

Whitefield Garrick Theatre – Covid-secure Statement

We are delighted to be making plans to open our theatre back up, and have been busy with arrangements for re-opening and for an exciting new season, whilst ensuring that the safety and comfort of our audience members, volunteers, crew and actors, remains, at all times, our primary concern. As a result, we encourage audiences to support the safety of the Theatre, its patrons and cohorts.

We are re-starting with our much-delayed production of '**SKYLIGHT**' from **Monday 5th July 2021 until Saturday 10th July 2021**. This will be a **one-off** production designed to test our ability to operate under the ongoing restrictions for Theatres. Booking details for this production have been sent to Theatre Club Members.

Whilst it is hopeful that many restrictions may be lifted after the new date of 19 July, even after this date we consider that some restrictions (such as one-way systems and the requirement for face coverings) as well as continued social distancing for individuals and audiences in Theatres will still be in operation, giving us a (temporarily) much-reduced audience capacity of around **45** persons – which is even more reason to book early for our new season to avoid disappointment!

Therefore, it has been decided, after much discussion, that owing to these limitations, the following will apply for the foreseeable future:

- Internet or telephone bookings are not able to be taken for the forthcoming production of Skylight. **Postal bookings ONLY will be accepted on the official form sent to members**, and these will be treated strictly on a first come, first served basis. We will review this method for future productions.
- You **must not** attend the Theatre if you have any symptoms of Covid-19, have tested positive or be under self-isolation regulations (including quarantine restrictions). We reserve the right to refuse entrance to anyone with symptoms. Please contact us if you have queries about exchanging your ticket where you are not well enough to attend due to coronavirus.
- We ask that you follow **social distancing** guidance where possible and regret that **we will not be able to follow our normal seat allocation process**, due to social distancing restrictions. Instead, you will be asked to occupy the seats allocated to you by our stewards on arrival to ease congestion and minimise excess movements. You must remain in your household group or 'social bubble'.
- **No refreshments** will be served at the interval, and we ask that you do not eat or drink inside the auditorium.
- Queuing for **entrance to the Theatre** will be outside, we ask that you respect social distancing requirements and audiences will be admitted singly or only in pairs or 'social bubbles' (we also recommend you check weather forecasts and think about bringing an umbrella!). We are reviewing the use of two entrances to speed up entry and exit. More details on this, and our use of the NHS Test and Trace App registration will be available in due course. All of our Theatre entrances are suitable for people with mobility issues.
- Please also consider your method of **transportation** to and from the Theatre, in line with current guidance.
- **Face masks/coverings** must be worn at all times, unless you are medically exempt. We kindly request that you display an appropriate exemption badge, lanyard or card to avoid being asked to wear a face covering whilst in the Theatre.
- Please strictly adhere to **handwashing / hand sanitisation** guidance and recommendations.
- The Theatre will be **ventilated** before performances and during the interval, and will be thoroughly cleaned before each performance in accordance with our Risk Assessment.
- Please note any change in **local restrictions** which may force us to change our plans.

- We strongly encourage and anticipate that all of our Theatre Personnel and the vast majority of our Audience Members will make full use of **vaccine** opportunities offered, as well as the free rapid lateral flow (**LFD**) **testing** currently available from the government.

We are also delighted to confirm that we have been granted the use of Society Of London Theatre & UK Theatre's '[See It Safely](#)' mark. The mark certifies that we are complying with the latest Government and industry COVID-19 guidelines, to ensure the safety of our colleagues and audiences. A copy of our detailed Risk Assessment may be provided on request. Furthermore, we will be providing comprehensive training to our volunteers, Theatre Personnel, stewards and cohorts.

We actively observe and support equality, diversity and inclusion. Should you need any of this information in a more accessible format, or have any concerns or suggestions about how we may make improvements for your safety and comfort, please contact us.

Thank you for your understanding. We greatly look forward to welcoming you back to our theatre and we are confident you will continue to enjoy our award-winning productions.

Whitefield Garrick Committee

