



Relaxed Performance, 8 Apr, Sun, 2pm

Visual Story

This visual story is designed for visitors who are coming to see **The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time** (Relaxed Performance) at Esplanade – Theatres on the Bay. It contains information about the play and has lots of images to help prepare anyone who may be curious about their visit.

General Information about the play



How long does the play last?

The play is performed in two acts, with a break (called the 'intermission') in the middle.

Act 1: 70 minutes

Intermission 20 minutes

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Act 2: 60 minutes

In total, it will be 2 hours and 30 minutes long. This is an approximate time which means that sometimes the play is a little longer or a little shorter because it is live. When something is performed live, it means that it is being performed right in front of the audience.

Question and Answer

After the Relaxed Performance, you will have the opportunity to ask questions of some actors and the Director, who will return to the stage for approximately 15 minutes.

Age Recommendation

Please note that the National Theatre recommends members of the audience be aged 11+ for this production. Infants in arms or children below the age of 6 will not be admitted. Families are encouraged to review warnings and talk to Esplanade staff to assess appropriateness of content. Please see **show notes** (page 4) for more information about the show and warnings.

What is the play about?

This play is about Christopher and his family. Christopher is fifteen years old – he is exceptional at maths but finds it difficult to understand everyday life. He doesn't like being touched, he's wary of strangers and he has never gone further than the end of his road on his own. At the beginning of the play Christopher discovers his neighbour Mrs Shears' dog, who was called Wellington, has been speared with a garden fork and is dead. Christopher decides to do some detective work to try to solve the mystery of who murdered Wellington. He decides to write a book about the mystery and records each fact he discovers in this book. But this detective work, which his father doesn't want him to do, takes him on a journey that upturns his world.

Audio Effects

- Some adjustments have been made to the sound levels for the Relaxed Performance. However, it still can be quite noisy.

Show Notes

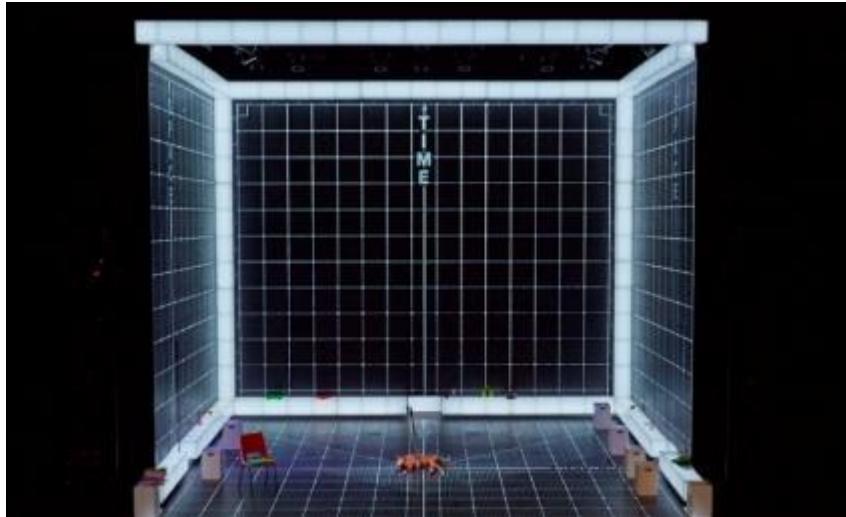
Some of the elements of the show may be overwhelming, distressing or exciting for some visitors. Please be aware of the following:

- There is strong language and swearing in the play when characters get angry or excited.
- Occasional references to adult themes are made, such as alcohol (a drunk character) and mild sexual references (no nudity).
- There are a few moments during the show when actors will be in the auditorium by the audience seats. The actors will not touch or speak to the audience.
- There are a few short moments of physical violence between the characters. There will also be moments when they raise their voices and become angry.
- During Act 1, Christopher, the main character in the play, has a seizure which is very realistic.
- During Act 2, there is a scene in a tube station (a tube is an underground train in London). There are lots of bright video projections, loud noises, and a part of the set moves in this scene. There is also some smoke used in this scene.
- Just before the end of the show, a live puppy is brought onto the stage. The puppy is always treated well. It does not go into the audience or touch any of the audience members.

Information about the stage and the set

- The **stage** is the area where the actors perform the play.
- The **set** is the name for all the scenery, furniture and objects used onstage in a play.

Here are some pictures of the stage and the set:



This is what the stage and the set looks like.



Throughout the play, lots of different lights are used. They light up at different times and in different colours. This is a picture of the set when the lights around the edge of the stage light up. There are no strobe lights.



Words and pictures are projected onto the floor and onto the walls at different times. In this picture Christopher is visiting his neighbours. The outlines on the walls show the different houses. The different house numbers are shown on the floor and the wall.



This is a picture of Christopher on the train travelling to London. Images are projected onto the wall to show the train is moving.



There is quite a lot of movement and different people coming on and off stage. Sometimes the actors will use movement to pretend to be real objects like doors, fridges, a computer game or waves in the sea.

The Characters

Some actors play lots of different character parts in the show. The characters are part of Christopher's story of who killed Wellington, Mrs Shears' dog.



This is Christopher.

Christopher is the main character in the play.

Christopher likes machines, outer space, and the colour red. He has a very good memory for details.

Christopher doesn't like it when people touch him. He lives in Swindon, England.

Sometimes, when Christopher gets angry or anxious, he makes a loud groaning noise.



This is Siobhan.

She is Christopher's teacher and helper at school.

Siobhan often reads from a book. This is the book that Christopher has written about his detective work. When she reads the book, she is speaking his words, which tell the story of who killed Wellington.



This is Ed. He is Christopher's dad.

Sometimes in the play, he becomes upset but he apologises and means well.



This is Judy. She is Christopher's mum.

For the first part of the play, Christopher thinks she is dead. He finds out later that she is actually alive and living in London.



This is Mrs Shears. She is Christopher's neighbour.

She used to live with Mr Shears, but now lives on her own.



This is Mrs Alexander. She is also Christopher's neighbour.



This is a policeman who Christopher meets in the play.

The actor who plays this policeman also plays Mr Shears and other different parts during the show.



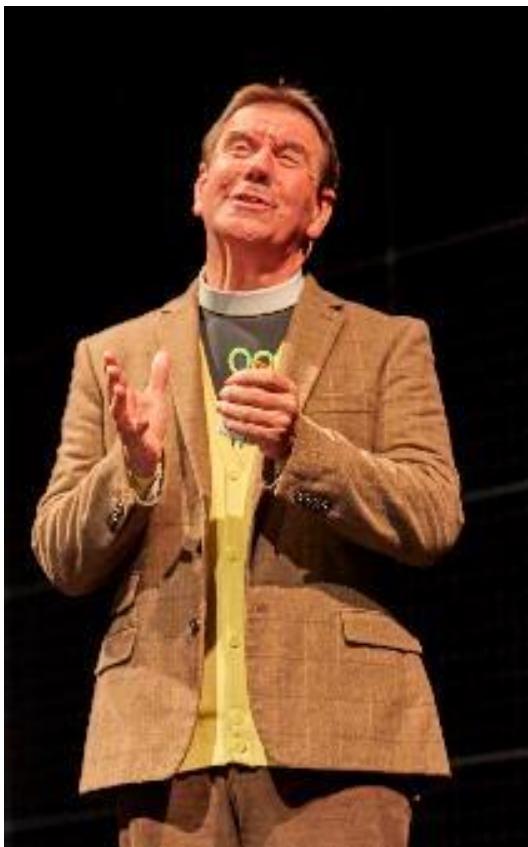
This is Mr Thompson, one of Christopher's neighbours.

The actor who plays Mr Thompson also plays a policeman and other different parts during the show.



This is one of Christopher's neighbours.

The actress who plays this neighbour plays other different parts during the show.



This is Reverend Peters.

The actor who plays Reverend Peters plays lots of different parts during the show including a policeman.



This is a shopkeeper who Christopher buys a map from in London. The map of London is often called the A to Z.



Toby is Christopher's pet rat. In the play, Toby is a puppet.

The Story

In this section, you will find out more about the story.

Act One



The show begins with the audience seeing a dog which has been speared by a garden fork. It is not a real dog.

The dog, called Wellington, is lying dead in Mrs Shears' garden. Mrs Shears is Christopher's neighbour and Wellington was her dog.

She thinks that Christopher has killed Wellington because Christopher is in her garden when she discovers that Wellington is dead. Christopher says that he isn't responsible for Wellington's death. Mrs Shears calls the police. When a policeman comes to talk to Christopher to find out what has happened, he gets upset and hits the policeman, who arrests him. Ed, who is Christopher's dad, comes to help Christopher get out of the police station and to explain that Christopher didn't mean to hurt the policeman. Throughout the scenes described, we sometimes see the action change to go to Christopher's school and we see Christopher and Siobhan talking about different things.

Siobhan is reading aloud from the book Christopher has written and she reads aloud Christopher's words which says, 'Mother died two years ago'. This is how we learn that Christopher's mum (Judy) is dead.



Christopher decides he is going to investigate Wellington's death and starts to question different people. He questions his neighbours – Mrs Shears, Mr Thompson, the woman who lives at No 40 (we don't find out her name), the man who lives at No 37 and Mrs Alexander.

Ed (Christopher's dad) goes to his school to talk to his head teacher (whose name is Mrs Gascoyne) to see if she will allow Christopher to take his maths A-level early. In England, school exams are called A-levels. After some persuading, she agrees to.



Christopher and his dad have an argument as his dad doesn't want him to ask their neighbours any questions about Wellington's death.



Siobhan is then reading aloud from Christopher's book again. She reads out how Christopher has described how much he would like to go to space. Christopher is lifted off the ground and carried around the stage by other actors. The whole theatre is covered in little lights which look like stars.

Christopher goes to see Mrs Alexander, one of his neighbours, and they talk about his mum. Mrs Alexander tells Christopher a secret – that his mum and Mrs Shears' husband (who is called Roger) were very good friends before his mother died. Christopher finds out his mum and Mr Shears were in a relationship.

Ed finds Christopher's book and he starts to read that Christopher has been asking the neighbours questions. He is very angry. At the same time, we also meet Christopher's mum who comes onto the stage as a memory which he wrote about in the book. Ed is very angry at Christopher and they have a fight. Christopher is upset because his dad takes his book and hides it. Christopher decides to do some detecting and looks all over the house for his book. After looking all over the house he finds his book at the bottom of his dad's wardrobe in a box.



Inside this box are also lots of letters, all addressed to Christopher. Christopher reads the letters, they are from his mum and he realises that she is still alive.

Ed talks to Christopher and tells him that he pretended his mum is dead as he was very angry with her for leaving him and moving away to London to live with Mr Shears (Roger). Ed also admits that he killed Wellington because he thought Mrs Shears was going to move in with him because they were in a relationship. She didn't want to move in with Ed. Christopher is very upset and he thinks that if his dad can murder Wellington, he could murder him too. Christopher decides to run away to London to see his mum (Judy).

Act Two

The second part of the play begins with Siobhan asking Christopher if he would like his book to be turned into a play which will be performed at his school.

Christopher is running away to London but before he goes he talks to Mrs Alexander and he steals his dad's (Ed) credit card. He goes to his local train station, Swindon, and we see him talking to a policeman, buying a ticket and getting on the train.



Just before his train is about to leave Swindon on its way to London, a policeman gets on board. The policeman is looking for Christopher because his dad has reported him missing.

Before the policeman can get Christopher off the train, the doors shut and the train sets off to London. Christopher hides on the train so that the policeman doesn't find him. He manages to avoid him and another policeman when they reach London.



Christopher then makes his way to his mum's (Judy) house, where she lives with Mr Shears. When he finally gets there, a policeman comes to see him to check that he is happy to live with Judy. She says that he can stay for as long as he likes.

Ed also arrives and wants to see Christopher but Christopher stays in his bedroom and won't talk to his dad. Mr Shears is worried that there isn't enough room for all three of them – Mr Shears, Christopher and Judy.

Christopher wants to go back to Swindon so he can do his maths A-level exam. Judy tells him she has called the Principal (Mrs Gascoyne) and has asked her to cancel the exam until next year. Christopher is very upset that he cannot take his A-level exams and he screams.

Later (at night) Mr Shears comes home. He is drunk and angry with Christopher. In the middle of the night, Christopher and his mum leave the flat in London and run away from Mr Shears. They go to stay in Swindon with Ed (Christopher's dad). Ed then goes to stay with a friend so that Christopher and Judy can stay in the house.

Christopher's mum (Judy) goes to visit Siobhan, who has some good news – the school still has his maths A-level papers so, Christopher decides that he will take the A-level.

Christopher and Judy move into their own place but Christopher doesn't like it very much.



Ed comes to see him but Christopher is still nervous about talking to his dad since he found out he killed Wellington (Mrs Shears' dog). Ed brings a present for Christopher – a puppy called Sandy – and Christopher starts to visit his dad so that he can see Sandy.

Christopher gets an A* grade for his maths A-level – he is happy because this is the best grade. The play then ends with Christopher and Siobhan talking – they are talking about the book which Siobhan has been reading throughout the play, which has been turned into a play for Christopher’s school and which is the story of who killed Wellington.

At the end of the play, the actor playing Christopher comes back onto stage to explain to you how he solved a maths problem on his A-level exam. He uses lots of different lights to help him. To celebrate at the end, a confetti cannon fires - this sends lots of tiny bits of paper onto the stage.

Question and Answer Session

After the Relaxed Performance, there will be a 15-minute question and answer session, where you will be able to ask the actors and director any questions you have about the play. You can choose whether you stay or leave for this session.

Contact

This visual story has been prepared by Esplanade – Theatres on the Bay and Singapore Repertory Theatre. If you would like any additional information in the lead up to your visit, please contact Esplanade at 6828 8377 or email boxoffice@esplanade.com

Acknowledgement

Esplanade – Theatres on the Bay thanks the following contributors to this visual story:

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