

Theatre by the Lake presents

THE BORROWERS

by Mary Norton, adapted for the stage by Theresa Heskins, presented with the permission of the deFaria Company

A VISUAL STORY

RELAXED PERFORMANCE: THU 12 JANUARY 12PM

This visual story is designed for visitors to the Relaxed Performance of 'The Borrowers'. This pack contains information about the play and lots of images to help prepare anyone who may be anxious about their visit. This visual story also has information to help you to find your way around Theatre by the Lake.

SPECIAL TOURS OF THE BUILDING

We offer special tours of the theatre to customers booking for our Relaxed Performances. On a day of your choice, one of our friendly members of staff will show you around the theatre so you can get to know it a bit better. You'll see the Front of House areas, including the café, toilets and where the 'chill-out space' will be on the day of the performance. You'll also see the auditorium, including where you'll sit to watch the show.

TO BOOK A TOUR

Please contact our Customer Experience Manager, Mary Elliott by email on mary.elliott@theatrebythelake.com or by telephone on 017687 81103.

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SECTION ONE: THEATRE BY THE LAKE

WHERE IS THE PLAY?



The play is being shown at Theatre by the Lake in Keswick. The theatre is located next to a lake called Derwentwater. To walk to the theatre from the town centre, follow signposts for 'The Lake'. If you wish to use a satnav, the postcode is CA12 5DJ.

There is a car park next to the theatre. This is a council car park so you have to pay to park there – make sure you have plenty of change, or you can pay by card. There are a limited number of parking spaces for Blue Badge holders, where the first three hours are free.

Here is a picture of the theatre from the outside:



ACCESS

Lift access is available to all floors of the theatre. There is only one lift, located in the café on the ground floor.

There are toilets on each floor, suitable for wheelchair access. On the first floor, there is an additional ambulant disabled toilet. These are clearly signposted.

INSIDE THE THEATRE

You can view a [360 virtual tour of the theatre here](#).

This is the foyer (the inside entrance area):



The theatre and the auditorium will open from 60 minutes on the day of the performance. Lakeside Restaurant next door is open from 10am – 7pm. If you would like to book a space to sit and eat a packed lunch inside the theatre then please get in touch with us and we'll be able to arrange.



If you would like somewhere to sit, there are seats on the first floor on the mezzanine. This will be a quiet area if you wish to have some 'chill out time' before, during or after the performance.

On the ground floor, there is a café (called The Spotlight Café) which will be open 40 minutes before the show and for 30 minutes afterwards. The café sells hot and cold drinks and snacks. You can pre-order drinks for the interval, which will be waiting for you when you come into the café during the break. There will be a small number of tables and chairs in this area.





Ice creams will be on sale in the foyer and you can take them into the auditorium. Groups can pre-order ice creams and we can bring them into the auditorium for you at the interval, if you would prefer not to leave your seats. They can be purchased at a discounted rate. Please speak to Box Office staff for details.

You might notice some people walking around with walkie-talkies. This is the Customer Experience team and they are there to make sure that everything runs smoothly. They will check your tickets and help you to find your seats. They can also answer any questions that you may have about the play or about the theatre.

You can take your bags and coats into the auditorium with you. You can just pop these on the backs of your seats or underneath them. You may also take in any hand held electronic devices that you may need.

INFORMATION ABOUT THE AUDITORIUM, THE STAGE AND THE SET

The auditorium is the part of the theatre where the audience sits when they are watching the play.

The stage is the area where the actors perform the play.

The set is the name for all the scenery, furniture and objects used on stage in a play.

WHAT DOES THE AUDITORIUM LOOK LIKE?

There are three different levels in the auditorium – you will be sitting in either the bottom or middle level.



Because this is a relaxed performance you can get up out of your seats if you need to and move around. You won't be allowed to go on to the stage. You can leave the auditorium if you need some quiet time or if you need to use the toilet.

You will have some time before the show to find your seats and get comfy before the play begins. These are the seats in the auditorium where the audience sit.

HOW LONG DOES THE PLAY LAST?

The play is about 2 hours long with a 20 minute interval.

WHAT HAPPENS AFTER THE SHOW?

When the play has finished you are welcome to stay for a question and answer session, where everyone will get the chance to ask the actors questions. You can leave the auditorium at any time, and you can still use the toilets and chill-out area after the show.

SECTION TWO: THE PLAY

THE BORROWERS

ABOUT THE SHOW

There are 7 actor-musicians in this play. The play is set in and around a house and gardens.

There is plenty of music and singing in the show, which helps to tell the story.

THE SET

The set turns into a number of different locations throughout, such as underneath the floorboards of a house, a garden and a model village.



Puppets are used in the play to show the Borrowers as their real size, particularly when they are talking to the humans.



KEY CHARACTERS

Here are the main characters in the play. Some of the actors play more than one character, and so there are a few smaller characters (not named here) who appear on stage too.

The Clock Family

The Clock family are 'Borrowers' - little people who are about 5 inches high. They live by 'borrowing' things from humans which they think will be useful to them.

Pod

Pod is the father of the family. He goes out 'borrowing' to provide for his family.



Arrietty

Arrietty is the daughter of the family. She's never been further than her home under the floorboards, and she's desperate to go exploring.

Homily

Homily is the mother of the family. She likes to keep a tidy home and is scared of change.

Crampfurl

Crampfurl (a human) is the gardener of the big house. He is suspicious of Borrowers but thinks he can make money out of them.



Mrs Driver

Mrs Driver (a human) is a bad-tempered housekeeper. She believes that Borrowers are pests and so dislikes them.



The Boy

The Boy (a human) is staying in the big house while he recovers from an illness. He is curious about Borrowers and is eager to learn more about them.



Spiller

Spiller (a Borrower) lives out in the wild and hunts birds for food and keeps insects as pets. He's very friendly and helpful and makes friends with the Clock family.



The Youth Cast

The chorus of young people play a few different parts, from dancing flowers to young Borrowers.



THE STORY



The play begins with Pod on a 'borrowing' mission. He is upstairs in the big house when he is caught by The Boy. The Boy is very curious as he's never seen a Borrower before. After some questioning, he lets Pod go.

Pod returns to his family living under the floorboards. He tells them that he's been seen by a human being. He's never been caught before. The humans now knowing the Borrowers exist is very worrying news to Homily.

Pod and Homily tell Arrietty the tragic story of Egglestina, who disappeared one day and was never seen again, presumed to have been eaten by the cat. Egglestina's parents, Uncle Hendreary and Aunt Lupy and family had to find a new place to live and they moved away. The story is a warning of how dangerous human beings are and how Arrietty has to be careful in the world above the floorboards.



Pod decides it's time for Arrietty to learn how to 'borrow' like him, so that she can look after herself should anything bad happen to him. Arrietty is very excited about this as she longs to escape her boring life at home.

When Pod and Arrietty go out 'borrowing' together, Arrietty enjoys the freedom of being outside for the first time.

Arrietty meets The Boy and tells him all about being a Borrower. He tells her about the human world.



The Boy discovers the Clock family's home. He brings them gifts from the big house. Homily enjoys living in luxury, Arrietty likes the company, but Pod is not very happy because he thinks The Boy will get caught giving away things that the humans will miss, which will lead to trouble for the Clocks.

The Boy is caught by Mrs Driver and Crampfurl. They think the Borrowers are rats. They send for the rat catcher to get rid of them.



The Clock family escape. They try to find Uncle Hendreary and family who they believe live in a badger set near to the house.

They take shelter in one of Crampfurl's old boots and live there while they continue to search every day for their relatives.



They meet Spiller, who takes care of them. The seasons pass and the Clock family get used to the ways of living outside. Spiller and Arrietty become friends and they have lots of fun exploring the wild together.



One day, Crampfurl discovers the Borrowers living in his old boot. He and Mrs Driver plot to trap them in a cage and display them in a museum for humans to pay money to see.

Spiller comes to the Clock family's rescue and helps them to escape.

In the last scene there is a happy reunion... but we won't say who with as we want to leave one last nice surprise for you at the end!



We hope that you enjoy the show and your visit to Theatre by the Lake!