

**BRISTOL
OLD VIC**



BELLE AND SEBASTIEN

**Relaxed
Performance Pack**



INTRODUCTION

Travelling Light and Bristol Old Vic are very excited to welcome you to our Relaxed Performance of *Belle and Sebastien*.

During our Relaxed performance days we welcome a more relaxed approach inside the performance space and in the front of house areas to allow everyone to enjoy the show in their own way, whether that includes people's needs to move in and out of The Weston Studio, make noise, or take a bit more time to adjust to their surroundings.

We've gathered some information in this pack about the venue, access, the performance space and the story of *Belle and Sebastien*, which you might find helpful to look at before seeing the show. We hope you enjoy *Belle and Sebastien*.

SHOW NOTES

- *Belle and Sebastien* is approximately 45 minutes long.
- *Belle and Sebastien* is set on the stage with the seating area on three sides. When you come in, you will be directed where to sit.
- There's no right or wrong way to watch *Belle and Sebastien*, we want you to enjoy it! It's ok if you want to make some noise and move around too. Although we do ask you to not walk onto the stage, so that everyone can be safe during the show.
- If at any time you would like to take a break you can leave the theatre and come back whenever you're ready. An usher will be there to help you.
- The Ushers are there to help you. If you need to leave during the show an Usher will ensure you are ok. They can also show you where the toilets are. Ushers are good people to go to if you feel worried about anything in the show. You can speak to them before, during or after the performance.

WHO WILL YOU SEE THERE?



These are **the ushers**. You can recognise them from their Bristol Old Vic T-shirts. They are here to help.



This is **Felix**. He plays Belle in *Belle and Sebastien*.



This is **Mogali**. She plays Sebastien in *Belle and Sebastien*.

GETTING HERE

ACCESS, PARKING & BUGGIES

Arrival

Bristol Old Vic is a 256-year-old theatre with a modern frontage.



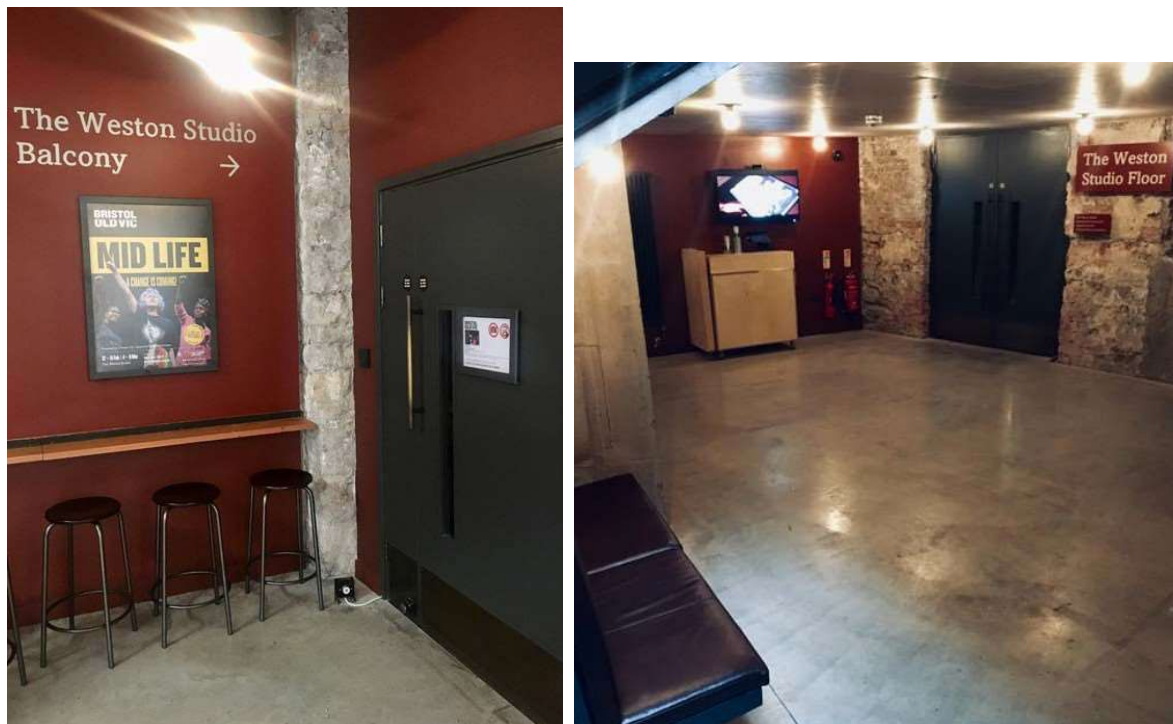
Our main entrance is at street level of King Street and fully wheelchair accessible with automatic doors to facilitate comfortable access. Our Foyer,

Kitchen + Bar and Box Office are all fully wheelchair accessible. Our Foyer lift enables customers full access to all public areas of our building. Please find the full list of spaces accessible via lift below.

There are parking spaces around the corner on Queen Charlotte Street for Blue Badge holders. There is one allocated disabled bay with further on street parking on Welsh Back and Queen Square as well as Queen Charlotte Street (please note that King Street is cobbled).

You can leave your buggies to the left-hand side of the Box Office.

The nearest toilets are by the Weston Studio entrance on the lower floor. The nearest accessible toilet is on level 1 accessible via the lift.



Everyone will be asked to wait outside The Weston Studio until the doors open.

You will then be welcomed into the space by the Bristol Old Vic team.



Now the venue ushers will show you to your seats.

Chillout spaces

We have several Chillout Spaces throughout the building. These are slightly more out of the way than the main foyer and bar areas and are places where you can relax before, during or after the show, though they are not completely quiet.

Here are some pictures of the spaces:



This is the **Weston Studio Waiting Area** outside the **Studio Floor entrance** on Level -1. This is near accessible toilets.



This is **the Pit Kiosk Seating Area**, near the Weston Studio floor entrance. There are accessible toilets nearby, and this is slightly further away from the performance.

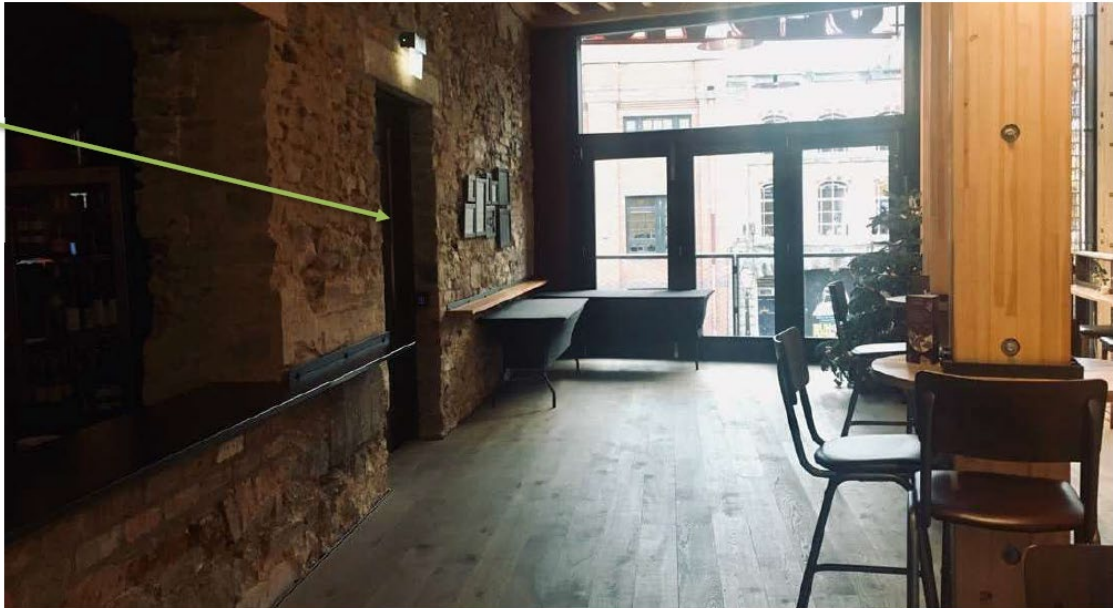


This is **the area outside of Coopers' Hall on Level I**. This is near accessible toilets, and is nearest to the Weston Studio balcony entrance.

The Quiet Room

In addition to Chillout Spaces, and if the Chillout Spaces are busy, we use the Foyle Room as our Quiet Room.

The Foyle Room



The Foyle Room is on Coopers' Balcony on Level 1. This room allows you time away from the noise from the performance or foyer and bar areas.



There are seats and a table in The Foyle Room. It is well lit, and well away from noise and movement.

If you need help finding The Foyle Room, ask an usher and they'll be happy to help you find and get into the room.

Based on the book ***Belle and Sebastien*** by Cécile Aubry, ***Belle and Sebastien*** is a story of friendship and adventure between six-year old Sebastien and his dog Belle.

Belle and Sebastien have run into the mountains, away from everyone and everything. Born on the same day seven years ago, this boy and this dog have yearned forever to feel like they belong. Now all they have is each other – and they don't even realise it yet.

The story follows these mischievous, playful, kindred spirits as they adventure into the wild mountains to escape and discover themselves.

There is recorded music and live singing as well as lots of movement and noises.

We'll go through the story with you now.

OUR SYMBOLS

We've used some symbols to show when certain activities are taking place on stage:



There are moments when the performers (*Belle and Sebastien*) move quickly around the space and the action onstage can be **fast-paced**. When this happens, we use this symbol.



There are moments when Belle and Sebastien are distressed or feel sad. When this happens, we use this symbol.



There are moments when Belle and Sebastien raise their voice and it gets a bit louder. When this might happen, we use this symbol.

THE STORY OF BELLE AND SEBASTIEN

At the start of the show Belle (played by Felix Hayes) runs in excitedly, darting in between the cardboard structures on the stage.

She smells the air and describes all the things she can smell.



This is fast-paced.



Sebastien enters (played by Mogali Masuku). He's running, running up the mountain looking for Belle.

Belle can smell him and knows that he is running because of what the villagers have said.



Belle goes to the model village and lifts up different buildings.

As each building is lifted, we hear what's going on inside.

The villagers talk about Belle and what they think of her. The things they say aren't very nice.



Sebastien shouts: *"She's just a dog! She's not going to hurt anyone!"*

Sebastien howls – *"Beeeeeee!!!"*

Belle howls immediately, in response. Their howls echo around the mountains.

Belle and Sebastien continue moving around the mountain, until Sebastien grows tired and heads home.

At this point, we discover a bit more about Belle's past, what Belle likes to eat and what she shouldn't really be eating!



The snow comes and the mountains become more dangerous, but this doesn't stop Sebastien from going back out to explore and find Belle.



Belle sniffs the air and senses Sebastien coming.
Belle says: *"No! No! What is the boy doing here?!"*

Belle is distressed because it's dangerous for a boy on the mountain.

Sebastien enters with a torch.

Belle and Sebastien find each other on the mountain, but Belle warns Sebastien to go home.



Belle barks:
"No! Not that way!"
"No! You shouldn't be here!"
"No! Go away! These mountains are not kind at night."

Sebastien leaves the stage and Belle is alone again.



Now Belle worries that Sebastien will not like him and he will not want to come back. Because she barked at him.

Belle says:

"I did not mean to scare him. Especially when he looked so happy to see me. It is just not safe here after the snow has fallen. I know. I am a dog of the mountain."

Belle notices that Sebastien has left his toffee in the snow. She says she will look after his toffee for him, because she is good. And she has made sure that he goes home.

Belle can't resist the toffee, she licks it, and then eats it, even though toffees make dogs sick.

The villagers are not happy about Sebastien going off to find Belle.

But Sebastien doesn't give up and goes back to see Belle. He brings food and a blanket – Belle is unsure at first, but eventually very happy.

Their relationship starts to grow as they get to know each other, playing and running in the mountains.



They play together: running, hiding, playing, burying, fetching, play-fighting.

The pace picks up here.



Sebastien shares some of his difficult stories from the village and Belle comforts him.

Belle surprises Sebastien with something from the village – but the villagers are not very happy.

Sebastien thinks they should run away into the mountain, but Belle knows it is dangerous.



We hear the sound of packed snow moving. The snow is groaning again.

As they try to avoid the villagers, their fears turn to reality and the mountain groans turn into an avalanche!



The stage goes darker, there are some flashing lights and loud groans as snow tumbles down the mountain.



This section is fast-paced and loud.



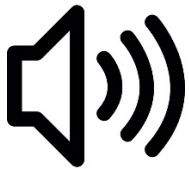
But all is not lost – the villagers discover Sebastien, protected by Belle – everyone is safe and everyone gets to go home.



The play finishes with the two characters at Sebastien's house.



Sebastien sings his song and Belle joins in, but howling the song, not singing.



Thank you for coming to see ***Belle and Sebastien***. We hope you enjoyed the show.

Contact – Travelling Light Theatre Company

If you have any questions about the show or would like to find out more, please get in contact with Travelling Light via info@travellinglighttheatre.org.uk or 07305 015 081 (we're not always in but leave us a message and we'll get back to you).

If you have any feedback about the show or this pack please get in touch, we'd love to hear from you.

We hope you enjoy your visit.

Contact – Bristol Old Vic

If you have any questions about your visit to Bristol Old Vic or would like to find out more, please contact Bristol Old Vic by email at access@bristololdvic.org.uk or by phone at 0117 987 7877.

You can also find out more on our website at bristololdvic.org.uk/your-visit/access.