



VIOLET

Access Pack

Hello and welcome to The Bunker Theatre

We've put together this visual guide to help prepare you for your visit to the venue, and what you'll be seeing during the performance.

There is step free access throughout the building, and we can cater for anyone with other access requirements; please get in touch if you require any further information or need advice on planning your visit.

020 7403 1139 | boxoffice@bunkertheatre.com

This is the outdoor area of the theatre – you can go down the ramp to come inside!



The main entrance is steeply sloped; our staff are on hand if you need assistance.

What will happen when you get inside the theatre?

One of the Box Office staff will be here to greet you when you arrive.



Inside the bar you can also order a drink or buy some food. You can take any drinks or snacks into the show with you. There is bench seating as well as stools in this area.

Our staff will have a red lanyard on, and sometimes they have a radio earpiece in their ear. This helps them talk to every staff member in the building. They are happy to help you.

The foyer might be noisy and busy; if you want to go into the auditorium where there's more space then please ask the box office manager, they're very friendly!

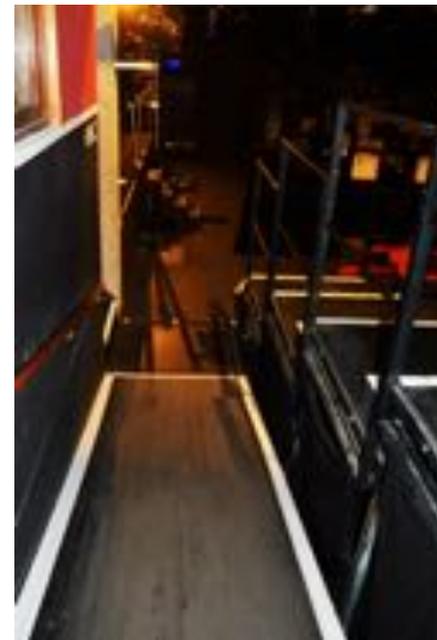


You'll also need to get your tickets from the box office.

If you need the toilets, they are at the top of the bar area and can be accessed at any time. They are gender neutral and there is an accessible cubicle here too.



Before the performance begins, you can go into the auditorium itself. An announcement will be made to let you know when the house is open, and then you follow the black corridor until you come to the seating area.



Access to the auditorium is via a ramp; our staff are on hand if you need assistance.

You can sit anywhere you like inside the auditorium, so choose wherever you want. Other audience members may sit in front or behind you, or next to you.



What will you see on stage?

This is the stage, where the actors will tell their story.



In *Violet* there is one actor;



Bebe Sanders
playing Bertie

The play explores experiences of loneliness, depression and more specifically dementia diagnosis, that some may find upsetting. The performance contains some swearing and moments of darkness. It is recommended for ages 11+.

The story telling is literal, but the set is representational. Boxes are used to represent different locations and there are no literal props; the storytelling explains the surroundings.

It is a one person show, so any dialogue is told through the story too. There is interaction with the set (boxes and sand) during transitions between scenes, set to music - this is a representation of the characters mood and growth and shows the passing of time or a change of location.

Bertie tells the story, often directly to the audience;

Opening – as the audience enters

Bertie is stood in the centre of the space, eating a packet of Parma Violets. (The stage is dimly lit by festoon lights and there is music playing).

Scene 1

Bertie tells the audience about her life in London. At the end of the scene she reveals some sand from her pocket and scatters this at the front of the stage while another song plays.

Scene 2

Bertie has now moved down to the seaside. She tells the audience about what has happened since she arrived. During the scene she describes bumping into Violet on the beach. At the end of the scene another song plays.

Scene 3

The scene begins with Bertie in a 'cake parlour' asking about a job vacancy. She then moves back to the beach, where she meets Violet again. Violet invites Bertie for dinner later that evening. At the end of the scene music plays.

Scene 4

Bertie arrives at Violet's house for dinner. She sits centre stage on a cardboard box which represents a chair at the table. Violet offers Bertie a job. At the end of the scene music plays again, Bertie moves some more of the boxes into the space.

Scene 5

The next morning Bertie begins work at Violet's house. Together they discover a parcel full of nude photographs (sand is scattered on the floor to represent the photos). At the end of the scene another song plays.

Scene 6

A few weeks later; the scene begins as Bertie is on her way to Violet's house. When she arrives the door is open but Violet is not home. She carries on sorting through Violet's stuff and discovers an old scrapbook.

Scene 7

Bertie doesn't realise Violet has returned and is startled when she sees her. Violet catches Bertie with the scrapbook. At the end of the scene music plays and Bertie arranges the boxes in a chaotic heaps in the middle of the space.

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Scene 8

The pile of boxes represent a bonfire that they are stood around. Bertie describes putting the scrapbook on the fire, and then she sees that Violet is crying and she realises the significance of the book. At the end of the scene music plays again, and the lights get much dimmer so that the only section lit is the top stage-right corner.

Scene 9

Bertie is sat in her 'bedroom'; she can't sleep. She starts googling activities she could do with Violet to cheer her up. She discovers Lindy Hop classes.

Scene 10

Music blares out, and Bertie enters the 'dance class'. She is initially resistant but then begins to learn some of the moves. She performs the routine, with vigour - music plays throughout the entire scene.

Scene 11

They leave the dance class, giggling and out of breath. They get fish and chips and eat them on the beach. Bertie realises that she will have to return to London soon. Violet suggests she stay with her instead. Bertie weighs up the options. At the end of the scene music plays, Bertie moves the boxes around, dancing around the space and scattering some sand around the boxes and across the floor.

Scene 12

A few months later; Bertie has stayed with Violet and not gone back to London. She describes some funny stories from their dance classes over the last few weeks. At the end of the scene they are eating fish and chips on the beach again; Violet tells Bebe about how her son died at sea. At the end of the scene some quiet music plays.

Scene 13

Bertie receives a phone call from her boss in London. When she ends the call, she finds Violet half undressed. Bertie is very stressed. They have an argument because the car keys have gone missing so they cannot go to their dance class. At the end of the scene music plays.

Scene 14

The scene begins with Bertie on a train; Bertie is going to London for the weekend. She steps out into the station and is hit by the sound of the city. Her mother is late to meet her so she has to travel to her ex-boyfriends on her own. She has a confusing argument with her ex-boyfriend, and he kisses her. She gets a parking ticket and then another call from her London boss. She is very stressed by the whole scenario. She gets straight back on a train to Violet. At the end of the scene music plays and Bertie walks over the boxes lined up at the back, as if they were stepping stones.

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Scene 15

The scene begins with Bertie stood on the box. She walks back to Violet's house. The scene jumps a few hours while the two drink gin together and play Scrabble. We next see Bertie that night, quite drunk, as she stumbles to the bathroom. She discovers the missing car keys in the toilet cistern and realises Violet is unwell. At the end of the scene music plays.

Scene 16

The next morning; Violet and Bertie discuss Violet's dementia diagnosis. Violet says Bertie doesn't have to stay, but Bertie insists that she will

Scene 17

5am; Bertie wakes up and can hear banging downstairs. She discovers the front door wide open and thinks the worst. She rushes down to the beach and finds Violet dancing on the seafront, naked. Music plays over the end of the scene as they dance, Bertie moves the boxes into the middle and covers the floor with more sand.

Scene 18

Violet and Bertie are around a 'bonfire' made up of the boxes, on the beach. They are discussing what might happen in the future. At the end of the scene music plays and the lights fade to black.

Violet will last a total of 1 hour without a break.

What happens when the performance starts

The performance will start at 7:30 (or 3:00 for a matinee) when the house lights go down so the audience is in darkness, and people will turn off their mobile phones.



Please be as quiet as you can during this time. If you want to talk you can but the actors might not reply.

When you are inside the theatre there is always a staff member in the room. If you need any help they are happy to assist you.

During the performance there may be clapping and laughing,
you don't have to clap unless you want to.



If you need the toilet, you can go back up the ramp, into the bar and out to the toilet area.



At the end of the performance is the curtain call, when the actors will come on stage and bow. The audience will be clapping and maybe cheering, you can do this too but you don't have to.



When the performance ends, you can leave the same way you came in to the show. You can stay also for another drink at the bar, if you like!



We hope you enjoy the show!

General Information

General

We have a complimentary ticket policy for personal assistants.

There is space for up to three wheelchairs per performance to be positioned in the front row of seating with excellent views of the stage.

Some parts of the venue have low lighting.

We can provide read-along scripts on request for any patrons. Just ask at Box Office.

You are welcome to bring your assistance dog into the auditorium. Let us know, and we can reserve an appropriate seat for you.

Getting here

53a Southwark Street

London, SE1 1RU

Travel by public transport

You can get to The Bunker by train, tube, bus, and bike.

The Bunker is in close proximity to London Bridge Station (Northern Line, Jubilee Line and National Rail Service – step free access available) and Borough (Northern Line – step free from the northbound platform).

Bus Routes RV1 and 344 stop and depart directly outside the entrance to The Bunker.

There are several bicycle stands on Southwark Street, Southwark Bridge Road and Union St within 150m of The Bunker for securing bicycles and a Santander Cycle dock further down Southwark Street outside The Breakfast Club.

Parking

There is limited parking on the streets around The Bunker. The nearest NCP is London Bridge NCP, SE1 3RU.

Disabled Parking Spaces near to The Bunker:

1 space - 22 Park St, London SE1 9EQ

2 spaces - On the corner of Union St and Pepper St, London SE1 0LG

3 spaces - Short stay (4 hours) - Stoney Street, London SE1 9AF

For more information ahead of your visit, please contact The Bunker on 020 7403 1139, or email Box Office at boxoffice@bunkertheatre.com.