

**chichester  
festival  
theatre**



# Visual Story for the Festival Theatre

# Welcome

Welcome to Chichester Festival Theatre (we sometimes call it CFT for short), we're so pleased to have you here! This Visual Story is designed to help you familiarise yourself with the site before you arrive. It contains images and information to help you find your way. If you need any more information after reading it please contact our Access Team on [access@cft.org.uk](mailto:access@cft.org.uk) or call our Box Office on **01243 781312**.

# Getting here

## By Car

Chichester is easily accessible by road. The M27 and A27 run along the coast, linking Hampshire, Sussex and Kent. The M3, A3, A29, A259 and A24 connect Portsmouth, Southampton, Mid-Sussex and London.

## Parking

Northgate Car Park is a 900-space pay and display car park next to the Theatre (charges until 8pm).

Blue Badge holders can park anywhere in Northgate Car Park free of charge. There are 9 non-reservable spaces close to the Theatre entrance.

The car park can get super-busy (especially on matinee days and during holidays).

## By Rail

Chichester Station is a 20 minute walk from CFT, with regular direct links to London Victoria, Brighton, Portsmouth, Southampton, and Gatwick Airport. Trains to London Waterloo connect at nearby Havant. Call 08457 484950 for timetables and other details or visit [nationalrail.co.uk](http://nationalrail.co.uk)

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## When you get to CFT

The Festival Theatre is located on the edge of Oaklands Park. We have two theatre spaces at CFT – the Festival Theatre (where you will be heading) and the Minerva Theatre.



On the other side of the Theatre is Northgate car park which is pay and display. Blue Badge holders can park anywhere in Northgate Car Park free of charge. There are 9 non-reservable spaces close to the Theatre entrance.



This is the view of the Theatre from Northgate Car park, you can see the Festival Theatre in the distance. Head towards the theatre, straight up towards the park. The main doors are located closer to the park and have white frames around the doors.





## Inside the Theatre

The Festival Theatre foyer opens at 10am and you're very welcome to go inside. It can be noisy and busy but there is enough space for everyone.

As you look left, you'll see The Bar and seats opposite. A small shop (open prior to shows) and stairs. There are doors into the theatre numbered 2, 4, and 6. You'll also find our family spaces where kids can bag a beanbag and book, dare to dress-up or enjoy colouring in.

The Café on the Park is just beyond our family area (with brilliant barista coffee and cracking cakes). You'll spot the pink neon sign.

As you look right, you'll see the Box Office with chairs and tables opposite. Further away is another café and small shop (open prior to shows) and more stairs. There are doors into the theatre numbered 1, 3, and 5.

Your tickets may have been emailed to you and you may also have received a text message from us with a link to your tickets. If you haven't had your tickets in this way, just pop along to our Box Office and our friendly staff will be happy to help.



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Mens, Ladies and Accessible toilets are available on both sides of the Festival Theatre foyer. To help you find them look for the toilet symbols above the doors.



In the foyer you can buy show programmes from staff members and there is a café where you can buy food and drinks. If you need help or have any questions there are plenty of friendly staff members in the foyer who can help you. They will be in blue t-shirts.



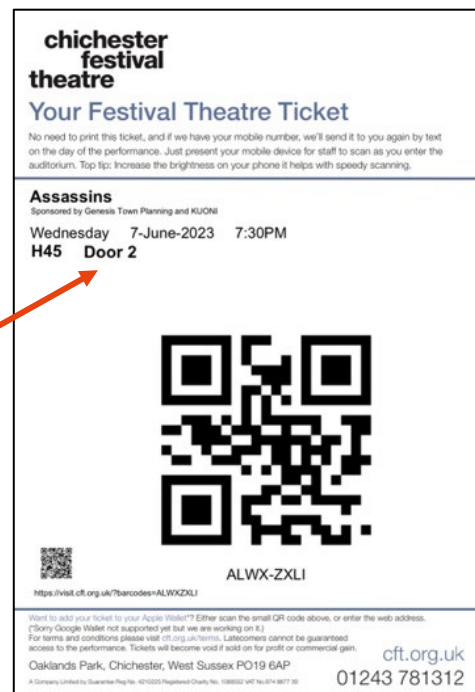
## Going into the auditorium

You can enter the auditorium half an hour before the performance starts or you can wait in the foyer until you hear the announcement to say that the show is about to start.

Your ticket will tell you which door you need to go through to enter the auditorium.

If your ticket says Door 1 or 2 on it the door will be on the ground floor, once you've shown your ticket to the staff member you will need to walk up 16 steps to reach the auditorium.

If your ticket says Door 3, 4, 5 or 6 on it you will need to walk up 27 steps to reach the door to the auditorium.



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If you need to use a lift, follow the accessible lift sign. A member of staff will be waiting there to accompany you in the lift.

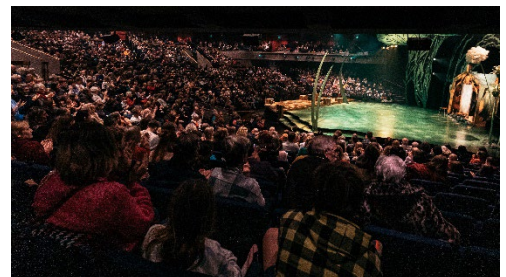


To enter the auditorium, show your ticket to the staff member at the door and they will tell you where your seat is.



## Inside the auditorium

The auditorium is a large room with lots of seats all facing the stage. You may be sitting very close to the stage or you may be seated quite high up, looking down on the stage. You will have time before the show starts to find your seat.



The stage is the area where the actors perform. The actors will walk on and off the stage from both sides of the stage. They might also enter the auditorium using the same doors you came through and then walk onto the stage.





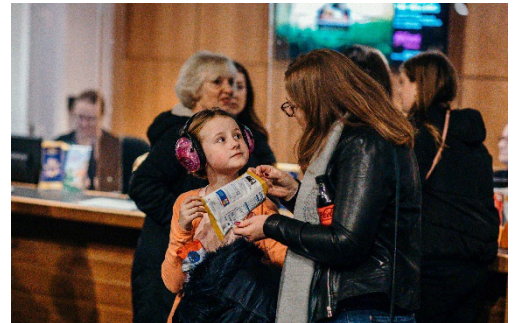
## The performance

As the performance starts the lights will be turned down and the auditorium will get darker. The actors will then walk onto the stage and the performance will begin.



## Interval

Our shows usually have two halves with a 20-minute break in the middle (called the interval). If the show runs without an interval, we will tell our audiences as soon as possible.



During the interval you can go into the foyer to use the toilet, walk around or use the café, or you can stay in your seat. There will be ice creams for sale during the interval.



When it is time to go back into the auditorium, you will hear the same announcement in the foyer you heard when the performance first started.

## At the end of the performance

When the performance has finished audience members will clap their hands and make noise to show the actors they enjoyed the performance. You can join in if you want to.



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The actors will leave the stage and then return. This is called the curtain call. They will bow to the audience to say thank you for watching them.

When the actors leave the stage this means the performance has finished. The lights will get brighter in the auditorium and people will start to move around.

It will start to get very noisy and busy as people leave. Do not worry as there is plenty of space in the foyer for everyone.

We hope you enjoyed the performance, we look forward to seeing you soon.

