

POLKA
Where Theatre Begins

THE
**SNOW
QUEEN**

Relaxed Pack **R**

A Polka Theatre Production



Supported using public funding by
**ARTS COUNCIL
ENGLAND**

The Snow Queen

Gerda is on the magical quest of a lifetime. Her best friend Kai has disappeared with the mysterious Snow Queen, and if Gerda doesn't rescue him soon, he'll be trapped in an endless winter forever.

Come on an unforgettable and thrilling adventure where the strength of friendship is tested to its limits, and nothing is quite what it seems in the fantastical, frosty world of The Snow Queen.

Jude Christian's ('Hamlet', 'Dick Whittington', National Theatre, 'Jack and The Beanstalk', Lyric Hammersmith) brand new family adaptation of Hans Christian Andersen's classic tale is brought to life with songs, spectacular storytelling and a flurry of mythical magic.

Please be aware this show contains haze, smoke and bright, colourful flashing lights throughout.

Creative Team

Written by **Jude Christian**
Directed by **Emma Baggott**
Set and Costume Design by **Laura Ann Price**
Lighting Design by **Laura Howard**
Co-Composer / Sound Design by **Alex Faye Braithwaite**
Co-Composer **Sophie Galpin**
Movement Direction by **Adi Gortler**

Cast

Phoebe Naughton
Finlay McGuigan
Joe Boylan
Paula James
Rebecca Wilson

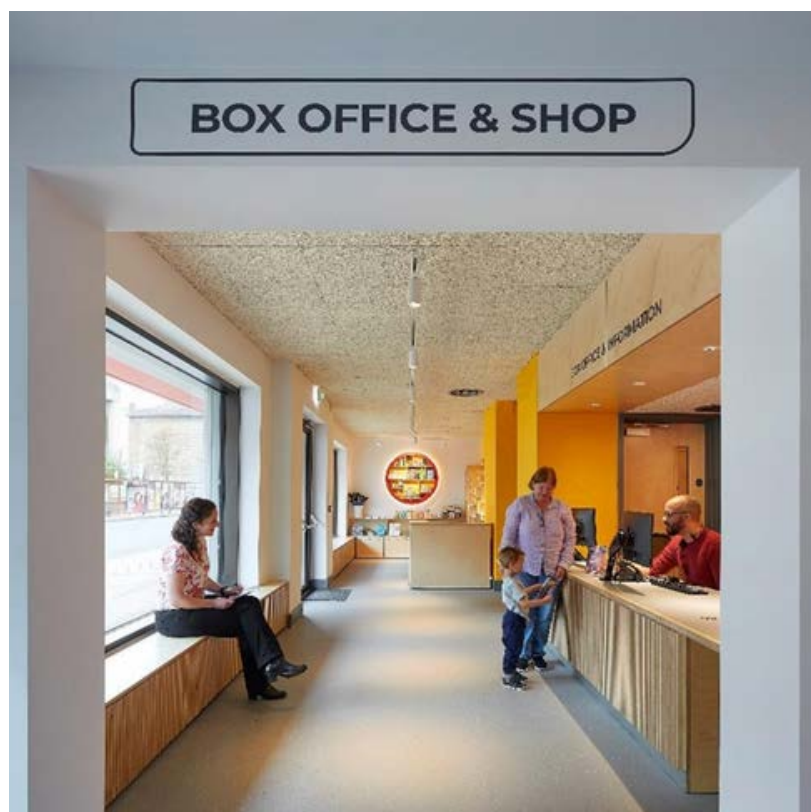
The Location

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 Café. We serve hot and cold food, pastries, sweet treats, and hot and cold beverages.

Café



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, and the volume of the show will be reduced where necessary.



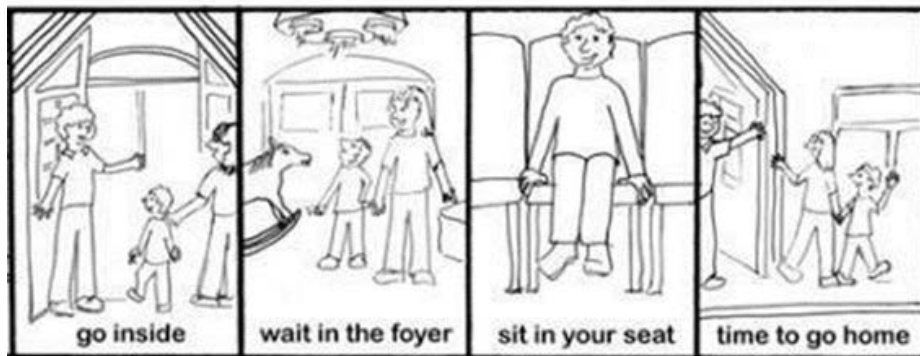
Chill Out Space

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. There will be a TV monitor which will relay the live action happening on stage, so you don't have to miss anything.



If you would like to learn more about Polka, please visit our website: polkatheatre.com

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 95 minutes including interval.

The Snow Queen

The show consists of 5 actors. 3 of the actors will play additional roles within the show and will change costume to represent their change in character.

This is what the main characters look like:

Gerda



Kai



Snow Queen

Yew



Ash



Grandma



Chrysanthemum

Laburnum

Buttercup



Bee Happy

Bee Kind

Mayor



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



The stage is framed with tall white and black tubes which will represent forest trees and pillars of ice in our story. They will light up different colours throughout the show in line with the atmosphere of each scene. The floor is designed to look like thick ice with an additional sprinkle of snow on top.

Centre stage there is a large hut. Gerda and Kai are neighbours and the left-hand side of the hut represents Gerda's house and the right-hand side of the hut represents Kai's house. You will see a red rocking chair on the left-hand side and lots of books, both on and under the hut. Central in the hut there is a miniature house which is lit up and has a smoking chimney, this miniature house represents their home in their small town.

The roof of the hut is covered in snow and also features white tubes which will transform into trees and pillars of ice. The top of the hut will transform into the top of the Snow Queen's mountain during the show.



During the show, the actors might interact with you. You are welcome to respond to characters performance and laugh or smile at any time.



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 you will hear a sound effect coming from the speakers.




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

If you are watching our designated Relaxed Performance, certain elements of the show including the smoke effects and the bright flashing lights will be taken out or adjusted. There won't be any puppets hanging over the audience during the Troll King section and no party poppers will be used during the birthday picnic.

Intro. Welcome to the Forest

  The lighting will fade until the stage is in darkness. You will hear sound effects of wind coming through the speakers alongside atmospheric music. The lights will gradually brighten focusing on the small house positioned centre stage. A mysterious figure will appear and then disappear.




 The lighting will fade to darker and earthy tones. You will hear voices but the characters speaking will not be visible right away and they will be blended into the forest trees. The lighting will gradually brighten and you will meet the mysterious voices. The trees will very briefly introduce themselves, the owl and the story we are about to hear.





The whole company will then sing song 'Welcome to the forest'. The lighting will become much brighter and more colourful during the song. When the song finishes there will be a blackout.






Chapter 1. The Troll King's Magic Mirror




 The lighting will brighten and the trees will glow green. Additional colours will be added throughout the scene.

 The company begin their story with the history of the Troll King and his magic mirror. Here we will meet the eccentric troll king who's mission is to make everyone's lives miserable. During this scene you will hear a fanfare coming through the speakers.

 The characters will continue to narrate the historical story that happened many years ago. The Troll King will get very dramatic at times and his voice may get louder.


 When the Troll King reveals his magic mirror there might be moments where the mirror reflection catches the light, which creates a temporary bright light.  It is ok to cover your eyes at this time. There will be additional focused bright lights and metallic shooting sound effects coming through the speakers during this section.


 As the Troll King's plan unravels, Kai and Gerda will come off stage and run up the stairs in the auditorium. They will return down the stairs hovering a miniature puppet version of the sun and the Troll King over the audience. These items will be attached to a long rod.






  During this scene there will be a 'drop' moment over the the audience. This means that silver confetti will fall down onto the audience members from the ceiling, which is to represent the Troll King's mirror smashing.  At this moment the lighting will be very bright and there will be additional mirror smashing sound effects coming through the speakers.




Chapter 2. Gerda and Kai

 The lighting will change to a more neutral state and additional colours will be added during the scene.

 Here we will officially meet best friends Gerda and Kai and learn of the exciting adventure they have ahead of them. During this scene Gerda will perform a wake up routine for Kai and her voice will get louder. Look out for this moment as the sequence will return later on in the show for the audience to join in.


     As we learn more about Gerda and Kai, we revisit a memory of Gerda's birthday where Kai sets up a thoughtful birthday picnic, featuring a giant sausage roll and squirrel waiters. During this scene the lighting will temporarily go dark. There will be sound effects of a clock ticking followed by a fanfare and music coming through the speakers. When they sit down ready to eat, the squirrel waiter will pull a party popper and there will be a small bang.

 Next we are introduced to Grandma. They will then introduce you to the simple small town they live in which is famous for its 3 flavours of vanilla ice cream, followed by the history of the feared Snow Queen, who froze the town and ruined their seasons many years ago.





Chapter 3. Who is the Snow Queen

Suspenseful music will begin to build and the lighting will get darker.


 Grandma will tell the story about how the Snow Queen became the Snow Queen. This scene will merge between Grandma's narration and re-creating memories of events that happened in the past.

During this scene we will meet the Snow Queen and learn how she gained her cold reputation. We will also meet the flamboyant Mayor of the town in a memory of the Summer flower festival. At this time the lighting will get brighter and upbeat music will play. During the scene the music will

 noticeably slow down and the lighting will get darker before turning red. The Snow Queen will exit the stage and walk through the auditorium steps.

 Reflecting on Grandma's story, Gerda and Kai prepare for their adventure to find the Snow Queen. Kai brings out his 'elaborate plan' which is a rucksack filled with charts and calculations and everything that could possibly prepare them for their trip. Gerda yawns when Kai is showing her his plan which results in the pair arguing. During this scene music will play and the lighting will get warmer and fade through colours.

Gerda leaves Kai on his own. Frustrated, he looks up into the sky and something small falls into his eye which immediately affects him internally.

 He does not realise this, but a tiny piece of the Troll King's magic mirror has pierced his eye and is making its way down to his heart. During this scene the lighting will beam brighter for a moment and there will be a metallic shooting sound coming through the speakers followed by suspenseful music.



Chapter 4. Kai with the Mirror in his eye

⚡️ Kai wakes up and sees the world differently. Everything is rubbish, just as the Troll King wanted people to feel through the effects of his mirror. There are additional sound effects of wind coming through the speakers.

👤 Gerda comes to meet Kai and apologises for their argument. Kai is not happy to see Gerda, he does not respond well to the apology and their argument continues. Gerda storms off and leaves Kai on his own. During this scene their voices will get louder. There will be a moment where the lighting beams brighter and the metallic shooting sound will play through the speakers.

👁️ ⚡️ The lighting will get darker and additional trees will appear in the set. Kai goes sledging on his own which he realises is not a fun activity when you have no one to share the moment with. As Kai sledges the lighting will beam brighter for a moment before going dark and his voice will have an echoing effect. The windy sound effects continue.

⚡️ Kai suddenly gets colder, then notices something speed past him. He then finds a beautiful sleigh made of snow and ice before noticing a cloaked figure who he quickly realises is the Snow Queen. As the scene continues there will be moments where the lights beam brighter before returning to darkness.



⚡️ Kai's chest begins to ache as the mirror makes its way towards his heart. He jumps into the sleigh and the lighting within the trees will flicker to represent the sleigh moving through space. Additional sound effects will play through the speakers and the lighting will generally be darker, even as Gerda returns searching for Kai.


👁️ 🎵 ⚡️ Kai finally meets the Snow Queen and asks to join her on top of her mountain. They will sing song 'Outsiders' before the interval. During this song the icy white lighting will get brighter and it will begin to snow on stage. Towards the end of the song we will hear Gerda shouting for Kai before a blackout.





20 Minute Interval

Chapter 5. Part 1. Searching for Kai



 You will hear voices as the lighting on stage brightens. During this scene we are finally introduced to the narrating trees and learn their names. There will  be additional natural forest sound effects coming through the speakers.



 Gerda searches the forest for Kai and seeks help from the trees. Ash and Yew have not seen Kai but offer help Gerda in return for a favour. They suggest she wakes up the flowers who are sleeping beneath the earth. Gerda attempts to wake the flowers in the same way she would wake-up Kai. The audience are encouraged to help Gerda with this.



 Gerda manages to wake the flowers. Here we meet Buttercup, Laburnum and Chrysanthemum. They are grateful to have been woken up and offer their  help through a song which turns out to be not so helpful to Gerda's mission. During this song the lighting will be bright and colourful.




Chapter 5. Part 2. The Snow Queen finds Gerda

  The lighting will brighten and the Snow Queen appears. The flowers freeze in her presence and Gerda runs away. The scene will change to focus on Kai who is on top of the Snow Queen's mountain and he is getting worse. At this time the lighting will beam brighter before fading and the trees will turn into white pillars of ice. Kai then controls the ice and turns everything to darkness. Atmospheric sound effects will continue.


  There will be a scene change back to the forest and lazy positive music will begin to play. The lighting will get brighter with Summer vibes at this time before settling yellow. Gerda continues her mission to find Kai and meets some worker bees pollenating a large beautiful flower on her way. The jolly bees dance and jiggle to music but don't provide much help for Gerda in her search for Kai.


  The Snow Queen re-appears and the bees freeze in time. At this time the lighting will beam brighter and the atmosphere will change. The Snow Queen pleads for Gerda to help Kai. Gerda tries to escape in fear of the Snow Queen, who vulnerably explains the misunderstanding in her story and gains Gerda's trust. There will be additional flashes of light during this scene and sound effects of ice shattering coming through the speakers.


 There will be a blackout before a final scene change to Grandma who is at home drinking tea. She is writing in her book and will tell the audience about her adventurous life growing up - much like Gerda's. The lighting will become darker but warmer at this time.





Chapter 6. What happened on the mountain

 During this scene the lighting will transition between brightness and darkness. The pillars of ice will be lit white and blue and will flash and flicker at different points. There will be additional atmospheric sound effects coming through the speakers throughout.

 Gerda and the Snow Queen make their way through a blizzard which is being caused by Kai. Gerda tries to connect with a distressed Kai, but he is too consumed by the mirror reaching his heart. The storm he has created builds and he throws ice in fear of what is happening to him. The ice in his hand will light up as it is thrown and the pillars of ice will continue to flash and flicker.


 Gerda searches for the best way to reach Kai and calls Grandma for help. She manages to find the words through song 'I'll be here for you' to reach Kai and gently approaches him. During the song the characters on stage will encourage the audience to join in.


 Gerda emotionally reaches Kai and they embrace. The shard of mirror in his heart slowly melts and Gerda saves him from the consumption of the Troll King's mirror. Kai returns to his normal happy self. The lighting and sound will  return neutral to reflect the calm weather in contrast to the storm.



Chapter 7. The Favour


The trees find Gerda on their journey home and remind her of the deal they made. They call in their favour right away and ask Gerda to help them wake all of the flowers in the forest.

 Gerda and Kai come together to perform Gerda's famous wake-up routine. As before, the audience will be encouraged to join in.

 They successfully wake-up all of the flowers in the forest for good and celebrate through a final song. The lighting will be bright and colourful during this final number and will flicker and flash as the chorus builds.



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.

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

Discover 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](https://www.instagram.com/polkatheatre)



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