



THE
MAKING
OF
MOLLIE

Relaxed Pack
created by Sara Gannon

BY ANNA CAREY

THEATRE

8+

AGES



An Roinn Oideachais
Department of Education



Comhairle Cathrach
Bhaile Átha Cliath
Dublin City Council

Cover photo by Ste Murray. Production photography by Ros Kavanagh.



Welcome

The Ark is so excited to welcome you for the relaxed performance of The Making of Mollie!

A relaxed performance is just how it sounds: it is a more chilled out way to experience the show. The lights in the theatre will be a little brighter, the sound will be a little lower, and you will be able to come in and out of the theatre as you need.

We have put together some information that you might find useful during your visit to The Ark. You will see and experience many new and interesting things while you are here. 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.

If you have any questions that are not answered by this pack, please feel free to contact our friendly Box Office team at boxoffice@ark.ie.

We hope you enjoy The Making of Mollie!



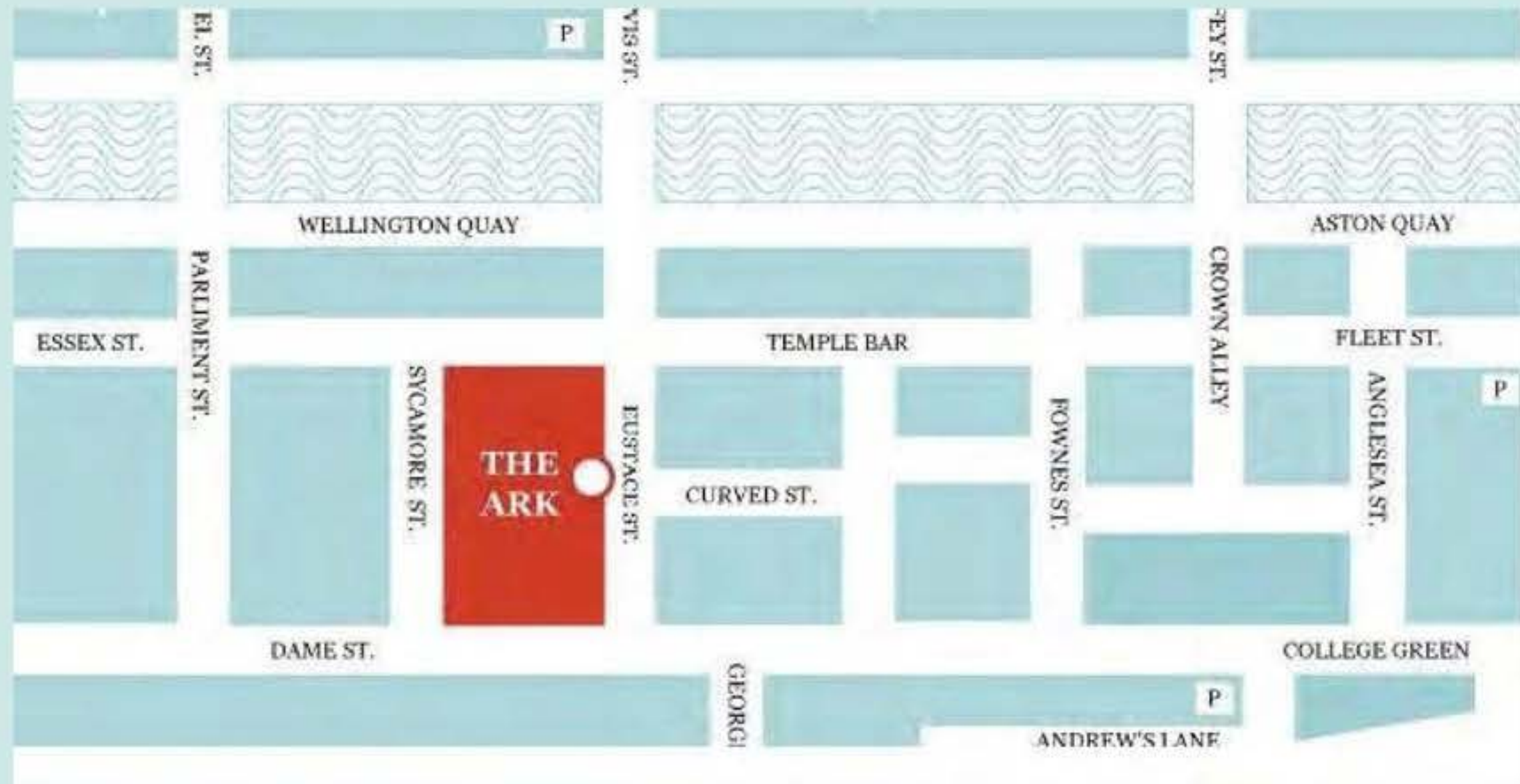
Directions



The Ark is on 11a Eustace Street, in Temple Bar. The entrance to the building is fully accessible and has step free access. Please note that Eustace St. is a cobbled street.

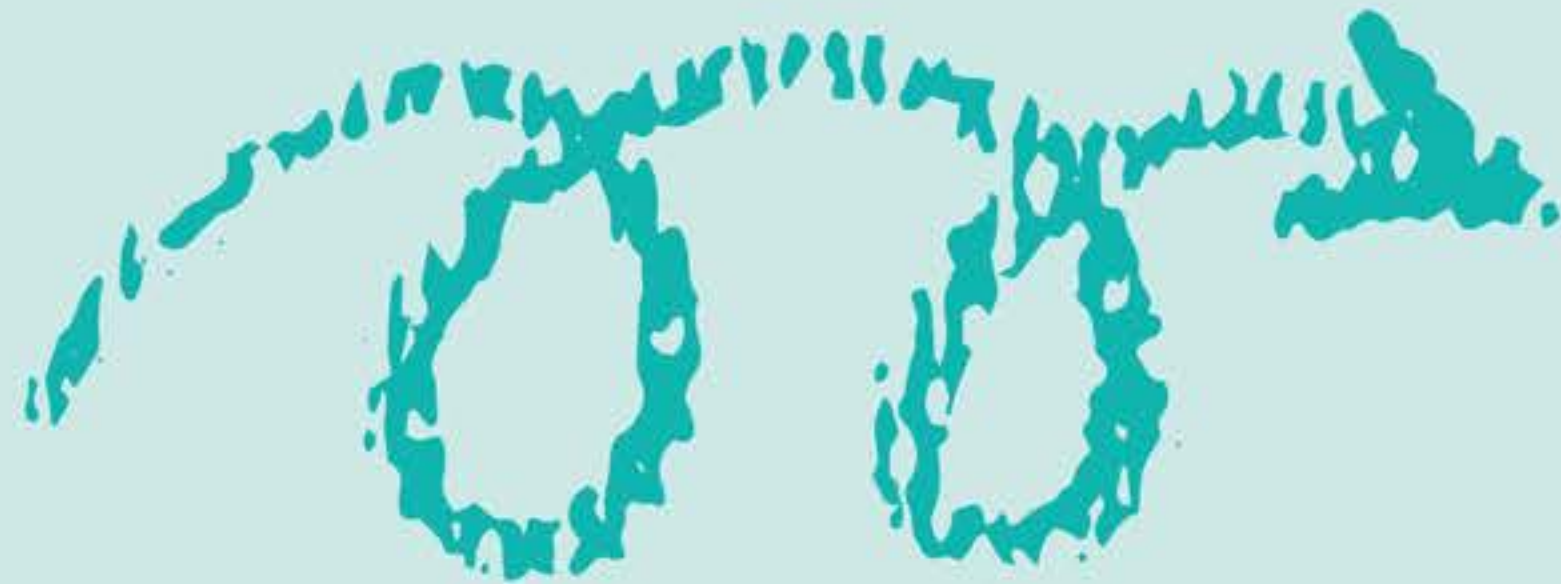
There is a lift in the building that can take you to each level of the building. Accessible toilets and baby changing are available on the ground floor.

If you have any access requirements, please let us know at boxoffice@ark.ie and we will do our best to help.



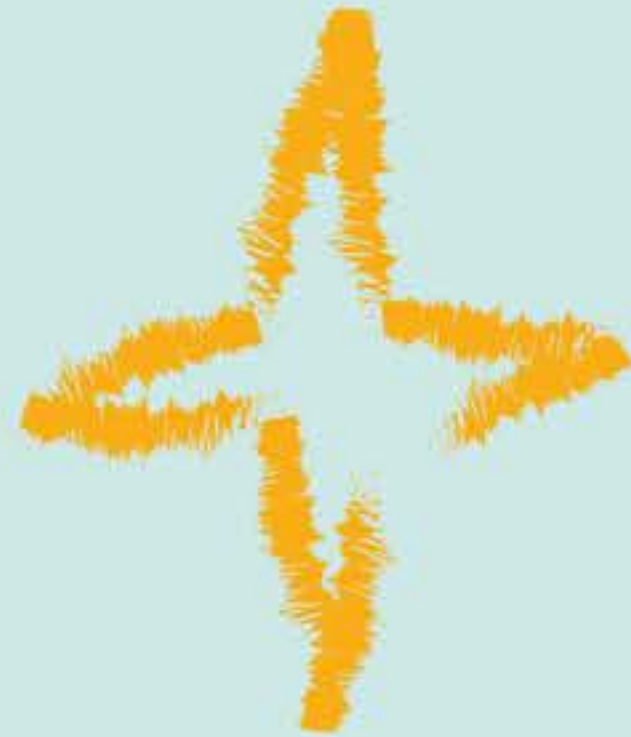


**Here are some
things you will
see on the day**





This building is called
The Ark. You will come
here to see the show.



The Main Door



You will go through here
to get inside.





Box Office

This is where we collect our tickets. Our friendly Visitor Services Team will give you your tickets and tell you where to go.



The Basement

This is where we wait for the show.

Other children will be waiting here also.





Toilets

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

The girls' toilets are on the left.

The boys' toilets are on the right.



You can use whatever toilet you feel most comfortable in.



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
event.





**Where will
you sit?**



We all sit on
the benches
in the theatre.

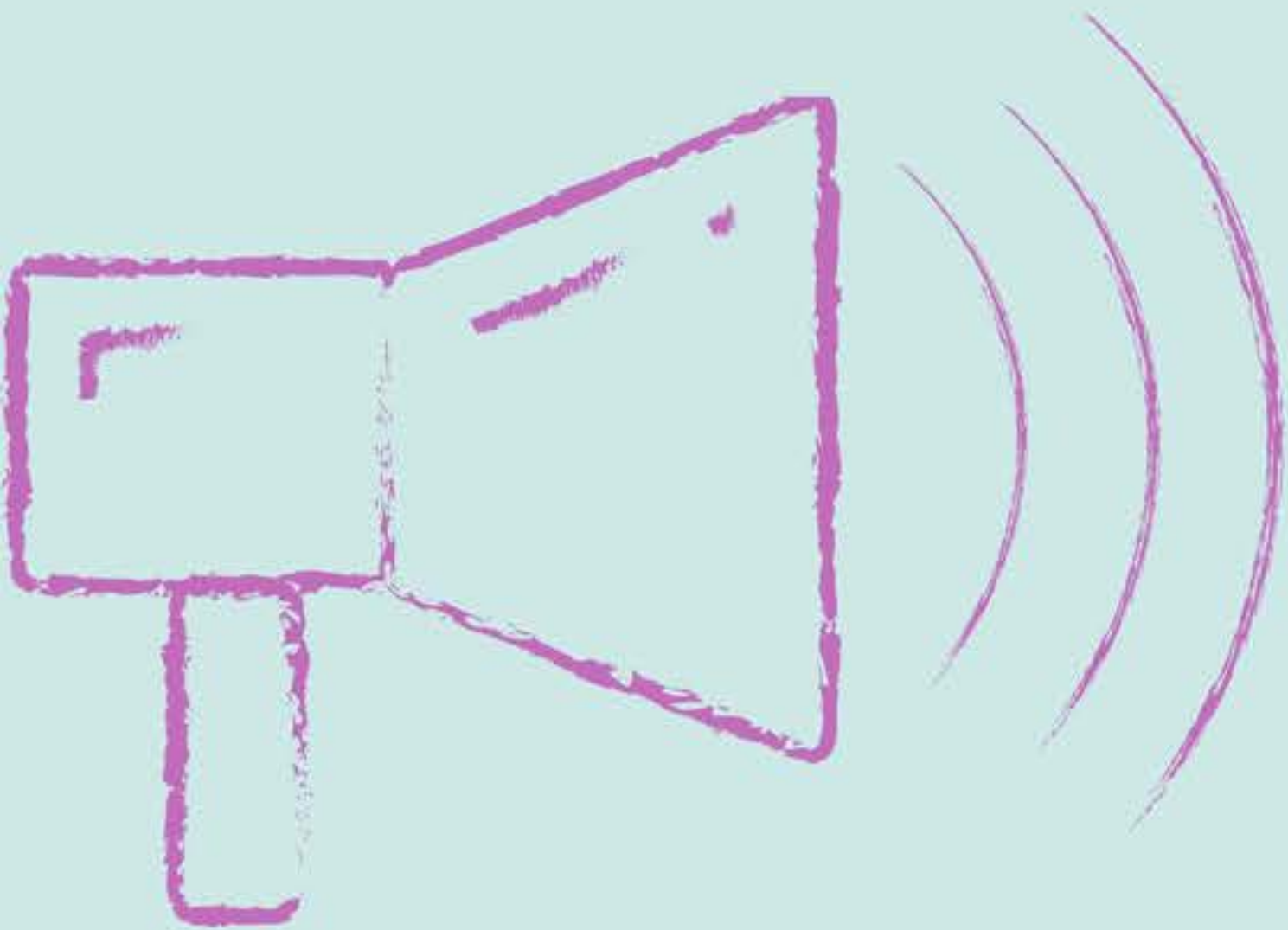
If you want a break at any time, we can go back to the relaxation space in the basement.





About the Show

- The Making of Mollie is 60 mins long.
- There are five performers. They act in the show.
- There is no right or wrong way to watch the show- we want you to have a good time! If you want to make a noise, or have a wriggle in your seat, that is okay.
- If you need to take a break from the theatre at any point, you can step out and come back in when you are ready.
- You will know The Ark's Front of House staff by their blue jumpers. If you need to leave the theatre during the performance, they can help you. If you have any questions or worries about the show, they are friendly faces to talk to!



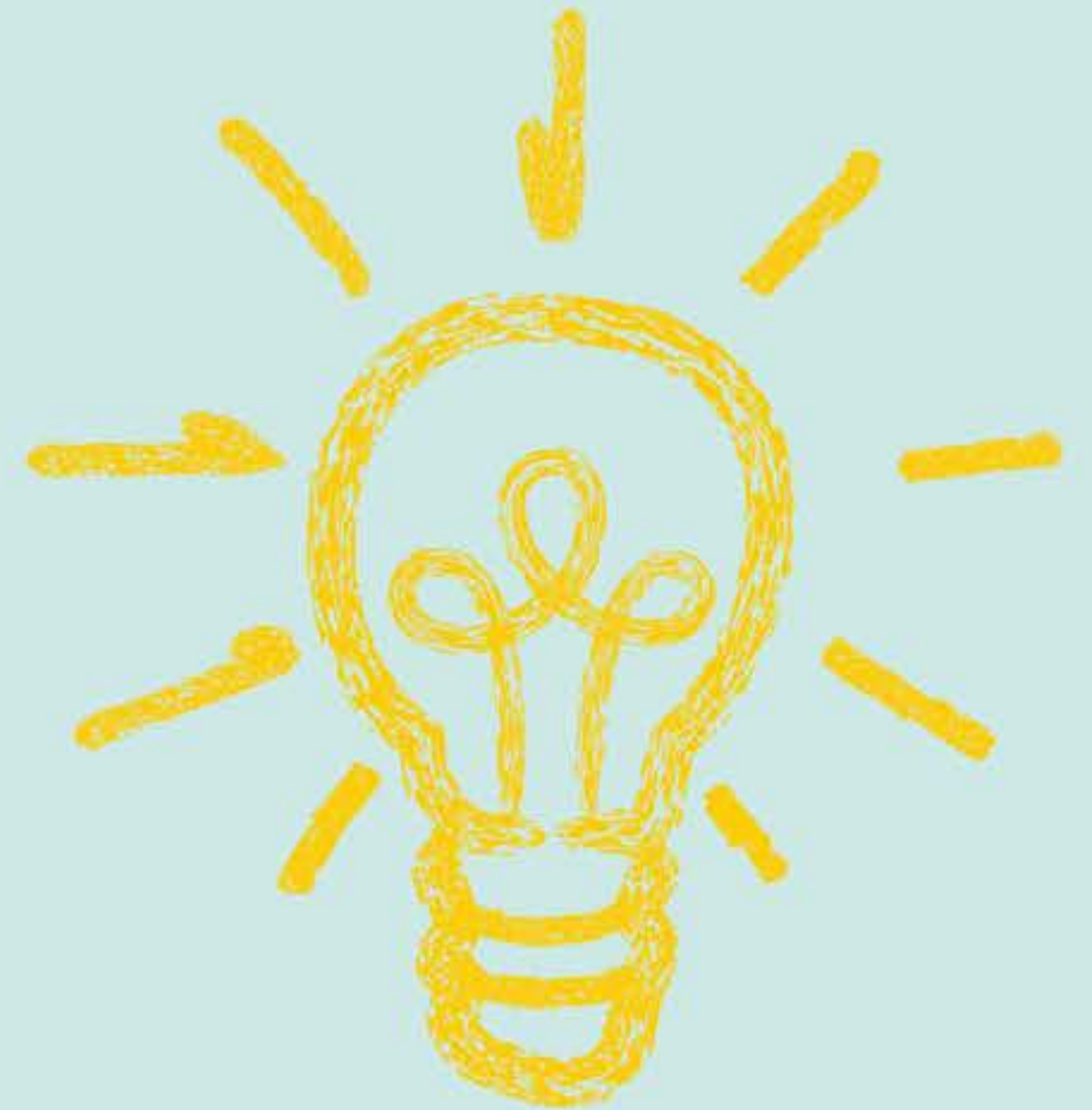
Sometimes there will be background music and sound effects.

Some of the sounds you will hear will be intense and loud. We will let you know when these sounds are about to happen.

If you have headphones that you like to wear in noisy spaces you can bring them.

We will provide ear plugs if you would like to use them instead.

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



The Cast



This is Ashleigh. Ashleigh plays Mollie.



This is Éyum. Éyum plays Phyllis.



This is Ian. Ian plays Harry, and the Pompous Man.

The Cast



This is Niamh. Niamh plays
Nora.



This is Rowan. Rowan plays
Frank, and Mrs Sheffield.



Content Awareness

Sounds



During the show, you will hear lots of music and sounds. Some of these sounds are sudden or a bit loud.

- One of the characters that will appear is Barnaby. Barnaby is a white toy dog (but we pretend he is real). After Phyllis sneaks in while Mollie reads, we hear Barnaby barking. We hear Barnaby barking a few times during the show.
- After Mollie follows Phyllis, we see Niamh in a mask with a giant lollipop. When she drops her lollipop, she will cry and stamp her feet.
- The second time Barnaby appears, he drags Mollie out the door of the theatre. When this happens, we hear: crashing; banging; sirens; a horse; a cat yowling; an explosion. This lasts less than a minute.
- Mollie and Nora make up a song during the show. After the girls start to sing, the music builds until it becomes like a rock song. Harry interrupts them, shouts, and throws a book.
- When Mollie and Nora sneak back into the theatre with a paint can, they will bump into each other. After this happens, we hear the sound of a cockerel.

Lights



2

At one point, Barnaby drags Mollie offstage. When this happens, the lights will flash and change colour a lot. This happens for less than a minute.



3

Mollie and Nora make up a song during the show. When the music starts and the girls start to sing, the lights will get darker and change colour.



1

When Mollie follows Phyllis, the lights will flash across the signs on the stage. This only lasts for about a minute.

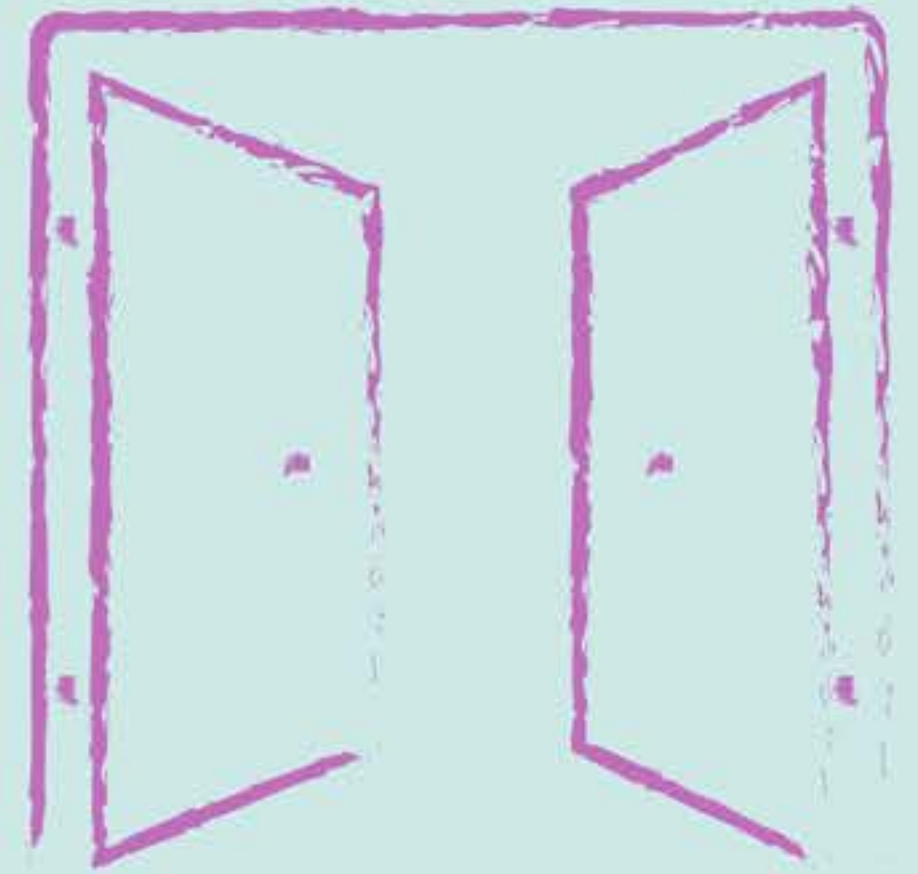


4

After you see Mollie and Nora in this pose, a light (like the headlights of a car) will shine on them. These lights will pass over the left hand side of the audience, but this only lasts approx. 10 secs.

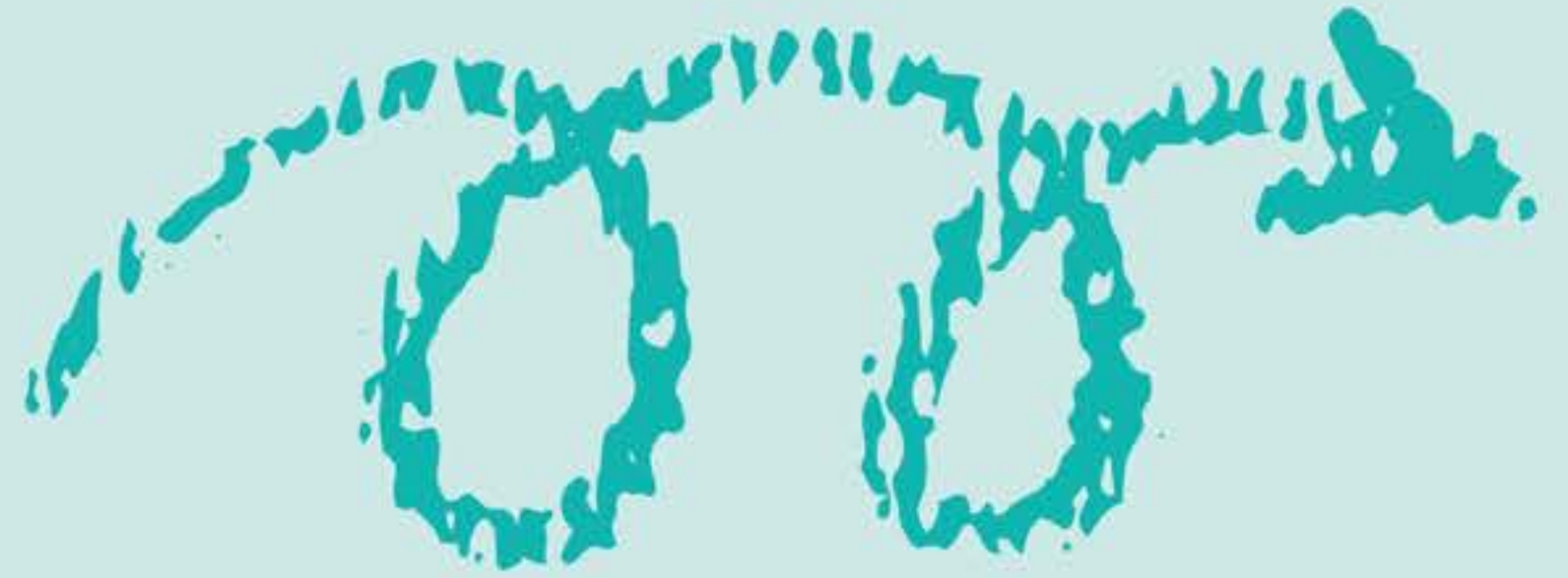


Other



There are times in the show when the cast are standing in the way of the doors out of the theatre. If you would like to take a break from the theatre, our friendly Visitor Services team can help you.

The Story of The Making of Mollie



The following pages contain a more detailed synopsis of the play. If you do not wish to know what happens in the play, stop reading now.

When you enter the auditorium, this is what the set on stage will look like. There is a white backdrop at the back of the stage. Three clouds hang in front of this.

There are five big signs on sticks. They all have different images on them. Do you recognise any of the buildings on the signs?

There is a postbox at the back right of the stage. In front of that is a lamp post.

In the centre of a stage there is a window. When you arrive in the theatre, the window will be turned around so the black and white side is facing you. The cast turn the window around during the show. When the pink side faces us, we know we are inside.



The lights will get darker and music will begin to play. The cast enter in small groups. First are a woman with an umbrella, and a man with a broom. They stand beside the lamp post. Next are Phyllis and Harry. Phyllis sits on the window seat with a book, while Harry stands with a newspaper. The woman with the umbrella and the street sweeper leave the stage. Just after this, Mollie enters. She stomps to the centre of the stage, in front of the window. She flops onto the floor. When she does this, the lights change and the music stops.

Mollie is annoyed. Her brother, Harry, is really annoying her. While Mollie tells us about the most recent irritating event involving Harry, he folds up his newspaper and leaves the stage. Harry is just as bad with their older sister, Phyllis. When her name is mentioned, Phyllis stands up and leaves the stage. Two of the actors come onstage to turn the window around so that the pink side faces the audience. We now know that we are inside the house.

Mollie doesn't think it's fair that Harry can laze about and do whatever he wants while herself and Phyllis have plenty of jobs to do. At this, Phyllis comes back in with a woven basket. It is full of clothes to be mended. Phyllis and Mollie do all the clothes mending in the house.

Harry and his friend, Frank, arrive. They have just been playing a cricket match, which they won. Harry plays a trick on Mollie by pretending to throw a ball at her head, but he actually throws it to Frank. Frank tells them that there were women speaking at a political meeting in the park while they were playing their match. He's not sure what it was about, but he presumes it was something to do with Home Rule. Harry is shocked - they wouldn't let a woman speak about something important like that!

Noticing that Mollie is mending clothes, Harry pulls a pair of socks out of his pocket and throws them at her! Mollie is angry and chases Harry around the room. Phyllis interrupts their fight to tell them that they are acting like children, before storming offstage with the basket of clothes. Mollie and Harry are shocked. They nearly call a truce, but then Harry calls Mollie a baby and she tries to fight him again. Frank keeps the peace and manages to usher Harry away so he can't cause any more trouble.

Mollie is left alone again. She is frustrated. Sometimes she feels like she's the only one that notices the strange things that happen in her house. She picks up a book to read and lies down on the floor, facing the audience. Just then, music starts to play and Phyllis jumps onstage. She has a bag over her shoulder, and is trying to sneak out without Mollie noticing. She has one leg out of the window when, suddenly, a dog starts to bark! Mollie notices Phyllis and asks what she's doing. While Phyllis tries to climb back through the window, she accidentally drops some pieces of paper.

Phyllis picks them up and tells Mollie that her friend Kathleen is teaching her to make origami as a surprise for their mother's birthday. Before Mollie can ask her any more questions, Phyllis climbs back out the window and leaves. Suddenly, a dog flies in and lands on the stage! We hear the sound of barking again. Mollie picks up Barnaby, the dog, who starts to growl at her! Mrs Sheffield, Barnaby's owner, comes in. She takes Barnaby from Mollie and leaves.



Mollie knows that Phyllis is lying to her. She decides that she needs to talk to her friend Nora about this. She tells Nora everything. Nora skips onstage with a skipping rope. Mollie explains what happened with Phyllis. Nora agrees that it is strange, and that Phyllis' story sounds like a lie. They try to think about what Phyllis could really be up to. Nora wonders if Phyllis could be having a secret love affair! Mollie doesn't agree. Why would Phyllis be bringing pieces of paper? Nora then suggests that Phyllis could be a fenian revolutionary! Mollie doesn't agree with this either - Phyllis has never mentioned politics. Nora doesn't think that is enough of a reason, maybe Phyllis just hasn't spoken to Mollie about it. Maybe Phyllis is having a secret love affair with a fenian revolutionary! Nora leaves, while making the sound of guns firing.

Mollie is determined to figure out what Phyllis is up to. The next time Phyllis sneaks out the window, Mollie follows her. She makes her way through the city, but keeps getting blocked by different characters in masks. The lights flash on the signs around the set. Mollie is trying to get past a group of people when she knocks a lollipop out of a child's hand. The child is very upset and cries loudly. Finally, Mollie gets past them and arrives at a big gathering of people. There are banners, signs, and people standing up on a podium to speak. Mollie spots Phyllis selling "Votes for Women" magazines.

Just then, a voice sounds out. Someone is giving a speech on women's right to vote. Some of the people in the crowd agree with what the speaker is saying, and some do not. The cast on stage cheer, boo, and clap during the speech. Mollie realises that she agrees with what the speaker is saying. It's not fair that women don't have the same rights as men, so they should do something about it!

Phyllis spots Mollie in the crowd. She is annoyed that Mollie followed her. Mollie wants to stay to listen for a little while longer, but Phyllis insists that she is bringing her home. The lights get darker and they get on a tram with other people. When the tram starts and stops, a bell rings. This happens three times.

Phyllis and Mollie arrive home. Mollie tells Phyllis that she thinks that the suffragette movement is marvellous and she is proud of her for getting involved. Mollie wants to go to the next meeting, and asks if she can sell magazines herself but Phyllis won't let her. While they are arguing about this, Harry comes in. He is suspicious that they are up to something, but Mollie manages to convince him that they are talking about their Mother's birthday. When she won't tell him what they are getting her, he gets angry, throws his book on the floor, and leaves. Even after this, Phyllis won't give in and let Mollie come to the meeting.



Mollie tells her friend Nora what happened at the meeting and what she discovered about Phyllis. They talk about how unfair it is that they are treated differently to their brothers, and that they aren't allowed to do all of the jobs that men do. Nora tells Mollie that their teacher gave a lesson where she told their class that one of the jobs they could do was to teach people how to look after chickens. While she tells her this, we hear the sound of chickens. They both agree that it's not fair. Nora wonders if Mollie would like to be a suffragette. Mollie isn't sure that they would be allowed to be, at their age. Mollie wonders if Nora would like to be a suffragette. Nora tells her that she will think about it.

Mollie and Nora start to do their secret handshake, when Harry and Frank return. Frank is friendly and tries to make conversation with the girls. Harry tells the group that he doesn't know why girls bother going to school, because they'll never have a proper job anyway. Mollie and Nora are furious. Frank tries to smooth things over, but ends up getting Harry out of there before the girls fight him. After they leave, Nora decides she will be a suffragette, if only to shut Harry up. Mollie and Nora do their handshake again before Nora leaves.



Mollie is about to make a plan of action, when she hears Barnaby barking again. We hear Mrs Sheffield's voice asking her to take Barnaby for a walk. Barnaby flies in from offstage into Mollie's arms and immediately starts growling. He takes off, pulling Mollie out the door of the theatre! When Mollie leaves the theatre, the lights change to be very colourful and they start flashing. We hear a lot of banging and crashing, and also hear: a horse; a siren; a cat yowling. After the cat yowls, we hear Mollie shout at Barnaby to stop barking. There is a sound of an explosion and Barnaby flies in from offstage again. The lights get brighter and Frank appears. Barnaby is growling, but starts to pant and lick Frank after he picks Barnaby up. Mollie comes back in through the theatre doors. She is very grateful to Frank for catching Barnaby. Mollie is going to take Barnaby home when Frank asks if he can walk with her, as they live in the same direction. Frank and Mollie are shy and awkward with each other. After a few false starts, they make conversation. They talk about women's suffrage and Frank admits that he thinks women should be allowed to vote.

After they go their separate ways, Frank slips on a banana skin and falls! Mollie pretends not to see so that Frank isn't embarrassed. When Frank is gone, Barnaby starts barking again. We hear Mrs Sheffield's voice again and Mollie throws Barnaby offstage.

Mollie and Nora have decided to be suffragettes whether Phyllis helps them or not. Phyllis walks in while they are having this conversation. She is still insistent that they are too young to get involved yet. Mollie and Nora want to know more about the organisation she is involved with and keep pestering her until she gives in and tells them.

Phyllis explains that she is part of a group that supports militant action and fights for parliamentary votes. Nora is excited by this and asks if they can join. Phyllis tells them about how dangerous it can be. In England, women have gone on hunger strike and been force fed, while in Ireland there have been times that suffragettes have been beaten up. Mollie tries to argue with her, but Phyllis refuses to help them get involved and leaves.



Mollie and Nora are shocked. They didn't know it was that bad. Nora thinks this is even more reason to do something. They brainstorm some more ways that they can support the cause. Eventually, they decide to write a song. They come up with the lyrics together. While they are coming up with the song, we hear the sounds of a baby crying and drums. Once they have finished making their song, music begins to play and Mollie and Nora sing. The music gradually builds until it sounds like a rock song. The lights on stage will get a little darker and the white screen at the back will light up. While Mollie and Nora are rocking out, Harry comes in. He shouts at them and throws his book on the ground. He is trying to study and they are being too loud. He tells them to keep it down and leaves.

After Harry leaves, Nora finds a leaflet that Phyllis accidentally left behind. It gives the details for a big meeting about women's suffrage that will be happening on the 1st of June. They both really want to go, but know that Phyllis won't take them. Mollie decides that they will have to prove that they are worthy of attending the meeting by going chalking.



Mollie and Nora jump and music starts to play. The lights on stage get a little darker and they creep towards the audience. They walk in front of everyone in the front rows. Mollie will hand someone on the left hand side of the theatre the leaflet they were reading. You don't have to take the leaflet if you don't want to.



Mollie and Nora bump into each other and get a fright. They are nervous about going chalking. They argue about who should go first, but eventually Mollie gives in and tells Nora to keep an eye out for policemen while she chalks. Different characters in masks pass while Nora is keeping a lookout. After Mollie has finished her chalking, it is Nora's turn. Mollie keeps a lookout for her as well. Suddenly, the music changes and a man in a mask with a moustache enters. He sees what they are doing and tells them that they should be ashamed of themselves and storms off. Mollie and Nora are delighted with themselves. Phyllis will have to take them to the meeting now!



Mollie returns home to ask Phyllis to take herself and Nora to the meeting. Once again, Phyllis refuses. Mollie is frustrated and tells Phyllis that she has proven that she is trustworthy. Mollie and Nora have thought this through and all they want is a chance. Phyllis gives in. She will ask for tickets to be put aside for them. Mollie is thrilled. Harry comes in and asks what they are talking about. Mollie tells him that it's none of his business. He tells Phyllis that their mother is looking for her. As Phyllis is leaving, Harry notices that Mollie is doing a celebration dance. He asks about it but she won't tell him why she is so pleased. He becomes angry again and tears a page out of his book before storming off.

Mollie is happy. She decides that she should do some more chalking. She raises her leg as if she is going to march and then we hear the sound of a record scratch. What if she gets caught? She decides that it is a risk she'll have to take.



VOTES FOR

While Mollie begins chalking, Frank enters. He is juggling. He drops the balls as he juggles and notices Mollie when he goes to pick them up. Mollie tries to hide what she is doing from Frank, but it doesn't work. Frank tells her that it is okay, he supports the cause. He offers to keep a look out while she continues chalking. While he is doing this, we hear the sounds of birds tweeting and a bicycle ringing its bell. Mollie finishes chalking and shows Frank. He thinks that they should break the law every day. As Mollie and Frank say goodbye, they get mixed up - Mollie salutes and Frank puts out his hand for a shake.

They are both embarrassed, and Frank runs away.

Mollie tries to get herself to snap out of the embarrassment by slapping either side of her face. You will hear a slap sound effect when this happens. She decides to concentrate on the meeting.



Nora runs in, she is late for the meeting. Mollie and Nora are very excited about finally meeting some more suffragettes. Mollie tells Nora about bumping into Frank and how he helped her with the chalking. Nora teases Mollie about having her own secret love affair. Mollie gets annoyed at Nora and Nora apologises. They make up just in time for Phyllis to arrive. Phyllis is sorry, she doesn't have tickets for them for the meeting after all. She goes to the meeting, leaving Mollie and Nora. They are so disappointed.

Mollie and Nora feel like they will always be on the outside of the suffrage movement, and that things will always be unfair. Mollie has an idea. English suffragettes write messages on post boxes because they belong to the government. Mollie and Nora decide that they are going to paint a post box. Nora is nervous. She doesn't want to be arrested, or force fed! Mollie convinces her that they need to take a stand, whatever the consequences.

The lights dim as Mollie and Nora creep offstage. A postman and a street sweeper arrive. The postman moves the postbox to the left side of the stage, while the sweeper dances with his brush. They both turn a sign around before leaving the stage.





Mollie and Nora sneak back in. They are sneaking backwards, like before, and give each other a fright by bumping into each other! Suddenly they hear a cockerel and get another fright! Nora has brought a bucket of paint and two brushes. They are very nervous about what they are about to do, but agree that it is important enough to take the risk. They paint their message onto the postbox and step back. They are officially criminals. They are thrilled! They do their secret handshake to celebrate. Suddenly, when they reach the end of their handshake, a car horn sounds and a light shines on the two girls! Mollie and Nora shriek and hold their hands up. They think it is the police, but it turns out to just be a bread van.

As the light of the bread van passes them by, it shines over the front row on the left side of the theatre. Now that the danger has passed, Mollie and Nora decide it is time to get out of there!

The next day, Mollie can't sit still. She feels proud of what herself and Nora have done, and wants to be able to tell the whole world! Just then, Phyllis arrives with leaflets to be folded. Before they can get started, Harry and Frank appear. They are reading a newspaper. It turns out that Mollie and Nora weren't the only ones taking action last night!

Some suffragettes had been arrested for smashing windows on important buildings in town. Frank also mentions that a postbox had been painted outside Mollie and Nora's school. Phyllis takes the paper from Harry to read for herself. Harry and Frank leave again. Phyllis and Mollie are excited. They both have to tell their friends! Nora cartwheels onstage. She and Mollie talk about what the suffragettes had done the night before. At first, Mollie is worried that Nora regrets painting the postbox but then they both agree that it is the best thing they've ever done. They are excited to go to school on Monday to hear what people are saying about it!

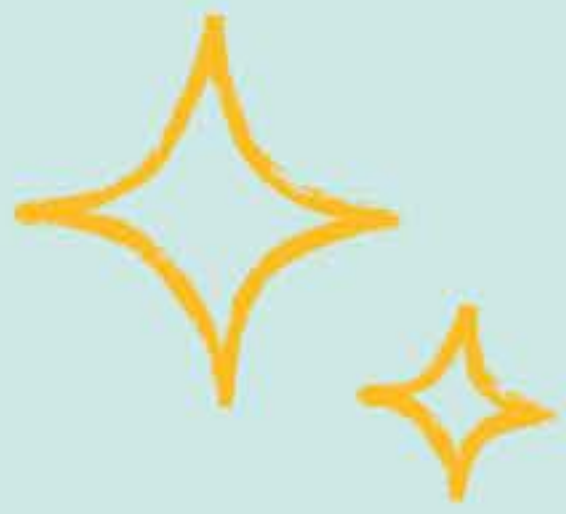
We hear a school bell ring. Mollie is disappointed. She thought everyone would be talking about what had happened, but the only person that mentioned it was Nora's cousin, Grace. She thought that what the suffragettes had done was disgraceful. Mollie is frustrated. She feels as if nothing had happened at all. What's the point in doing something if no one pays attention to it? If people won't take women getting arrested seriously, then does it really matter what Mollie and Nora do? Mollie wonders if anyone cares. As she asks this, something surprising happens! We hear the sound of a drum and a banner unfurls from the ceiling! Mollie reads it as if it is chalk on a wall. She thinks Nora must have done it. Just then, another banner appears!

Nora arrives, looking for Mollie. It turns out that there are lots of suffrage messages written around the school – and neither Mollie nor Nora wrote them. There is another suffragette in the school – maybe more than one! Mollie and Nora are thrilled. Maybe they did start something after all. They come up with different ideas of what they can do now that they know that there are more of them.



Mollie feels inspired. She is convinced that they will get the vote one day. Mollie and Nora cheer “Votes for Women” and a final banner falls in the centre of the stage. The lights go dark. The show is now over.





When the show finishes, there will be clapping. People clap at the end of a play to show the performers that we enjoyed the play. You can join in if you want to.

After the clapping we can leave the theatre and go back to school or go home.



Thank you! We look forward to welcoming you to The Ark.

We hope you enjoy the show!



An Roinn Oideachais
Department of Education



Comhairle Cathrach
Bhaile Átha Cliath
Dublin City Council