

Autism Friendly Theatre Performances at The Ark



Information Pack for Aston's Stones
Fri 14 Oct 2016 @ 12.15pm at The Ark, Temple Bar

See ark.ie

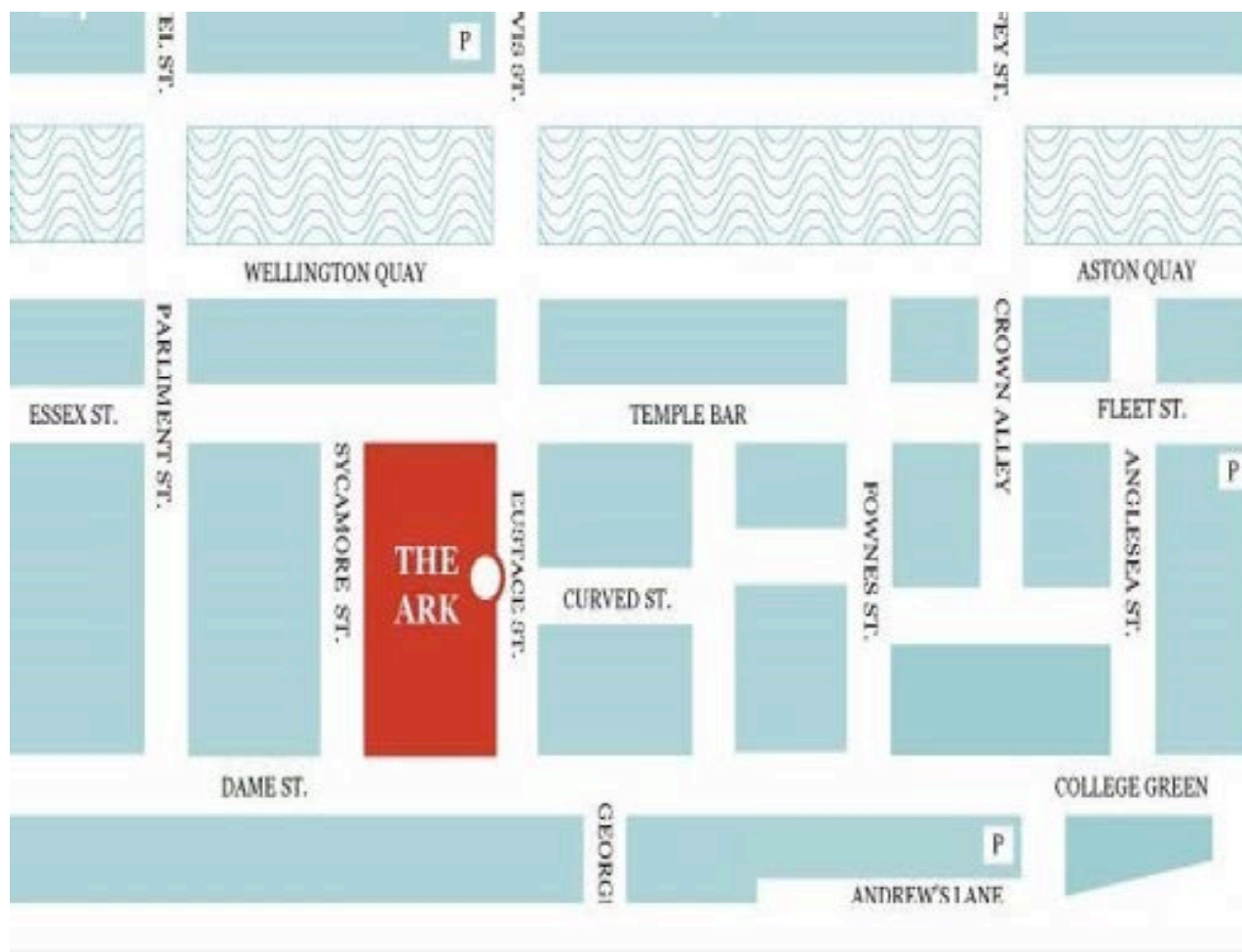
Your Visit

This pack will help you prepare for your visit to the Ark.

You will see and experience many new and interesting things. We have put together some pictures to help you understand where you are going and what you will see, as well as a brief synopsis of the play so you know what to expect during the performance.

We hope you have great time at The Ark. Here is a map to help you find us.

Here is a map to help you find us.



Here are the things you will see on the day:

This building is called The Ark. We go here to see the play.



The Main Door

We go through this to get inside.





The Reception

This is where we collect our tickets.

**Ashling works behind
the desk.**

She will give us our tickets.





The Basement

This is where we wait for the show. Other children will be waiting here also.

Toilets

We can find the toilets in the basement through the red doors.



The boys' toilets are
on the right.





The girls' toilets are on the left.

If you need the bathroom during the show

When we are in the theatre there is a toilet nearby.



The Door to the Theatre

We go through this door when it is time for the play.





Where will you sit?

We all sit on the benches in the theatre.

If you want a break at any time we can go back to the relaxation space in the basement.



Aston's Stones is the name of the play we are going to see.

It is a play about a little dog who wants to take care of all the stones he can find.



What is a play?

- A play is a story told by people called actors
- The actors tell the story by talking and moving. The story is not real and the actors are just pretending
- A play takes place in a room called a theatre. People sit down when they watch a play

About the Show

The lights in the theatre will dim during the play so it will be a little bit darker but you will always be able to see your way out.

During the play you will hear lots of different sound effects. This symbol will show you when they will happen.



There are lots of songs sung and music played by the actors on the stage. They will play the bass and the piano. This symbol will show you when they will happen.



During the songs, the actors will sing using little microphones that are attached to the side of their faces. This is so we can hear the singing clearly.

The actors in this play are from Sweden. Their names are Swedish names so they may be different from other names we know.

There are three actors in this play;

Ulf Eriksson plays Dad. He also sings and plays music in the play.

Baura Magnúsdóttir plays Mum. She also sings and plays music in the play.

Magnus Lundblad plays the puppy Aston. He also sings and plays music in the play.

There is a lot of movement in this play.

What will Happen?

Before the play starts:

Baura/Mum opens the door into the theatre to let you in. You will see Ulf /Dad on stage knitting and Magnus/Aston playing with stitches.

Baura says welcome and asks you if you are ready.

When everyone is ready the play begins.

The actors start singing:

*“A na-/ na-/ nasty night,
autumn glides out of the shadows.”*

Dad plays the piano.



Dad starts telling the story about Aston collecting stones.

Mum and Aston are outside in the nasty night when Aston finds his first stone.

He sings that the stone is so cold.

He puts it in mum's bag without Mum noticing it. They go home to Dad who is playing the piano.



When Aston starts throwing food from the shopping bag to Dad he stops playing and puts the food in a fridge. We don't see the fridge the actor mimes the fridge.

(To mime is to pretend that something is on stage but actually you can't see it)



Aston picks up the stone. Dad asks Mum: *"Did you buy a stone?"*

Mum says: *"No"*

and then she understands that Aston let her carry the heavy stone.

She sings:

*"It is not that I am lazy
it's just heavy like crazy
Huff and puff every day*



There must be another way

Dad plays the bass and sings:

Pull the food, food on wheels

Pull the food on wheels

I will make you a trolley - with wheels."

Mum gets very happy that Dad is going to make her a trolley.

Mum and Dad are singing while Aston tries to find a good place for the stone to stay.
He finally takes Mum's knitting and puts the stone to bed.
Aston sings a lullaby for the stone and Mum and Dad sing with him. They all sing:
"Sleep little stone."



Dad tells us about when Aston found his second stone.
Dad is playing the bass.



Mum and Aston are moving with the music, pretending they are on the path. Aston sees a stone, borrows Mums shopping bag and after some difficulties he manages to lift the stone into the bag. He wants Mum to carry it, but Mum says that he has to carry his stones himself. Aston carries the stones himself and they go home.

Dad is playing the bass
Mum and Dad sing their hellos and Dad sings;
"I will make you a trolley."



Then Aston starts throwing food to Dad, Mum opens a fridge (again the fridge is not really there mum pretends and mimes a fridge) and Dad puts the food in it.



Aston puts the second stone on Mums chair. She sits on it and Aston takes the stone, and Dad sits on Mums chair so she gets another chair.

Dad starts to knit, and Aston says: “*Dad?*”

Dad replies “Yes”

This dialogue repeats...but Aston is not satisfied until Dad lifts his ear to hear better.

Aston wants Dad to knit a blanket for the stone. At last Dad understands and starts knitting.

Aston washes the stone in the kitchen.

You will see Aston’s movement and hear the sounds while he washes the stone, gets water in his ear, dries the stone with a hairdryer, walk around with wet shoes and dries the floor.



Dad tells us about all the stones that Aston collects, we see Aston picking them up and filling the home with stones. Mum and Dad are a little annoyed but Aston keeps on collecting.

Mum plays the bass and Dad plays the piano and they sing a song about Aston collecting stones.

Astons sings about all the lonely, sad, and cold stones.



When Aston comes home he puts the stones on the piano so Dad cant play. Dad gets angry and tells Aston that this cant go on any longer.

“There are stones everywhere!”

Mum remembers a beach with a lot of stones. Mum and Dad convince Aston to bring his stones to the beach.

We see Mum and Dad putting the stones in the bags, they ask Aston to help, he answers “Yes”, but immediately forgets because he is taking care of his stones.

Aston wants to carry the bags, but they are too heavy.

Dad tries also but the bags are too heavy.

Mum carries the bags.

The family goes to the beach.

On the beach Aston says: *“There is a lot of stones here”*

Dad asks: *“Maybe they want to stay here for a while?”*

And Aston replies: *“Yes, they can go for a swim.”*

Mum plays the bass and Dad the piano, and they sing a song.
They ask Aston if his stones can move here to this beach and
stay when they leave for home. Aston wonders: *“Stay right here?”*
And then he decides to let the stones move to the beach.



Aston sings:
“Goodbye, you will all be fine.”
Mum and Dad get very happy when Aston
says goodbye and they all go home.



At home they ask Aston:
“What are you hiding behind your back?”
Aston replies:
“Nothing.”
Then we see that Aston is hiding a stick.

Mum and Dad get shocked at first but then they continue playing and
singing. Aston is happy, playing with the stick.
The end.



The show finishes.
There will be Clapping



People clap at the end of a play.
It shows the performers that we enjoyed the play.

After the clapping we can leave the theatre and go home.

Here are pictures of things we will see during the show



The people that made the show?

The people that made the show are from a group called Teater Pero and they come from Sweden.

The show is based on a book by a woman called Lotta Geffenblad which is called *Aston's Stones*.



Special thanks to the Theatre Development Fund's Autism Theatre Initiative for serving as an advisor