

A visual story for the Relaxed Performance of...

# *The Cunning Little Vixen*



**Saturday 26 February at 2:30pm**

**London Coliseum: St Martin's Lane, London, WC2N 4ES**

**Performance lasts for 2 hours, including an interval**

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## What to expect

At ENO Relaxed Performances, we have a laid-back approach to noise and movement coming from the audience, encouraging everyone to relax and respond naturally.

Our Relaxed Performances are suitable for those with sensory sensitivities, with house lights up and the removal of flashes and sudden loud noises.

We have an open-door policy, meaning if you need a break, you can go in and out of the auditorium as much as you like.

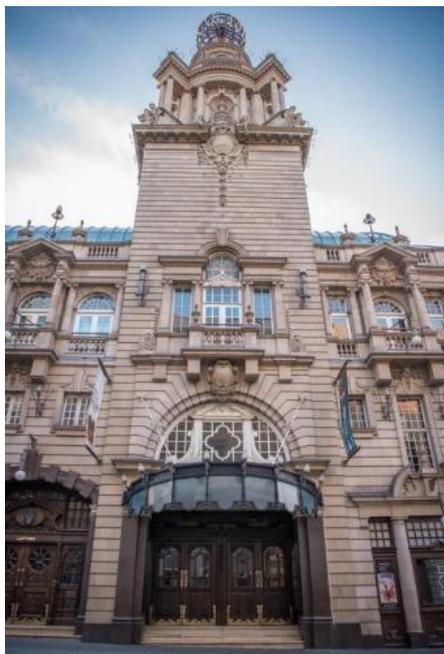
Chill out spaces are provided. We will also have the show available to watch outside of the auditorium on a screen.

You will also have the chance to meet the Orchestra, learn a movement sequence to join in with during the show, and see some of our costumes and props up close!

Mobile phones and tablet devices are permitted inside the auditorium, though we ask you to turn your brightness settings down if possible. No photography is allowed during the performance.

All performances at the ENO are performed in English and captioned, with a screen just above the stage showing text, which will display the sung word.

## Visiting the London Coliseum



Arrive



at the



London



Coliseum

We will open from **1pm**.



Show



tickets



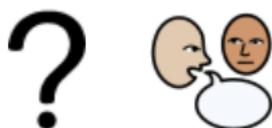
and



bag



to ENO Usher



If you have a question, talk to:

An ENO Usher (Blue t-shirt)



ENO Ushers will direct you to your seat. They will also keep you safe during the performance and help if you need assistance.

An ENO Helper (Purple t-shirt)



ENO Helpers will welcome you and answer any questions you have.



Enter the Foyer.



People will be waiting.



It might be



busy or



noisy.



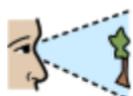
While you wait, you can



Have a drink/snack



Use the toilet



See

or



touch

the



props



and



costumes

in the Foyer.

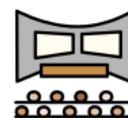


At 1:30pm,

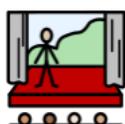


you can go inside

the



auditorium.



There will be a

stage

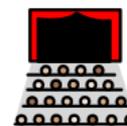


and

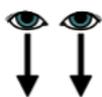


seats

for the



audience.

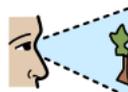


Look at



your ticket

to



see your

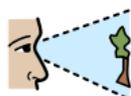


seat number.

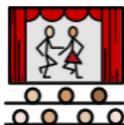




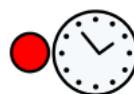
At 2:30pm,



watch



the show.



Before



the show starts:

1



A

performer

will

welcome you to



the performance



2



The conductor

will introduce

the orchestra

+

and

instruments



3

Some

performers

will

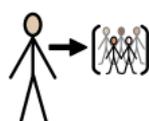
show you

a dance

that

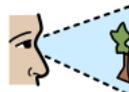


you can



join in with

or



watch.



At 3:30pm,

there is

a

20 minute

interval.



Have a

drink/snack



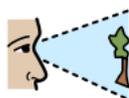
and



use the toilet



At 3:50pm,

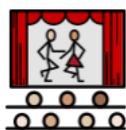


watch

the



show



At 4:25pm, the show will finish.



The performers will hold hands and bow



You can



clap



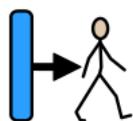
and



cheer!



From 4:30pm,



Leave

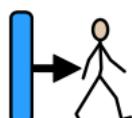
the



London



Coliseum



As you leave,



you can



take photographs



and



say



goodbye.

## About the performance

*The Cunning Little Vixen* is all about the circle of life and the animal world and how humans treat it. This mistreatment of the animal world is shown through offensive language as well as violent actions. The opera deals with themes of death and survival, including scenes of animals being killed or eaten by other animals. You will also hear things about animals being killed for their fur to be worn by humans. These themes and actions are often presented in either a philosophical or light-hearted, matter of fact way. They are not graphic, but some scenes and language might be more upsetting to some.

### You will see...

- Piles of logs
- Large pieces of moving set
- Long, moving pieces of fabric hanging from the ceiling
- People holding prop guns throughout
- Special effects like haze (on stage) and bubbles (over audience)

### You will hear...

- Some offensive language throughout
- One gunshot sound effect off stage
- One gunshot sound effect on stage
- Some children screaming

Read the **synopsis** on page 15 to find out when these things occur.

The **Live Music** you will hear is played by the ENO Orchestra.



## The Story



A young Vixen is captured by a Forester.



When she is grown, she escapes and finds a home in the forest.



She meets a Fox, and they fall in love. They marry and there is a big celebration!



A Poacher and the Forester are out hunting. They set a trap for the Vixen and her Fox Cubs.



The Fox Cubs escape, but the Poacher finds the Vixen and shoots her dead.



The Forester contemplates his life. A new generation of animals play together as he walks away.

Who is who?



The Vixen – three different actors play her at different points in her life



The Forester – three different actors play him at different points in his life. He carries a **prop gun** for most of the show.



The Fox



The Poacher – he carries a **prop gun** for most of the show.



The Schoolmaster and The Priest



The Forester's Wife



The Dog

**A group of Time Keepers,  
dressed in cloaks and helmets:**



**The Cock and a big group of Hens:**



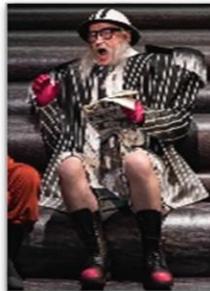
**A group of Fox Cubs:**



**And lots of other colourful animals and creatures:**



Dragonfly



Badger



Frog



Woodpecker



Mushrooms



## Meet the performers



This is actor Ossian. He plays The Poacher. Before the show, he will come on stage and say hello!



This is conductor Olivia. She directs the live music in the opera.  
Before the show, she will say hello and introduce the orchestra!



These performers are the Time Keepers. They have a very important role in the opera, because they move the story along. You will see them moving the set around, scattering leaves to show the time passing, and joining in with big chorus numbers.

The Time Keepers will show you some **dancing** before the show.



At the end of Part 1, the Timekeepers will do this dance again, joining everyone on stage: jumping, dancing and celebrating the wedding of the Fox and Vixen. **You are welcome to join in and dance or jump along from your seats or in the aisles.** You will see lots of people, colourful costumes, banners and **bubbles** floating over the audience too!

## Synopsis

### Act I

Some young creatures are playing in the forest. A Forester stops off on his way home and falls asleep. When he wakes, he sees a young Vixen. He captures her against her will and takes her home.

The Vixen grows up from a young cub, to an adolescent, into an adult. She is still in the Forester's house, where the Forester's wife threatens her, the Dog makes disgusting advances, and the children bully her. When she takes revenge on a child, the Forester ties her up in the yard, where she dreams.

Morning comes, and she is woken by a group of Hens and the Cock, who is very rude to her. Cunningly, she pretends to kill herself to trick the Cock and get him near, so she can kill him and some Hens. The Forester attempts to catch the Vixen, but she escapes.

### Act II

The Vixen looks for a home in the forest. She finds a Badger in his home and kicks him out so that she can live there instead.

The Forester, the Priest and the Schoolmaster meet at the inn. They drink from barrels and use a lot of coarse language. The Forester teases the Schoolmaster about his love life. The Schoolmaster responds by mocking the Vixen. The Priest complains about all women. On their way back, the drunken Schoolmaster and Priest sing about their past and current loves. When the

#### **Content warnings for Part One**

*[timings are approximate, measured in minutes from the moment the music starts]*

N= noise / L= lighting / C= content / SE= set & effects

L: A bright light from the back of the stage [0]

C: Forester restrains/holds Vixen against her will [7]

L: A bright light from the back of the stage [10]

C: Entrapment / SE: Walls of set close in on Vixen [11]

C: Reference to being beaten [14]

C: References to sex [15]

C: Threatening language [17]

C: Forester ties up Vixen [17]

C: Reference to suicide [22]

C: Vixen kills Cock and Hens / N: Hen screams [23]

SE: Haze machine [23]

C: Some offensive language throughout [26-43]

C: Hen urinates in cup. Urine thrown over Badger [27]

C: References to eviction [27]

N: Gunshots heard from offstage [44]

C: References to violence [45-50]

C: References to sex [55-60]

SE: Banners falling silently from the ceiling [60]

Forester arrives, he sees the Vixen and fires his gun at her from offstage, but she escapes.

The Vixen meets a Fox: they fall in love and spend the night together. The following morning, the Vixen is shocked to discover she is pregnant. The Fox takes her to the Woodpecker, who marries them. A wedding celebration takes place, with singing, dancing and bubbles!

## **Interval of 20 minutes**

### **Act III**

The Poacher, out hunting, meets the Forester, and tells him that he is going to marry a woman called Terynka. The Forester realises the Vixen is nearby and prepares a trap with a dead rabbit. But she and her cubs laugh at the foolish trick.

The Poacher sees the Vixen, chases her, and shoots her dead. The Forester finds the body.

Back in the tavern, the Forester and the Schoolmaster talk to the Innkeeper's wife about Terynka, who will marry the Poacher, wearing a new fox-fur muff...

Leaving the inn, the Forester sees the younger versions of himself, and reflects on his life. He sees a fox cub that reminds him of the young Vixen he once had, and wonders whether he should capture her and take her home.

A new cycle of life begins. Young creatures play games as the Forester walks away.

#### **Content warnings for Part Two**

*[timings are approximate, measured in minutes from the moment the music starts]*

N= noise / L= lighting / C= content / SE= set & effects

SE: Fox trap wheeled on, prop 'dead' fluffy rabbit hung inside [7]

N: Door of fox trap closes, making a noise [8]

N: 15 young children scream loudly [8]

N: Two gunshots happen onstage [13]

C: The Vixen is killed [13]

SE: Banner falls suddenly from ceiling [29]

L: Bright white light appears at back of stage [29]

C: Offensive language [30]