

Queens of Sheba

Relaxed Performance Information Pack

Wednesday 2 October 2019, 19:00

To help you prepare to come to watch the theatre show called *Queens of Sheba* on Wednesday 2 October 2019, we have prepared this information pack.

This pack is to help make your trip to the theatre easy and enjoyable. It includes pictures and information about the venue and the theatre show.

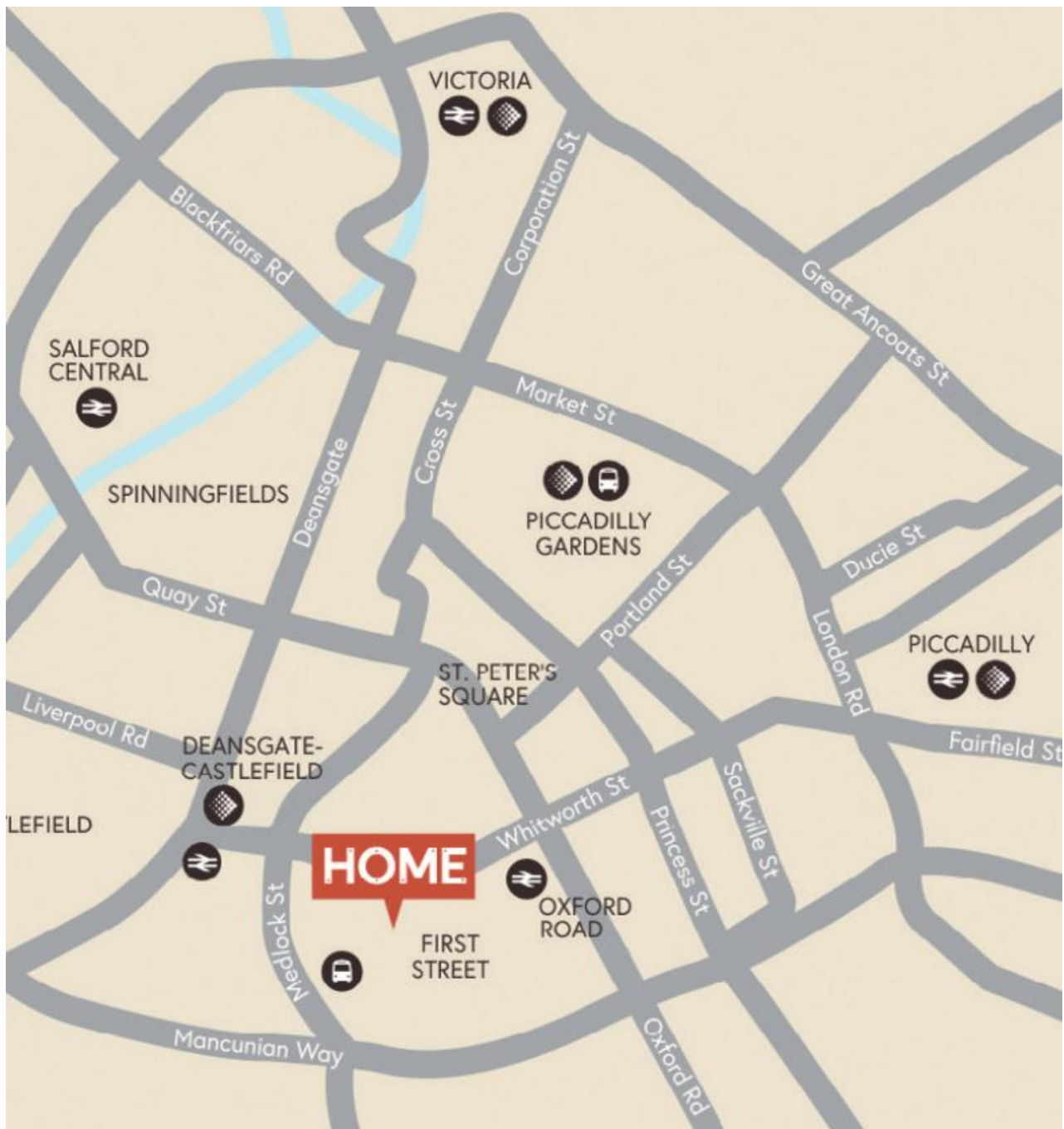
This performance is relaxed, which means that we've made a few changes to the show to allow everyone to enjoy it and to feel comfortable.

Where is this happening?

This theatre show will take place at HOME in Manchester City Centre, approximately 320 metres from Deansgate Train Station in a square called Tony Wilson Place.

HOME's address is HOME, 2 Tony Wilson Place, Manchester, M15 4FN

Take a look at the below map and full information about travelling to HOME, visit homemcr.org/venue-access



What is HOME?

HOME is an arts centre in Manchester that has 2 theatres, 5 cinemas and an art gallery.

HOME also has a bookshop, restaurant and café.

The outside of the building looks like this:



Coming in to HOME

You enter HOME through automatic sliding doors at the front of the building towards the right hand side.



When you walk inside you will see the Box Office, which looks like this:



You should pick up your tickets from Box Office and ask any questions. Your ticket will have the start time printed on it which will be 19.00.

Sometimes the Box Office area can get busy, especially when people are waiting to go and see a film or something in the theatre.

There is also a café bar, which can also get busy too and plays music.

Toilets

If you need to go to the toilet there are toilets on the ground floor behind the Box Office or on the first floor to the right of the theatre space.

Look out for signs with the below symbols to help you find the toilets.

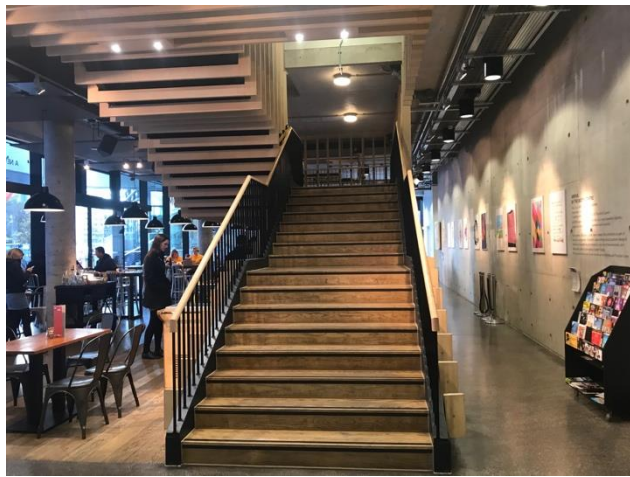


Asking for help

If you need any help you can always ask a member of HOME staff. They wear badges or orange t-shirts so you can easily recognise them.

Lifts and Stairs

The theatre show you are seeing is in Theatre 2 on the first floor. To get there, take the stairs or the lift to Floor 1.

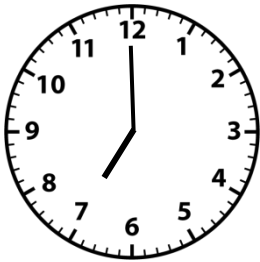


Theatre 2

There are two entrances to Theatre 2 which are on each side of the gallery wall shown in this picture. You might need to wait in this area before you are able to go in to the space. It might be a little noisy.



Times



The show will start at 7.00pm



The show will finish at 8.05pm

There is no interval for this theatre show. It is just 65 minutes long.

When the show is ready to start, you might hear a 'bing-bong' noise and a person will say 'Customers for Queens of Sheba', please take your seats'.

Going into the Theatre

The HOME staff will show you into the theatre.

It might be a little bit darker in the theatre and you might hear some music playing.

You will see rows of benches like this.



You can choose to sit wherever you like.

Watching the play

There will be a relaxed atmosphere during the show. This play does not have any loud sound effects, so it is easier for people who don't like lots of noise to enjoy the show.

We will leave some of the lights on in the theatre to allow people to move around if they want to. If you want to get up and move around during the show then that is fine. You can also go in and out of the theatre throughout the show.

There will be a **quiet breakout space** in the Weston Room next to Theatre 2 if you need some quiet time out. One of the HOME staff or HOME volunteers will be able to show you where to go if you ask them.

Throughout the show there will be different lights and sounds, including some noisy moments.

On the next few pages you can read what will happen during the play.

The symbols shown below indicate what will be happening during the play.

The only lighting changes are at the beginning and end of the play. There is acapella singing by the 4 actors during the show.

The clapping at the end of the play may be loud - so you may want to cover your ears or use your ear muffs or ear plugs.



Singing



Clapping



Lighting change

Queens of Sheba is written by Jessica L. Hagan and devised by the company

Things to know about the show:

There are no sound cues during the show.

All 4 actors are on stage throughout the show production. They do not have character names.

There is no set.

The Performers known at the Queens



Tosin Alabi



Kokoma Kwaku



Eshe Ashante



Elisha Robin

Scene Breakdown



Acapella singing throughout

Scene One

Eshe is alone on stage and feeling sad. Tosin, Elisha and Koko enter singing, attempting to cheer her up.

Scene Two

Eshe, Tosin, Elisha and Koko discuss their experiences in the workplace. Sometimes they imitate their colleagues, taking on different characters. At the end of the conversation they all sing Tina Turner's Proud Mary.

Scene Three

Tosin tells her friends about a date she has been on the night before. As a group they discuss their experiences of getting ready for a date.

Scene Four

Tosin, Eshe, Elisha and Koko discuss the date. They act out the date, imitating the man 'Charlie' and the things that he asks/says. They others start a beat and Koko raps about the experience. After too many strikes the date ends.

Scene Five

The group muse on some of the great black female singers. They sing the songs they discuss.

Scene Six

The Queens are in a queue for a club. They hear a derogatory hip-hop song from inside the club. They start to sing along.

They discuss how derogatory hip hop music can be towards black women. They muse on their love for a type of music that regularly puts them down.

The group imitate a group of men trying to chat them up. The Queens reject them.

The Queens are back outside the club in the queue. They arrive at the front of the queue but are rejected by the bouncers for the way that they look and for being too dark.

The Queens are visibly distressed by the rejection. They confront the bouncers, overlapping each other's lines.

Scene Seven

The Queens are back in their rooms after being turned away from the club. They look back on their experiences as black women. They find solace in each other, and contemplate their strength. They are Queens and they don't need you to crown them.

The End



At the End of the play the lights will come up, the actors will take a bow and everyone will clap.



After the clapping, everyone will leave the theatre.

When everyone leaves the theatre it may get busy and a bit noisy out in the Box Office area.

We hope you enjoy the performance and have a wonderful time at HOME!