

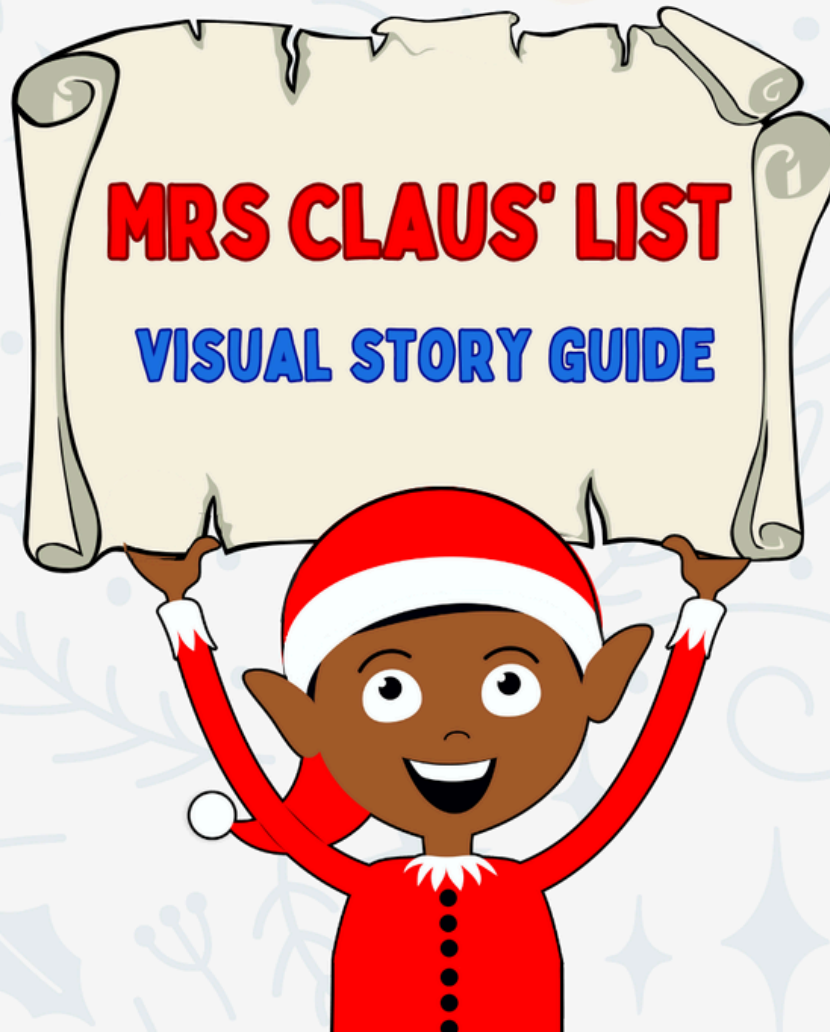
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This is for anyone who would benefit from a visual, step-by-step guide to help know what to expect when attending a performance of ***Mrs Claus' List***.

It's especially useful for Neurodivergent individuals, children and young audiences, people with learning disabilities and first-time visitors who would like to know what to expect.





THE VENUE

Blue Elephant Theatre is a small theatre in Camberwell, South London, which supports

Blue Elephant Theatre
59a Bethwin Rd
(entrance in Thompson's Ave)
Camberwell
London
SE5 0XT

Nearest tube
Oval (15 minutes' walk*)

Buses
12, 35, 36, 40, 42, 45, 68, 148, 171, 176, 185, 436, 468

Parking and Access

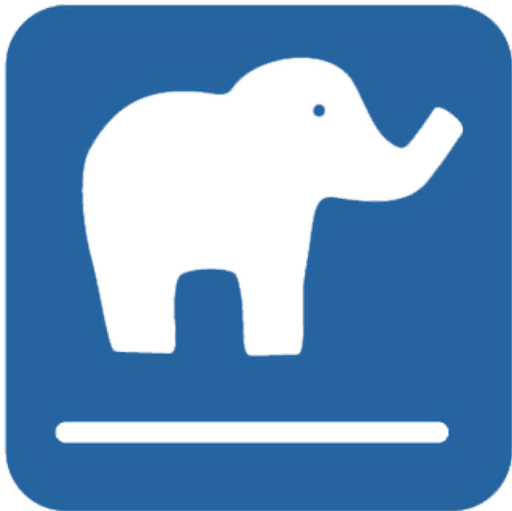
The nearest designated parking area for blue badge holders is on Bethwin Road, approximately 35 meters across the road from the main theatre entrance. There are dropped kerbs up to the pavement level outside of the theatre.

The closest parking bays to the theatre are on Thompson Avenue adjacent to cycle racks. These are not blue badge bays but are on the same pavement side as the theatre.

If you have questions or concerns about access to the theatre, please call 020 7701 0100 or email info@blueelephanttheatre.co.uk to discuss your requirements.



The performance is about a story called *Mrs Claus' List*.



The performance is happening at Blue Elephant Theatre.

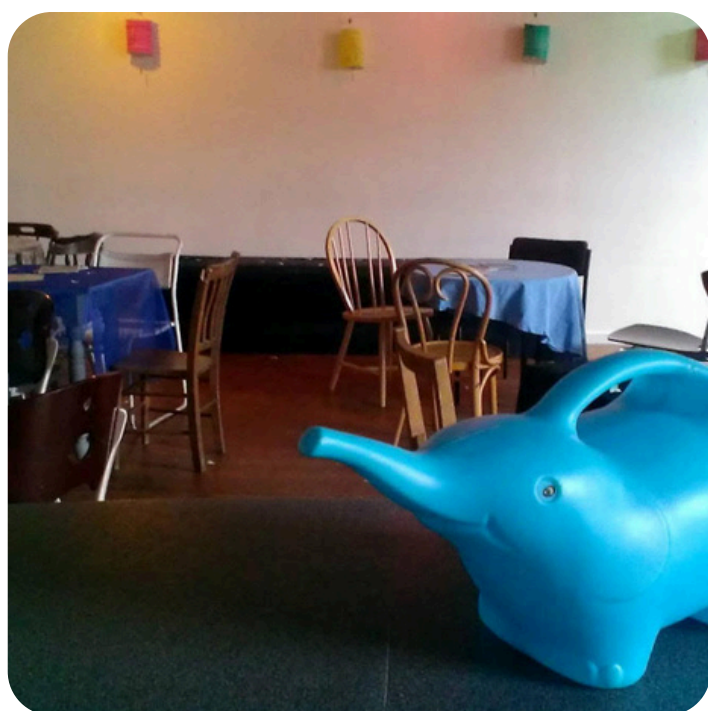


This is the outside of the theatre.



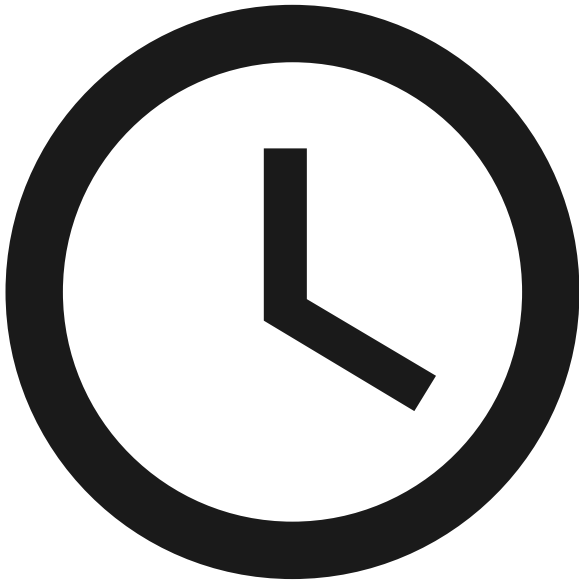
These are the main doors to the theatre, where you will go in. Someone from the theatre will be waiting to welcome you.

They will ask for your name so they know you have arrived.



They might ask you to wait in the cafe, which is up some stairs, until the performance is ready to start.

In the cafe, there will be postcards you can write or decorate for Mrs Claus. You can also borrow ear defenders if they would be helpful.



When the show is ready to start, someone from the theatre will tell you, and ask you to go downstairs.

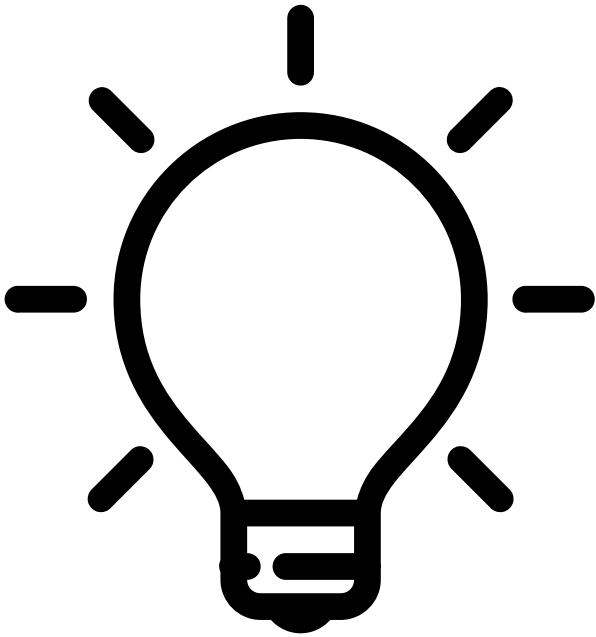


The stage might have colourful lights on it when you go in, but there will be lights on the seats



When you go in there may be lots of people there too.

You will have your own seat to sit on.



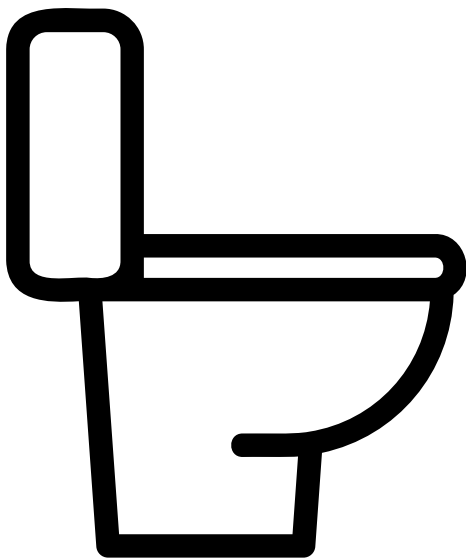
The light above the audience will stay on during the performance.

The lights on the stage will change and sometimes go dark during the play.



The doors will be open, and you can take a break at any time.

The cafe upstairs will be a quiet chill-out area where you can relax.



The nearest toilet is opposite the entrance to the theatre space. It is an accessible bathroom and has a baby changing unit.

The characters in the story are



Dami

Dami is a schoolgirl from South East London.



Elvie the Elf

Elvie the Elf works with Mrs Claus in her workshop.



Ms Brady/Mrs Claus/Dragon

Ms Brady is Dami's Headteacher. Mrs Claus works with her husband, Santa, to make sure Christmas is a success. The Dragon guards the crystals the reindeer need to fly.

When the show starts, you will hear **music, sound effects and voices**. If it is too loud you can cover your ears with your hands or use ear defenders.

The lights **will not go off** during the show. The lights on the stage will change, but the light above your seat will stay on during the show. You can move to an empty seat where the lights might be less bright, or wear sunglasses or cover your eyes.

Some people might **shout out or clap their hands** throughout the show. This is ok. They are showing they enjoy the play. If you want to you can clap your hands too or choose to be quiet.

If you want to leave the theatre at any point, there is a **quiet space** upstairs (in the cafe) where you can go to relax and play.

There may be other people in this room.

When you are ready, you can come back in.

Some of the actors may ask you to join in at times. You can join in if you feel comfortable or just listen to other people joining in. This is called interacting with the characters.

When the performance has finished, the actors will come out on stage and stand up together. This is called a curtain call. Everyone will clap a lot so the actors know how much they enjoyed the show. Some people will also cheer and make a noise to show that they had a good time. You can clap and cheer, or make a gesture like a thumbs up, or choose to be quiet.

The show will last about one hour, and does not have a break in the middle (an interval).

The Story

Dami's school is being decorated for Christmas and Dami breaks the special star on the Christmas tree. She feels very bad about this and, when writing her letter to Santa, says that she should be on the Naughty List and not get any presents.

Mrs Claus receives Dami's letter and sends Elvie the Elf to bring her back to the North Pole. Dami is sleeping when Elvie arrives and Elvie encourages the audience to help her wake her. **This may be a little loud (though adapted for the Quiet Performances).**

Dami meets Mrs Claus who invites her to redeem herself and come off the Naughty List by joining her on a mission to gather crystals from a Dragon's Cave. These crystals contain the magic reindeer need to fly on Christmas Eve.

Unfortunately, Mrs Claus has a fall and hurts herself so Dami and Elvie go instead. **They have to climb very high and will come into the audience's area. They also go into a very dark cave - but Elvie has a very bright headtorch and audience lights remain on.**

They encounter a storm, created by the audience with their hands and some feet. Dami and Elvie are separated and **some audience members try to reunite them.**

They finally reach the Cave and encounter the Dragon - who is not scary and wants to make friends with them! She gives them lots of crystals and they go back to see Mrs Claus. Mrs Claus is delighted and has good news for Dami about the Naughty List.