

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, PLEASE TAKE YOUR SEATS. THE SHOW IS ABOUT TO BEGIN.

AN INTRODUCTION.

Encounters are taking over the old gift shop in the Crucible, Sheffield.

Over the course of February and March they'll be peeling back the layers of the theatre, trying to understand what the theatre means to people, and what the Crucible means to the city. Trying to capture a snap shot of what the Crucible is now, before its redevelopment.

And we're helping them. This is a newsletter from the Crucible gift shop. It will be produced weekly throughout the project. Each week we'll tell you what we've discovered, some of the facts and some of the stories. But only a little. If you want to find out more, come on down.

Love GO x

WHAT YOU CAN DO

The most important piece of art in the shop is you.

Encounters have already asked the people who work at the Crucible for their thoughts and their observations. Now we need your help. We need you to leave your memories of the theatre and the area around it. We'd like you to cut out and make your favourite views of the Crucible to display. And we'd like you to vote for the prop of the week, each week.

The contents of the shop will evolve week by week, on the basis of what you bring. We'll also be changing the displays each week.

DISPLAYS OF THE WEEK

This weeks displays are:

INSTALLATION OF THE WEEK:

Food.

LIST OF THE WEEK:

All footwear in the props department.

PROP OF THE WEEK:

A doll's house from High Society.

COSTUME OF THE WEEK:

Ophelia's dress.

THIS WEEK'S DISCOVERIES

1. WE ARE ABSOLUTE BEGINNERS

Welcome to the World Famous Crucible. We don't go there very often.

One of us doesn't like plays much. The other one hasn't even been inside the building. Nor have most of our friends. So maybe, we thought, it's not so famous in this city.

But then we found out our first fact. That up to 30 000 people will go to the theatre in the next ten weeks. That's quite a lot of people. So who does go to the theatre?

2. THIS IS A 20TH CENTURY SHOP

Our first impression is this: the clock in the Crucible gift shop stopped in 1978. Maybe 1985, at a push, but no later.

This is a 20th Century gift shop. From a time before art galleries and theatres made most of their money from the bit at the end of the art (think cappuccinos and coffee table books). This is the kind of gift shop we remember. Cheap day-glo rubbers in the shape of books with 'The Crucible' written on. Pencil sharpeners and one pound kaleidoscopes. Plastic tubes for coins that hung around your neck. Gifts with little or nothing to do with theatre, it's true, but within the price range of your average child on a school trip. This gift shop is cream and green. This gift shop has carpet tiles that give you electric shocks. The cash register is analogue.

And this is a 20th Century city. Out of the window of the Crucible gift shop, a window that until recently was covered by a nice net curtain to prevent people seeing what was for sale, you can see this:

The Roxy. The Odeon. Park Hill. Sheffield Hallam Uni. A bus stop.

This view hasn't changed for forty years. This part of the city was the future, once. The Crucible opened in 1971. It was as flash and as Modern as the show-piece art galleries opened today in other cities. It was Sheffield's Guggenheim. And since then, it hasn't been touched. So the stripes and the arrows and the fonts are still mostly intact.

It's about to be refurbished. Brought up to date, like the rest of the city. The Crucible is a time machine back to when Sheffield was last revamped and rebuilt. It's going to be interesting riding it.

3. FAKE BROCCOLI FEELS HORRIBLE

As does fake meat and fake trifle. It makes your hairs stand on end and shiver. It looks right. But it feels wrong. Come and touch it.

CRUCIBITS.

Each week we'll be listing some of the facts. The things that have been collected to document what any day at the theatre looks like. This week, it's a list of things collected from the Auditorium Floor.

Approx 25 Revels (assorted flavours).

1 empty Wine Gums packet.

c. 20 wine gums.

2 Magnum lollipop sticks..

1 one penny piece.

1 monster shaped sugared jelly sweet.

1 apple core (rotting)

8 Maltesers

1 Minstrel

A cloakroom ticket (number 250).

A First Bus ticket (over-priced)

A receipt from Cage Rouge

3 ticket stubs, dated 18th Jan, 3rd Feb and 15th Feb.

The remnants of a packet of crisps.

1 Chewitt wrapper.

An Italian translation of the programme.

GUEST COLUMNIST:

WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE

YO it's your boy BIG WILLY SHAKES. Bringing hip hop back from the 16th C. All the other playwrights want to be me. I'm stealing their stories and passing them on. Holding court for the queen in Stratford Upon. Yeah boy, that's right, I'm back me old mucker. You heard it correct, I'm a bard mother BEEP.

Every week I'll be dropping one of my original rhymes on you like a cluster bomb. Maybe your boy Shakespeare's more relevant than all you digital haters are thinking? Stay tuned.

THAT'S ALL FOR THIS WEEK.

Written and produced by GO.

www.dontgo.co.uk

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