

**Visual Story for relaxed opening of *The Play's The Thing*
Thursday 1 February 2018**



This visual story is designed for visitors to the relaxed opening of our permanent exhibition, *The Play's The Thing*. It contains information and images to help prepare you for your visit.

Our exhibition is about 100 years of theatre-making in Stratford-upon-Avon and it's in a part of the theatre building called the Swan Wing. On display are colourful costumes and props from our stages.

The exhibition is inside the Royal Shakespeare Theatre. Here are two photos of the outside of the theatre so you know what it looks like:

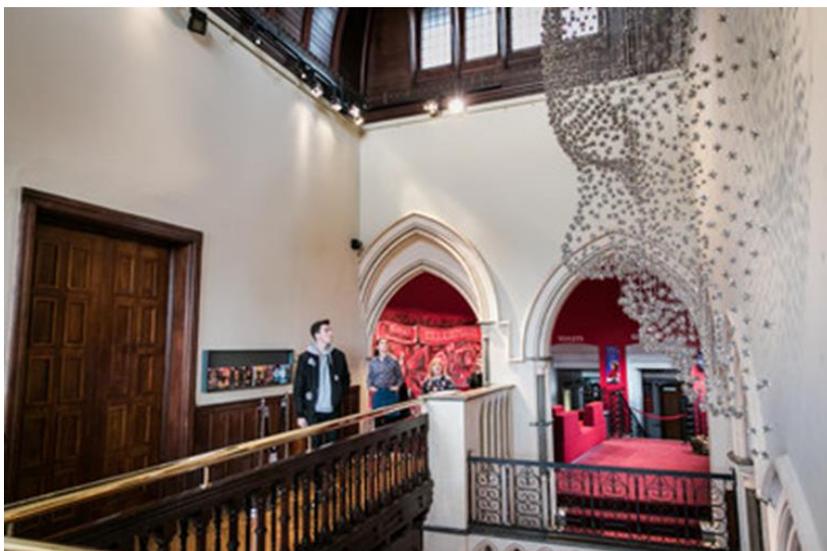


When you come into the theatre there is a shop, a cafe and a Box Office (where people buy their tickets for the plays). It will be busy as there will be lots of other people coming to see the play that is on, or going to the exhibition. It will look like this picture:



The exhibition is in a part of the building called the Swan Wing. It is one of the oldest parts of the building. You get to it by walking through the shop.

Here is the outside of the exhibition space:



Here is a photograph which shows the inside of the exhibition. The lighting is not very bright as we have to protect the beautiful costumes and other objects on display. Some objects are behind glass to protect them but there are some touch labels so you can feel the fabric that is used to make some of the costumes.



The Exhibition Space

There are also some interactive exhibits that you can play with. They are listed here:

- Magic mirror and dress up area.
You can try on different items of costume in the dress-up area. There's a digital screen which you stand in front of. You can then choose what costume to wear by swiping left or right. You can even take a photo of yourself. A member of staff will be able to help you.
Here is a photograph of some children using the magic mirror:



Magic Mirror/Costume Area

- On stage pod.

In this interactive you can see what it would be like to be an Actor on our stage at the Royal Shakespeare Theatre.

This interactive is quite dark when you step into the pod as it has curtains around it. You will see an image of a large audience in front of you.

There is a chance for you to read out some of the lines from the play *Hamlet* on the screen – a bit like a

computer game. Your lines will come up on the screen in front of you.

Here is a photograph of what you will see inside the pod:



On Stage Pod

- A-Z drawers.

Some of these drawers make a noise when you open them. For example, the drawer for the letter J plays a jig so you will hear music if you open this drawer. Here is a photograph of the drawers:



A-Z Drawers

Chill-Out Areas

If you want to come out of the exhibition for a break you can go to the chill-out area.

Here is a picture of a chill-out area:



We call this area the Rialto Bridge. There are red sofas to sit on, peep holes to look through on the wall and audio recordings to listen to.

Here is someone using the peep holes:



You can come and go in and out of the exhibition onto the Rialto Bridge as much as you would like.

Ushers

Ushers are people who are there to help you with your visit to the exhibition. Here is a photograph of two ushers:



The Ushers will be able to help you with the following things:

- Finding your way round the exhibition
- Showing you where the chill-out area is
- Showing you where the toilets are
- Providing you with an exhibition bag.

The exhibition bags contain:

- A pair of green ear defenders
- A copy of the sensory map
- A throwaway camera for you to take photos of anything that interests you.

A message from us



Thank you for visiting the Royal Shakespeare Theatre. We hope you enjoy your time in The Play's The Thing exhibition.

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, distributed, or transmitted in any form or by any means, including photocopying, recording, or other electronic or mechanical methods, without the prior written permission of the publisher, except in the case of brief quotations embodied in critical reviews and certain other noncommercial uses permitted by copyright law. For permission requests, write to the publisher, addressed "Attention: RSC Education" at the address below.

The Royal Shakespeare Company
3, Chapel Lane
Stratford on Avon
Warwickshire
CV37 6BE
www.rsc.org.uk