



RELAXED GUIDE

**MALTHOUSE
THEATRE**



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WHAT IS A RELAXED PERFORMANCE?

Theatre demands things of us. As an audience occupying a space, and as humans processing ideas and relationships. Both have rules, both explicit and implicit. These rules were designed for a certain kind of audience, but this kind of audience is not all kinds of audiences.

Relaxed performance was originally designed to make theatre spaces accessible to autistic people, and those with sensory processing differences. This showing, using the same techniques, will be designed to open the theatre space to all those wanting a relaxed evening at the theatre!

WHAT DOES THAT MEAN FOR YOU?

For you, when you come to this performance:

- The lights, sound, and stagecraft will be augmented for a softer, smoother viewing experience.
- The audience space will have the social expectations altered, so an audience may walk around, come and go as they please, and be able to engage in calming activities, such as rocking, humming, stimming and the like
- Malthouse Theatre's staff will be on hand to take any overwhelmed patrons to our quiet space, where they may take a moment to settle themselves in private and return to the performance as they wish.



SEASON 2020 / The Importance of Being Earnest

RELAXED PERFORMANCE / 7.30PM, FRIDAY 21 FEBRUARY

The Importance of Being Earnest is a comedy of manners. All the humour comes from overplaying obedience to the social rules of the day, which many will find still apply today.

The two actors switch between playing every single character, male and female. Some characters are entirely done by one, some are shared. At points, characters are depicted by puppets or one part of the character's costume.

Read Oscar Wilde's script [here](#).

ACT 1

- Mention of consumption of excessive alcohol
- A lot of time is spent changing costumes on stage and off. They have not got lost in the script
- Discussions of familial permission to marry
- Discussion of smoking and smoking paraphernalia
- Individuals having multiple identities for personal gain
- Classism based on living location
- Discussion of murdering alternate identities
- 'Flight of the Valkyries' plays
- Sexual allusions
- Comic discussions of dying relatives, real and invented
- Comic discussions of invalid persons
- Lady Bracknell's headpiece has a whole fake pheasant
- Comic discussion of parental death
- Comic discussion of orphaning
- Allusions to sexual acts
- Sexual undressing

ACT 2

- Discussion of entrapment
- Discussion of 'degeneracy'

SEASON 2020 / The Importance of Being Earnest



Pictured: Performers David Woods & Jon Haynes

CONTENT WARNINGS

Theatre shows sometimes contain stories, images, or events that can be upsetting or frightening to some people. Malthouse Theatre provides a list of content warnings that tell you about things the show contains that will be helpful to know before you see it.

For example, if the show contains loud noises, flashing lights, violence, or sexual themes, these will be explained in the content warnings section of the show's website.

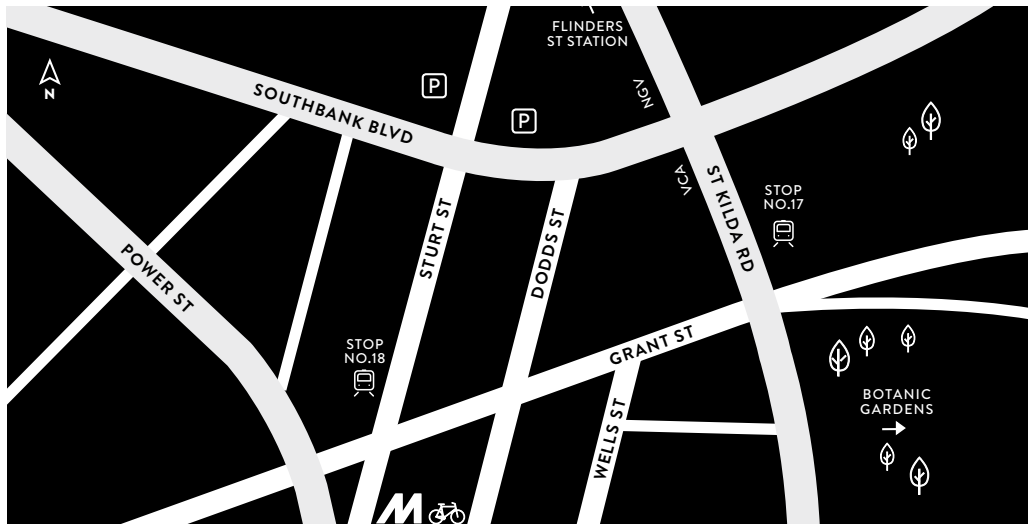
These warnings are often very vaguely described, in order to keep from spoiling the plot of the show. If you want more detail, you can click on the link provided to read a detailed list of what happens in the show. This might spoil some plot points, but will give you more information to help you be prepared for what might happen.

Malthouse Theatre presents new plays that often are being developed and changed right up until the performance. Because of this, it's not always possible to list every detail of what happens in the show. If you have any concerns, you can always talk to a Malthouse Theatre Usher.



GETTING TO THE VENUE

THE COOPERS MALTHOUSE IS LOCATED AT 113 STURT STREET, SOUTHBANK. THE CLOSEST TRAM STOP IS STOP 18 GRANT ST/STURT ST (ROUTE 1).



The Coopers Malthouse can also be accessed from St Kilda Road (via any tram going down St Kilda Road). In this instance, it is a few minutes' walks from Stop 17 Grant St, Police Memorial/St Kilda Rd. Flinders Street Station is approximately fifteen minutes' walk away.

There are also bike racks and a Melbourne Bike Share station outside the theatre.

Limited on-street parking is available on Grant Street, Sturt Street and Dodds Streets. Two disabled parking spaces are just outside The Coopers Malthouse entrance on Sturt Street.

The closest secure carparks are:

- Arts Centre Melbourne Car Park (enter from Sturt Street)
- The Australian Ballet Centre Car Park (2 Kavanagh Street)

The venue provides physical access for mobility impaired patrons. This includes a ramp at the Sturt Street entrance of the building and a lift inside the premises.

VENUE IMAGES

EXTERNAL, BOX OFFICE, AND BAR

There are two wheelchair-accessible entrances to The Coopers Malthouse. Both lead into the long, spacious foyer.

The entrance closer to Sturt Street opens into the café section of the foyer, while the entrance closer to Dodds Street opens into the box office on your left. There is a balcony level to the foyer.



Pictured: Entrance closer to Sturt Street.



Pictured: Entrance closer to Dodds Street.

VENUE IMAGES

EXTERNAL, BOX OFFICE, AND BAR

Toilets are located in the foyer and are positioned opposite the bar. There is a café located inside the foyer where you can buy food and drink. The café is closest to the Sturt Street entrance.



Pictured: The long foyer space showing the toilets and bar.

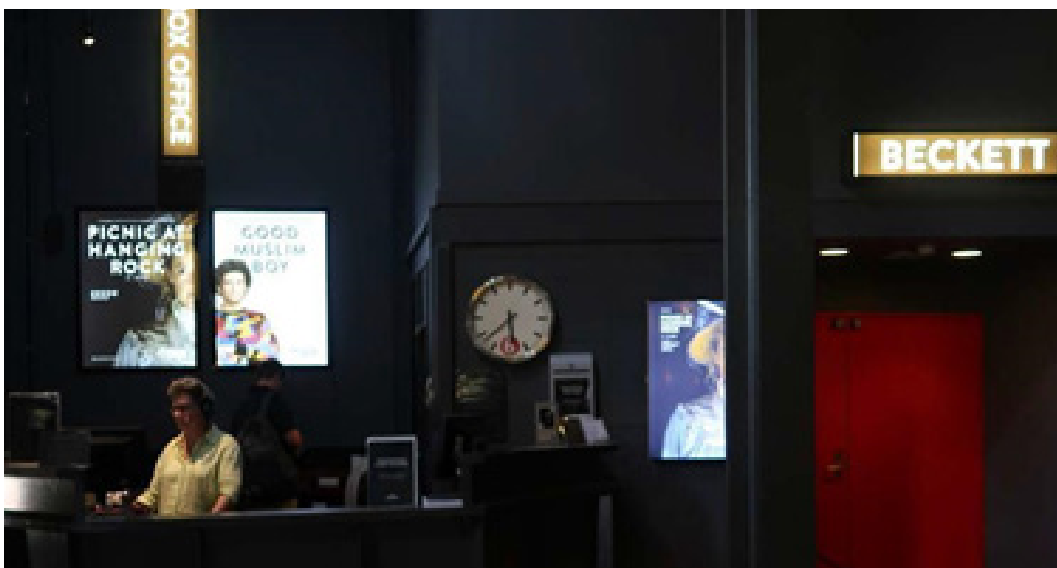


Pictured: The café near the Sturt Street entrance.

VENUE IMAGES

EXTERNAL, BOX OFFICE, AND BAR

The Box Office is located nearer to the Dodds Street entrance under two poster lightboxes. The Beckett Theatre is to the right of the box office.



Pictured: The Box Office and the Beckett Theatre.



Pictured: The foyer space during a show.



QUIET SPACES

There will be a designated Quiet Space provided for a Relaxed Performance. This may be upstairs in one of our rehearsal rooms, which are all located on the top floor of The Coopers Malthouse. They can be accessed by stairs or by lift. Please check with the box office or with a Malthouse Theatre staff member, who can show you where to find the Quiet Space.

Malthouse Theatre's courtyard is often a quieter space than inside the building. The courtyard is an outdoor space with seating provided, and tables where you can eat and drink.



Pictured: The stairs in the foyer that lead up to the rehearsal spaces.



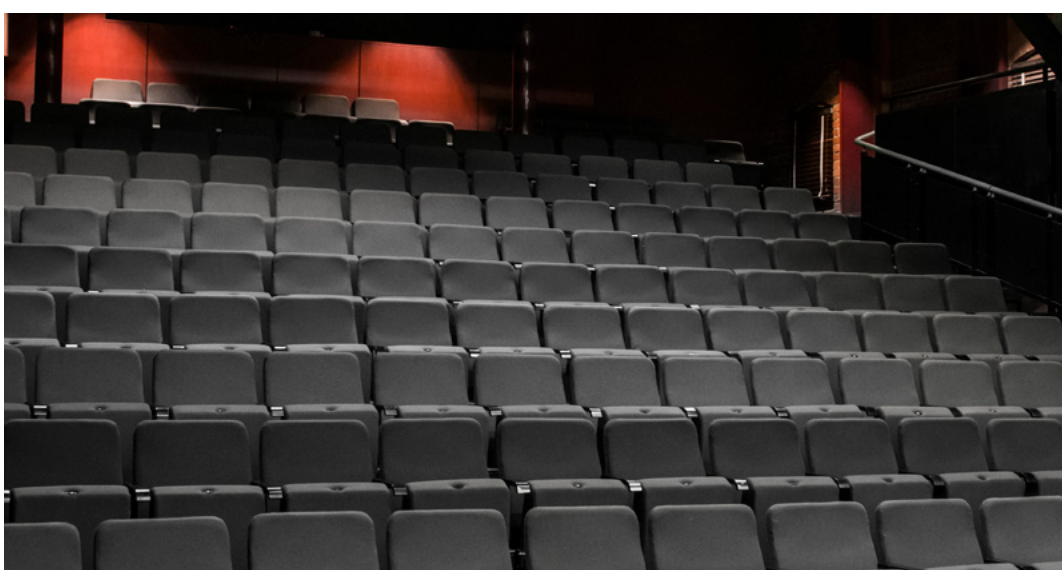
Pictured: The outdoor courtyard with tables and chairs.

THEATRES

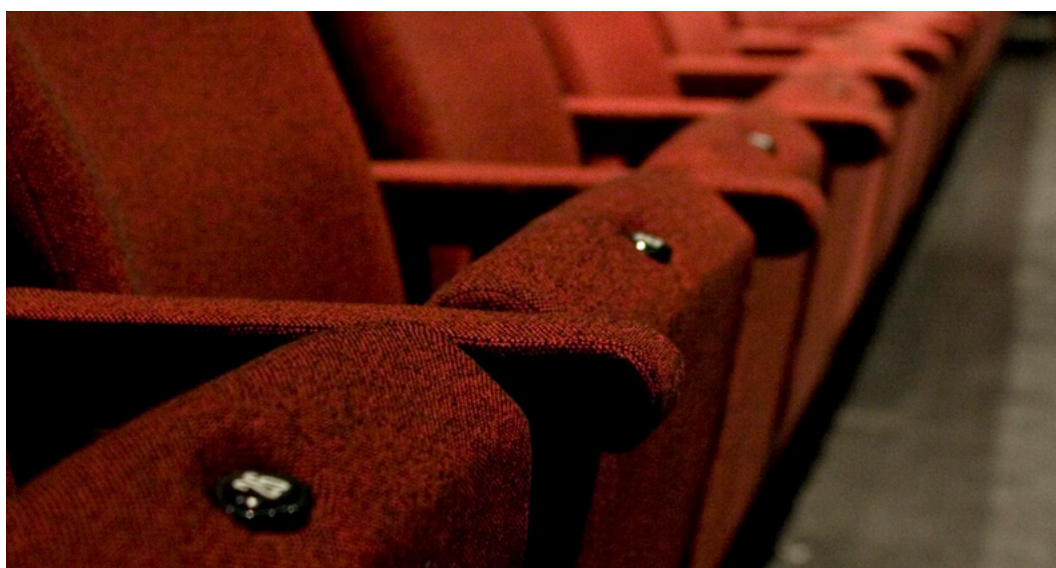
Malthouse Theatre has three theatres, The Merlyn, The Beckett and the Tower Theatre.

All theatres and spaces at Malthouse Theatre are clearly marked. There are many staff members who will be able to assist you if you have any questions.

The theatre seats are organised in rows, labelled with letters from A to Z. Each seat also has a number on it. Your ticket will show which row and seat number you can sit in.



Pictured: Inside the Beckett Theatre.



Pictured: Theatre seats with number labels.

WE'RE HERE TO ASSIST

If you need help finding your seat, or with anything else, you can ask a Malthouse Theatre Usher. Ushers wear a uniform of a black polo shirt with The Coopers Malthouse logo on it.



Pictured: Ushers wearing their uniform.



HOW TO BOOK / CONTACT US

Our Relaxed Performances are listed on the Access page on Malthouse Theatre's website **malthousetheatre.com.au/your-visit/access**

You can book tickets online at **malthousetheatre.com.au** or over the phone on 03 9685 5111.

Seating is allocated, and you can select where you will be seated. The number of seats available for sale in a Relaxed Performance is limited, to make sure the theatre is comfortable and there is space to move if you feel the need to do so.

ENQUIRIES

Please contact us with any questions about your experience at Malthouse Theatre. Let us know if there's anything that isn't covered in this pack, or if there's anything else you might need to ensure an enjoyable experience.

Please contact Malthouse Theatre's Box Office at **boxoffice@malthousetheatre.com.au** or 03 9685 5111.



**MALHOUSE
THEATRE**