

Treehouse Theatre



The Elves and the Shoemakers

The music has gone quiet.
The dancing has stopped.
People aren't buying dancing shoes,
and the shoemakers are almost out of leather.

But sometimes, Little Things can
make all the difference...

Join in with Treehouse Theatre this winter,
as the whole audience become part of a
heart-warming tale of giving and sharing,
elfin antics and shoe-tapping music-making.

This is a Covid-safe performance with full risk assessment available

More details & booking: info@treehousetheatre.com / 01202 421806

'The Elves and the Shoemakers'

A Covid-safe performance for small family audiences.

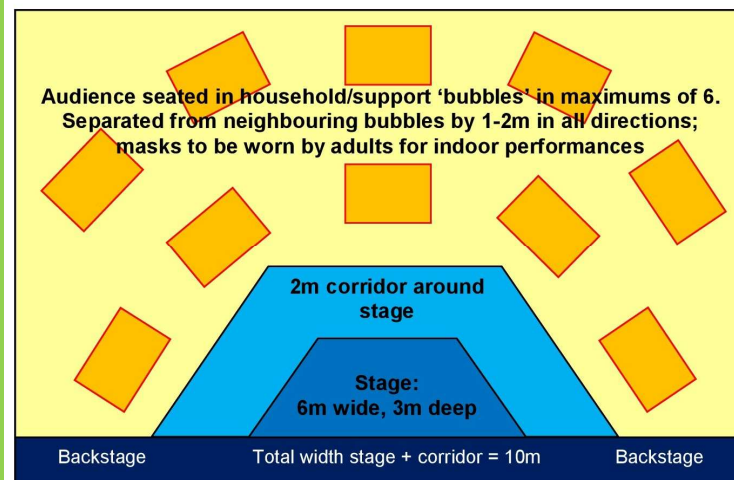
- A gentle performance, with no 'panto-style' audience shouting or singing (clapping, music making and movement instead!)
- Performed by 2 actors who are sharing a household, well distanced from the audience, using microphones rather than loud voices.
- 35 minutes long, to reduce the demand for venue facilities and minimise time spent inside together
- Experienced Front of House team to manage tickets, ushering, people flows, mask wearing and hand-sanitising

Audience management

We'll liaise with you to arrange the seating and entry/exit points,
and all other details, in line with your Covid-secure risk assessment.

The example below shows 10 households, max 6 per group, seated in
'bubbles' to maintain nose-to-nose social distance.

This is a sample seating plan for a hall 10mx15m or larger



Treehouse Theatre

Risk Assessment for 'The Elves and the Shoemaker' in public settings, with additional assessment for Covid-19

Date last updated: 23rd October 2020

Written by Louisa Lindsey-Clark; Treehouse Theatre

('Workshop' and 'Performance' is used to mean 'The Elves and the Shoemaker' delivered as Pop-Up Story Theatre, throughout this document)

Risks from Pop-Up Story Theatre storytelling workshops in public settings, in relation to Covid-19:

Possible Risks

Action

Household mixing

Allocated seating only. Tickets must be booked in household or support bubble groups, maximum of 6.
Seating will be laid out in a bespoke way for each audience, ensuring social distance between households.
Actors will liaise with staff to set the space up in the best way for the individual circumstance, and to determine maximum numbers.
Actors will liaise with staff to manage the entry and exit flow of audience in the best possible way
Audience numbers will be restricted according to the venue regulations and subject to Treehouse Theatre seating arrangements
Doors open from 30 mins prior to the workshop, to avoid clustering, and crowding toilet facilities
Individual households / contact bubbles will be welcomed and seated by ushers (either Treehouse or venue staff)
The venue should provide hygiene measures such as hand sanitizer on entry and exit, and signage as appropriate
Treehouse Theatre will provide hand sanitiser if the venue does not
The actors will welcome the audience and remind them to follow the rules for the workshop to keep everyone safe, as follows:
☼ The actor will remind the audience to remain in their seating space throughout, pointing out the different areas
☼ The actor will remind parents to ensure their children remain in their seating space throughout
☼ Audience should remain seated at the end, and allow staff to space out exiting the venue and avoid clustering
Audience participation will not involve contact with others, or sharing items, or leaving the household seating space.
There will be no interval
Workshops will be less than 40 minutes duration to relieve pressure on venue facilities such as toilets

Audience / staff coming into contact with the actor/s

The performing area and seating area will be clearly marked, with a minimum 2m corridor separating them.
Each area will have clear edges with either seats/rugs/staging/tape to keep audience and actor separate.
The actors will remind parents that they are responsible for ensuring their children remain in their seating space throughout
No 'meet and greet' after the workshop
Actors will remain 2m from the audience at all times, and further away whenever possible.
Actors will use hand-washing and/or hand sanitizer before and after the workshop, or touching any shared surfaces eg seating
All Treehouse staff will practice social distance with all staff at the venue, and wear a face covering when not performing

The virus is spread (airborne) within the performing environment

The maximum time possible should be given for ventilation/cleaning between performances if there is more than 1 in the same venue
Where possible, windows and/or doors should be open before and after the performance, and during the show if possible
All adult members of the audience, venue staff and Treehouse staff to follow PHE guidance and wear masks inside, including during the show, unless exempt, and except for the actors when performing.
Actors, staff and audience to follow PHE guidance for hygiene - using tissues and hand washing / hand sanitizer
Audience participation will not involve group singing or group shouting
Any music played on arrival/departure will be quiet so that normal conversation is easy and there's no raised voices.
The performances will be 30-40 minutes long to reduce time spent in proximity
No group singing - if the Treehouse actors perform songs, the audience will be shown how to join in with actions and clapping
No audience shouting - the performance will be written so as not to encourage audience shouting
Wind instruments will not be played
Actors will use microphones to ensure the normal volume of speech is possible rather than projecting or raised voices.
No audience member will be allowed in with symptoms. Clear signage will reflect this. Treehouse will have a 'no quibble' full refund policy for anyone with symptoms or testing positive, and therefore unable to attend.
Treehouse Theatre will keep a record of audience members and a seating plan so that people can be traced if necessary
All audience members will be required to leave their details for Track&Trace - this will be via the ticket booking system

Treehouse Theatre carrying the virus between venues

Treehouse actors will follow PHE guidance for hygiene, before entering the venue and throughout the visit .
All Treehouse Theatre equipment brought into the venue will only be handled by Treehouse staff, not venue staff.
All Treehouse Theatre equipment brought into venues will be sanitised regularly.

Positive tests / self isolations

BEFORE THE VISIT - The performance will be cancelled or rescheduled if the venue has to close
BEFORE THE VISIT - The performance will be cancelled or rescheduled if any of the Treehouse team has symptoms or is asked to isolate (they are living as a single household to reduce the risk of this).
AFTER THE VISIT - The venue must let us know if they have any positive cases in staff members who had contact with the Treehouse Team or audience.
AFTER THE VISIT - Treehouse will inform the venue if any of the team has a positive test with 2 weeks of our visit, or if we are informed of any audience member having a positive test
NOTE - There should be no financial obligations for either Treehouse Theatre, its audience members, or the venue if the performance is cancelled due to PHE coronavirus regulations, even if last minute (Force Majeure).

Summary of Risk assessment (COVID-19)

For venue staff: LOW RISK

The level of risk from our visit would not greatly add to the existing risk level for staff currently working at a venue which is already open to the public. Treehouse Theatre supplies its own Front of House staff

For audience members: LOW-MEDIUM RISK

The level of risk to audience members is clearly greater than staying at home. However, it is comparable to activities in a controlled environment such as shopping or being at school, where the safety measures can be clearly communicated to participants, and a level of oversight can be maintained

For Treehouse actors: LOW-MEDIUM RISK

The level of risk to actors of performing in public venues is clearly greater than staying at home. However public venues are carefully managed environments with a good understanding of risk management on all sides, and clear strategies in place can be communicated to all participants and staff

Documents referenced:

"Working Safely during Coronavirus: Performing Arts" Published by UK Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS), Updated 23rd October 2020

For latest advice on all aspects of designing Covid-secure performances and audience management

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/working-safely-during-coronavirus-covid-19/performing-arts>

"3. Permitted activities in multi-use community facilities" Published by the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government, updated 12th October 2020

Guidance for venues, plus "Indoor performances to socially distanced audiences can take place presently if in line with the performing arts guidance"

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-guidance-for-the-safe-use-of-multi-purpose-community-facilities>

"Local Covid alert level - Medium" Published by UK Department of Health and Social Care, Updated 12th October 2020

For latest advice on social distancing, household mixing, eg: Visiting Covid-secure venues is permitted in groups of 6 but households must not mix

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/local-covid-alert-level-medium#visiting-other-venues-including-restaurants-pubs-and-places-of-worship>

"Handling props, musical instruments, technical equipment, and other objects" Published by DCMS, Updated 23rd October 2020

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/working-safely-during-coronavirus-covid-19/performing-arts#arts-5-4>

"Cleaning of non-healthcare settings" Published by Public Health England, Updated 16th October 2020

(For advice on cleaning props and costumes, and time virus stays infectious on surfaces)

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-decontamination-in-non-healthcare-settings/covid-19-decontamination-in-non-healthcare-settings>

Press release "Indoor performances with socially distanced audiences will be able to take place across the country from 1 August" Published by DCMS, 17th July 2020

(Detail of the 5 stage roadmap for performing arts)

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/audiences-back-in-theatres-from-1-august>