

The Emperor's New Clothes

Relaxed Performance Pack

A Polka Theatre, Derby Theatre and Hiccup Theatre Co-Production

The Emperor's New Clothes

We bring you the greatest fake news story ever told!

The Emperor likes nothing more than a fashion parade and you are all invited to ohh and ahh at his latest eye-popping outfit. Meet the vain Emperor, the pandering advisors who offer uncritical support and the crowd who fail to tell the truth, preferring the lies to be told instead.

Hilarious and heartwarming, magical and musical... it's a stylish treat for all the family. A brand new adaptation of the Hans Christian Anderson Classic.

The award-winning Hiccup Theatre joins forces with Polka Theatre and Derby Theatre to spin music, puppetry, British Sign Language (BSL) and storytelling into a very special yarn.

Creative Team

Writer and Director: Sarah Brigham

Composer: Ivan Scott

Costume Designer: Tim Heywood

Set Designer: Rachana Jadhav

Lighting Designer: Emma Jones

BSL Consultants: Donna Mullings and Emily Howlett

Puppet Director: John Barber

Dramaturgy: Sarah Argent

Producers: Nur Khairiyah and Stuart Allen

We hope you enjoy the show!

The Location

When you get to Polka Theatre, this is what it looks like:



When you enter through the main entrance, to your left will be the Box Office and the Shop. Please feel free to browse the shop whilst you wait.

Box Office:



Shop:



When you enter through the main entrance, to your right will be the cafe. We serve hot and cold food, pastries, sweet treats, and hot and cold beverages.

Cafe:



Main Theatre: This is where the performance will take place. The seating is sold at 50% of its full capacity for the relaxed performance, therefore, the auditorium will not be full. House lights will remain on during the performance at 50% so the space will never be in complete darkness.



Chill-Out Space: This is located outside of the Main Theatre upstairs. You can leave the theatre at any time and come back in when you are ready.



If you would like to learn more about Polka, please visit our website:
<https://polkathatre.com/your-visit/>

COVID SAFETY

We take the safety of our audiences, staff and volunteers seriously and we want you to have confidence when coming to a Polka show.

- We ask that face masks be worn by everyone over the age of 12 inside our venues to help protect staff, performers and other audience members (unless exempt).
- We will continue to offer flexible ticketing under the updated 'See it Safely' kitemark. The 'See it Safely' kitemark means a venue is Covid-secure and following the latest Government guidance for live arts events.

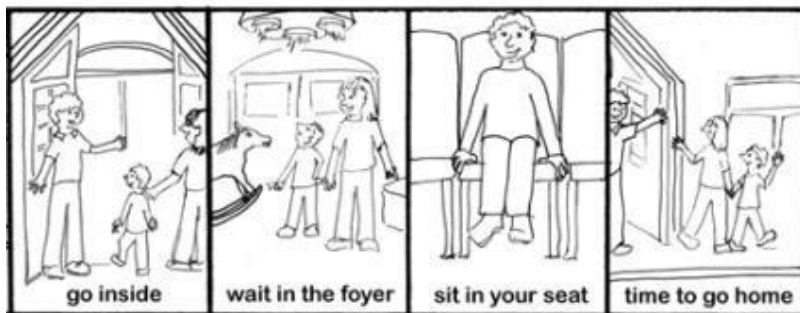
You can learn more about our current covid measures [here](#).

Covid Safety

Below are measures we have put in place to ensure the safety of everyone visiting Polka.

			
We have an enhanced cleaning regime and hand sanitiser stations.	All staff continue with regular lateral flow testing and will be wearing face masks while in venue.	We will ensure our venue remains well ventilated at all times.	We ask that all visitors age 12+ wear face masks unless exempt.

Picture information strip- this is what you will do when you go inside:



To prepare you for your visit to **Polka Theatre** we have put together a synopsis - this is to help you to understand the story that you are about to see and prepare you for what to expect during the performance. The performance will last approximately 70 minutes.

The Emperor's New Clothes

The show consists of 6 actor-musicians / performers. 4 of the performers are actor-musicians which mean they will sing and play a variety of instruments. 3 of the actors will use British Sign Language (BSL) to communicate throughout the performance.

The performers will play more than one role and will play more than one instrument. They will be wearing different costumes to signify their change in character. There will be a small puppet version of the Emperor, as well as a life size human version.

This is what the characters look like:

The Emperor



The Puppet Emperor



Taffeta



Jumble & Bobbin



Warp and Weft



Reporters



This is the performance space and set as you first see it:



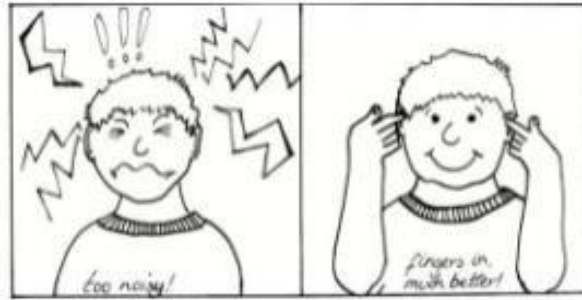
The performance space is set outside the gates of the Emperor's Palace. There are 3 A frames placed across the stage which all read different headlines. There are 2 flats at either end of the stage which are covered in graffiti. On the right-hand side of the stage, you will see a variety of musical instruments. Finally, there are projections on top of the gates and on a screen centre stage which say, 'READ ALL ABOUT IT!' as a main news headline.



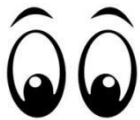
During the show, the actors might interact with you. This play has interactive moments, and you are welcome to respond to characters and laugh or smile.



During the show, you might see something that makes you feel sad or scared. You are allowed to feel sad or scared, that is ok.



If you see this symbol, it means there will be a loud or unexpected noise and you can put your fingers in your ears.



If you see this symbol, it means there will be visual projections, or something visual happening onstage that will aid with the storytelling.



If you see this symbol, it means you will hear music or there will be a song.



If you see this symbol, it means there will be a change in lighting and you can cover your eyes.



If you see this symbol, it means you will hear a sound effect coming from the speakers.



The Emperor's New Clothes is a fully integrated show and BSL will be used throughout, along with captioning. The show will be captioned on a large central screen and sometimes captions will also be projected on the gates.

Prologue.

Performers will come into the auditorium and interact with the audience. They will be characterised as reporters who are looking to find the latest scoop. They might interact with you and ask you for any interesting stories that they can report.



You will hear the sound of a clock chiming which is coming from the speakers. This is to signify the start of the performance.

Scene 1. Read All About It.



Performers begin by singing 'Read All About It' - a song about local news stories. They will write down x2 interesting stories they hear from the audience and place these in the A frames displayed on stage. These stories will be incorporated into the song.

Performers will speak out to the audience and begin to introduce the story and what we are about to see. Here is where we will first meet the Emperor.

We will also meet Taffeta the Emperor's advisor and Bobbin and Jumble who are the Emperor's servants.



Scene 2. The Parade.



The set will change to signify the change in scene. The gates will open and a red carpet will be rolled out ready for the parade.

This is the first time we will see the famous parade where the Emperor will reveal his latest extravagant outfit. Here we will meet the puppet Emperor who will be lifted down the red carpet.



Music will play and the performers will go into a dance routine. The music will be upbeat and high energy like a party and the lighting will flash many different colours. The performers will dance in the 1980's dance style "Vogue". This is to link with the fashion magazine Vogue and the fashion themes of the show.

After the parade, the reporters will speak with the Emperor and tell him that his outfit looks ridiculous.



Scene 3. The Tailors.



The set will change to signify the change in scene. The scene is set outside of the closed gates.

Taffeta, Jumble and Bobbin all read the latest updates about the Emperor in the paper. Taffeta sets Jumble and Bobbin the task of finding the Emperor a new tailor, otherwise they will lose their jobs.

Here we meet 2 new characters - Warp and Weft. They introduce themselves as the greatest tailors in all the land, but they are lying. Jumble believes them but Bobbin is suspicious.



Scene 4. House of Fashion.

👁️👁️ *The set will change to signify the change in scene.*

We are now inside the Emperor's Palace and the puppet Emperor is reading the paper sat on his throne. He is devastated with the local news stories about his latest fashion disaster.

The scene progresses and the set opens out into the sewing room and the fitting room.

👁️👁️ 🎵 ⚡ *There will be a big dance routine featuring Warp, Weft, Taffeta, Bobbin and Jumble. They will dance and "Vogue" to upbeat music with tape measures. Lights will flash many different colours at this time.*

The Emperor comes on stage in another one of his extravagant outfits. He meets Warp and Weft and accepts them as his new tailors. He believes they are the best of the best. Bobbin tries to express their suspicions about the tailors, but no one listens.



Scene 5. Bad Bad Baddies.



The rest of the performers exit the stage leaving Warp and Weft onstage. They sing a song *Bad Bad Baddies* which reveals their deceitful plan to trick the Emperor and take his money.



Warp and Weft show Taffeta, Jumble and Bobbin the expensive magic material they will be making the clothing from. They claim that only clever people can see the material and if you cannot see it, then you must be stupid. Bobbin does not fall for this, but Taffeta and Jumble pretend they can see the material because they don't want to look stupid.



Scene 6. The Emperor's New Clothes.

It is time for the Emperor to try on his new clothes. The performers will pull a reel of fabric across the stage for the Emperor to stand behind as he changes. This scene will feature both the human Emperor *and* the puppet Emperor.



There will be projections of clothes flying in the air and bubbles on the central screen.

When he is ready, Taffeta goes behind the screen to see the Emperor's new clothes, but she is startled to see that he is naked. (*The Emperor actor will not really be naked at this time, but the actors will react as if he is*).



Scene 7. Am I stupid?



The lighting will change to signify the change in scene.

The puppet Emperor is sat centre stage. He is feeling very upset because he cannot see the clothes, which means he must be stupid. *The lighting will be darker to symbolise his sad mood. The Emperor will sing Selfies accompanied by the other performers playing their instruments.*



Scene 8. The Reveal.



There will be a change in lighting and set to signify the change in scene.

The Puppet Emperor appears through curtains at the side of the stage. He is still feeling sad, but he must get ready for the parade.

Images of trumpets will appear on the central screen, accompanied by the sound of trumpets. You will hear Taffeta's voice coming through the speakers and the sound of people cheering at the parade. This is pre-recorded and Taffeta will be signing in BSL at this time.

The Puppet Emperor will appear at the far end of the red carpet. Warp and Weft will dance around with colourful ribbons, making the reveal even more extravagant and exciting. When it is time for the big reveal the Puppet Emperor will stand up revealing he is wearing no clothes.

The performers sing a song called 'He's got no clothes on'. This is followed by the sounds of laughter and images of Ha! Ha! Ha! appearing on the central screen.



Everyone is confused by what has happened. Bobbin finally gets the chance to explain what has happened as no one would listen to them before. Eventually it is agreed that the Emperor does not need new fashion every week and he changes the rules of the Kingdom, so the people are now in charge.



The performers revise a version of the song Read All About It as their final number to close the show.



The End.



The show has now finished. At the end of the show everyone will clap their hands, which is to show the actors and production team that they have enjoyed the show.

Post-Show.

After the cast take their bows the performer who plays the human Emperor will stay on stage to tell the audience about their free gift, a copy of *'The Daily Stitch up'*. This is essentially the programme for the show which has an augmented reality feature. These will be handed out to audience members as they exit the auditorium.

Finally they will welcome the Puppet Emperor back onto the stage for his final bow too!

Thank you for coming - we hope you enjoyed the show!

Discover the new Polka Theatre.

Whether you're seeing a show or getting creative in a workshop, relaxing in the Café, or exploring our free-to-access indoor and outdoor play spaces, there's something for everyone at Polka.

Connect with us on social media [@polkatheatre](#)



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