



**Art with
Heart**

What to expect when coming to watch Stan at The Civic

INTRODUCTION

Hi, I'm Rachel from Art with Heart. We are so happy that you are coming to watch Stan. We want you to feel as welcome and comfortable as possible when you are watching the play, so we have put this guide together to let you know what to expect.

If you haven't been to the theatre before, it is normal to feel a bit nervous about visiting a new place.

We want you to know that:

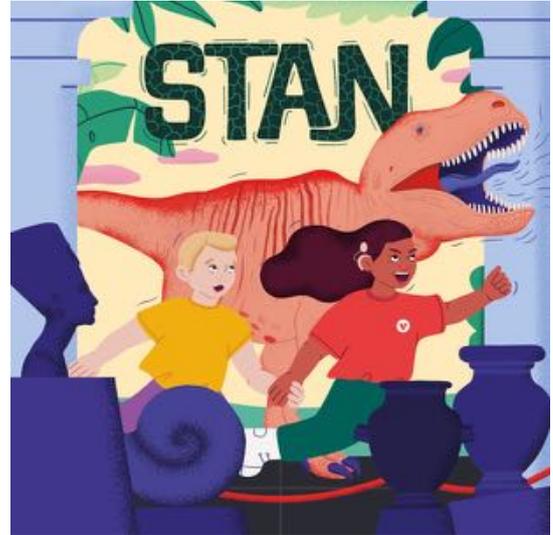
- You can wear whatever you like to the theatre. You do not have to dress smartly.
- Some theatres don't allow you to bring your own snacks and drinks, so you may need to drink / eat before you arrive. Water will be available from the bar free of charge.
- Ear defenders are available to borrow for free, just ask the venue staff for a pair.

During the play:

- If you need to leave the theatre at any time, you can.
- If you need to wriggle in your seat, you can.
- If you make involuntary sounds, don't worry.
- If you'd feel more comfortable sat on the end of a row, let a member of the front of house team know and they will try and sort this for you.

THE THEATRE BUILDING

Please visit individual venue websites for access information and amenities.



THE SET

The set is a large house-shaped structure, which is made of wood and painted white. Around the edges there are lines painted in blue, red, yellow and green. The characters enter the stage using the door on the left hand side of the stage, and through a gap in the set on the right hand side.



Animations

During the play animations will be projected onto the set to show where the characters are. The different locations include:

The hallway in Sam's house



The School playground and field



Stan the T-Rex at the Manchester Museum



THE PERFORMERS AND THE PLAY

Stan is performed by three actors.

Ross Thompson plays the character 'Sam'. Ross is hearing and he will speak his dialogue in English. Ross looks like this:



Alexandra James plays the character of 'Alex'. Alexandra is deaf and will sign her dialogue using British Sign Language. Alexandra looks like this:



Gemma Green plays the character 'Mum'. Gemma is hearing and she will speak her dialogue in English. Gemma looks like this:



START OF THE PLAY

You will know that the play is starting because staff at the theatre will make an announcement that the space is open and will help direct you where to go. If you are deaf, the front of house staff will ensure that you know the play is starting by approaching you and indicating to the theatre entrance.

The theatre will be open 15 minutes before the play starts, during this time you can enter the space and take your seat. Ross, who plays the character 'Sam' will be on the stage in the theatre as you come in.

This time is for you to help adjust to the theatre, and get comfy before the play starts.

DURING THE PLAY

Laughing

During the play, the characters may make jokes. Some of the audience may laugh. You can laugh too if you want to.

Clapping

During the play, some people might clap to show that they are enjoying themselves. You can clap if you want to. If the clapping is too loud you can cover your ears, or wear one of our free pairs of ear defenders.

Emotions

This play follows the story of Sam, a boy who finds out that his Mum and Dad are separating. Sam is very sad about this. Throughout the play Sam expresses his sadness in lots of different ways. At times he is quiet, at times he is angry and at one point he takes his anger and sadness out by bashing his Dad's shoes against the floor. At another point, he is worried about how the house will have changed without Dad's belongings in it, and he struggles to walk through the front door. Sam makes a friend called Alex, and she helps him to understand his emotions and feel less sad. Sam's Mum is also upset as she and Sam's Dad have split up. At times she is sad, at times she is angry and she shouts at Sam. Mum does apologise to Sam and explains why she has been so upset.

The use of British Sign Language and captions

The play flicks between scenes at school with children Sam and Alex, in which a deaf and a hearing actor communicate using English and British Sign Language, and scenes at Sam's house with Sam and his Mum in which hearing actors communicate using English. Captions are projected onto the set throughout the play to ensure that deaf audiences can understand what is being said by the hearing actors.

SOUND, LIGHTS & VIDEO

Lights

Throughout most of the play, the lights will be on the stage and the auditorium where you will be sitting will be dark. There will be times when the lights are brighter, and times when they are darker, such as when they travel through the museum. Sometimes they will be different colours. An example of this is in the photo of Stan at the museum (on page 4) where there is some red light. When Sam and Alex are being chased by Stan the T-rex at Museum, there are some flashing lights. There will also be some lights on the edges of the seating area too.

Sound

There are times when loud music and sound effects will be played.

When Sam and Alex meet Stan, the giant T-rex, at the museum, Stan comes to life and roars loudly. As Stan chases the children, he then disappears from the screen and starts to 'move' through the audience. To make it sound like Stan is in the audience we will use sound effects of roaring, stomping and the noise of buildings being smashed, which builds to make a loud sound.

If the sound is too loud you can cover your ears. Ear defenders will also be available to borrow for free. If you would like a pair, please ask a member of the venue staff and they will get a pair for you.

Video animation

During the play, animations will be projected onto the set to show where the characters are. When Alex takes Sam on an imaginary adventure to the Manchester Museum the exhibits will come to life with animation. For example, when they see the butterfly exhibition, the animated butterflies fly across the screen.

When they reach the Stan the dinosaur exhibition, there will be a large animated T-rex. The T-rex will come to life and move across the screen. It will chase Alex and Sam and roar loudly. See page 4 for a photo of what Stan will look like.

Captions

Throughout the play captions are projected onto the set so that audience members who are deaf can understand what the Sam and Mum are saying when they speak in English. The captions will feature words and pictures.



THE END OF THE PLAY

You will know that it is the end of the play because the actors will come out and take a bow. Sarah or Chelsea will then stand up and talk to the audience and explain that there will be a free workshop in the theatre which lasts 30 minutes. The workshop will be run by Sarah, who wrote the play, or Chelsea who runs workshops for us.

Sarah looks like this:



Chelsea Looks like this:



The workshop will be BSL Interpreted for deaf audience members. The workshop is a safe space for children and their parents / carers to discuss the themes of the play.

In the workshop Sarah/Chelsea will ask questions to help understand the story. In the first part of the workshop we will think about what the objects in Sam's rucksack give him emotionally (e.g. happiness, sadness, confusion, frustration) and talk about it together. In the second part of the workshop will be writing one note for Sam and one note for Alex together - we will do this by suggesting something to add to the note and then Sarah/Chelsea will write them down. At the end, the note for Sam will go into his rucksack for him to see when he wakes up tomorrow, and the note for Alex will go into her rucksack for her to see when she wakes up tomorrow.

You can be part of the workshop and you don't have to say anything out loud if you don't want to. Anyone who wants to speak can put their hand up (like in school). Sarah/Chelsea will never pick anyone to speak unless they have their hand up so that the only people who speak will be people who want to.

QUIET SPACE

There will be lots of people in the theatre building before the play starts and after it finishes, so it might be busy. If you feel overwhelmed and need to access a quiet space, please explain to a member of staff and they will direct you. If you are deaf and sign, please communicate with the BSL Interpreter and they will explain to the venue staff.

QUESTIONS

If you have any further questions, you can contact Rachel Moorhouse via email rachel@artwithheart.org.uk. She can arrange a time to call you if you prefer to talk over the phone. If you are deaf and use British Sign Language we can arrange for an interpreter to get in touch via video calling to answer any questions.