

Visual Story for the Relaxed Performance of L'amico Fritz



Sunday 18 July, 2pm

Opera Holland Park Theatre
Ilchester Place, London, W8 6LU

Index

Page 3 – Information about the Opera Holland Park Theatre

Page 5 – Inside the auditorium

Page 6 – Useful information for the performance day

Page 7 – Characters in the show

Page 8 – Lights, sounds and other warnings

This visual story is designed for visitors to the Relaxed Performance of *L'amico Fritz* to help prepare you if you are curious (or anxious) about your visit.

It contains lots of images along with helpful information, including:

- Photographs of the Opera Holland Park Theatre to help you find your way around
- Descriptions of the main characters in the show
- Notes to highlight any potentially distressing elements of the plot and production

We hope you enjoy this Relaxed Performance of *L'amico Fritz*.

Information about the Opera Holland Park Theatre

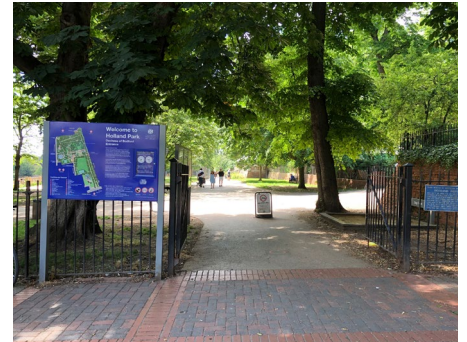
L'amico Fritz is being performed at the Opera Holland Park Theatre in London.

The Opera Holland Park Theatre is in the middle of Holland Park. When you arrive, the park might be quite busy and noisy. Lots of people walk their dogs outside the theatre, and some people play sports on the field opposite the theatre.

The theatre site will open at 12.30pm. There are three different entrances. The Main Gate has some steps leading up to it. The West Gate has a steep ramp. The East Gate has a gentle slope. If you use a wheelchair, the East Gate is the best way to get into the theatre.

No matter which gate you use, you will be welcomed by some Front of House staff. They will all be wearing a uniform and an Opera Holland Park lanyard. To keep everyone safe during the pandemic, they will ask you to sign in to the theatre using the NHS Track and Trace App if you have it. They will also take your temperature. Unless you are exempt, you will have to wear a mask until you get to your seat.

When you go into the theatre, you can buy drinks, snacks and programmes, use the toilets, and sit at a table or on a bench while you wait for the auditorium to open. You might not be able to go into the auditorium straight away because the people performing in the show might still be warming up. Because the auditorium has open sides, you might be able to see and hear them while they do their warm ups. The auditorium usually opens about half an hour before the show, but sometimes it can take a bit longer.



There is plenty of space outside the auditorium, so we hope it won't be too busy. However, it can get a bit noisy, especially when people are queueing to buy drinks. You can buy drinks, snacks and ice creams from the bars on either side of the auditorium.



You can buy programmes from our volunteers at the programme table. The programme table is on the west side of the theatre.



If you need help or have any questions, there are plenty of staff members who can help you. All staff members wear an Opera Holland Park lanyard.



Inside the auditorium

The auditorium is the part of the theatre where the audience sit when they are watching the performance.

The auditorium at Opera Holland Park might look a little different to ones you have seen before. We have got lots of different chairs that we can move around depending on how many audience members we have each day. All the chairs will have cushions. Some of the seats will be on the ground, and you might be very close to the stage. Others will be further back on a raised platform.

All the seats will be marked with a tag telling you the seat number. One of our staff will help you find the seat that matches the number on your ticket.



The stage is the area where the actors perform. At Opera Holland Park there is a section in the middle where the orchestra will sit and the conductor will stand.

Because the theatre is outdoors, it will not get dark inside the auditorium during the performance. You might be able to hear some noises from the park outside, like dogs barking, peacocks calling, or helicopters flying. If it rains, you might be able to hear it on the auditorium roof. These sounds can be quite loud and distracting.



Useful information for the performance day

Relaxation space

If you want to leave the auditorium at any time during the performance, you can visit our relaxation space. You can go there if you need a break before going back in to watch the show. The relaxation space is in a part of the theatre called the Ensemble. There will be some comfortable cushions and chairs where you can sit. If you need to, you can ask any of our staff where the relaxation space is and they will show you the way.



Performance times

The opera is performed in two halves with a 30 minute break in the middle (called the 'interval'). The first half usually lasts 1 hour. The second half will also last about 1 hour. It's difficult to give exact timings because in a live performance sometimes things can go a bit faster or slower than expected.

Show changes

For this Relaxed Performance the sound and lighting and some other small aspects of the show have been altered. This is to try and make the experience less stressful for all our audience members. If you need to take a break at any time that's fine. Just ask a staff member to show you the way to the relaxation space. You can read more about some aspects of the show you might want to prepare for on page 9.

What is the show about?

L'amico Fritz is an opera (which means people sing to tell the story, accompanied by an orchestra). It's all sung in Italian, but there will be some words on screens in the auditorium, which tell you in English what the characters are singing. These are called surtitles.

The opera tells the story of a wealthy man, Fritz, who is uninterested in getting married. He even makes a bet with his friend David that he'll never be married. However, when he meets local girl Suzel, he quickly falls in love with her. The only problem is he thinks she's engaged to someone else. Lots of misunderstandings and miscommunications unfold as Fritz and Suzel's romance blossoms.

Characters in the show

Below are pictures of the different singers and the names of the characters they play. Some singers play more than one character. They will change the clothes and make up they wear for each different character they play.



Fritz

A wealthy bachelor who isn't interested in love and hates the idea of getting married. He and his friend David make a bet that he'll never find love.



David

A local rabbi and Fritz's good friend. He wants to see Fritz happy, and thinks marriage is the perfect next step. He introduces Fritz and Suzel at a party.



Suzel

A local woman who meets Fritz at his birthday party and quickly falls in love with him. However, she doesn't think he'll ever love her back.



Beppe

One of Fritz's friends and a talented violinist.

Although Beppe is a male character, he is played by a woman. In opera this is known as a trouser role.



Federico

Another of Fritz's friends, who is also good friends with David and Hanezo. He's not convinced at all that Fritz will ever be married. Because of this, he finds David and Fritz's bet very funny.



Hanezo

Like Federico, Hanezo is one of Fritz's friends. He is certain David will lose the bet, because he can't imagine Fritz ever falling in love.

As well as the characters in this list, there is another character, Caterina, who is Fritz's maid. There will also be other people on stage. They are the Chorus – a group of singers who sometimes play smaller background characters. You will also see the orchestra in what's known as the orchestra pit. They play the music for the opera. A person known as the Conductor shows the orchestra, Chorus, and other singers how they should perform the music, and helps keep them in time.

Lights, sounds and other warnings

An opera like this one is told through song. No one on stage will be using a microphone, but the singers can be very loud. Some of the notes they sing are very high. When the orchestra, Chorus, and other singers all come together the sound can be quite overwhelming. If you are particularly sensitive to sound you are welcome to wear ear defenders during the performance, if you have brought them with you.

L'amico Fritz is a romantic comedy, which means you and other audience members might find parts of it quite funny. There are some moments when some of the characters are confused or even angry about their feelings. You should feel free to respond however you want to the emotions in the show.

At the start of the performance, people will clap when the Conductor walks out. This is a way of welcoming the musicians. If people like the way a particular part of the show is performed they will clap once the song has finished. You might hear some people shout 'bravo' or 'brava'. These are Italian words that mean they really enjoyed the performance.

Because our auditorium is outside it will be quite bright during the performance. There will be some brightly coloured lights used on stage during the show.

If you have any questions or concerns, please speak to one of our Front of House staff. We hope you enjoy the show.