

Thank you for your interest in our dementia friendly performance of

Anniversary, Saturday 17 September 2016, 1.30pm

We would like to share further information on what you can expect from the day. All arrangements are made in consultation with people living with dementia, and their supporters. This feedback is invaluable in planning our event.

The show lasts for around 1 hour 15 minutes. There is no interval.

Anniversary is a brand new piece of dance theatre. The show involves a group of older people getting together to create a dance. We watch as they gather together, enter the stage, introduce lighting, build the set (made from hundreds of balloons), create the music and rehearse the dance itself.

Each performer shares a date with us – these dates mark a significant anniversary for that person. We find out more about the performers' stories as the piece develops. These stories share a huge range of human experience, from happy, tender moments, to moments of ambition, dreams and loss.

The performers are not acting parts, they are performing as themselves. The stories you hear are true, told in the performers' own words. The show concludes with the performers in costume, presenting the final dance.

This show does not follow a traditionally structured narrative style. This makes it easy for people to enjoy each moment in the performance without retaining a storyline.

There is beautiful music throughout, which creates atmosphere and is an important part of the storytelling.

There is some gentle haze used in the show, and many balloons. There is occasional use of strong language.

People who have watched rehearsals have told us:

'I love the dancing. It's fantastic to see such a celebration of older bodies.'

'I want to know these people, to find out more about their stories.'

'Watching this makes me proud to be an older person.'

Singing sessions

We offer singing sessions in advance to help our audience members connect with the show. Focusing on songs, music and movement from the show, sessions will take place in the Playhouse's Congreve Room on:

Tuesday 13 September at 1.30pm – 2.30pm

Saturday 17 September at 11.45am – 12.15pm and 12.30pm – 1.00pm

Places can be booked in advance by contacting Nicky on 0113 213 7296.

Singing sessions for the dementia friendly performance of Anniversary are funded by a generous donation in memory of Doreen Dean.

Arriving at West Yorkshire Playhouse

The Playhouse is situated directly opposite the main Leeds city bus station, so public transport is a good way of reaching us.

The large Quarry Hill pay & display car park situated next to the Playhouse is operated by Leeds City Council. There is a height restriction so only cars and small vans can park here. The car park can get busy, so please allow enough time to find a parking space.

A daytime stay of up to 2 hours currently costs £4.00, 5 hours costs £6.00, 8 hours costs £8.00. The machine takes coins only (10p, 20p, 50p, £1, £2). The machine does not take notes and no change is given.

There is free parking for Blue Badge holders in Quarry Hill car park and also on Playhouse Square immediately in front of the Playhouse entrance.

Buses and minibuses can drop people off on Playhouse Square, directly outside the Playhouse entrance, where there is no height restriction. They can park in the adjacent bus parking area and return at the end of the show to collect passengers.

Front of house

Friendly staff and volunteers will meet audience members and support you through your visit. All front of house staff and volunteers have attended a Dementia Friends information session and taken part in in-house briefing sessions.

Please ensure you arrive in good time – we will open the auditorium 35 minutes before the show. It can take a while to get to your seats, especially if you are using the lifts.

We have additional signage and visual markers in our front of house area, to help you negotiate the venue more easily.

A quiet room with comfortable seating will be available just down the stairs from box office. This area is reserved specifically for customers of the dementia-friendly performance who may need some time out from the crowds.

Our café will be serving hot and cold food and drinks. If you need help finding a seat or carrying trays of food, our volunteers wearing purple t-shirts will be happy to help.

There is another small scale show at 2pm on the same day, so this area may be busy. We can reserve a table for you – please contact Nicky on 0113 213 7296.

In the auditorium

There are steps to reach most seats in the auditorium.

We have an area of seating reserved at the back of the auditorium for people who may wish to move around or select different seats.

People who feel they need a little more personal space can request that the seat next to them remains unsold. Please speak to box office staff to arrange this in advance.

We have increased the number of wheelchair spaces for this show, however these are limited so please ensure you have told us in advance if you need a wheelchair space to avoid disappointment. If you wish to transfer from a wheelchair or walking frame to a theatre seat, we can store your mobility equipment for you.

It is not possible to go onto the stage at any time.

During the show

We embrace any responses from audience members – we know that people may want to respond verbally, ask for clarification or share their thoughts. We ask that all audience members support each other in embracing this.

We encourage you to sing along with any songs you know.

There is a relaxed attitude to leaving and re-entering the auditorium – staff wearing purple t-shirts can help you find your way to the nearest exit.

After the show

At the end of the show performers and musicians will take their final bow. After this they will return to say hello to audience members – please stay in your seats and they will come to you. You may wish to take photos at this point, but please do not take photos or film during the show. We ask that you do not use flash photography at any time, to support the needs of customers with epilepsy.

The meet and greet should finish by 3.20pm. When you have left the auditorium, please join us in the café area for tea and biscuits, and to tell us what you thought.

Filming & photography

We are filming and photographing the event to publicise dementia-friendly performances. We will take some general shots of the audience but also ask permission to take close-ups of individuals and groups. If you would prefer not to be photographed or filmed, please advise our photographer.

If you have any questions at all, please feel free to contact: Nicky Taylor, Community Development Manager on 0113 213 7296 or nicky.taylor@wyp.org.uk

Access performances at West Yorkshire Playhouse are sponsored by: