BRISTOL OLD VIC

AT CHRISTMAS



A CHRISTMAS CAROL

Relaxed Performance Pack R

INFORMATION FOR CARERS

INTRODUCTION

Bristol Old Vic is very excited to welcome you to our Relaxed Performance of *A Christmas Carol*.

On our Relaxed Performance days we take a more relaxed approach inside our performance spaces and within the front of house areas, allowing everyone to enjoy the show in their own way, whether you need to move in and out of the Theatre, make involuntary noise, or take a bit more time to adjust to your surroundings.

We've gathered some information in this pack about access, the performance space and the story of *A Christmas Carol* which you might find helpful before seeing the show. We hope you enjoy the show!

ACCESS, PARKING & BUGGIES

Bristol Old Vic is located on King Street, a **5-minute walk** (0.2 miles) **from the City Centre Harbourside.**

The entrance to Bristol Old Vic is fully accessible and has step-free access. Inside the foyer there is a lift which goes to all levels. The Theatre is accessible on Level -1 (Pit), Level 0 (Dress Circle), Level 2 (Upper Circle) and Level 3 (Gallery). There are accessible toilets located on Levels -1, 0 and 1. Please note that only the Dress Circle of the Theatre is completely step-free. For more access information go to: bristololdvic.org.uk/access.

If you have any specific access requirements let us know via email at **access@bristololdvic.org.uk** and we'll do our best to meet them. We are here to help you have the most enjoyable Bristol Old Vic experience.

Bristol Old Vic does not have dedicated parking. However, there are parking facilities in the surrounding area including, the NCP on Queen Charlotte Street, a 2 minute walk (150 metres) and Trenchard Street car park, a 5 minute walk (0.2 miles) across the city centre. Meter parking is also available on King Street and Queen Square. Blue badge holder parking is also available on King Street. Please note King Street is a cobbled street. There are dropped kerbs outside of Bristol Old Vic on King Street.

For more information on parking, visit Bristol City Council parking services here: bristol.gov.uk/parking. For information about public transport links, bike racks, etc visit the **Getting Here** page of our website here: bristololdvic.org.uk/your-visit/getting-here.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

We don't sound alarms in performance spaces at Bristol Old Vic. If there is one it will only sound in the foyer and Theatre horseshoe areas. Our members of staff will alert you should the alarm go off.

STEP COUNTS

To get to each level via the stairs, you have to walk up the following number of steps:

- From Level G (foyer ground floor), there are 10 steps down to the Level -1 (Pit and Studio Floor)
- 5 steps to Level 0 (Dress Circle) from Level G
- 22 steps to Level 1 (Coopers' Balcony, Coopers' Hall, Foyle Room) from Level G
- 29 steps to Level 2 (Upper Circle) from Level G
- 43 steps to Level 3 (Gallery) from Level G
- 66 steps to Level 4 (Coopers' Loft) from Level G

The foyer lift can be used to avoid steps to all levels.

INFORMATION FOR EVERYONE

SHOW NOTES

- *A Christmas Carol* is 2 hours and 15 minutes long, including an interval.

- *A Christmas Carol* is a play staged end-on. That means everyone sits in the seats of the Theatre facing the stage. The actors perform mainly in front of you on the stage, though there are some times when the action takes place to the sides and behind you.

- There's no right or wrong way to watch our Relaxed Performance of *A Christmas Carol*. We want you to enjoy it! That means you can make a noise or get up and have a walk outside of the seating areas if you need to. We do ask everyone to stay away from the stage though, so that everyone can be safe during the show.

- *A Christmas Carol* can be quite busy and joyful, but also sometimes scary in places. It has lots of songs and jokes, puppets, dancing and movement. The actors may speak to you during the show so don't be afraid to speak back and get involved if you want to. It is absolutely ok if you want to make some noise and move around. It is also completely fine to not reply to them if you don't feel like it.

- If at any time you would like to take a break, you can take a step away from the performance area or leave the Theatre and come back when whenever you are ready. An usher will be there to help you.

- The ushers are there to help you. If you need to leave during the show an usher will ensure you are ok. They can also show you where the toilets are. Ushers are good people to go to if you feel worried about anything in the show. You can speak to them before, during or after the performance.

QUIETER SPACES

- We have dedicated several spaces across our building for you if you need to take some time out of the performance. Simply ask an usher to help you find where those areas are.

- There is some space immediately outside of the Pit, in the Pit Kiosk Seating Area (Level -1), where you can take a break if you need to. You may still be able to hear other people here and there will be some noise from the foyer.

- There are a number of other **Breathing Spaces** in and around the foyer and bar areas, including outside of Coopers' Hall on Level 1 and the Weston Studio waiting area on Level -1. These are not completely quiet areas, but are out of the way of most people in the foyer. There may still be some noise from the public areas and other people may also be in these spaces.

- There is a **dedicated Quiet Room,** away from noise and people, with somewhere to sit and fully take time out in The Foyle Room on Level 1.

- There will be signs in all these spaces designating them as Quieter Spaces. All Relaxed Performance signs will have a smiley face on them to match the smiley face badges our Relaxed Performance-trained staff will be wearing, so look out for them.

- See **page 9** of this guide for more on Quieter Spaces.

WHO WILL YOU SEE AT BRISTOL OLD VIC?

THE PERFORMERS



SAIKAT
Freddie, Dick Wilkins, Mrs Cratchit.



HARRY
Musician, Ridley



CHRISTOPHE
Musician, Bourne



CRYSTAL
Belle, Mrs Atkin



NEIL
Marley, Scrooge's Father, Mr Fezziwig



FELIX
Scrooge



GWYNETH
Musician, Ghost of Christmas Present



BEAU
Little Fan, Mrs Dilber



NADIA
Bob Cratchit, Mrs Fezziwig, Bridget



GEORGE
Young Scrooge



THE USHERS

These are the ushers. You can recognise them from their black uniform. They are here to help. Our staff that are Relaxed Performance trained also wear smiley face badges.

GETTING HERE

We are really looking forward to welcoming you to Bristol Old Vic on the day of the production. Bristol Old Vic is on King Street. From the Queen Charlotte Street end, King Street looks like this.



You will be able to see Bristol Old Vic on King Street. From the outside, our building looks like this.

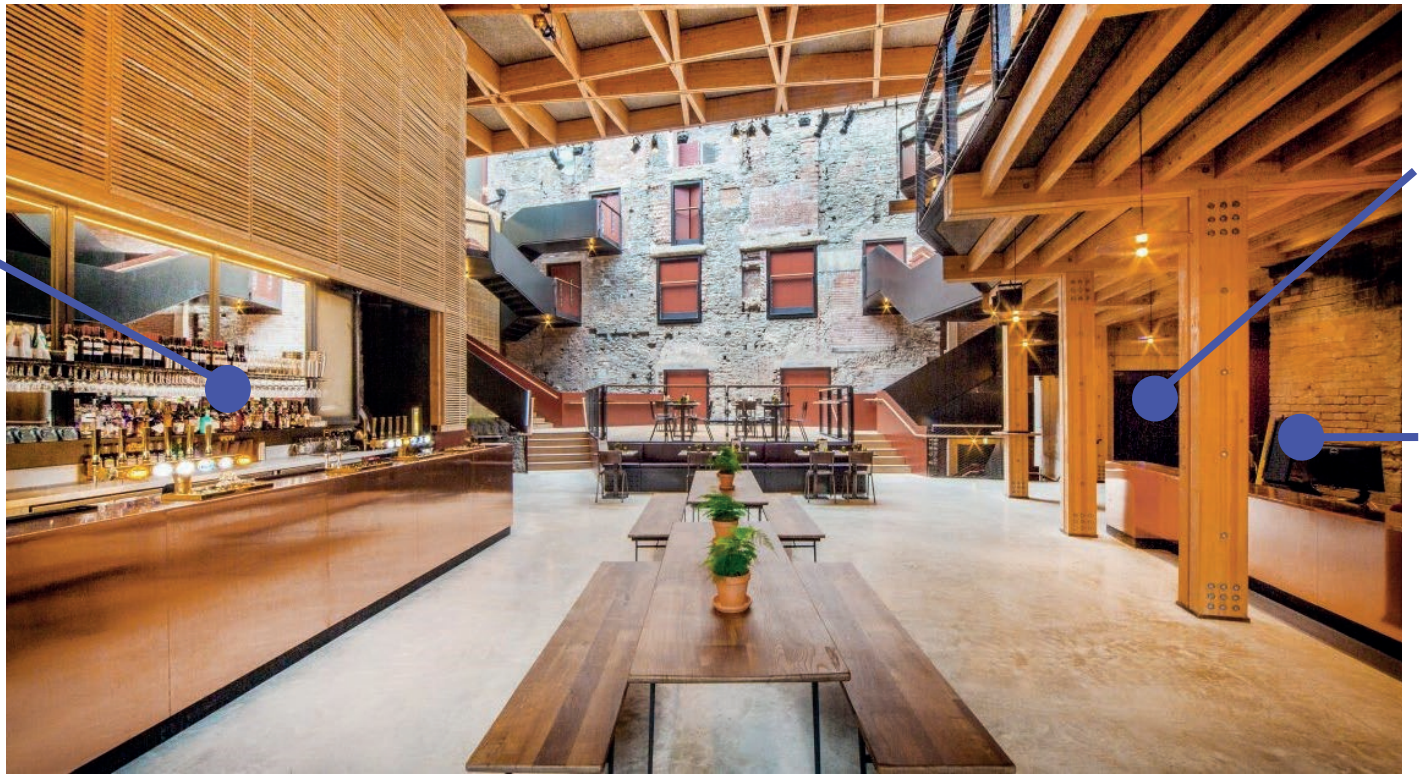


GETTING HERE

This is our **main entrance.** We have automatic doors here that open by pressing a button (pictured). Access is step-free, and the main entrance will take you into our foyer.



The foyer will be open before the performance. There is a bar where you can order hot or cold drinks and food, there are also lots of places to sit down.



When you enter, you will find **1766 Bar & Kitchen, our bar (1)** in front of you and the **Box Office (2)** to your right. **The lift (3)** is on the far right, near Box Office. The lift will take you to all levels. **The Theatre entrances are on Levels -1 (Pit), 0 (Dress Circle), 2 (Upper Circle) and 3 (Gallery).**

GETTING HERE

You can collect or buy your tickets from our **Box Office** team at the desk in the foyer.

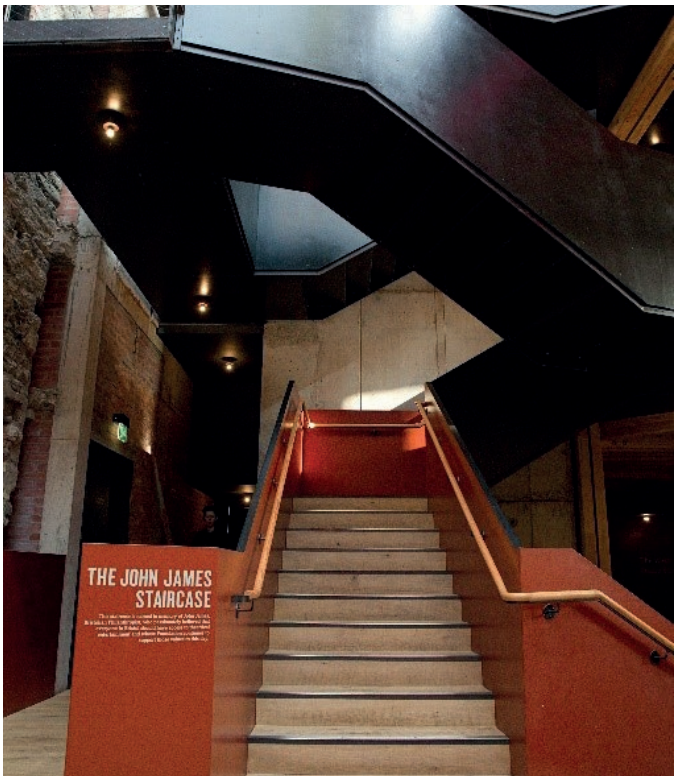


You can follow signs that look like this to get to the toilets. There are **accessible toilets on Levels -1, 0 and 1**.



GETTING HERE

The performance will take place in **the Theatre**. You can access the space either by going up the staircase to the different levels (**see page 2 for step counts**) or by taking the lift.





Everyone will be asked to wait in the foyer and bar areas until the Theatre doors open. You will hear announcements in the Foyer when the Theatre is open. The Theatre will open about 25 minutes before the show so **if you need earlier entry please ask an usher** or, **if you need to find a quieter place to wait than in the foyer, follow signs to the Quiet Room**.

You will be welcomed into the auditorium by the Bristol Old Vic team, where you might notice some of the performers in and amongst the audience to begin with, singing and playing music. Don't be worried by this, they are meant to be there and are really friendly.

Find your seat and make yourself comfortable. **When the show is about to begin, the lights will dim on you and get brighter on the stage**.



QUIETER SPACES

As **page 3** of this guide says, we have several **Breathing Spaces** designated throughout the building. Some are pictured here.



This is **the Pit Kiosk Seating Area**, outside the Theatre Pit entrance. You can use this space if you need to step out of the performance. There are accessible toilets nearby.



This is **the area outside of Coopers' Hall on Level 1**. This is near accessible toilets, and is slightly further away from the performance.



This is **the Weston Studio Waiting Area** outside the Studio Floor entrance on Level -1. This is near accessible toilets, and is slightly further away from the performance.



This is **the area immediately outside Coopers' Loft**. This is on Level 4 and quite far from the Theatre, but is usable if other spaces are crowded or you do not wish to use the Quiet Room.

THE QUIET ROOM

As **page 3** of this guide says, in addition to Breathing Spaces, we have **a designated Quiet Room**. This is **The Foyle Room**. This is situated on **Coopers' Balcony on Level 1**. This room allows you complete quiet with no noise from the performance or foyer and bar areas.

The Foyle Room



This is where The Foyle Room is located on Coopers' Balcony (Level 1).



There are seats and a table in The Foyle Room. It is well lit, and well away from noise and movement. If you need help finding The Foyle Room, ask an usher or any member of Bristol Old Vic staff and they'll be happy to help.

ABOUT THE PERFORMANCE

A Christmas Carol is the story of Ebenezer Scrooge, a grumpy man who pushes people away all the time, even at Christmas. The story is about realising that people can make healthier and happier choices by learning about themselves and making a few changes, and about how they will be welcomed back by everyone around them.

TYPES OF ACTION

The show is a fun couple of hours and features action of differents types and has scenes and characters that strike different tones. Audience members should be aware that while it has a happy message the show features themes about death and some scary scenes featuring ghosts. There are the following different types of action in *A Christmas Carol*:



FAST-PACED ACTION

There are moments when the performers dance or move quickly around the space and the action onstage can be fast-paced. There is running around and climbing up and down the set in the show, as well as dancing and running through the audience.



LOUD NOISES

There are moments where the audience might make loud noises like clapping, or there may be loud sound effects. On Relaxed Performance days, we lower the volume of certain effects, but there may still be a few loud ones. Some of the audience participation scenes, such as the beginning of the second half may be quite loud too.



SADNESS OR FRUSTRATION

There are moments when the characters get a bit cross, sad or frustrated. They may shout and their faces and movements will show how they feel. There are several scenes that feature characters upset by their friends passing away, and some of these scenes of sadness can be upsetting.



ACTORS COME CLOSE TO OR TOUCH THE AUDIENCE

There are moments where the performers will come close to audience members, sometimes right up to their seats. Near the end of the show, Scrooge climbs over some of the audience and may touch you. The performers will try not to intrude too far into your personal space and it is ok to say no to any invitation to get involved.



SCARY MOMENTS

There are several scenes which can be scary to audiences. *A Christmas Carol* has four ghosts in it: Marley and the Ghosts of Christmas Past, Present and Future. The appearance of these characters can be scary, as can some of the visions that Scrooge encounters during his adventures with the ghosts.

THE GHOSTS

As **page 11** of this guide says, there are four ghosts in the show, which may be scary for some audience members. In order that you know what they look like in advance, we've pictured them below:



This is **Marley**. Before Marley was a ghost, he was Scrooge's business partner. He will look like this.



This is the **Ghost of Christmas Past.** This is the first Christmas ghost to visit Scrooge to take him on an adventure. This ghost is part puppet.



This is the **Ghost of Christmas Present.** A fun-loving ghost, she appears at the beginning of the second half to take Scrooge on another journey.



This is the **Ghost of Christmas Future.** This ghost comes to give Scrooge dire warnings about his possible future. The ghost appears first as a puppet, then as a character in costume.

MAJOR CHANGES ON STAGE

As the story progresses, the lights and sounds, music, costume and tone all go through some changes. To give you an idea about some of the changes onstage that you will experience, see the pictures below:



The show starts in **Scrooge's office**, which then transforms into **his home**, both of which are dark and gloomy.



After being visited by Marley, Scrooge is taken on **an journey by the Ghost of Christmas Past**, and this is wintry and gloomy too.

MAJOR CHANGES ON STAGE

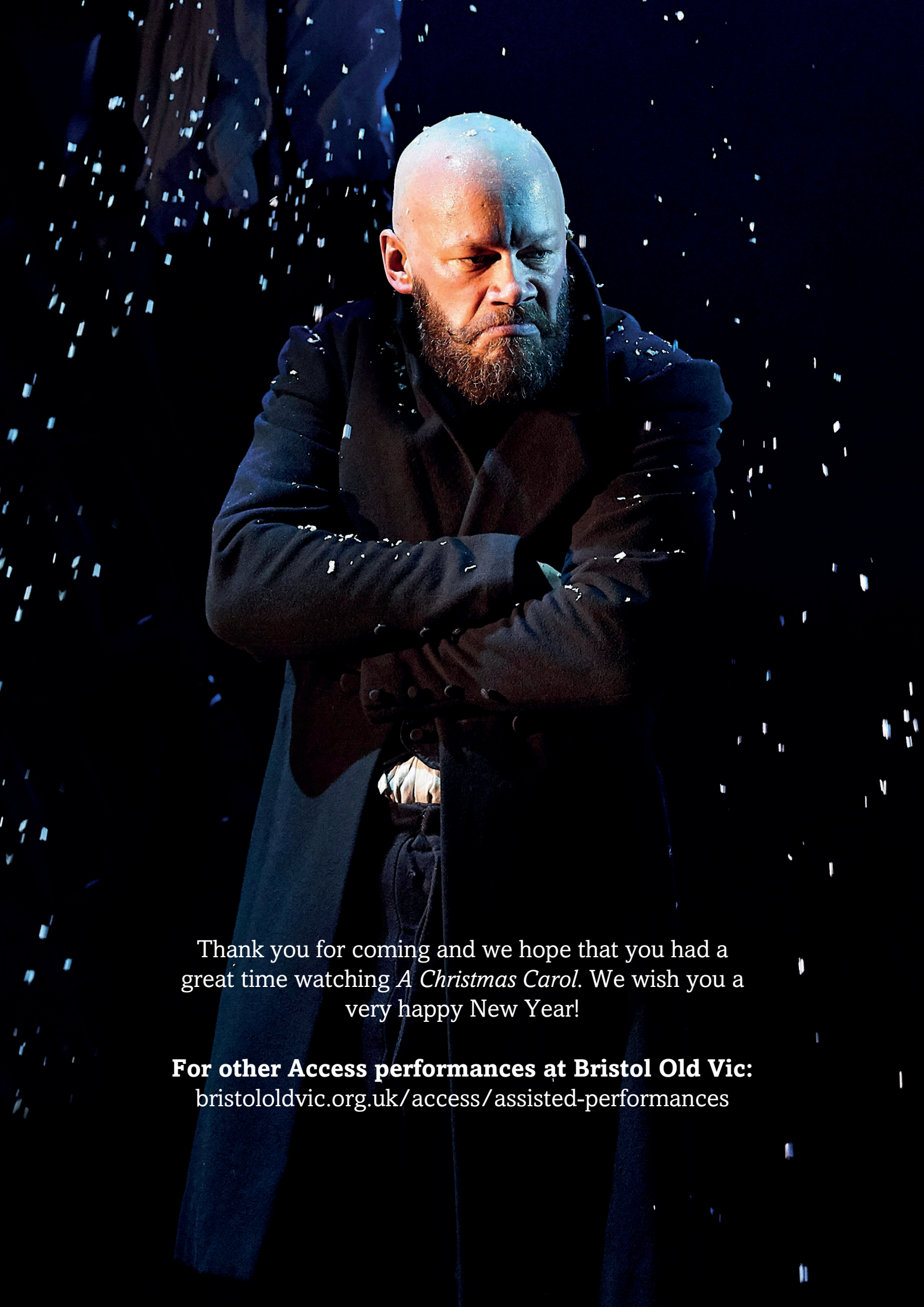


After the interval, the second half will open with **a loud and colourful song** led by the Ghost of Christmas Present, which the audience can get involved with by singing.



Throughout the second half, Scrooge's adventures lead him to see how he can make changes in his life, and so by the end, the costumes, lighting and set are **more colourful and have a very different tone**.

There are lots of other scenes and tonal changes in *A Christmas Carol*. Whilst we are unable to picture them all, we hope that the above examples give you a good idea of what to expect.



Thank you for coming and we hope that you had a great time watching *A Christmas Carol*. We wish you a very happy New Year!

For other Access performances at Bristol Old Vic:
bristololdvic.org.uk/access/assisted-performances