



RELAXED PERFORMANCE INFORMATION PACK THE OTHER PALACE 2022

Dear Theatre Patron,

Welcome to The Other Palace Relaxed Performance journey. This pack has been put together as an aid to help you prepare for your visit to the Theatre and to help ensure that you / your group get the most out of your Heathers experience.

Within this pack you will find many different pieces of information from entering the theatre to the production itself, including notes from the show that we have highlighted that may be of use. We have also included images of the theatre and the performers so you can become familiar before you arrive.

A relaxed performance is a specially adapted show, modified for adults and children who might benefit from a more relaxed environment. Typically, they are for people who have autism or have sensory communication disorders or learning difficulties and for people with dementia.

At a relaxed performance it is a more informal atmosphere; the house lights don't go down as much as they normally would. Strobe lighting and pyrotechnics are avoided and with the music it tends to be played more quietly with no loud or sudden sound effects.

We have a quiet zone in our bar if you need to take a break. Perhaps most importantly it is fine if you or your group chatters, shouts out, makes noises or fidgets, it's absolutely fine! Tutting is most definitely not tolerated so you can also relax without worrying about disrupting other patrons.

If you have any questions, queries, or would like talk about any special requirements you would like to make us aware of, please do not hesitate to call us on 0207 592 0302 and one of our box office team will aid you in any way we can.

Thank you for booking with us and we hope you enjoy the show!



Beth Fox-Williams
Theatre Manager

Contents

Page 4 – 5	About The Other Palace
Page 6 – 9	Maps of The Other Palace
Page 10	About the relaxed Performance
Page 11-12	Meet the Characters!
Page 13-14	The Story of Heathers

About The Other Palace

The Other Palace is a rather modern venue with 2 performance spaces. There are 2 main entrances into the building – one through our main front doors from Palace Street (which brings you straight into our Foyer next to the main entrance of the Main House), and the other at the opposite side on the Gin Bar on Palace Place.

Bag searches are carried out at our theatre to ensure your safety. We are not allowed to have glass in our auditorium so please do not bring any glass containers with you. No items will be taken away from you unless they are in glass containers, contain alcohol, or may cause harm to other customers. No medicines or medical equipment will be withheld.

Guide dogs are welcome in all areas in our venue but please make sure you have booked a seat on the end of an aisle so that your companion can stay by your side.

Our Foyer is home to: our Box Office where you can collect your tickets, our Merchandise Stand which will be fully stocked with t-shirts, hoodies, bags, hair bobbles keyrings and much more.

Walk through our open plan foyer and straight into The Other Gin Bar, which serves a whole host of hot and cold drinks. Male and Female toilets* can be found as you enter The Other Gin Bar, on the left hand side.

From our Foyer you will find double doors which lead into the auditorium. Our Box Office desk is adjacent to these double doors, along with our accessible toilet*.

Toilets Facilities*

Please be aware our toilet facilities have hand dryers in operation. Our accessible toilets have a step for those who may need a little helping had to reach the toilet. Our toilets currently do NOT have adult changing tables or an assistive hoist.

Loop System

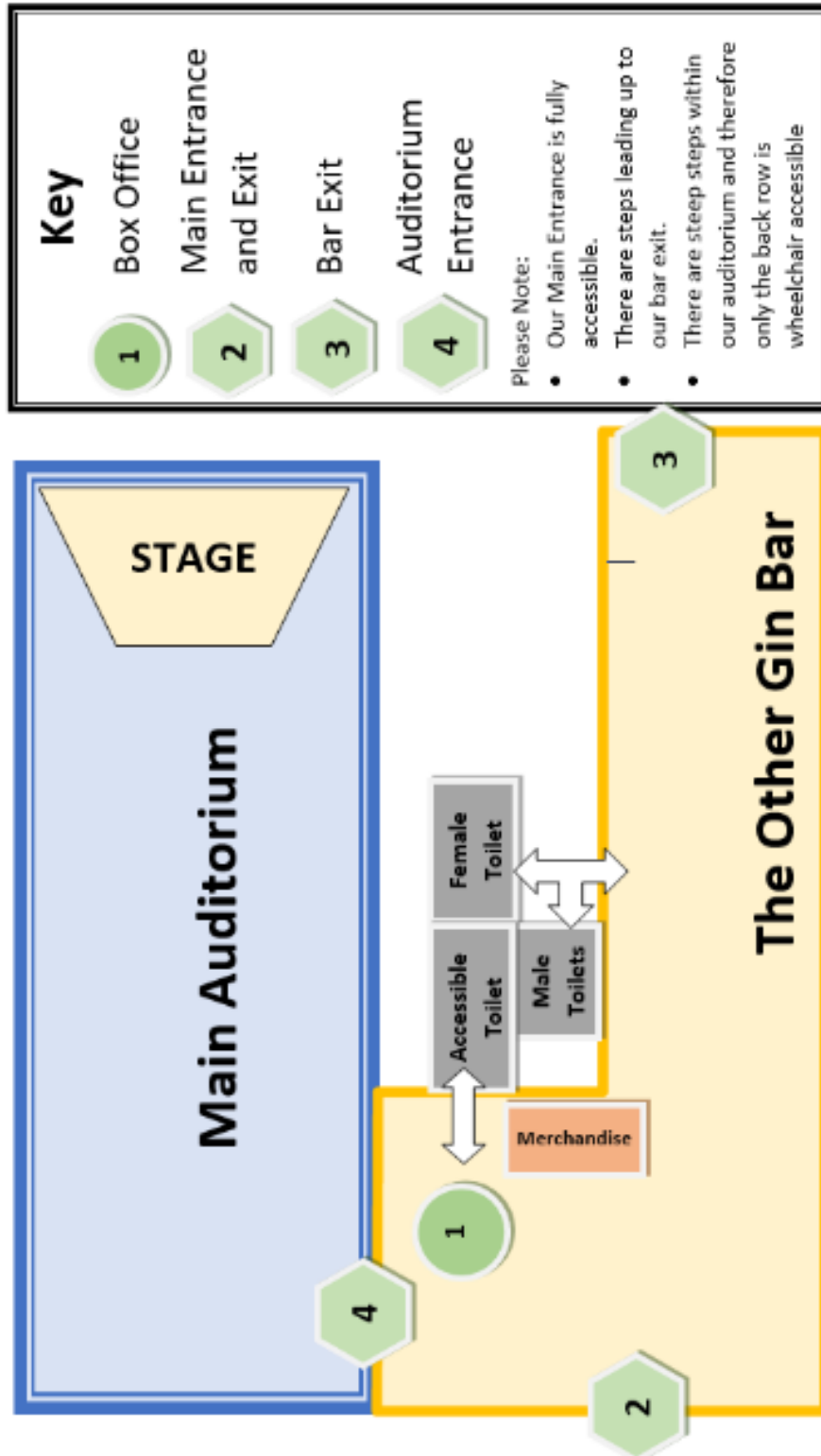
We have a loop system installed in our theatre, with receivers available from our Theatre Shop. Our receivers are FREE to use, but we ask for a £5 deposit which will be returned at the end of the show.

Our receivers work with both headphones or with hearing aids switched to the T position. Please ask any of our Front of House team should you need assistance with these.

Assistance

If you require supervision or assistance during your visit you may be eligible for a free Companion Ticket. The companion must be able to help you access the theatre and its facilities, remaining with you to ensure your wellbeing and comfort.

Map of The Other Palace



The Performance

Before the Show

Before all of our shows, we make audio announcements in the Foyer and Bar to give customers useful information, such as how long it is until the show begins. During a relaxed performance, we will only make necessary announcements and these will be at a lower volume than normal.

The doors to the auditorium will be opened as soon as is possible to give you as much time as we can to explore and settle into the space. If you have bought a drink from one of our bars you are welcome to bring this into the auditorium with you.

Inside the auditorium

When you first go into the auditorium, the lights will be on so that you can find your seat easily. When the performance is about to begin, we will dim the lights but it will never go completely dark.

It can be a little bit noisy when people are finding their seats and excited to see the show. You may like to bring some ear defenders to wear during this time to make the noise levels more comfortable, as well as a comforting toy to play with while you are waiting for the show to start.

Please note: Although there are railings inside our auditorium the steps are quite steep, you may want to ask your companion to help you.

If you are sitting in the middle of a row, you may also need your companion to aid you along the row to your seat.

During the Show

The main thing to remember is that a relaxed performance means that you do not have to sit still and keep quiet. You are welcome to leave and re-enter the auditorium at any time. Should you wish to have a break from the show and need a quiet space, you may make use of our Bar for as long as you wish.

Characters

This is Veronica Sawyer



This is Jason Dean also known as JD



This is Heather Chandler – Red Heather



This is Heather Duke – Green Heather



This is Heather McNamara – Yellow Heather



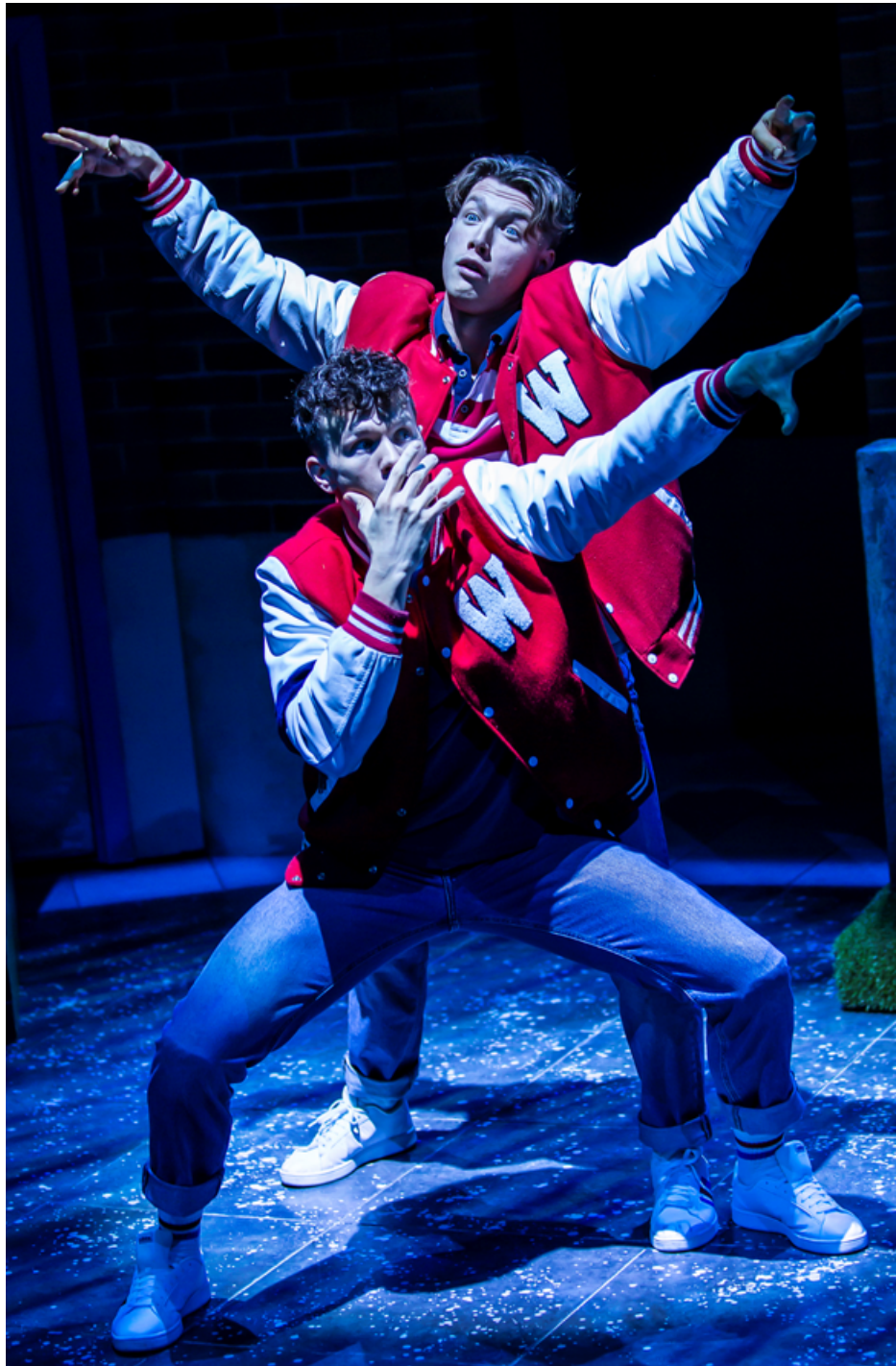
This is Ms Fleming



This is Martha Dunnstock



This is Kurt Kelly and Ram Sweeney



The Story

Trigger warnings: Contains strong language, violence, sexual references, and sensitive subject matter including reference to suicide.

It's 1989, and Westerberg High is not always a nice place to be if you are not popular. This is a world where students who may be a little bit different are bullied by the popular kids: the Heathers. Heather Chandler – Red Heather, is in charge, and the other Heathers complete the group. As Veronica Sawyer finds life hard, it is a shock to everyone when her talent for forgery ends up giving her a place in the popular group.

When Heather Chandler finds out Veronica's best friend Martha 'Dumptruck' Dunstock is in love with jock Ram Sweeney she makes Veronica to forge Martha a love letter from him. She promises this will make Veronica popular. Veronica's feels bad for betraying Martha, and this feeling only gets worse when the new kid Jason 'J.D.' Dean criticises her for it. J.D. and Veronica grow closer and Veronica finds her feelings for him getting stronger.

Still, Veronica returns to the Heathers. At Ram's homecoming party she gets drunk and high but comes to her senses when the Heathers are mean and play a prank Martha. Veronica gives up her space in the gang, drunkenly being sick on Heather Chandler and going to J.D.'s house to sleep with him. The following morning, Veronica wakes up at J.D.'s upset by her actions the night before, and she and J.D. head to Chandler's with hangover cures as an apology. J.D. adds drain cleaner to his mug as a joke but says nothing when he notices the mugs are accidentally switched. Chandler drinks the poison and dies, and to stop Veronica panicking J.D. convinces her to forge a suicide note.

As the school year continues, J.D. practices his skill of staging deaths-by-suicide and in doing so, the number of popular kids at Westerberg high gets smaller. J.D. believes his actions are for the greater good whilst Veronica becomes more and more worried by his disturbing behaviour, offering him an decision to make: give up his violence and stay with her,

or lose her forever. J.D. promises to stop killing and the couple make up, but their happiness doesn't last long.

J.D. turns up to school with a gun to try to convince Veronica to kill Heather Duke – Green Heather. The glass shatters and Veronica finally sees J.D. for how unhinged he truly is. She leaves him, and a grief-stricken J.D. breaks into her house later that night to try and win her back. Terrified by his behaviour, Veronica locks herself in the closet and fakes her suicide. She then races to stop J.D. as soon as he leaves for the school where he has planned an attack on the students. In the struggle J.D. is shot and Veronica is unable to stop the bomb he has planted. She attempts to take it to the football field, but J.D. stops her and convinces her to let him take it instead. It explodes in the field, and J.D. is the only one to die.

At the end of the show, Veronica goes back to school and takes the red scrunchie from Heather Duke, marking the end of Westerberg's popular group. She invites Martha, Heather Duke – Green Heather and Heather McNamara – Yellow Heather, to a movie night at hers, wanting them simply to be normal teenagers before their childhood is over.