

A Hull Truck Theatre Production



Oliver Twist

Based on the novel by Charles Dickens. Adapted by Deborah McAndrew. Directed by Mark Babych.

Show Experience Guide

This show experience guide is designed for anyone who may want to familiarise themselves with the show *Oliver Twist* before their visit.

The guide includes a social story, images of the cast, and information about light/sound effects and show content.

We also have a venue experience guide which includes photos and information about the theatre itself and what to expect when you arrive and during your visit.

[CLICK HERE TO VIEW OUR VENUE EXPERIENCE GUIDE.](#)

Show Running Time: Approx. 2 hours 10 mins (including a break)

Act I - 55 mins | Break - 20 mins | Act II - 55 mins

Recommended Age: 7+

Guide Content

- Social Story
- About the show
- The stage and set
- Cast and characters
- The story
- Light/sound effects and content guidance
- Relaxed performances and pre-show visit
- Sensory items

Social Story

Many people enjoy seeing stories told by actors at the theatre. This is often called a production. The production of *Oliver Twist* tells the story of a young orphan, named Oliver Twist, who grows up in a workhouse before running away to London and joining a gang of thieves.

To make the production more interesting the stage production team use items called props. These include items of furniture, books, handkerchiefs, market carts etc. They are there to help to create an interesting stage set.

The actors often enter and exit from the back of the stage. These exits lead to the backstage area where actors can get changed. The stage and these areas are only for the actors to use.

Sometimes the actors may enter and exit from other doors in the theatre, including the doors at the back of the theatre. They may pass by you closely but will not touch you.

Special effects are also used to create an interesting production. These may be music, sound effects, changing lights and smoke effects.

Many people enjoy these effects. Some people like to bring their ear defenders, sunglasses or a favourite smell sprayed on a tissue, to help them manage these moments and enjoy the production more.

The production team like to sometimes include words or phrases that are not true or may seem unkind to one of the other actors. This is to help tell the story and is not real. The actors are pretending.

The people watching the production are called the audience. At the end of the show, the audience will clap to show that they enjoyed the production.

Many people enjoy the production of *Oliver Twist*.
We hope you do too!

About the show

Oliver Twist is a young orphan born in a workhouse in Victorian England. After suffering hardship and mistreatment, he escapes to London, where he is recruited into a gang of pickpockets led by Fagin.

Despite being drawn into a world of crime, Oliver remains innocent and kind-hearted.

Through a series of dramatic events, including encounters with the brutal Bill Sikes and the compassionate Mr Brownlow, Oliver finds out who his mother was and finds safety and happiness away from the criminal underworld.

The stage and set

When you enter the theatre you will see the stage and set. The actors will come out on to the stage to perform. All the items of scenery, furniture and the objects on the stage are called the set.

There is a light coloured floor which looks like wood. At the back of the stage, on the ground level, there is a gated doorway in the middle and two arches at either side. These are used as entrance and exits. There is a balcony area above and a spiral staircase located to the right of the stage. On the balcony level there are three large, arch windows. There is a trapdoor towards the middle of the stage.



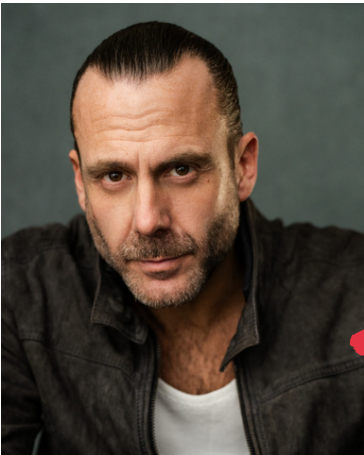
The Cast



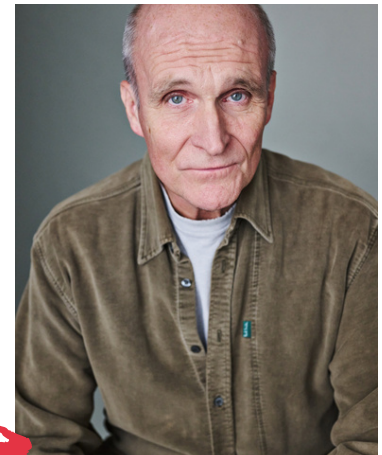
This is Alyce Liburd who plays Nancy & Nora Claypole.



This is Lisa Howard who plays Fagin & Old Sally.



This is Christopher D. Hunt who plays Bill Sikes & the Policeman.



This is William Relton who plays Mr Sowerby & Mr Brownlow.



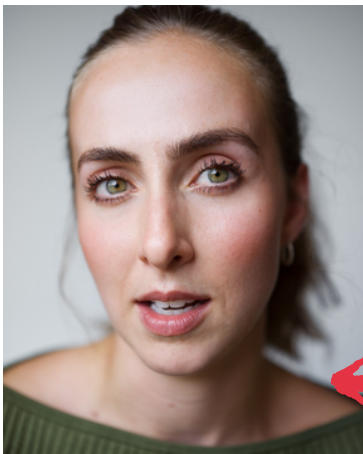
This is Alison Fitzjohn who plays Mrs Sowerby, Widow Corney & Mrs Bedwin.





This is Andrew Whitehead who plays Mr Bumble, Justice Fang, Mr Grimwig & the Officer

This is Jessica Jolleys who plays Agnes, Charlotte, Bet & Rose.



This is Robin McIntyre who plays other smaller roles.

Key Characters

Oliver

Oliver is a young orphan who grows up in a workhouse. Despite being treated badly he is always kind and sees the best in people.



Nancy

Nancy is a thief and member of Fagin's gang who has a soft spot for Oliver.

Fagin

Fagin is a criminal who recruits children to pick pockets. Although she shows the children some kindness, she always prioritises herself.



Bill Sikes

Bill Sikes is a violent criminal who is associated with Fagin's gang.

Artful Dodger

Dodger introduces Oliver Twist into Fagin's gang of pick pockets.





Mr Brownlow and Rose

Mr Brownlow is a middle-aged man who helps Oliver escape from Fagin and later adopts him. Rose has been adopted by Mr Brownlow.

Widow Corney

Widow Corney runs the workhouse that Oliver was born in. She later marries Mr Bumble.



Mr Bumble

Mr Bumble is in charge of the Parish and later marries Widow Corney.

Mr & Mrs Sowerberry

Mr Sowerberry is an undertaker who works with his wife in a dingy office.



The Story

Oliver is born on a cold winter's night in a workhouse. Unfortunately, his mother dies during his birth and Oliver is sent to be raised on a farm. He eventually returns to the workhouse when he is 9 years old.

In the workhouse a group of other orphans decide to play a game where the loser must ask for more food at mealtime. Oliver draws the short straw and must ask Mr Bumble for more, who reacts with anger and removes him from the workhouse.

Oliver is sent to work for a local undertaker, Mr. Sowerberry. After a very short time working as a coffin maker's apprentice, Nora Claypole insults Oliver's mother and they get into a fight. Oliver runs away, heading for London.

On the way, Oliver meets Dodger, who offers him food and takes him back to Fagin's home, where he meets the other boys along with Nancy and Bet.

Fagin and the boys start to teach Oliver how to be a successful pickpocket, and he spends the night with them and Fagin. Oliver accidentally sees Fagin admiring her collection of stolen jewels. Oliver is told off but allowed to stay.

Back at the workhouse, Mr Bumble proposes to Widow Corney, mostly because of her wealth. She accepts, but is called away to attend to a sick woman named Old Sally.

Old Sally confesses that she met Oliver's mother the night she died, and stole a gold locket from her. She asks Widow Corney to return it to Oliver and then dies. Widow Corney keeps the locket for herself.

Oliver is given permission from Fagin to go out with Dodger on the streets to pick pockets. Dodger steals from a man but then runs away, leaving Oliver in the street to take the blame.

The man, Mr Brownlow, decides he doesn't want to press charges against Oliver. After a short trial, where Oliver becomes sick, Mr Brownlow takes him home to Pentonville. His adopted daughter Rose also lives here.

We meet Bill Sikes. Fagin tells him and Nancy to find Oliver and bring him back before he has a chance to talk to the police about them.

In Pentonville, Oliver is sent, with five pounds, to return some books for Mr Brownlow. Whilst out, Nancy finds him, and takes him back to Fagin with the help of Bill Sikes. Nancy feels guilty for what she's done and refuses to let Fagin hurt the boy.

Back in Pentonville, Mr Brownlow and Rose put a reward in the paper for Oliver's safe return or anyone who has information on the boy's past. Widow Corney and Mr Bumble, who are now married, see the advert and travel to London intending to give Mr Brownlow information and collect the reward.

Bill and Fagin begin to plan a robbery that must involve Oliver as he is small enough to break in to the house. Fagin notices Nancy doesn't like this idea and tells Dodger to keep an eye on her, to make sure she does not betray them.

Nancy visits Rose and Mr Brownlow with information about Oliver. Dodger sees what she's done and runs to tell Fagin, who tells Bill Sikes.

Nancy brings Oliver to Mr Brownlow and Rose on London Bridge, but Bill follows her. Bill becomes angry at Nancy and chases after her, beating and killing her.

Bill goes on the run, looking for Fagin. Instead he finds the ghost of Nancy and realises what he's done. He charges at the ghost, to make her leave, but before he reaches her a gunshot is heard and Bill is shot dead.

Back with Oliver and Rose, Oliver is told about his mother and Rose being his aunt.

Following this Mr Brownlow and Oliver visit Fagin in prison. Fagin begs Oliver to help free her but shortly after she is led out of the prison by the guard and we do not see her again.

The play ends with Oliver happy with his family.

Lighting, sound effects, and other content

There is lots of music and singing in the show, which can be loud.

There are also some scenes where the actors raise their voices quite loudly to show that they're angry.

There are occasional references, throughout the show, to death and murder, including hangings and capital punishment.

Water-based haze - which looks a little like smoke - is used, sometimes coming up through small holes in the stage and from the back of the set.

<u>Effect / Content</u>	<u>Approx. Timing</u> <u>Act 1</u>
A pregnant Agnes starts to give birth. She groans loudly.	Approx. 2 mins into Act 1
After Agnes gives birth, she dies. When this happens, she just lies down and stays still, then she walks off stage.	Approx. 4 mins into Act 1
Oliver is beaten by Mr Bumble - this is a mimed action that clearly doesn't hit him, accompanied by a loud noise.	Approx. 9 mins into Act 1
Oliver is sent to work with the Sowerberrys who are coffin-makers. This scene references death, funerals, and depicts Oliver dreaming of being haunted by ghosts.	Scene begins approx. 10 mins into Act 1 - the dream begins approx. 12 mins into Act 1
Loud noise of banging on the door, followed by the noise of the door being broken into.	After the song, approx. 13 mins into Act 1
Oliver jumps on Nora, after fighting, Oliver is trapped in the basement - the trap door opening and closing bangs loudly.	Approx. 17 mins into Act 1

<u>Effect / Content</u>	<u>Approx. Timing</u> <u>Act 1 Continued</u>
Oliver is beaten by Mr Bumble - this is a mimed action that clearly doesn't hit him, accompanied by a loud noise.	Approx. 18 mins into Act 1
Widow Corney talks to Old Sally, who is dying. Old Sally appears to die, before sitting to say one last thing and then lying back, dead. Widow Corney drags her offstage by the feet.	Begins approx. 41 mins into Act 1
Oliver faints, collapsing to the ground.	Approx. 49 mins into Act 1.

<u>Effect / Content</u>	<u>Approx. Timing</u> <u>Act 2</u>
Bill Sikes stands behind Nancy, intimidating her. He is angry. He bangs his cane loudly on the wooden floor.	Approx 4 mins into Act 2.
Bill grabs Oliver by the arm and takes him off stage. They return soon after and Bill pulls Oliver around the stage, angrily.	Between approx 14-15 mins into Act 2.
Fagin raises her cane and is about to hit Oliver. She is stopped by Nancy.	Approx 17 mins into Act 2
Nancy exits from the front of the stage and goes down the corridor by row A. She is quickly followed by Dodger.	Approx 28 mins into Act 2
Dodger enters the theatre from the corridor by row A and goes on to the stage.	Approx 31 mins into Act 2
The young company bring a Guy Fawkes dummy on stage. It looks a lot like Bill Sykes. They tie the dummy to the gate at the back of the stage.	Approx 36 mins into Act 2

<u>Effect / Content</u>	<u>Approx. Timing</u> <u>Act 2 Continued</u>
Fagin exits from the front of the stage and goes down the corridor by row A. She is followed shortly after by Bill.	Approx 38 mins into Act 2
Bill enters the theatre from the corridor by row A, and goes on stage to meet Nancy. There is then an angry scene between Bill and Nancy, after he finds out she betrayed him.	Approx 40 mins into Act 2 until approx 41 mins
Nancy exits from the front of the stage and goes down the corridor by row A. Bill angrily follows her with his cane raised in the air. Shortly after we hear a voice shouting "Murder. Murder!" which implies that Bill has killed Nancy. We do not see this.	Approx 41 mins in to Act 2
Bill enters from the door at the back of the theatre, and makes his way down the stairs. He waits half way down for a few moments and then continues to the stage shouting "FAGIN" loudly.	Approx 43 mins in to Act 2
Bright red and orange lights appear across the back of the stage, to represent fire. There are sound effects and lots of haze to represent smoke and flames.	Approx 43 mins 30 sec into Act 2.
There is a gunshot sound and Bill falls to the ground. He is then taken off stage through the gate at the back of the set.	Approx 44 mins into Act 2
Fagin is brought on stage in handcuffs and shackled to the railings.	Approx 47 mins into Act 2

Relaxed Performances

There is a relaxed performance of *Oliver Twist* on Friday 12 December 7pm, Tuesday 16 December 10.15am and Saturday 3 January 2pm.

During the relaxed performance the lights inside the theatre will be a bit brighter than usual. We don't mind if you need to get up, move around a little bit or leave the theatre for a break.

There will be a quiet space on the First Floor should you need it.

There will also be a resource table on the Ground Floor and the cast will come out on to the stage, before the performance starts, to introduce themselves.

If you would like to arrange a pre-show visit to the theatre, to familiarise yourself with the space, please contact paul.bennett@hulltruck.co.uk or call 01482 488208.

Sensory Items

We have a small number of ear defenders available to loan (suitable for baby, toddler and adult) which can be useful for patrons with auditory sensitivities.

We also have a small number of wobble cushions and weighted lap blankets available for loan, along with a range of sensory toys.

Please feel free to bring with you any items that usually assist in coping with busy or noisy environments.

We hope that you enjoy the show, and your visit to
Hull Truck Theatre.