



Guts! The Musical

Written by Maureen Lennon | Directed by Tom Saunders

Show Experience Guide

This show experience guide is designed for anyone who may want to familiarise themselves with the show, Guts! The Musical, before their visit.

The guide includes a visual 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 (including a break)

Act I - 60 mins | Break - 20 mins | Act II - 40 mins

Recommended Age: 7+

Guide Content

- Guts! The Musical at Hull Truck Theatre Social Story
- About the show
- The stage and set
- Cast and characters
- The story
- Light/sound effects
- Relaxed performances and pre-show visit
- Sensory items

Guts! The Musical Social Story

Many people enjoy seeing stories told by actors at the theatre. This is often called a production. The production of Guts! The Musical is a kind of production called a musical. The actors will tell a story by talking, singing and dancing.

Guts! The Musical is a story about women working in a fish packing factory in Hull and their fight for equal pay. There are lots of people in the show, some of them will be pretending to be factory workers. These are actors. Other actors will pretend to be trawlermen, welders, and various other characters

To make the production more interesting the stage production team use items called props. These are sometimes unusual and are sometimes in unusual places. These include fake fish, boxes, pallets of fake fish guts made from wool.

The music for the show is pre-recorded - you won't see any musicians on the stage.

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

Special effects are also used to create an interesting production. These may be smoke or changing lights. Many people enjoy these effects. Some people like to bring their ear defenders, sunglasses and 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 jokes, words or phrases that are not true or may seem unkind to one of the other actors. This is to create fun and is not real. The actors are pretending.

The people watching the production are called the audience. Because a theatre production is live storytelling, the audience may occasionally join in a little. This may include clapping along. The actors will let the audience know when they would like this to happen.

Many people enjoy the production of Guts! The Musical. We hope you do too!

About the Show

Guts! The Musical is about a group of women working in a fish factory in Hull. The women work as fish packers, while the men in the factory are labourers and filleters.

The women are frustrated that the men earn more money, and with the support of Keith, the union leader, make a case against the factory bosses to get equal pay.

This show is a musical and the actors will sometimes sing instead of talking. It is a funny show. The actors sometimes talk directly to the audience, and about the show - for example telling us what's about to happen.

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.

At the back of the stage is a big arch that looks like it is made from blue tiles - they look a bit like fish scales. The floor on the main part of the stage is painted dark blue, which fades to white near the front. The edges of the stage also look like blue tiles.

Overhead there are hanging industrial lights.

There are three curved counters that can be moved around the stage to create different spaces - the factory floor, the factory canteen, and the tribunal court.



Cast and Characters



Guts! The Musical has a large community cast - some of them have never acted before!

Fish Packers

Eileen, Brenda, Denise, Bridget and Shirley are a group of women working in a fish factory. The show follows their fight to get equal pay.

Eileen



Shirley

Brenda

Denise



Bridget

The actors who play them are:

Eileen - Jayne Oliver

Brenda - Sarah Hurst

Denise - Laura Grey

Bridget - Rebecca Hamilton

Shirley - Gina Garton



Fish Packers

Anne-Marie Binns, Beth Paul, Diane Matthews, Helen Collins, Jo Harding, Kath Roe, Katie Wedolowska, Laura Levitt- Allen, Lauren Holford, Lorna Denness, Louise Harman, Maureen Yates, Raeann Rooms, Ruth Leyland, Sarah Sansam, Sian Ladley, Sofie Darvell, Tess Emmerson, Tracey Evans, Tracey Garton



Welders and Headscarf Revolutionaries

Lillian Bilocca - Lesley Cussons

Chorus - Barbara Dvalin, Barbara Osbourne, Hazel Armstrong, Judith Blair, Julie Wilkinson, Maggie Graham, Sue Thompson, Yvonne Foster



80s Singers

Alex Abel, Rita Rusina, Kimberly Jackson, Natasha Norris, Lily-Ann Matthews

Additional Characters

Sharon - Alex Abel

Young Brenda - Amy Dobbs

Young Trawlerman - Abigail Rhodes



Trawlermen and Factory Workers

Keith Whiting - Fred Weeks / Marc Graham

Mr Frank Fish - Andrew Clark

Tiny Dennis - Chris Sewart

Larry - Craig Smith

Lee - Ian Clayton

Ernie Eckleshaw - Richard Smith

Bob - Robert Spivey

Chorus - Bailey Smith, James Mark, Joe Dixon, Matthew Taylor-Guest, Thomas Foster



Keith Whiting, the Union Rep.



Mr Fish, the manager

Additional Characters

Judge Haddock - Brian Hossack

Barrister Simon Shark - David Wilberforce

Inspector Squid - Michael Dees

The Story



The show starts with a group of men singing 'It's A Hard Life on A Trawler'. A group of women take their props away, telling the men this isn't a show about trawlermen, but about the Hull women who made history. Lil Bilocca and the headscarf revolutionaries enter, expecting the show to be about them, but they are also dismissed.



The women sing 'It's the Eighties Baby', setting the stage for a Hull fish factory in 1984. We are introduced to the women who work as fish packers, including Denise, Brenda, Shirley, Eileen and Bridget.

The fish packers tell us about the work they do and the factory conditions. They talk to Keith, the union representative, complaining that they get paid less than the men who work as filleters and labourers.



Judge Haddock enters and sings 'Equal Pay' with the fish packers, highlighting that there are loopholes in the law, but it's possible to fight for equal pay.

The fish packers vote on whether to take action - they all vote yes.

Keith approaches the factory owner, Mr Fish, to ask for equal pay. Mr Fish argues that 'Fish, It's A Man's Job', and refuses to raise the women's pay.

Lee volunteers to be the male worker the women are compared to. Keith sends off a claim under the Equal Pay Act, and the fish packers have an ongoing feud with some of the male factory workers - pranking each other with fish guts and worms.

Brenda sings about her husband as two dancers re-enact their relationship.

The court sends Inspector Squid to evaluate the factory and see what work the women do. The women aren't sure they've managed to convince him of how hard and important their work is.

The inspector sends a long report, which Keith struggles to understand. The fish packers are all worried about their case.

Keith meets with Sharon from the Equal Opportunities Commission who tells him this is the first Equal Pay case that might win, and offers support for the tribunal.

The fish packers sing 'Fish Packing and Pattie Slapping', as time Keith notes down all of the skilled work they do. The women begin to feel more confident.



The fish packers go to the tribunal, overseen by Judge Haddock. Eileen tells the others about being a welder during the war. She is joined by a chorus of female welders who sing 'This Fire is Yours', inspiring the other fish packers as they head into the tribunal

Keith argues the fish packers' case against Mr Fish's lawyer, Barrister Shark. The women answer questions about their work and demonstrate some of their skills. As they wait for the tribunal to make their decision, Keith suggests that Denise would be a good union representative.



Lee praises Shirley's speech in the tribunal, and they admit their feelings for each other.

Judge Haddock announces that the fish packers have won the tribunal, and Mr Fish is convinced it's not worth appealing the decision. The fish packers celebrate, singing 'Fish Packers Victorious'.

Lighting, Sound Effects and Other Content

There is water-based haze used throughout the show - this might look like smoke, but it is safe. There are also some pulsing lights but no strobes.

There are lots of songs and loud music throughout.

At some points during the show the actors come off the stage and walk across the front of it. They also occasionally enter and exit the theatre, using the the stairs at either side of the main seating bank. Sometimes this might mean that come close to the audience.

At the end of the show confetti will drop on to the stage.

Relaxed Performance

There is a relaxed performance of Guts! The Musical on
Saturday 6 July, 2pm.

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

If you need a bit more room, around your seats, please let us know and we will do our best to to arrange that for you.

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

There will be a resource table on the Ground Floor before each relaxed performance and a pre-show introduction at the advertised show start time. This will allow customers to familiarise themselves with the actors, characters and some of the effects within the show.

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.