



ROAD

Directed by Selina Cartmell

A Royal Exchange Theatre Production



This visual story is designed for visitors to the Sensory Adapted performance of ROAD

Contents

Pages 3 - 8 Information about the Royal Exchange Theatre

Pages 9 - 10 Information about the cast and creative team

Pages 11 - 13 Information about the set design and costumes

Pages 14 - 20 What happens in the story?

Page 21- How to contact us

Content warnings for this show

ROAD explores a range of experiences and emotions that some audiences may find upsetting. It contains strong language and themes reflective of some of the attitudes of the period, with references to domestic conflict, mental health, disordered eating, alcohol use, and aspects of life in a struggling community.

The production contains smoking (herbal cigarettes), sudden loud noises, flashing lights and images, and haze across all spaces. There is a live dog in the production.

Information about the Royal Exchange Theatre

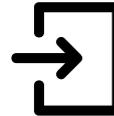
The Royal Exchange Theatre building is open from 12pm



If you're coming in a wheelchair, you can use the lift to enter the building from St. Ann's entrance.



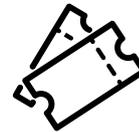
If you are walking, you can use both the St. Ann's entrance and the Cross Street entrance.



When you arrive, you might be asked by a member of the security team if they can look inside your bag. This should only take a few minutes.



You will also be asked to show your ticket.



You will then go into the Great Hall, which can be quite noisy and busy.



You will also see areas where you can buy souvenirs and refreshments.

You can put your coat in the cloak room for £1.



You will be able to take your seats from 5.30pm.



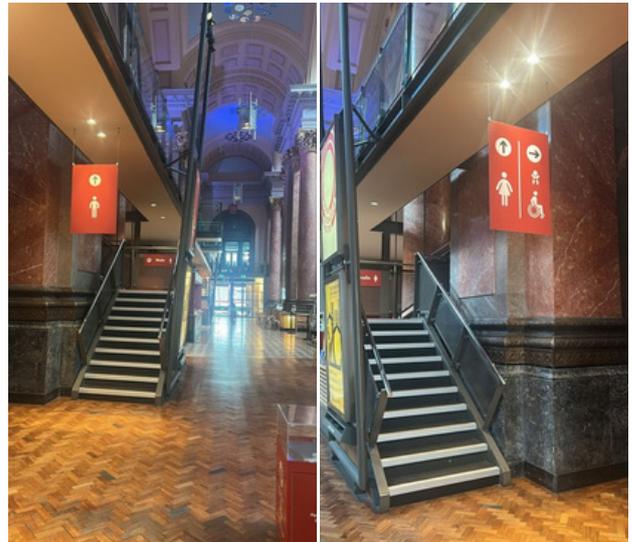
The Great Hall

The Great Hall looks like this:

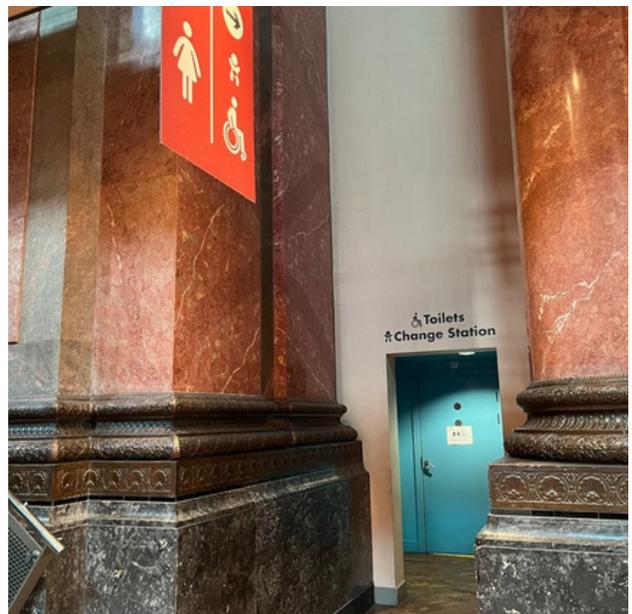


If you need to go to the toilet they are near the bar.

The entrance to these looks like this.



There are also accessible toilets, which include a baby change station.



The Great Hall continued

If you need to collect your ticket please go to box office. It is at the same end of the hall as the café. It looks like this:



There are also toilets near the studio Theatre. The entrance looks like this:



There are 3 bars and a café – they will open before the performance.



Asking for help

If you need any help you can always ask one a member of staff.

They will be wearing a red lanyard round their neck or wearing a black boiler suit with yellow hi-vis straps— they will be happy to help!



Entering the Theatre

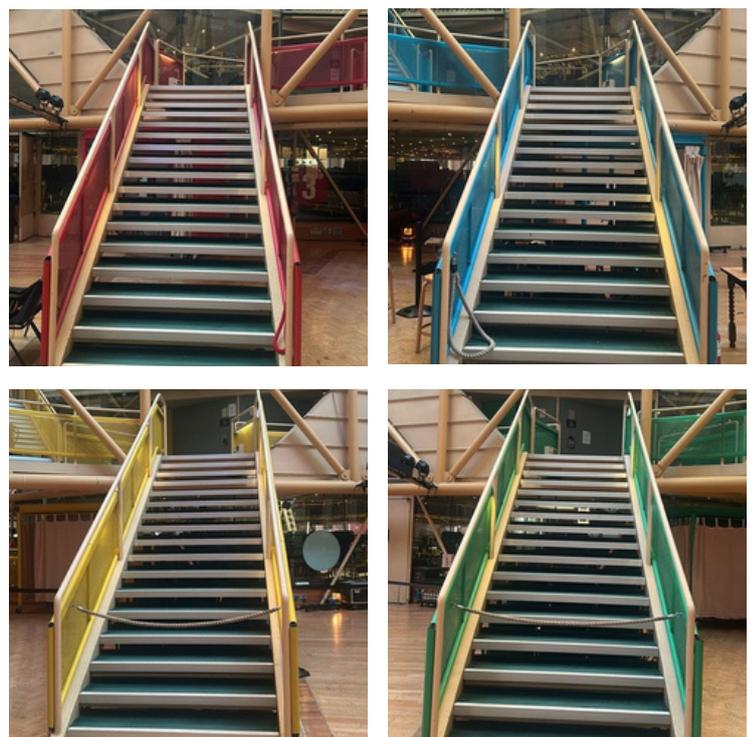
If you are sitting downstairs, you will need to go through the numbered door which is printed on your ticket.

They look like this.



If you are sitting upstairs, you will need to go up the coloured staircase which is printed on your ticket.

They look like this.



Entering the Theatre

A member of staff will help you find your seat. It will have a number on it that matches the number on your ticket.

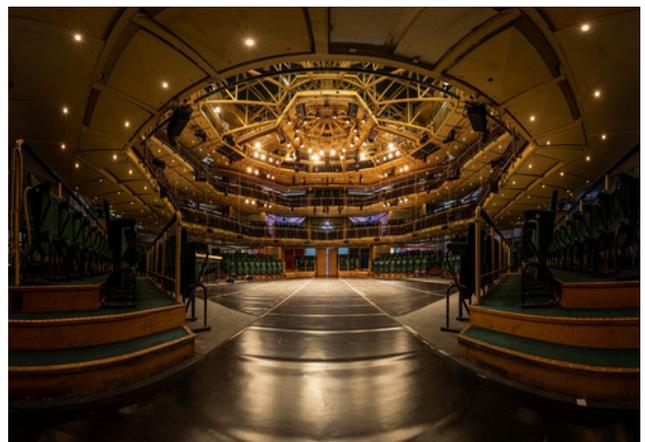
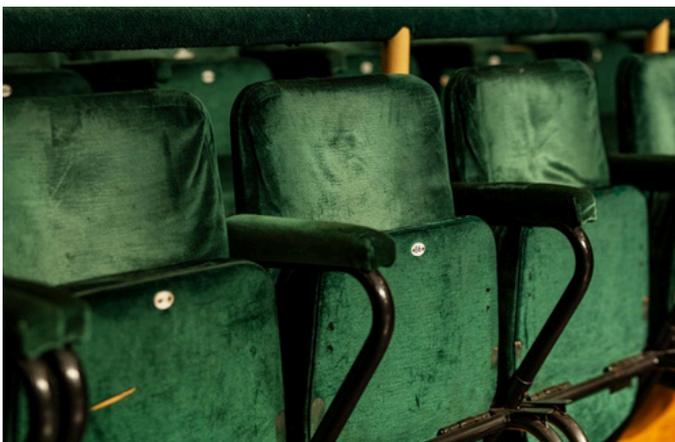
This looks like this.



The Theatre is where the audience sit and watch the performance.

The Theatre is made up of three levels. The ground level is called Stage Level and the upper levels are referred to as First or Second Gallery.

The round stage in the middle is where the actors perform. If you are sat on the ground level you may have actors walking past you during the show.



Information about the show

The first half of the show starts at 6:00pm, there is then a 20 minute interval. The second half of the show will begin around 7:30pm.



This means the show will end at around 8.30pm.



The play is performed 'in the round' which means that the audience sits in a circle around the action on stage.



Mobile phones and tablet devices are permitted inside the Theatre. However, no photography is allowed during the performance.



Hot drinks are not allowed inside, but cold drinks can be transferred into plastic glasses.



You can come and go from the show. If you need to leave, it is okay to go and come back. During the play, there will be people around who you can ask for help if you need.



You are allowed to make as much noise as you like. The actors really enjoy it when you clap and get excited.



For this sensory adapted performance the intensity of sound and the lighting effects will be reduced, and the house lights will be kept on.



Information about the cast and creative team

List of the actors:



Lucy Beaumont



Jake Dunn



Laura Elsworth



Liam Garrigan



**Dean Michael
Gregory**



Shobna Gulati



Dana Haqjoo



Lesley Joseph



Rachel Marwood

The actors in these pictures might be different from the actors performing on stage. This is because we sometimes have 'swing actors', who cover someone's role if they are unable to perform.

Some of these actors will be playing multiple roles.



Kyle Rowe



Lucie Shorthouse



Johnny Vegas



Laura Woodward

Creatives

Writer - Jim Cartwright

Director - Selina Cartmell

Designer - Leslie Travers

Lighting Designer - Aideen Malone

Sound Designer - Tingying Dong

Movement Director - Lucy Hind

Associate Director - Andy Barry

Fight Director - Bethan Clark

Voice Coach - Natalie Grady

Casting Director - Olivia Barr

Associate Movement Director - James Berkery

Film Maker - Rod Morris

Birkbeck Assistant Director - Sadie Mears

Information about the set design

The set is black scuffed flooring, which wires from the ceiling connect to. In the centre there is a sign reading 'ROAD' which spins. 80s televisions are hung from the ceiling which fly in and out throughout the show, parts of the show are played on these TVs. In the centre of the stage there is a record player on a stand with vinyl records underneath.

There are various set pieces included in the show including: a white bed, a DJ booth, a sofa, arm chairs, side tables, a shopping trolley. These pieces are brought in and out by the actors.

Outside the theatre space, in the hall, there are telegraph poles with glowing orange light with old furniture and rubbish from the 1980s at their base.

The Millstone Pub has been decorated with shiny colourful streamers; there is a dartboard at one end and a pool table at the other.



Costumes

All the cast are dressed in costumes from the 1980s. They feature bright colours and big hair.



What is the story about?

ROAD is set in a fictional Lancashire town in 1986. The play is told by out narrator, Scullery. He takes us through a series of vignettes with explore the lives of the residents of ROAD, their struggles with, poverty, unemployment, and alcoholism.



What happens in the story?

Opening

The opening and interval of the show is performed in promenade. This means that the audience are free to move around the theatre and follow the actors instead of being sat in their seats. The performance is promenade for the first 15 minutes before moving into the main theatre where you will be sat.

There are different sections in the theatre where separate scenes will take place. The scenes will repeat a few times so you will have a chance to watch multiple scenes.

For the opening of the show we have:

The Studio Theatre :

Eddie's dad sits in an armchair watching wrestling on television and fixing a Hoover. The television and the armchair are risen up. Eddie is getting ready, combing his hair and trying to get his outfit right. Eddie's friend Brink enters and waits for Eddie to finish getting ready. Eddie sprays antiperspirant on his dad's head before leaving with Brink to go to out.

The Module (main theatre space) :

Carol is ironing a pile of clothes. On the Television screens the scenes which are playing in other parts of the theatre are being screened.

What happens in the story?

Opening

The Millstone Pub :

Barry is playing darts. Brenda comes in and asks the bartender if she can have a drink on the 'slate' meaning, can she pay for it later? The bartender ignores her. Brenda spots Barry and starts asking him for a drink. When he refuses she instead challenges him to a game of darts in exchange for a pound. They play and when Barry isn't looking, Brenda cheats the game. Upon realising this Barry calls off the game.

The Garages:

Louise's brother is sat fixing an engine. Louise enters, looking for a mirror to find her brother sat blocking it. He throws the engine at her and asks her to dance which she refuses. He then hands her a pound to get a pint with. Before leaving he smears his hands covered in engine oil over her face, ruining her makeup.

The promenade part of the show will end when 'Somewhere Over the Rainbow' is played, at this point the audience must take their seats.

What happens in the story?

Act 1

SCENE ONE

Scullery holds a match under a broken 'ROAD' sign. He introduces us to the road that we will spend the night meeting the characters who live there.

SCENE TWO

Brenda interrogates her daughter about where she is going. There appears to be little love lost between them, but there are also moments of tenderness. Brenda tries to get some money out of Carol. Carol throws coins on the floor before leaving with her mate Louise who arrives. Brenda's final line is filmed by Scullery and played on the TVs.

SCENE THREE

Scullery enters with a bottle and introduces us to the Road. Carol and Louise pass by on the way to the pub. Scullery tells us about some of the inhabitants of Road.

SCENE FOUR

Molly talks to herself as she applies her make-up.

SCENE FIVE

Scullery interacts with Brink and Eddie on the way to the pub. Dor and Lane appear and chat with Scullery. They know each other. Dor and Lane are out for a good time. They join Scullery high up and share his Rum. Lane and Scullery kiss. Skin Lad runs by. Dor goes off to the pub on her own. Lane and Skullery are kissing.

What happens in the story?

SCENE SIX

Chantal comes on singing a child's song. She has two cigarettes. She asks Scullery for a light and gives one of the cigarettes to him/ She leaves. A note is thrown to Scullery. He reads it aloud and then puts it down his trousers.

SCENE SEVEN

Skinlad muses on fighting - being his first love. He talks about the tingle. He tells the story of a night when he fought skinheads. He talks about discovering the Buddhist dharma.

SCENE EIGHT

Scullery is about to ransack the derelict house, when Brenda arrives.

Brenda remembers a time they fucked in an alleyway a long time ago.

Scullery asks after Carol and Brenda dismisses her as muck. She begs for some money. She leaves.

Scullery goes into the house. He comes out and shows us some of the stuff.

A Man appears at the window, angry. It is not an empty house. The man and his wife argue.

What happens in the story?

SCENE NINE

Jerry reminisces about being younger, a different time, being in the army, and returning home to see you girl, about high employment opportunities, holidays to blackpool, courting girls. A happier time. He is full of regret.

This scene is played on TV.

SCENE TEN

Blowpipe and Scullery have a violent energetic outburst, then Scullery starts to laugh. Clare enters and chats to Scullery, she is worried about Joe who has stopped eating. Clare leaves and Molly enters. Scullery asks for a song. She sings an old folk song. Her and Blowpipe hug and she leaves.

SCENE ELEVEN

Scullery introduces Joey and then leaves. Joey is in bed. We hear his mum and dad (voices only). Joey is depressed and not eating. He monologues about his life. Clare enters and tries to encourage him. He is dismissive of her. She persists and takes her clothes off to her underwear and gets into his bed.

SCENE TWELVE

A short scene where Bisto introduces himself as a DJ and advertises his services.

What happens in the story?

SCENE THIRTEEN

Clare talks about her lack of purpose how she has lost her job. Joey is warmer with her. Clare wonders if they are protesting. Joey says they aren't. It feels nihilistic. We hear Joey's mum again (voice only). They talk about how happy they were to meet. They discuss sex. They talk about Phil the Commie. Joey becomes more frustrated with Clare and the situation.

SCENE FOURTEEN

Joey and Clare remain in bed. Scullery and Bisto interact around them. Bisto records an oral recollection with Scullery.

SCENE FIFTEEN

Joey speaks a monologue about the desperate state of the world. He becomes more despairing about his circumstances. Clare speaks to Joey, she is weak and faint. Blackout. Lights up on Clare who's face is covered. Joey dies. His final lines are played on TV.

What happens in the story?

Interval

The show becomes promenade again at the interval, there are scenes in the theatre space 'Bisto's disco' and at the Millstone Pub.

SCENE SIXTEEN

Bisto DJs, three dancing girls Sheena, Tina and Maureena provide live entertainment. Towards the end Scullery, Dor, Lane and Soldier arrive. Helen comes looking for him and leads him off.

SCENE SEVENTEEN

Tom Stanley is compairing in the pub. He introduces Chance - a drunken singer who passes out. Nelly Scallop – the chip shop owner- does a stand up set. Scullery comes on and sings to a backing track.

What happens in the story?

Act 2

SCENE EIGHTEEN

Nelly Scallop advertises her goods, before her assistant tells her the vans haven't come. Nelly curses and tells us she's got loads of chips to sell. Helen and Soldier come by to order their food and upon realising she's only got chips they take their business elsewhere.

SCENE NINETEEN

Dor and Lane talk about men and sex. Scullery appears briefly at the end.

SCENE TWENTY

Curt enters eating chips, he speaks a monologue about his fears.

SCENE TWENTY-ONE

Scullery appears with his music box and plays wish upon a star. The audience return to their seats in the theatre.

SCENE TWENTY-TWO

The soldier is very drunk. An alsatian crosses the space. Helen plates up their fish and chips. She chatters away while he remains silent, until he vomits into his chips. She clears it up with a tea towel, while the dog eats the food from her plate. She cleans him up and this progresses into seductively undressing him. She tries to seduce him/pounce on him, but he is too drunk to know what is happening. She then stops herself and starts to cry saying she feels ashamed.

What happens in the story?

SCENE TWENTY-THREE

Dor enters and we hear the wife from act one singing Somewhere Over the Rainbow and her husband shouts shut up.

Barry enters drunk and propositions Dor. Dor has lost her keys, and Barry helps her look. The man appears at the window shouting at them. After an argument, The man provides an opener for Barry's beers.

SCENE TWENTY-FOUR

Valerie monologues - she is waiting for her husband. She describes her rough life and useless husband. She talks about how she must beg for handouts. She talks again about her husband describing him as the human waste of the world. She becomes more distressed as she recognises her loathing for him.

SCENE TWENTY-FIVE

Chantal asks the audience for a lighter. She leads a man offstage with her. Her parents shout at her from their window.

SCENE TWENTY-SIX

Scullery enters very drunk calling for Blowpipe who appears. Marion enters drunk with Brian. Marion knows Scullery. Marion and Brian leave in the opposite direction to Scullery and Blowpipe.

What happens in the story?

SCENE TWENTY-SEVEN

Marion and Brian come in really pissed. Brian starts to unzip his fly. Marion says she wants a butty first. She cuts her thumb while making a sandwich. They have hooked up and Brian is determined to get his shag. Brian has a daughter upstairs. Brian plays a loud country and western record. They start to kiss. Linda enters. Marion touches her face, marking it with blood. Marion tries to talk to Linda, while Brian tries to take Marion upstairs. Brian gets frustrated and leaves his own house with Marion and Linda still there. Linda mockingly says Poor little me

SCENE TWENTY-EIGHT

Blowpipe pushes Scullery on in a shopping trolley. Marion pursues Brian. Marion and Brian fight and Scullery is caught up in it. Brink and Eddie appear high up before making their way down. Marion and Brian continue fighting and exit. Carol and Louise arrive in the space. It is chaotic with Brian and Marion continuing their fight in a different part of the theatre while the others react. They antagonise one another and exchange cusses. Eventually Brink and Eddie join Carol and Louise and exit together, pushing Scullery off in his trolley.

What happens in the story?

SCENE TWENTY-NINE

Eddie and Brink 'host' Carol and Louise. The women giggle and make fun of them. There is a lot of flirting. Carol is more confident of the two women. She almost toys with them. She encourages them to make a move, and when Brink kisses her she tells him to get off. Brink backs off, then later kisses Louise. Eddie then also kisses Louise. Brink then kisses Carol again who tells him to get off. Carol tells the men what she really thinks about their behaviour and then says she is leaving. Brink suddenly springs into action and asks them to stay to see something really different. They all take part in heavy drinking games, until Brink and Eddie play their only record: 'Try a Little Tenderness' by Otis Reading. After the record, Eddie let's rip about his life and the state of England. The women are stunned. Brink speaks his truth and then Carol hers. Then Louise. They chant together 'Somehow a somehow a somehow - might escape!' It repeats and repeats.

SCENE THIRTY

Scullery enters and concludes the show, he tells us that if we are ever in the area, we should 'call again'.

Questions

If you have any other questions please do reach out.

Find information online [here](#)



Email us at access@royalexchange.co.uk



Call Box Office on **0161 833 9833**



Or come in and **talk to one of our friendly Box Office** team members, Monday - Saturday from 12pm



We hope you enjoyed your visit to the Royal Exchange Theatre.

See you soon!