

# Pride & Prejudice

By Kate Hamill. Adapted from the novel by Jane Austen.

Directed by Lotte Wakeham.

## Show Experience Guide

This show experience guide is designed for anyone who may want to familiarise themselves with the show *Pride & Prejudice* 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 35 mins (including a break)

Act I - 1 hour 10 mins | Break - 20 mins | Act II - 1 hour 5 mins

**Recommended Age:** 12+

## 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 *Pride & Prejudice* is set in the 1800s and is about a young woman called Lizzy Bennet and a wealthy man called Mr Darcy who overcome their flaws and fall in love.

To make the production more interesting the stage production team use items called props. These include a piano and a writing desk with paper and ink. 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.

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

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 *Pride & Prejudice*.  
We hope you do too!

# About the show

The play follows the Bennet family and their four daughters. They attend balls and other social gatherings, trying to find suitable husbands. Jane Bennet falls in love with Mr Bingley, whose friend Mr Darcy is proud and rude and thinks the Bennets are an unsuitable match. Lizzy Bennet refuses a proposal from the annoying Mr Collins and is intrigued by the soldier Mr Wickham, who later elopes with Lydia Bennet. Although Lizzy dislikes Mr Darcy, he falls for her.

## 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 covering and backdrop onto which coloured lights are shone. A circle is hung above the stage with garlands of flowers around it. All of the furniture - tables, chairs, benches, a piano - are moved around by the actors into different positions for each scene.



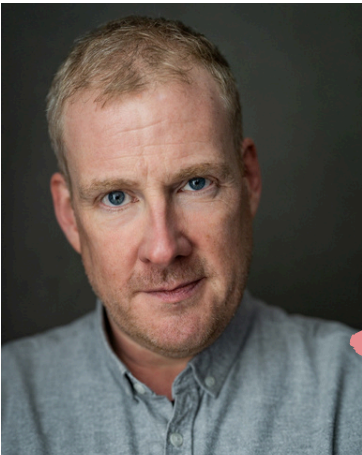
# The Cast



This is Aamira Challenger,  
who plays Jane Bennet.



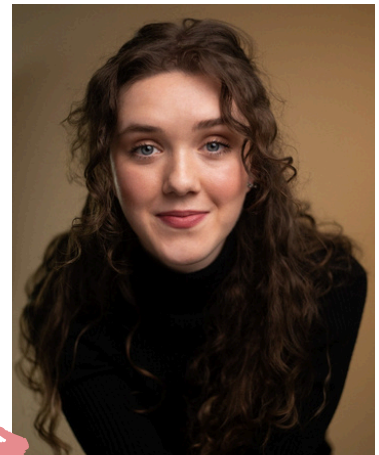
This is Ben Fensome,  
who plays Mr Collins and Mr Wickham.



This is Dyfrig Morris,  
who plays Mr Bennet.



This is Eve Pereira,  
who plays Mary Bennet and Mr Bingley.



This is James Sheldon,  
who plays Mr Darcy.





This is Jessica Ellis, who plays Lydia Bennet and Lady Catherine De Bourgh.

This is Joanna Holden, who plays Mrs Bennet.



This is Kiara Nicole Pillai, who plays Charlotte Lucas and Caroline Bingley.

This is Rosa Hesmondhalgh, who plays Lizzy Bennet.





# Key Characters

## Lizzy Bennet

Lizzy is the second eldest and the most sensible of the sisters. She is intelligent and quick-witted. Though initially put off by Mr Darcy's rudeness, she eventually overcomes her prejudice.



## Jane Bennet

Jane is the eldest Bennet daughter, and has a sweet and pleasant nature. She falls in love with Mr Bingley.



## Mary Bennet

Mary is socially awkward and bookish. She is often overlooked.



## Lydia Bennet

Lydia is the youngest Bennet daughter and is wild, high spirited, and self-involved.

## Mr & Mrs Bennet

Mrs Bennet is loud and dramatic. She is driven by a desire to see her daughters marry wealthy men. Mr Bennet often appears overwhelmed by his family.





### **Mr Darcy**

Mr Darcy is an intelligent and standoffish wealthy gentleman. He overcomes his pride and judgemental nature as he falls for Lizzy.

### **Mr Bingley**

Mr Bingley is the Bennet's wealthy neighbour and Mr Darcy's friend. He is kind, sociable, and falls in love with Jane.



### **Mr Collins**

Mr Collins is the Bennet's pompous and annoying cousin who will inherit their estate.

### **Mr Wickham**

Mr Wickham is handsome and charming officer in the army with a disreputable past.



### **Lady Catherine De Bourgh**

Lady Catherine is Mr Darcy's aunt and Mr Collins' patron. She is bossy and snobbish.



### **Charlotte Lucas**

Charlotte is Lizzy's friend. She is very sensible.



### **Caroline Bingley**

Caroline is Mr Bingley's sister. She has eyes for Mr Darcy and dislikes Lizzy.

# The Story

Mrs Bennet frantically announces to her family that the nearby house, Netherfield Hall, has been let to a wealthy and unmarried gentleman named Mr Bingley. She urges her husband to make an introduction, as she is keen that Mr Bingley might marry one of their daughters. Mr Bennet reveals that he has already met Mr Bingley, and that he will be attending an upcoming ball.

At the ball, the Bennets watch as Mr Bingley arrives with his sister and Mr Darcy. Mr Bingley is keen to enjoy the ball, but the others are not impressed.



Jane and Mr Bingley form an instant attraction and dance. Mr Darcy refuses to dance, then Lizzy accidentally spills Mr Darcy's drink over him. Mrs Bennet tries to push them to dance and embarrasses Lizzy. Despite Mr Darcy's dislike of the Bennets and their bad manners, Mr Bingley promises to invite Jane to Netherfield.

While Jane visits Netherfield, Mrs Bennet and her daughters discuss Mr Bingley's interest in her, and Mr Darcy's pride and vanity. A letter is delivered, telling them that Jane is ill and will be unable to come home. Mrs Bennet is pleased as it will give her more time with Mr Bingley, but Lizzy is concerned and decides to walk to Netherfield to visit her.

At Netherfield Mr Bingley tells his sister and Mr Darcy his fondness for Jane. Lizzy arrives, muddy and wet from walking in the rain, and meets with Jane who, despite feeling ill, tells her sister she believes Mr Bingley to be perfect.



Miss Bingley remarks how awful she thinks that Lizzy looked having walked through the mud. Lizzy returns and they discuss how impressive Mr Darcy's sister is. Mr Darcy says he knows very few young women he would call "truly accomplished", which offends Lizzy. Jane joins them and it is clear that she and Mr Bingley like each other.



The Bennets discuss Mr Bingley's upcoming ball - Mrs Bennet is pleased that he is interested in Jane. Lydia brings home a soldier called Mr Wickham who is handsome and charming. He tells Lizzy that he has known Mr Darcy since they were children. He reveals that Mr Darcy's father had intended to give Mr Wickham an inheritance, but it had been denied.



Mr Bennet announces they are to receive a visit from his cousin, Mr Collins, a clergyman who is set to inherit their house. He expects Mr Collins may want to marry one of the Bennet sisters.



Mr Collins arrives - he is very self-important and long-winded, and the Bennets' all find him annoying. Mr Collins focusses on Lizzy, hoping to woo her at Mr Bingley's upcoming ball.

At the ball, Lizzy and her friend Charlotte look for Mr Wickham and discuss Jane's good fortune. Mr Darcy asks Lizzy to dance, which surprises her, but she agrees to avoid Mr Collins. They talk, and appear to be well matched in wits, but begin to argue. The other Bennets' behaviour at the ball is embarrassing, and Miss Bingley is critical of Mr Darcy for appearing to show an interest in Lizzy.



The next day, Jane waits for Mr Bingley to call on her. Instead, Mr Collins arrives to propose to Lizzy, who reacts with horror. Mrs Bennet is distraught that she has refused him. Later, Charlotte enters and reveals that after being rejected, Mr Collins proposed to her. Lizzy is shocked, but Charlotte sees this as a practical match. A letter arrives from Miss Bingley, telling Jane that she and her brother have left, and do not plan on returning.

Mrs Bennet whines about Charlotte inheriting their house now that she will marry Mr Collins, and that Mr Bingley has not returned. Lizzy is sure that Mr Bingley was in love with Jane, who is no longer convinced he cared. Lydia arrives with Mr Wickham, who talks with Lizzy.

Lizzy visits Charlotte and Mr Collins, and they are invited to meet with his benefactor Lady Catherine de Burgh and her daughter. Lady Catherine looks down on everyone else, especially Lizzy. Mr Darcy, who is Lady Catherine's nephew, arrives and focusses intently on Lizzy as she plays piano. Charlotte believes that he admires Lizzy, who still dislikes him. Mr Collins tells them he heard that Mr Darcy had stopped Mr Bingley from marrying into a "vulgar" family, and Lizzy realises he is referring to Jane and the Bennets.



While the Collins are out, Lizzy is visited by Mr Darcy, who confesses that he loves her and wishes to marry her, despite her family's status and behaviour. She is offended, and details all the reasons she would never marry him, including his treatment of Mr Wickham and his actions in splitting up Jane and Mr Bingley.

They argue. Mr Darcy defends himself and reveals that Mr Wickham had been disinherited after trying to seduce Mr Darcy's 14 year old sister. Afterwards, Charlotte attempts to console Lizzy, who is infuriated. Charlotte convinces her to visit Pemberley - Mr Darcy's house - with the Collins and de Burghs, as Mr Darcy will not be there.



Lady Catherine leads them on a tour of the house, and Lizzy is quite taken in by how beautiful and impressive it is. Mr Darcy arrives unexpectedly, but before Lizzy and he can properly talk, a letter is delivered informing them that Lydia has run away with Mr Wickham. Distraught, Lizzy leaves immediately.

Back home, the Bennets all react to the unfortunate events, and Lizzy apologises for not sharing that she had been told of Mr Wickham’s past behaviour. Lydia enters with Mr Wickham, and triumphantly announces that they are married. She tells her sisters that it was Mr Darcy who tracked them down and paid of Mr Wickham’s debts so that they could marry.

Lizzy confesses to Jane that she had been blind to Mr Darcy’s true nature and regretted her actions. Lady Catherine arrives, outraged at having heard that Mr Darcy had proposed, to scold Lizzy, as her daughter is to marry Mr Darcy.

Mr Darcy and Mr Bingley return. Jane and Mr Bingley leave together, happy. There is tension between Mr Darcy and Lizzy, who apologises. Mr Darcy confirms he is not engaged to Miss de Burgh and Lizzy becomes flustered. They both confess their feelings, and dance. It begins to rain, and they kiss passionately.



# Lighting, sound effects, and other content

There aren’t any loud noises in the show, but orchestral music is played between scenes.

<b><u>Effect / Content</u></b>	<b><u>Approx. Timing</u></b>
At the end of the show, water falls through the circle above the stage to mimic rain. This won’t splash on the audience.	Approx. 1 hour and 3 mins into Act 2

# Relaxed Performances

There is a relaxed performance of *Pride & Prejudice* on Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> September at 7.30pm.

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.

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](mailto: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.