or e-tickets, or we may want to collect them at the Box Office in the Ground Floor Foyer. If we are collecting our tickets from the Box Office, we may have to wait in line for our turn.



Before we go to see the performance, we can buy a programme from an usher that will tell us all about the show.

It will tell us which actors, musicians, singers and dancers are in the performance, and show us some pictures of the rehearsals and some more interesting information about the story.



The performance we are seeing is in the Linbury Theatre.

The Linbury Theatre is downstairs. We can get there using these stairs from the Ground Floor Foyer or by going in the lift.



Before going into the theatre, we can leave our bags and coats at the cloakroom in the Linbury Foyer.



At the cloakroom a member of staff will take our bags and coats and give us a ticket. When we want to get them back again, we give them back the ticket and they will give us back our bags and coats.



At the cloakroom, we can borrow some things to help us enjoy the performance.

If we have a hearing impairment, we can borrow an Assisted Hearing Facility to help us hear the performance.

If we cannot see the stage because there are people sitting in front of us, we can ask for a booster cushion.

We can also borrow ear defenders and fidget toys or sensory devices.



We might have to wait for the door to the theatre to open. While we are waiting there will be other people waiting too and the room might be very busy. People may be sitting at tables or buying food or drink at the bar. We will hear an announcement or a bell telling us it is time to go and find our seats.



As we are going into the theatre an usher will ask to see our tickets.
They will scan our tickets with a machine. The machine will shine a light
on our tickets, and it will make a beeping sound.



Inside the theatre there will be lots of seats on different levels. We can go to these levels using the stairs or the lift on the right hand side of the theatre. The levels are called the Upper Circle, Circle, and Stalls.

We cannot choose our own seats. The writing and numbers on our tickets tell us where we must sit. If we need help to find our seats, we can ask an usher and they will show us.

There will be people we don't know sitting in seats around us. They are here to see the show too.



When the performance is about to start, we will hear another bell. Then the lights in the theatre will be turned down and the room will become darker.



If we look at the stage, we may see musicians getting ready. They will all play a note on their instruments together to make sure they are in tune. Sometimes a person will come onto the stage to introduce the performance. If there is a conductor, they will come out and join the musicians. When this happens, people in the seats around us will clap their hands to welcome them. If we don't like this noise we can cover our ears or wear ear defenders.



When we are sitting in our seats, we need to keep our feet down and our hands to ourselves.

During the performance we need to sit quietly so that we don't disturb the people around us, and everyone can enjoy the show. We may see or hear something on stage that makes us feel happy or sad. We can laugh or feel sad if we want to.

We must turn off our mobile phones and leave them off during the performance. We can use a fidget toy or sensory device as long as it doesn't have lights or sound.



If we need take a break or go to the toilet, we can leave the theatre quietly. We can use the Linbury bar or foyer to take a break from the performance. We can move around this space if we need to and we can talk to each other. We can also see what is happening in the performance on the TV screen on the wall. If the TV screen is not on, we can ask the usher to turn it on for us.



We can follow signs or ask an usher to help us find the nearest bathrooms. There are accessible bathrooms available if we need to use them.

The bathrooms can get very busy. There is one door to go into the bathroom and another door to come out.



When we have finished our break we can tell an usher. The usher will tell us when we can go back into the performance. We must go back in quietly.

During the performance there will be an interval. This is a little break where people can go to the bathroom and have a move around. During this time, we can talk to each other.

We can choose to stay in our seats or have a break and a move around. During this time the bathrooms and the Linbury bar will be busy. If it's too busy, we can go to the terrace upstairs where it is quieter.



During the break we can buy a drink or a snack at the bar, get a free cup of water at the water station beside the bar, or buy some ice cream from the vendors.

We cannot bring any food or drinks into the theatre with us.



There will be an announcement to tell us the break is nearly over and that we need to go back into the theatre for the second part of the performance. Sometimes if it's a very long performance there will be more than one interval.

At the end of the performance and sometimes during it the people sitting around us will clap their hands, shout and cheer to show that they have enjoyed the performance. They might even stand up to show that they really enjoyed it. If we want to, we can join in and clap our hands and cheer too.

At the end of the performance the actors will all come out on stage and take a bow. If the noise is too loud, we can cover our ears or wear ear defenders.



When the performance is finished the lights will be turned back up and the room will become brighter again. Everyone will be leaving the theatre at the same time and they will be talking to each other. It might be loud and busy. We will have to wait our turn to get out of our seats and leave the theatre. This will take a few minutes.



The Lost Thing Visual Story

Introduction

The Lost Thing is a story about a boy who helps a lost thing find its way home.

A cast of disabled and non-disabled singers, dancers and musicians come together to tell a story about the way we are all connected.

The show is a musical reimagining of Shaun Tan's beautifully illustrated book, *The Lost Thing*. Many of the characters and ideas in the show are from the book but there are also some new characters, parts of the story and things to look at.



Relaxed performances

There are relaxed performances of *The Lost Thing* on Sunday 15 December at 2.15pm and Sunday 4 January at 2.15pm.

Everyone is welcome to attend. These performances have been modified to be more accessible for neurodivergent people, people with learning disabilities, sensory and communication impairments, mental health issues or dementia.

There will be a more relaxed approach to making noise during the show and coming in and out of the theatre.

BSL interpreted performance

The performances on 19 December at 7.15pm and on 21 December at 2.15pm are interpreted into British Sign Language (BSL) by Sue MacLaine. The sign-language interpreter will be part of the performance on stage with the actors and singers.

Audio-described performance and Touch Tour

The performance on 29 December at 2.15pm is an Audio-Described performance with Touch Tour. The Audio-Described performance includes a live audio description of what is happening on stage. We can listen to the description through headphones. We can collect headphones from a member of staff before the performance.

The Touch Tour is a sensory event, providing visually impaired people the opportunity to explore props, costumes and the set on stage before the Audio-Described performance. It is a ticketed event, free of charge, starting at 1.15pm and ending at 1.45pm.

We can book Touch Tour tickets by telephoning the Box Office on **+44 (0)20 7304 4000** or emailing **boxofficeaccess@roh.org.uk**

Captioning

All performances of *The Lost Thing* will have live captioning on a panel above the stage. Captioning is useful if we have hearing impairments or would prefer to read along while the performance happens.

We can see the captioning most clearly from the Upper Circle and Circle levels in the theatre.

We can speak to the box office to check our view of the captioning by emailing **boxoffice@roh.org.uk** or telephoning **+44 (0)20 7304 4000**.

Information about the performance

Running times

The show is approximately 1 hour 25 minutes long and includes one interval. The interval is a short break in the middle of the performance when we can leave the theatre.

Approximate timings:

Part One – 30 minutes

Interval – 20 minutes

Part Two – 35 minutes

Leaving the theatre during the performance

We can leave the theatre any time we need a break. We can go back in whenever we feel ready but sometimes an usher will help us wait for a good time to go back into the theatre so we don't disturb other people watching the performance.

If we need a break, we can go to a chill-out space in the Linbury Foyer just outside the theatre and in the Taylor Learning Rooms for Relaxed Performances only. We can ask an usher to show us where to go.

Flashing lights and loud noises

The performance will include moments of darkness and bright lights, and some loud sound effects and music. Relaxed Performances will have a quieter level of sound effects and the lights in the theatre will remain on but dimmed throughout the performance. There will not be any strobe or flashing lights.

There will be musicians on stage playing a variety of musical instruments including a piano, violin, cello, clarinet, drums and synth keyboard. Some of the performers will sing on their own or in a group. We might hear the people around us making noises or moving around. We can cover our ears or use ear defenders if we want to.

If we need more information or have questions about the lighting and sound effects used in this show, we can contact the box office by email **boxoffice@roh.org.uk** or telephone **+44 (0)20 7304 4000**

The Lost Thing characters

There are five singers, six dancers and one dancer-singer playing characters in the show. Some performers will play more than one character. Some may dance, sing, act or play musical instruments.

Shaun



The Lost Thing



Pete



Shaun's parents



Receptionist



Janitor



Dancers and Singers



Musicians



The story of The Lost Thing

We hear the noise of a helicopter and see lights passing over a person on stage. He is the main character of the story, Shaun.

Shaun lives in a grey and gloomy city, where he enjoys collecting bottle tops. We can hear the noise of traffic and car horns.



Shaun takes the train to the beach, which doesn't seem very inviting. The sea appears to be toxic. No one is swimming in it, but some government officials are doing experiments.



While he is searching for bottle tops on the dirty beach, Shaun sees The Thing. It is a large green, many-limbed, tree-like creature that looks quite out of place but no one else seems to have noticed it at all. Shaun and The Thing play together for a while. Shaun realizes that The Thing is lost.



Shaun sets out to try to find out where The Lost Thing might belong. He asks passers-by, but they are all too busy working. He goes to visit his friend, Pete, because he normally has all the answers. Pete is really amazed by The Thing but can't help Shaun. He says some things are just 'plain lost'.



Shaun doesn't want to leave The Lost Thing all alone in the big city.
He takes it home to his house.

Shaun's parents are angry with him for bringing The Lost Thing home.
They are afraid it will have germs and want him to get rid of it.



Shaun takes The Lost Thing to his bedroom and decides to put up his little Christmas tree and decorate it. No one else seems to do this anymore, but Shaun likes this tradition. When Shaun goes to bed, he starts to think that maybe he is lost too. He feels connected with The Lost Thing in some way. When he goes to sleep he thinks about what else has been lost over the years.



Interval – there is now a 25-minute break in the performance. We can leave the theatre to visit the toilets, eat some food or have other refreshments.

Shaun wakes up to a TV advert from the Federal Department of Odds and Ends.



It says that you can take anything that is lost to their Department. Shaun and The Lost Thing take a tram journey to find it in the busy city.



At the Department of Odds and Ends, the receptionist confuses Shaun with hundreds of forms to fill in. He feels even more lost!



During the confusion, a janitor warns Shaun not to leave The Lost Thing in the Department of Odds and Ends because it's a place for forgetting. The janitor gives Shaun a map to help him find a better place for The Lost Thing. He must follow the green arrows.



Shaun follows the green arrows and finally stumbles upon a small door with a green doorbell. He presses the bell and the door opens.



Inside, we see a space overflowing with plants and flowers. It is a jungle bursting with life. It seems that The Lost Thing has found where it belongs. In fact, this place has been hiding in plain sight all the time, but nobody seems to have noticed it. Shaun says goodbye to The Lost Thing.



Shaun goes back to the city and he realizes that he is starting to forget his adventure with The Lost Thing. To make sure he remembers, Shaun tries to find the door again. He sees other people trying to find the door too. Shaun suddenly understands that nature doesn't need people, but people need nature. If only we could value the importance of nature in our lives, we might not feel so lost.



Shaun presses the doorbell once more and everyone waits. It is the end of the show. The lights go dark then come back on. We can clap our hands to congratulate the performers while they take a bow.



Access at the Royal Opera House

The Royal Opera House offers lots of seating options including wheelchair spaces. There is step-free access around the building including to the restaurants and bars. We can sign up for an Access Membership that gives us assistance and discounts. We can find out more by visiting the page on the Royal Opera House website **www.roh.org.uk/visit/access**

If we need more information or have any questions before our visit to the Royal Opera House, we can contact the box office by email **boxoffice@roh.org.uk** or telephone **+44 (0)20 7304 4000**

The next Relaxed Performance at the Royal Opera House will be *Aisha and Abhaya* on Thursday 6 February 2020 at 1pm in the Linbury Theatre. It is a tale of hope and fearlessness, telling the heartbreaking story of two sisters through dance. This show is suitable for ages 11+.

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