

**ROSE
THEATRE**

The Glass Menagerie, Photo: Marc Brenner.



**WELCOME
TO ACCESS AT THE ROSE**

ROSETHEATRE.ORG

020 8174 0090



EVERYONE BELONGS AT ROSE THEATRE

Welcome to our first access newsletter, which will give you an insight into the access and inclusion work taking place at Rose Theatre. There's been a lot of activity happening behind the scenes and we'll shine a light on some of the highlights and progress we've made, as well as some exciting updates about the season ahead.

2025/26 has seen some big developments in our access provision. From a hugely successful fundraising campaign, building connections with local charities and schools, to the launch of a cross-departmental access board - we're committed to ensuring the Rose Theatre is an accessible space for everyone to enjoy.

In the spirit of 'nothing about us, without us', we want to make sure our next steps are guided by the lived experiences of those who face barriers to accessing live theatre. Please get in contact if you have any feedback or suggestions. If you are a teacher or charity and would like to attend our next access event, please get in touch to join our mailing list.

We are excited to share everything we have been working on this year and the plans for the coming season.

Sarah Chipperfield
Schools and Access Manager

HIGHLIGHTS FROM 2025/26

THE BIG GIVE

This year, our Big Give campaign raised an astonishing £32,600 for our Access & Inclusion programme. The fundraising gala evening was a huge success, helped along with a little star quality from the cast of *Our Town* and Michael Sheen! The money raised will go towards funding more accessible performances (captioned, BSL, audio-described and relaxed) and strengthening the support we offer disabled audiences and young people, including removing financial barriers.

ACCESS EVENTS

Over the past 12 months we have welcomed local schools and charity partners to our first ever access events at the Rose Theatre. These relaxed and informal events have been a great way to highlight the opportunities available at the theatre, including free tickets, workshops and much more. More importantly, this has been an invaluable way to connect with our local community, finding out first hand about the barriers that prevent engagement in the arts and how our access provision can offer support. One recent change in response to feedback from an access event is the addition of relaxed performances for our

adult drama, which will be available for *Three Men In a Boat* and *Frankenstein*. To find out about future access events, please email participate@rosetheatre.org

ACCESS VIDEOS

You can now find out about everything on offer at the Rose Theatre by watching and listening to our new access video! This has been a cross departmental effort to showcase the access provision at the theatre including: the access bay in our auditorium, the different access performances available, the range of activities and courses on offer. Click here to view to the video: [here](#)



LEARNING AND PARTICIPATION

The last 12 months have seen lots of exciting activity in our Learning and Participation department. Our Rose Collective course for young people facing barriers to theatre and drama training continues into its fourth year. We're also delighted to be building lots of new relationships with local schools and charities by delivering workshops and theatre tours, as well as meeting teachers and support staff at our popular Rose Connections evenings.



ACCESS BOARD

This year we launched our first cross-departmental access board. Representatives from all departments will now meet to discuss any areas concerning access and inclusion that might need support, trouble-shoot solutions and also share good practice. We're looking

forward to working collaboratively to improve all aspects of access provision across the business.

ROSE ROUTES

Rose Routes is a fully funded ticket and workshop programme and is designed to support students with the least access to the performing arts. We believe that theatre should be for everyone — and no young person should miss out due to cost. In 2025/26, the Rose Theatre issued 3000 free tickets, 10 free workshops and tours to local schools, colleges and organisations. The scheme is now open for 2026/27 and you find more details and the application form here [\(Rose Routes | Rose Theatre, Kingston, London\)](#)





A WELCOME FROM OUR HEAD OF LEARNING AND PARTICIPATION

Lucy Dennis-Morrell

Photo: Headshot, Lucy Dennis-Morrell.

I oversee Head of Learning and Participation at Rose Theatre, where I oversee our work with young people, schools, access programmes, and community engagement initiatives. My role includes working collaboratively across all departments to help shape and support the theatre's access and inclusion strategy, ensuring that creativity and participation remain at the heart of everything we do. A key focus of my work is making theatre accessible, welcoming, and meaningful for people from all backgrounds and abilities.

One area I oversee is our programme of workshops for SEN schools and charities. Every workshop is carefully designed around the individual needs of each group, allowing participants to engage in ways that feel comfortable, supportive, and inspiring. Sessions often include an interactive tour of the theatre, giving participants the opportunity to explore behind the scenes and discover how productions come to life. This is usually followed by practical, hands-on workshops using props, costumes, sound, storytelling, and performance activities to encourage creativity, confidence, and self-expression.

We can also deliver workshops directly within schools, charities, and community settings, adapting both the content and delivery to best suit participants in environments where they feel most comfortable. Building strong relationships with teachers, carers, and support staff is an important part of this process, helping us create experiences that are inclusive, engaging, and genuinely impactful.



Alongside this work, we are excited to have recently introduced a new stage and screen make-up workshop. This gives participants the chance to explore another creative and technical side of theatre-making, while developing practical skills and confidence in a fun and supportive environment.

For me, this work is incredibly important. Breaking down barriers and championing inclusion should be central to the mission of every theatre. Theatre has the power to connect people, build confidence, inspire creativity, and create a sense of belonging. However, this can only happen when organisations are willing to actively listen, adapt, and commit to making their spaces and opportunities accessible to everyone.

'BY ENSURING OUR SPACES AND ACTIVITIES ARE INCLUSIVE AND ACCESSIBLE, WE CAN HELP MORE PEOPLE FEEL THAT THEATRE IS TRULY A PLACE FOR THEM.'

I strongly believe that a theatre is only as strong as the community around it. Our communities are made up of wonderfully diverse individuals, experiences, and perspectives, and it is essential that we continue creating opportunities that reflect and celebrate that diversity. By ensuring our spaces and activities are inclusive and accessible, we can help more people feel that theatre is truly a place for them.



A MESSAGE FROM OUR DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR

Sarah Ruff

As the cost-of-living crisis, social isolation and mental health challenges continue to affect so many lives, spaces that bring people together have never mattered more. At the Rose Theatre, people of all backgrounds come together with neighbours, friends and family to connect, create and belong. Here, you can step away from your screens, discover something new, be inspired and share unforgettable experiences. The Rose is more than a theatre — it is a vital community space, and one we must continue to protect for future generations.

Earlier this year, we launched Everyone Belongs at Rose Theatre — an ambitious public fundraising campaign dedicated to improving access and inclusion across our work.



Photo: Csilla Horváth. Left to right: Georgina Cox-Munn, Kate Harland, Sarah Ruff.



Photo: Jazz in the Rose Theatre Cafe



Photo: Andy Sillet, Gala Evening for Our Town.



Photo: Csilla Horváth. Boy at the Back of the Class Press Night.



Thanks to the incredible generosity of our supporters through the Big Give Arts for Impact campaign, we raised an outstanding £32,600 to support our access programme.

The response from our community was truly inspiring and showed just how deeply local people value a welcoming, inclusive cultural space that is open to everyone.

Last year alone, we delivered 16 adapted performances for audiences with access needs, alongside 2,845 heavily subsidised access tickets and free carer tickets, including relaxed and audio-described performances. This year, we are going even further — expanding our programme to 20 adapted performances and increasing ticket support so that even more people can experience the joy, creativity and connection that live theatre makes possible.



IN FOCUS: THE ROSE COLLECTIVE

Eve Bailey, Rose Collective Director

The Rose Collective is a six-month company based at the Rose Theatre, and is open to young people aged 16-19 (up to 21 for young people with SEND) who are currently under-represented in the theatre. Members of the Rose Collective work with other talented young artists to create a brand-new final production. Now in its fourth year, our course continues to be very important for our local community.

Each cohort takes a different journey, shaped by the group's interests within the performing arts industry. My role is to create a safe, inclusive and creative space where everyone can explore their interests in the arts. Our work varies each term but always builds towards a final piece — from plays and immersive performances to exhibitions. We begin by getting to know the cohort and discovering which areas of performing arts they'd like to explore, then tailor the course around those interests.

Photo: Headshot, Eve Bailey.



This year, we're creating a multimedia adaptation of *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*, alongside workshops with industry professionals including a voice coach, film makers and musical director.

The benefits of the Rose Collective are different for every member. For some, it's the chance to try something new; for others, it's discovering a passion for a different area of theatre. A key part of the course is learning how to collaborate as an ensemble, while also building confidence, creativity and industry connections in a supportive environment.

'A SAFE, INCLUSIVE AND CREATIVE SPACE WHERE EVERYONE CAN EXPLORE THEIR INTERESTS IN THE ARTS'

For me, theatre has always been a safe space to share stories and connect with others. Small but meaningful changes in approach and attitude can make people feel genuinely welcomed, included and valued within a creative community.



IN FOCUS: CAPTIONED PERFORMANCES

Geert Rigters

Captioned performances are available for a number of shows throughout our season. Geert Rigters is a stagetext certified captioner and gives us an insight into the work involved in these performances.

Live theatre captioning provides the audience with the actor's dialogue, as well as descriptions of anything that can be heard as part of the performance.

Originally created for people who are deaf or hard of hearing, it also provides a more accessible experience to a variety of patrons



Photo: Headshot, Geert Rigters.

who may find a performance hard to follow without additional context.

As captioners, we are provided with a script of the show, as well as a recording of the performance. We prepare the script, remove any stage directions, format the sentences in line with how they are spoken and adjust punctuation to reflect the actor's delivery, as accurately as possible. Over a few visits to the show, we also include any lines that the actors may change across performances to give us options for when we deliver the captions.



Photo: Geert Rigters. Performance of *Leopards*, Rose Theatre.

On the day of the performance, technicians install screens for the audience to see the captions on. Once the audience enters, the captioner starts to deliver the captions to the audience line by line.

I started training as a captioner in 2021 to offer the Rose Theatre more affordable access to captioning services. I have now captioned over 30 shows across the south of the UK. I enjoy this work as it allows me to help widen the reach of live theatre, as I truly believe that theatre should be accessible to anyone. A bonus is that I get to hear fantastic performances multiple times and observe incredible actors deliver stunning performances.

A theatre that is at the heart of a local community, like the Rose, needs to be accessible to everyone, regardless of the obstacles that they face in doing so. In my years of working for and with the Rose, their continued commitment to delivering more accessible performances is a testament to this. As the Rose grows its access provision it will do its part in ensuring their shows can be enjoyed by anyone.



Photo: Geert Rigters. Performance of *Mary Poppins*.

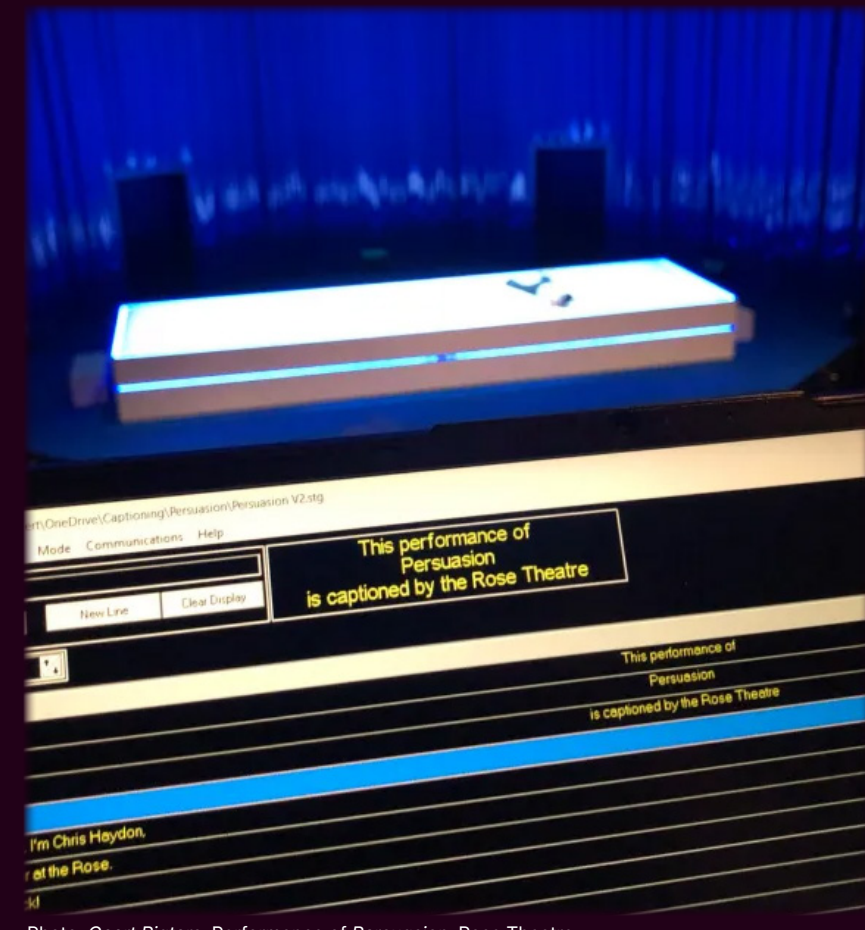


Photo: Geert Rigters. Performance of *Persuasion*, Rose Theatre.

ACCESS PERFORMANCES

Across our season of productions, we aim to offer a wide range of accessible performances to ensure an enjoyable experience for all our customers. The full details are available on our Access page [here](#) but please find an overview below:

AUDIO DESCRIBED PERFORMANCES

These performances have a live audio-description that can be heard through headphones. The description fills in the gaps by describing facial expressions, costume, scenery and action sequences so that visually impaired theatregoers can follow the plot fully and independently.

Personal transmitters with either headsets or hearing loops can be collected from the box office when you arrive at the theatre. There are two channels available: one will connect with the speakers in the auditorium and the other to the audio description, so you are able to choose the best option for you.

CAPTIONED PERFORMANCES

Captioned performances are aimed at any person who may benefit from having the speech of the show, as well as audio cues and other information, displayed during the show. Captions will be delivered on caption units positioned for ease of use by our audience.

RELAXED PERFORMANCES

Relaxed performances are adapted to create a more comfortable and welcoming environment for audience members who may

benefit from a more relaxed setting. The auditorium environment is adjusted to reduce sensory stimulation. House lights may remain partially on, sound levels may be lowered where possible, and audiences are free to move around, leave and re-enter the auditorium as needed.

TOUCH TOURS

We often offer Touch Tours of the set and props preceding the performances for visually impaired customers. Please contact the box office team for more information.

ACCESS BAY

We have an access bay in the stalls, which has space for 4 wheelchairs users and a companion seat. There are options to remain in your wheelchair or to transfer to a seat and power outlets

VISUAL STORY

A visual story for the theatre is available [here](#).

BRITISH SIGN LANGUAGE INTERPRETED PERFORMANCES

BSL interpreted performances are aimed at D/deaf or hearing-impaired people. The Rose allocates specific seats in the theatre so that audiences can read the interpretation clearly while still having a great view of the show.

UPCOMING ACCESS PERFORMANCES

RELAXED PERFORMANCES:

[Three Men in a Boat](#)

Tuesday 29 September at 6.30pm

[Room on the Broom](#)

Thursday 29 October at 1.30pm

[The Wind in the Willows](#)

Tuesday 29 December at 11.30am

AUDIO DESCRIBED PERFORMANCES:

[Three Men in a Boat](#)

Tuesday 6 October, 6.30pm

[Three Men in a Boat](#)

Saturday 10 October 2026, 14:30

[Wind in the Willows](#)

Monday 21st December at 17:30

CAPTIONED PERFORMANCES:

[Three Men in a Boat](#)

Saturday 10 October at 2.30pm

[The Wind in the Willows](#)

Tuesday 22 December 5.30pm

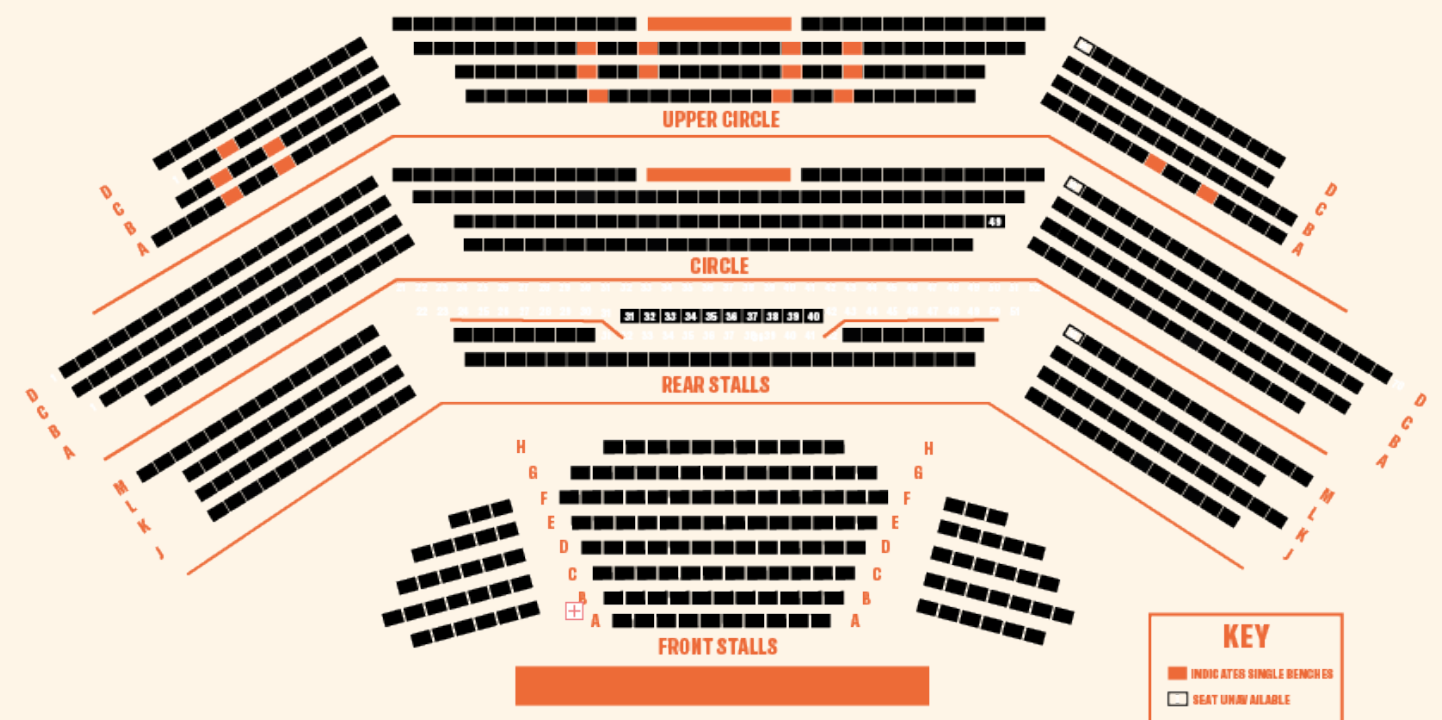
BSL INTERPRETED PERFORMANCES:

[Wind in the Willows](#)

Tuesday 23 December 5.30pm

Pre Show Touch tours often included - speak to box office on 020 8174 0090 or email info@rosetheatre.org for more information.

ROSE THEATRE FULL AUDITORIUM PLAN



YOUR VISIT INFORMATION

BOOKING INFORMATION FOR ACCESS PATRONS

Online

The easiest way to book is via our website: rosetheatre.org. Simply select What's On in our navigation bar and select the production you wish to buy tickets for.

Phone

Call our Box Office on 020 8174 0090. Calls cost 5.1p a minute from a BT landline, mobiles may vary.

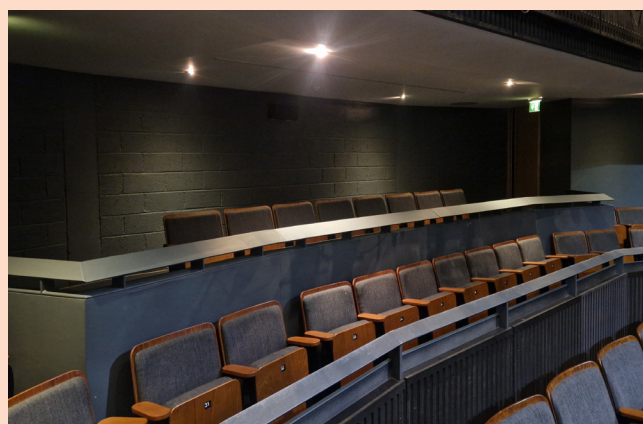
Our opening hours can be found here: [Your Visit](#)

Once you have booked a ticket, you will have an active profile that includes all of your access requirements.

Should you wish to book a ticket for a future performance, you will then be able to book online and you will be eligible for any discounts and companion tickets that may apply.

If you have identified that you have any access requirements, you will receive a courtesy call or email from one of our friendly box office staff in advance of your visit. Our staff will confirm your access requirements and check if there are any other arrangements that you may need us to put in place before your visit.

BOX OFFICE + ACCESS BAY



ACCESS IN THE BUILDING

OUR ADDRESS:

Rose Theatre
24-26 High Street
Kingston upon Thames
KT1 1HL

ACCESS IN THE BUILDING:

We have a lift next to our box office desk, with access to all levels of the theatre.

We have lower level counters at our box office desk and bar.

We have chillout zones during relaxed performances and you can watch the show from a screen in the cafe, so you don't miss any of the show. Our front of house team are always on hand to help, if you require any support during your visit.

Disabled toilets are available on all levels of the theatre.

The following Changing Spaces are available in the local area:

Bentalls Centre

[Facilities - The Bentall Centre](#)

Kingston Hospital

[Information for disabled patients and visitors :: Kingston and Richmond NHS Foundation Trust](#)

TRANSPORT AND PARKING

Please refer to our ['Getting Here'](#) page for more information about directions and transport links.

There is a disabled space in front of the main entrance of the theatre. This allows 10 minute parking for drop off and collection only.

The Rose car park has 16 disabled spaces at street level.

Kingston and Surbiton train stations - Step free access is available through the stations and ramps for train access are available. Please check [National Rail](#) for any updates before your visit.

