

WOKING DRAMA FESTIVAL 2011

Welcome to the Rhoda McGaw Theatre.

We aim to make this Festival experience enjoyable for all, but first two notes of caution.

1 Whenever you come to the Rhoda McGaw Theatre remember to sign in at the Stage Door.
Please note that a new Stage Door was introduced during August 08 and is situated at the side of the building next to the Scene Dock door (formerly the Fire Exit Door).

2 The dressing rooms are some way from the stage and there is always the possibility of theft. People taking part in the Festival are advised to lock up their possessions whenever they are left unattended.

This notes describes the theatre and how to get to it.

ACCESS

Diagrams are attached showing the position of the scenery drop off point, the stage door and the car parks for cars (in the Peacocks) and vans/lorries (Brewery Road).

The only way to get furniture and scenery into the theatre is through the steel shutter, which opens from the scene dock on to the loading bay (see map). This shutter will be closed 15 minutes before curtain up, so all deliveries must be made before that time. Your cars and/or vans can park whilst unloading on the loading bay, but deliveries may conflict with those to the New Victoria Theatre so be prepared to carry your scenery a short distance if necessary. Cars must be left in one of the public car parks. Vans must use the Brewery Road car park (see map) as the Peacocks car parks have a height restriction.

THE STAGE

The stage is flat, 58' wide from wall to wall, with (normally) a 36' curtain opening. From the main tabs it is 19' back to the cyclorama and 8' forward to the front of the stage. 16' is a realistic maximum height for scenery, and borders are at about that height. The orange main tabs can be operated remotely from the lighting box or from either side of the stage. They have a reasonably quiet motor and open or close in 6/7 seconds. Three black traverses, operated by rope pulleys from stage right, are about 4', 9' and 17' behind the main tabs. Black legs also help to hide the wings. A white cyclorama screen is against the back wall. The three stage lighting bars are on winches, and 5 other bars can be lowered manually using ropes and cleats, all from stage right. All scenery is set from the scene dock through the doors on stage right which is 15' high and 5' 10" wide.

Cast can reach the stage by this door or by smaller doors upstage left and can get to the other side of the stage through the scene dock. There are steps to the forestage on both sides but no exit from the auditorium near those on stage right. Double doors, leading out of the auditorium from in front of the main tabs downstage left lead to the dressing rooms, stage and scene dock.

THE AUDITORIUM

The theatre seats 228 in 9 rows of raked seating. There is a platform for wheelchairs in the back row and room for more at the front if necessary. The acoustics are excellent, as are the sightlines and legroom for the audience. The audience enter from the main foyer at the back of the auditorium, stage left. The foyer serves both theatres and the rest of the entertainment complex. It is on three levels - The bridge from the Peacocks Shopping centre, the car parks and the box office comes in at the top level; the Rhoda McGaw entrance is at the middle level; and there is an entrance from Gloucester Square (outside the council offices) with a reconstructed foyer from the New Victoria Theatre at ground level.

Map showing Car Parks in relation to the Theatre.

The Brewery Road Car park is where vans can be parked and there is a connecting bridge to bring you from the car park over the canal and the dual carriageway to the Stage Door.

