

Hello, Shuswap Theatre Patrons!

Thank you so much for purchasing tickets to Shuswap Theatre's Relaxed Performance of *The Wizard of Oz* on Sunday, December 1st at 1.30pm. This is the first time we have offered a relaxed performance to the community, and we are working hard to ensure that we can be as inclusive and welcoming as possible. To that end, this email contains information about the building and the performance, so that you know what to expect when you come for the show.

**Tour of the Building – Saturday November 23rd from 1 to 2pm (come for 15 minutes)
41 Hudson Street NW Salmon Arm**

We know that coming to a new place can sometimes be challenging. And so, we invite you to come and tour the lobby, washrooms, and auditorium of Shuswap Theatre the week before the performance, so that you can become familiar with the building and know what to expect. The theatre will be open from 1-2 pm on Saturday November 23rd, and you are welcome to drop in for about 15 minutes during this time. Volunteers from both Shuswap Theatre and BC Community Living will be on hand to show you around. If you bring your ticket with you, you can even find your exact seat in the theatre. This is a great time to let us know about any special requests you might have regarding accessibility or anything else.

The Relaxed Performance – Sunday December 1st at 1.30pm

The big day! Our performance of *The Wizard of Oz* is split into two acts. Act 1 runs approximately one hour ten minutes, and will be followed by a 20 minute intermission. Act 2 runs approximately 40 minutes. So things should wrap up by about 3.45 pm. The doors to the theatre building/lobby will open at 12.30 pm. We aim to start on time at 1.30 pm.

What to expect on the day:

- The lights inside the theatre will never go out – they will stay on about halfway the whole time
- The volume of sound effects will be reduced
- A smoke machine/fog machine WILL be used during the performance
- Strobe lights will NOT be used
- Certain special effects, or effects that might be startling, will be demonstrated before the performance begins so that the audience becomes familiar with them
- The actors will introduce themselves before the performance begins, and will demonstrate how they will move throughout the whole theatre (i.e. in the aisles)
- A large screen will be set-up in the lobby. If any patron feels overwhelmed inside the theatre, they can come sit on the couch and continue to watch the performance on the screen

- A baby change station will be available for parents. Please ask front of house staff for assistance.
- We have very limited room inside the building. As much as possible, please leave strollers in the car.
- Booster seats will be available for small children.
- Although we encourage patrons not to wear scented products out of consideration for others, we cannot guarantee a scent-free environment
- We have two gendered washrooms. The men's has one toilet with door, and one stall with a urinal. The ladies' has two toilets, one of which is wheelchair accessible. If any male patrons need to use the accessible washroom, our front of house staff asks ladies to wait so that the patron may use the stall.
- Our concession will be open before the show, and during intermission only, for the purchase of juice, coffee, and cookies. Please note we cannot guarantee a nut-free environment.
- Our production is a re-imagining of the MGM movie of The Wizard of Oz. So although many elements will be present (the songs, the yellow brick road, the Emerald City), it will not be a word-for-word or scene-by-scene re-creation of the movie. Some costumes will look different. Some people will look different. It's going to be magical and beautiful, but not the same as what you may have seen.

Audience members are welcome to...

- Wear ear defenders, use fidget gadgets, or any other manipulative that helps them feel comfortable
- Enter and exit the auditorium as they need to, whether it's to take a break, visit the washroom, or whatever else they may need. An usher will guide you to the doors at the top of the stairs.
- Talk or make sounds during the show, including cheering, clapping, singing along, crying, or exclaiming. We trust that patrons will know if their sounds or behaviours are becoming too disruptive. Our support team from BC Community Living will gladly help them settle into the lobby and watch the show on the big screen as needed.

Our aim is to take a relaxed approach to audience behaviour – while ensuring that everyone still gets a chance to enjoy the show.

Although it's relaxed, some rules do apply...

- Please do not go on the stage at any time.
- Photography or video recording during the show is not permitted. If you are taking photos we will ask you to stop.
- For safety reasons, patrons must remain in their seats and cannot stand in the aisles to watch the show

- Neither food nor drink are permitted inside the theatre, except for water in secure containers (not a disposable cup with lid)

That's it!

If you have any questions about the tour, or about the relaxed performance, please email me directly and I'll do my best to answer. As Shuswap Theatre is a volunteer-run organization, the phone lines are not staffed (although you can leave a message and someone will get back to you as soon as they can).

See you on the yellow brick road!

Sincerely,
Astrid Varnes
Assistant Director