

GRANDTHEATRE

Relaxed Performance **Access Guide**

Charlie & the Chocolate Factory



Sunday, December 10th, 2023 at 1:00 PM
Spriet Stage

Welcome to the Grand Theatre!

We are looking forward to having you join us at the theatre. This Relaxed Performance Access Guide will give audience members an idea of what their theatre experience will be like.

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What is a Relaxed Performance?

This performance is intended to be sensitive to and welcoming of neurodivergent audience members, though anybody is welcome to attend and enjoy the show!

Relaxed Performances are specifically designed to welcome patrons who will benefit from a less restricted audience environment and a lower-sensory experience. This could benefit people on the autism spectrum; with learning or developmental disabilities, dementia, and all members of the Disability community; or those who simply want a more relaxed theatre experience.

Audience members are encouraged to...

- Leave or re-enter the theatre space at anytime.
- Move around, clap, speak, laugh, doodle, knit, dance, etc.
- Visit our lobby Chill Out Zone or Quiet Zone at anytime.
- Use phones or electronic devices like iPads. (**Please do not take photos or video recordings during the performance!*)
- Wear sunglasses or cover/close their eyes.
- Use sound dampening/cancelling headphones or cover ears.
- Wear any type of clothes that are comfortable to them.
- Bring in snacks or purchase snacks at our concessions, and eat inside the theatre. (*This is typically not allowed and we ask that you be mindful of allergies, mess, smells, etc.*)

During the performance...

- Sensory elements will be reduced (such as light and sound).
- There will be no startling effects (like strobe or heavy fog).
- The house lights will never fully go dark (ie: no “blackouts”).
- Production elements that may be a sensory overload will be explained at the beginning of the performance.

Getting Here

The Grand Theatre is located in central downtown London, Ontario, at:

**471 Richmond Street
London, ON. N6A 3E4**

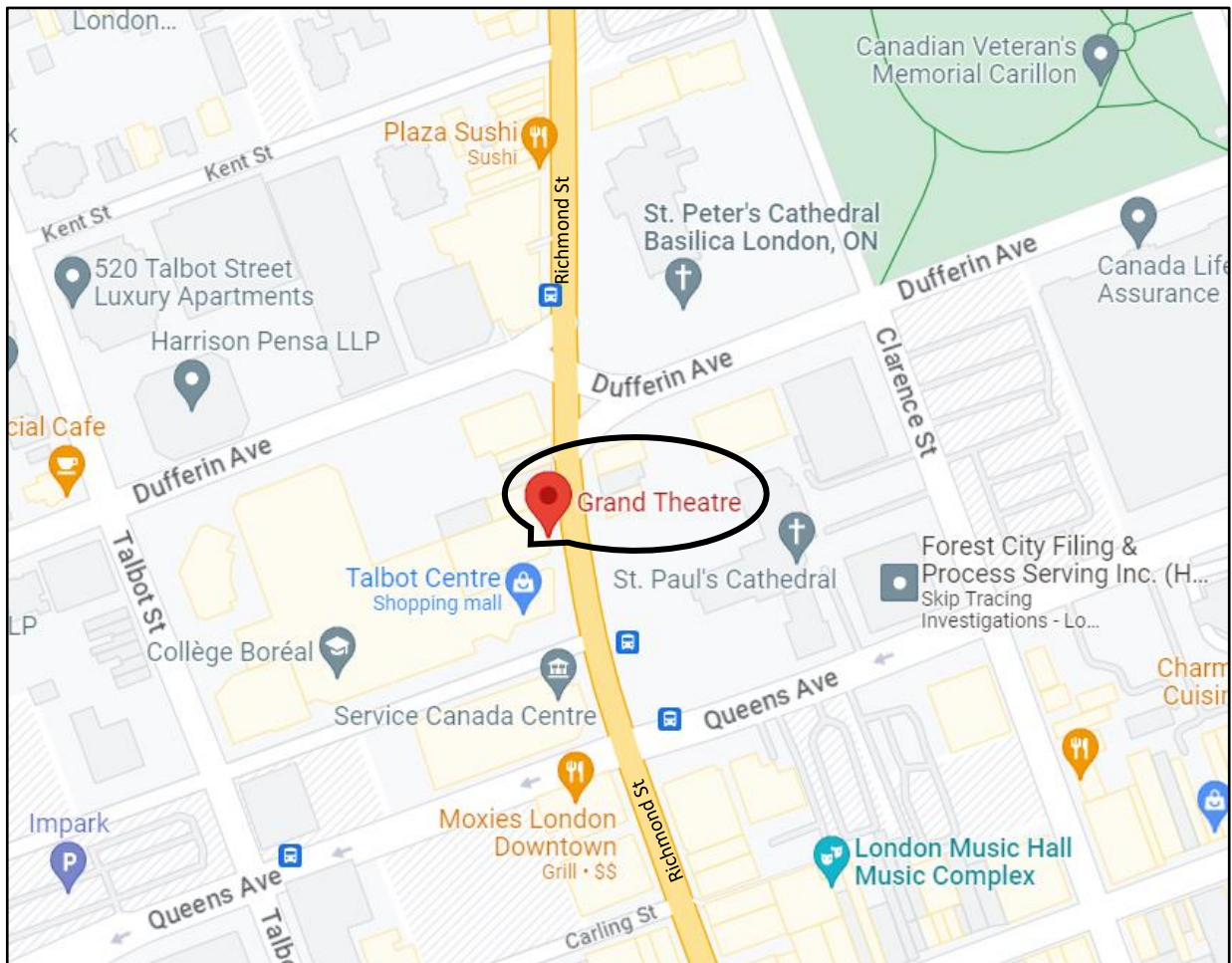
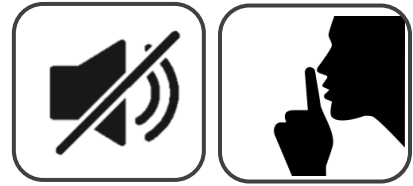


Image Description: Map of Downtown London, ON., with the Grand Theatre circled

Please browse our [Venue Guide](#) for a complete overview for how to get to the theatre, our spaces, and the services we offer.

QUIET ZONE



This area is located on the first floor (one floor below the main lobby) in the:

Auburn Lounge.

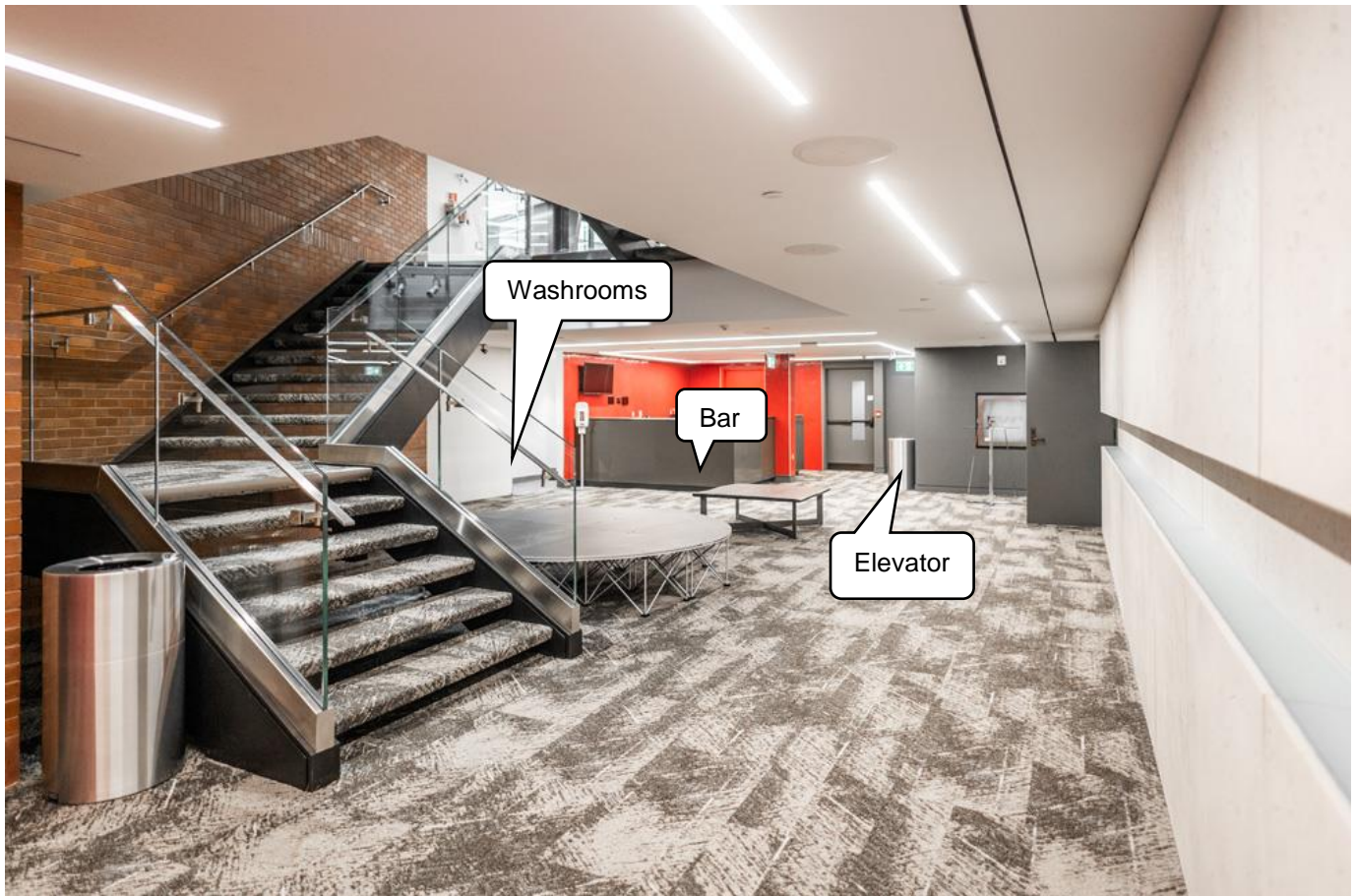
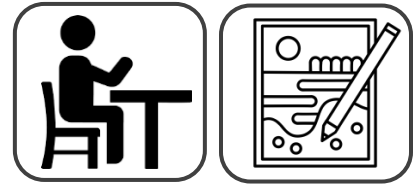


Image Description: There is a staircase to the left of the lounge. The floor is carpeted. There are many bright lights that illuminate the space.

You can access this space with stairs or by elevator. In this space, sounds, lights, and sensory elements are minimized to create a quieter area. You can eat/drink, or just hang out in this space. Feel free to use this Quiet Zone before, during, or after the performance!

CHILL OUT ZONE



This area is located on the fourth floor (the top floor) in the:
Drewlo Lounge.

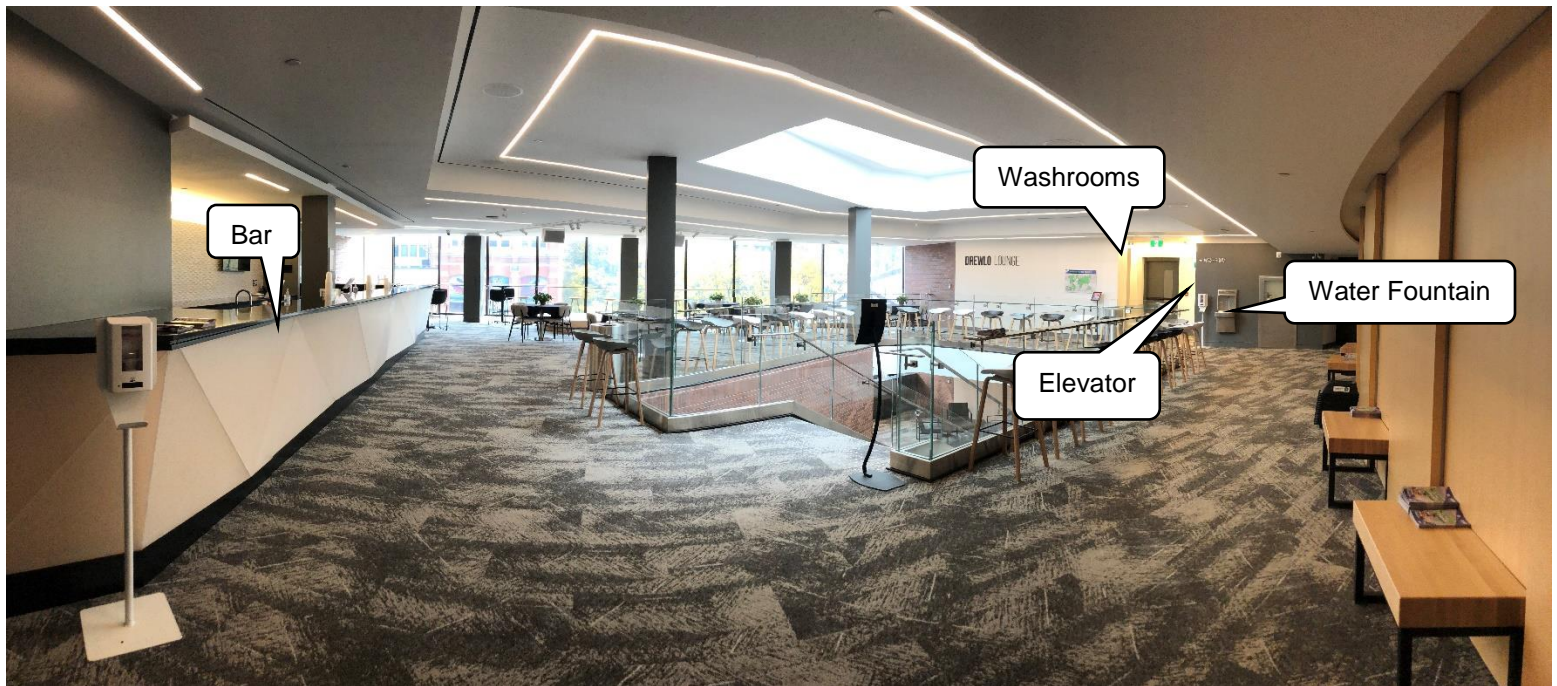


Image Description: There is a staircase in the middle of the lounge. The floor is carpeted. There is a skylight in the centre of the ceiling, and a wall full of windows on the farthest wall.

You can access this space with stairs or by elevator. In this space, there are many chairs, activities, and sensory devices for you to utilize.

You can eat/drink, or just hang out in this space. If the Chill Out Zone is a little too loud, you are welcome to use noise-cancelling headphones, or can go to our Quiet Zone on the 1st floor. Feel free to use this space before, during, or after the performance!

The Theatre



Image Description: Inside the Spriet Stage, looking at the stage from the side of the balcony level seating. There are several levels of red seats in rows. A red curtain is drawn across the stage.

Thirty (30) minutes before the performance starts (at around 12:30PM for our 1:00PM matinee performance), you will hear chimes in our lobby spaces and the lights will pulse. This means it is time to wrap up in the lobby, use the washroom, and find your seat. If you aren't sure where you are sitting, you can ask a volunteer/usher to help you.

The seats are fixed, meaning they do not move. You can explore the theatre, but please do not come too close to the orchestra pit or stage for everyone's safety.

Lights will be on in the theatre and people may be talking. The show will begin with someone walking onstage to deliver a pre-show speech.

You can leave and re-enter the theatre anytime you'd like during a Relaxed Performance. Use the main doors at the back of the auditorium, or you can ask a staff member to help you exit the theatre.

The Orchestra Pit



Image Description: Inside the Spriet Stage, looking at the stage from the right side of the orchestra level seating. There are labels pointing at the orchestra pit and the stage.

Charlie & the Chocolate Factory is a musical. This means that there will be live music played by musicians in the Orchestra Pit.

There will be **three** moments where you will hear music being played, that will not have any singing in it. This will be:

1. After the pre-show speech at the start of the show. This song is called the Overture.
2. The start of Act II, after Intermission has finished. This song is called the Entr'acte.
3. After the actors have finished bowing and the curtains close. This song is called Bows.

This is a fast-moving musical. There are moments when the music will change speeds or become intense. If this is overwhelming, feel free cover your ears, use noise dampening/cancelling headphones, or leave and re-enter the theatre anytime you'd like during this Relaxed Performance.

Seating Map – Spriet Stage

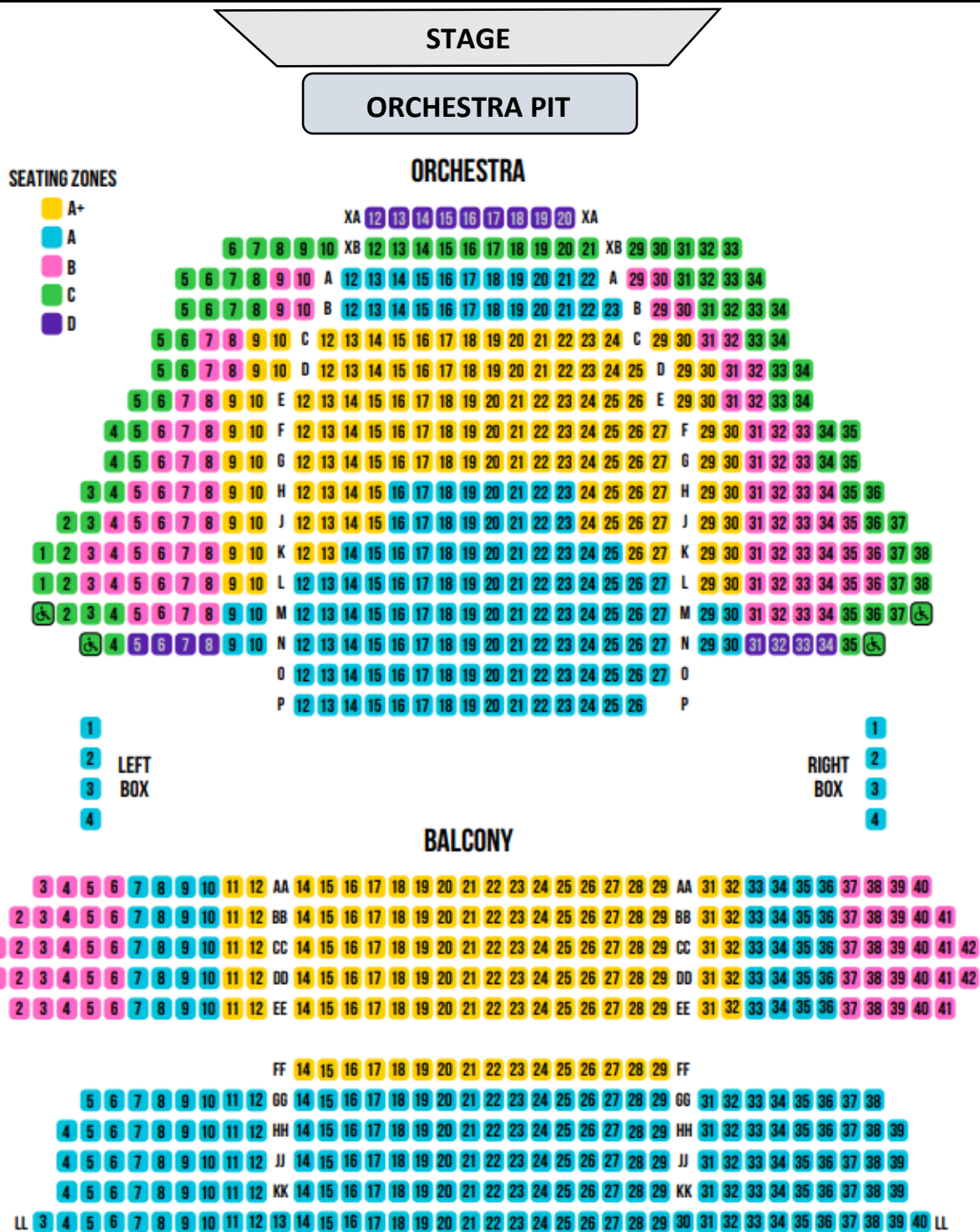


Image Description: A seating map of the Spriet Stage. The top map is the Orchestra level, and the bottom map is the Balcony level. Seats are in different colours to show different prices of tickets.

GRAND THEATRE BEHIND THE MAGIC

THINGS ARE FALLING FROM THE CEILING!

Ropes, pulleys, and counterweights are used by stage crew to move curtains, lights, scenery, stage effects, and sometimes people, on stage. This is called a fly system or theatrical rigging system.

HOW ARE LARGE OBJECTS MOVED AROUND?

Air casters hooked up to compressed air tanks, are used to raise and lower large set pieces to help move them on stage. Air brakes are also used for securing large set pieces and preventing the wheels from moving.

SETTING THE MOOD

Fog, haze, pyrotechnics, projections, lights, actor entrances, sound effects, and even disco balls, are all elements that stage management cues throughout the show!

WHAT WAS THAT FLASH?!

For some magical moments on stage you may see a small flash of light. This is because of flash paper, flash cotton, and flint on the actor's fingers.

Flash paper is made from nitrocellulose and burns instantly, leaving no smoke or ash!

OUR STAGE... MOVES?

We have a moving circular platform on our stage that is controlled by our tech crew. This is called a revolve!

Quick Facts: *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*

Age Recommendation: 6+

Production Advisory: This production features moving projections such as a starry night and windows/screens showing flowing chocolate. There will be magic tricks such as an “exploding” candy that will involve a quick and safe flash of flame. There will be one moment near the end of Act I where actors walk down the aisle: Charlie and Grandpa Joe will leave the stage and walk down the left orchestra (main floor) aisle, and will come back down the right orchestra aisle. Actors will not touch you, but they may look at you from the stage throughout the show.

Content Advisory: This production contains scenes of implied violence, casual talk of gun violence and death, and depictions of substance abuse. Although it may look like the characters get hurt, the actors will all be very safe. Remember that a theatre show is rehearsed and all pretend.

Run Time: Approximately 2 hours and 30 minutes

When the performance should start	Intermission	When the performance should end
ACT I	(20 Minute Break)	ACT II
1:00 PM	2:10-2:30 PM	3:30 PM

Short Summary:

Willy Wonka, the world-famous candy maker, is opening the gates to his mysterious chocolate factory – but only to a lucky few. Among them is the young Charlie Bucket, who joins four other Golden Ticket winners to embark upon a brain boggling, mind mangling, schnozztastic adventure through Wonka’s wild and wonderous world. Chocolate waterfalls, nutty squirrels, incredible inventions, Oompa-Loompas, and the prize of a lifetime await.

House Program: [click here.](#)

Study Guide: [click here.](#)

Meet the Characters



Willy Wonka

Played By:
Mark Uhre

The most renowned candy maker in the world, and the eccentric owner of the Wonka Chocolate Factory.



Charlie Bucket

Played By:
Neela Noble

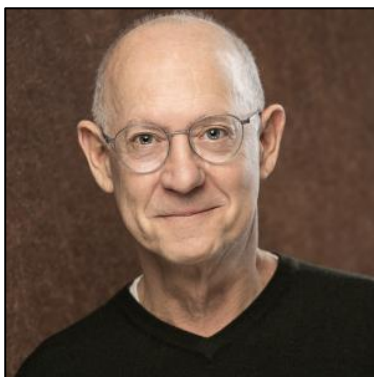
A kind-hearted kid, who dreams of a better life. Charlie is the final Golden Ticket winner. Neela has a very bright sounding voice.



Mrs. Bucket

Played By:
Melissa Mackenzie

Charlie's caring mother. Unfortunately, her husband, Mr. Bucket (Charlie's father) has passed away.



Grandpa Joe

Played By:
David Talbot

Charlie's supportive grandfather, who is full of life and adventure. He is Charlie's companion on the tour of the chocolate factory.



Grandma Josephine

Played By:
Barbara Fulton

Charlie's grandma.



**Grandma Georgina/
Mrs. Gloop**

Played By:
Krystle Chance

GG: Charlie's grandma.

Mrs. G: Augustus' mother, who is constantly trying to satisfy her son's insatiable appetite.



Augustus Gloop

Played By:
Nathanael Judah

Known for his love of food, he is the first person to discover a Golden Ticket.



**Grandpa George/
Mr. Salt**

Played By:
Salvatore Scozzari

GG: Charlie's grandpa.

Mr. S: Veruca's father, who provides her with anything that she wants.



Veruca Salt

Played By:
Nicole Norsworthy

Spoiled by her father, she is the third person to discover a Golden Ticket.



Violet Beauregarde

Played By:
Mikela Marcellin

Highly competitive and passionate about chewing gum, she is the third person to find a Golden Ticket.



Mr. Beauregarde

Played By:
Aadin Church

Violet's father, who is obsessed with her success.



Mike TeaVee

Played By:
Elena "Elm" Reyes

Fascinated with technology, he is the fourth person to secure himself a Golden Ticket.





**Mrs. Green/
Mrs. TeaVee**

Played By:
Meg Buchanan-Lunn

Mrs. G: A woman who sells vegetables (and sometimes chocolate) to people in town.

Mrs. T: Mike's mother, who struggles to connect with her son.



Jerry Jubilee

Played By:
Christopher Lucas

Reporter providing information about the Golden Ticket winners.



Cherry Sundae

Played By:
Amanda Lundgren

Reporter providing information about the Golden Ticket winners. Amanda has a very bright sounding voice.



Photo by: Dahlia Katz

Image Description: The actors, in costume, are in a line on the stage with one arm raised. From left to right is: Mrs. TeaVee, Veruca, Mr. Beauregarde, Augustus, Grandpa Joe, Charlie, Willy Wonka, Mrs. Bucket, Mrs. Gloop, Violet, Mr. Salt, and Mike TeaVee. There are Oompa Loompas standing in the background.

Other Characters you will see in this musical are: **Oompa Loompas and Giant Squirrels.**

Oompa Loompas



Photo by: Dahlia Katz

Image Description: There are three actors dressed as Oompa Loompas on stage. Their costumes make it look like there are 6 Oompa Loompas, with one sitting on each of their shoulders. They have purple overalls, masks and wigs on. Their skin is slightly orange in colour.

Giant Squirrels



Photo by: Dahlia Katz

Image Description: There are three actors playing human-sized squirrels to the right of the image. They are looking to the left of the stage at Veruca, who is holding a nut.

What We Know

The Buckets:

Charlie's father has unfortunately passed away. Mrs. Bucket works long hours at a laundry business to support her family (four grandparents and Charlie). Although the Buckets do not have much money, they make the best of their situation.

Willy Wonka:

Willy Wonka's chocolate factory has been closed for many years. No one goes in the factory, and no one comes out, yet chocolate is still being created! How is this possible? Wonka has Oompa Loompas and Giant Squirrels who help him run his factory.

Why was Wonka's factory closed to the public? A long time ago, some of Wonka's workers had turned out to be spies and were stealing his recipes. Wonka was so upset that he fired all of his employees at the factory, including Grandpa Joe who was one of the security guards.

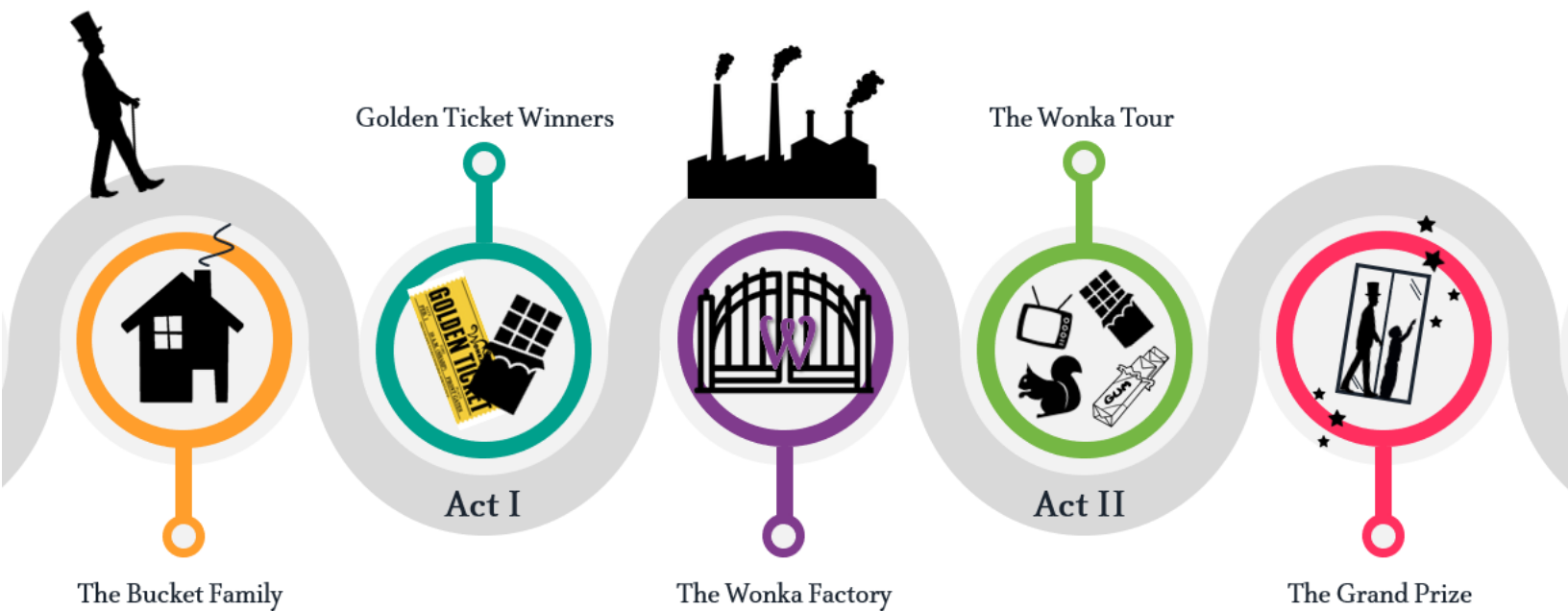
Wonka is trying to find someone who will take over his chocolate factory, which is why he creates the Golden Ticket contest.

Wonka can be quite sarcastic. This means that not everything he says is what he really means.

Everyone, including Charlie Bucket, is unaware that the candy man who runs the local candy store at the beginning of Act I, is Willy Wonka.

Golden Ticket Winners:

Each golden ticket winner (Augustus, Violet, Veruca, and Mike), behaves in a way that is considered naughty. When Wonka warns them they shouldn't do something, they do it anyway. This means they get into some trouble at the factory. The characters are naughty, but the actors are pretending.



Full Story Summary

(There will be spoilers ahead!)

Act I:

The show begins with Willy Wonka, dressed as a Candy Man, explaining his love for chocolate. Wonka disguises himself as the storeowner of a local candy shop that is selling Wonka candy and chocolate for the first time in years. This attracts the attention of the town's residents and Charlie Bucket. Despite having no money to spend on any sweets, Charlie continues to visit the shop, and befriends the store owner. Charlie is unaware that the store owner is Willy Wonka. Charlie explains the story of Willy Wonka to the store owner [**"Willy Wonka! Willy Wonka!"**], and remarks that they would do anything to just see inside the Wonka factory. This gives Willy Wonka an idea for a contest where people will win a tour to see his factory.

Leaving the candy shop, Charlie comes home to their four bed-ridden grandparents: Grandpa George, Grandma Georgina, Grandma Josephine, and Grandpa Joe. Charlie wakes up Grandpa Joe to play the pretend game 'Willy Wonka' [**"Charlie, You and I"**]. When Mrs. Bucket comes home, she gives Charlie an old notebook to complete homework in. Pretending to do schoolwork, Charlie writes a letter to Willy Wonka suggesting new candy ideas [**"A Letter From Charlie Bucket"**] (***ADVISORY*** At the end of this song a paper airplane will be placed on a wire, and will "fly" above the audience to balcony right. This airplane will be high above

your head and will not touch you.) The next day, Charlie finds out that Willy Wonka has hidden five Golden Tickets inside five Wonka Bars. The people who find the tickets will win a tour of the factory and a lifetime supply of candy! Because money is tighter than usual, Mrs. Bucket is unable to afford buying Charlie an annual birthday candy bar. This means Charlie has no chance of winning Willy Wonka's contest, until they can find money to afford a chocolate bar.

Charlie loses hope of ever winning when they discover four Golden Tickets have already been found by Augustus Gloop [**"More of Him to Love"**], Veruca Salt [**"When Veruca Says"**], Violet Beauregarde [**"Queen of Pop"**], and Mike TeaVee [**"That Little Man of Mine"**] (***ADVISORY*** **Mrs. TeaVee references using alcohol and various types of drugs to self-medicate during this song. If these actions are a potential trigger to you, feel free to step into our lobby spaces during this moment).** As a surprise, Charlie's family gathers their money together to buy Charlie an early birthday chocolate bar, but unfortunately it has no Golden Ticket inside [**"If Your Father Were Here"**]. The next day, Charlie finds a dollar left in the candy shop, and uses it to buy a chocolate bar from Mrs. Green. To Charlie's surprise, the chocolate bar has the final Golden Ticket inside! The family celebrates as they hear the news, and Grandpa Joe volunteers to come along [**"I've Got a Golden Ticket!"**] (***ADVISORY*** **Grandpa Joe and Charlie leave the stage and walk down the left orchestra (main floor) aisle, and come back down the right orchestra (main floor) aisle).** When the big day arrives, Willy Wonka ushers the five winners and their companions inside his factory [**"It Must Be Believed to be Seen"**].

----- Intermission (20 Minutes) -----

Act II:

As the five winners and their families check in with Wonka, he explains the rules and regulations of the factory and has the parents sign a long and complicated contract [**"Strike That, Reverse It!"**]. After everyone signs, the group enters the Chocolate Room where the children explore the edible candy utopia [**"Pure Imagination"**]. Despite Wonka's warnings, Augustus takes a drink from the molten chocolate lagoon and falls in. He is sucked up a chocolate pipe leading to the Fudge Room. After the Oompa

Loompa's attempt to rescue Augustus, they are sent away with Mrs. Gloop to find her son in the factory **["Auf Wiedersehen Augustus"]**

(*ADVISORY* The Oompa Loompas will be holding fake knives in their hands. They are not real knives, and are not used for any harm.)

The group continues on into the Mixing Room, where ingredients are mixed together to make new flavours and inventions **(*ADVISORY* When Wonka presents his "exploding" gobstopper, there will be a quick, safe flash of flame from his left hand).** At Violet's request, Wonka shows her a stick of gum that contains a three-course meal. Despite Wonka's warnings of there being a problem with the dessert course, Violet takes the gum and accidentally swallows it. She begins to swell up and turn into a human blueberry, eventually exploding into a shower of purple goo

(*ADVISORY* A beachball dressed as Violet is being used when the character swells up like a blueberry. The actor is offstage voicing the character and is unharmed.) Wonka instructs Mr. Beauregarde to follow after the Oompa Loompa's down to the juicing room to scoop her out of the pulping ponds.

Wonka decides the group should visit the special cupboards, where he keeps all his secret ingredients. To get there, they must pass through a maze of deadly traps. The whole group completes the maze, except for Grandpa Joe, who can't bend down low enough. Undeterred, Wonka suggests changing course to go and see the Nut Room instead. In this room, worker squirrels sort the good nuts from the bad ones. When Wonka refuses to sell Veruca a squirrel, she runs into the Sorting Room to retrieve one herself. Being deemed a "bad nut" by the squirrels, she is torn apart by the squirrels **["Veruca's Nutcracker Sweet!"]** **(*ADVISORY* At the very end of the song, Veruca is switched with a puppet dressed as her. This puppet has detachable limbs which are torn off, and thrown into the chute by the squirrels. The actor is unharmed.)** Wonka assures Veruca's father, Mr. Salt, that the Oompa Loompas will find a way to get Veruca back, and he leaves to rescue her.

Off to their next destination, Wonka and the TeaVees board the S.S. Wonka, while Charlie and Grandpa Joe swim behind them. They arrive at the TV Room, where Wonka demonstrates Chocolate Television which

uses a machine to send chocolate bars into televisions (***ADVISORY*** **There is static and images being displayed on the four TVs. If this is visually overwhelming, feel free to cover your eyes, or to step into our lobby spaces for this moment**). Despite Wonka's protests, Mike uses the machine to teleport himself into the television. Mrs. TeaVee pulls Mike out of the television, and is surprised to see he is now a doll-sized boy [**"Vidiots"**]. (***ADVISORY*** **The small version of Mike is a toy dressed to look like him. The actor voices Mike from offstage and is unharmed.**) Relieved that her son won't cause any more trouble, Mrs. TeaVee leaves the factory with small-sized Mike in her purse.

Now the only ones left, Wonka leads Charlie and Grandpa Joe to the Imagining Room, where he writes his ideas down in a notebook. Charlie is instructed to not touch anything while Grandpa Joe and Wonka negotiate legal paperwork in his office. As they leave, Charlie opens the notebook and begins adding new ideas to the blank pages, but is caught by Wonka. Although he seems angry at first, Wonka finds it incredible that Charlie is unable to stop inventing. He ushers Charlie into his Great Glass Elevator [**"The View From Here"**], and reveals that the grand prize is Wonka's Chocolate Factory (***ADVISORY*** **There will be moving projections of stars cast onto the stage. If this might be overwhelming, feel free to cover your eyes, or to step into our lobby spaces for this moment**). Charlie accepts the grand prize, and becomes the owner of the Wonka's Chocolate Factory.

Contact Us



If you have any questions about this Relaxed Performance, please reach out to...

Breanne Ritchie
Education Manager



519-672-9030 ext. 224



britchie@grandtheatre.com

Visit our website for future events and information!



We look forward to seeing you!

