

Nottingham Playhouse Theatre Company presents
Michael Morpurgo's

Private Peaceful



Visual Story

NOTTINGHAM
PLAYHOUSE



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Welcome to Private Peaceful at Nottingham Playhouse



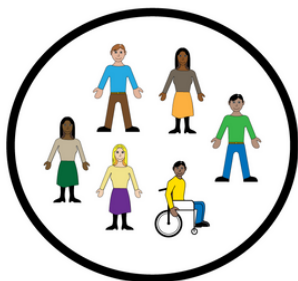
You are visiting a theatre called Nottingham Playhouse.



In the entrance you will see Box Office.



This is where people buy or collect tickets.



Sometimes there are lots of people here.

The Foyer and chill-out space



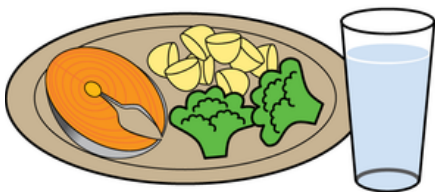
People wait to see the show in the foyers.

This is what the foyer looks like.



If you want to sit somewhere quiet before, during or after the show then you can use the chill-out space.

Refreshments



There are bars on the upper and lower foyer. You can buy food and drinks here.



This is what the bars look like.

The Main Stage



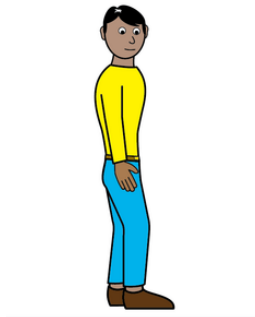
The auditorium is where you will sit to watch Beauty and the Beast. The Welcome Team will help you find your seat.



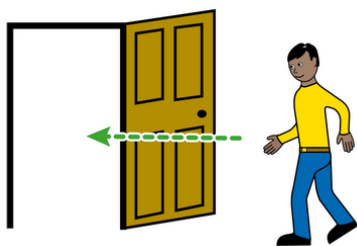
This is what the stage will look like



When the show starts, the curtain will go up and you will see the characters performing on the stage.



It is okay to get up out of your seat if you need to move around. You can leave the room at any time and come back in when you are ready.



After the show has finished you can leave the auditorium when you are ready.

The Actors

Here are the actors in Private Peaceful.
Here they are dressed in their costumes:



Daniel

Daniel plays
Charlie
Peaceful



John

John plays
James Peaceful,
Mr Munnings,
Grandma Wolf,
Sergeant Major,
Sergeant Hanley,
Captain Wilkes, and
Estaminet Owner



Robert

Robert plays
Big Joe,
Soldier, and
Orderly



Tom

Tom plays
The Colonel,
Jimmy Parsons,
Pilot, Lieutenant
Buckland and
Pete



Emma

Emma plays
Hazel Peaceful,
Army Chaplain,
and Soldier



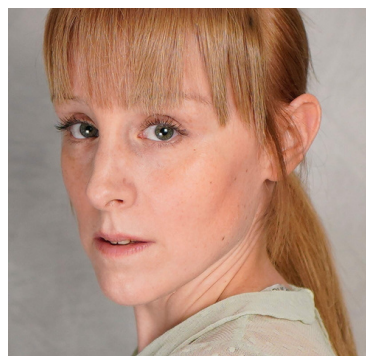
Daniel

Daniel plays
Tommo Peaceful



Liyah

Liyah plays
Molly, Anna
and Soldier



Abigail

Abigail is the
understudy. This
means she plays
other actors'
roles in their
absence

The Story

During the play, the main character, Tommo, looks back over his life from his bed in Flanders. This means there are lots of switches between memory and present day. In the description of the story below, each section highlights what is a 'Memory' and what is 'Present Day'. All of the memories are in order of when they happened. In the present day, Tommo often is speaking to the audience, holding a lamp and wrapped in a blanket. There is also a very quiet ticking noise and the stage is slightly darker.



Present Day: Tommo Peaceful is asleep and seeing flashes of his life in his dreams. He awakes in bed in Flanders during World War 1 and decides that he wants to spend the night remembering his life.



Memory: In Devon, Tommo is with his brother Charlie on the way to school for Tommo's first day. At school Tommo meets Molly, the eldest girl in his class. As she helps him with his laces, Tommo remembers being in the forest with his father, when his father was killed by a falling tree. Tommo remembers the funeral with his mother and two brothers.



Present Day: Back in Flanders, Tommo sits on his bed and plays with his food. The food reminds him of his eldest brother, Big Joe, who caught meningitis as a baby that left him with brain damage.



Memory: Tommo gets into fights at school trying to defend Big Joe from bullies, but ends up having to be defended by Charlie.



Memory: The Peaceful brothers are eating dinner with their mother when the Colonel arrives to speak to Mrs. Peaceful. The boys listen in to the conversation and hear that the Colonel is forcing their mother to work for his wife in the promise that they can keep the family house. Mrs. Peaceful decides that the boys' great aunt (nicknamed Grandma Wolf) will come to look after them while she is working.



Memory: Grandma Wolf is at the Peaceful family home to look after the three brothers, but is being cruel to them instead. She tells them off constantly and even hits Big Joe. When they go to bed, Charlie and Tommo joke about how to get rid of Grandma Wolf. The next day, the Colonel's Wife dies, meaning Mrs. Peaceful can come home. The family can keep their house on the condition that Mrs. Peaceful does the Colonel's sewing, and Charlie goes to work at the Colonel's kennels.



Memory: Charlie, Molly and Tommo are playing in the fields. Molly and Charlie jump into the river and convince Tommo to join them. They all get dressed and start to head home, when they hear an engine. They look up and see an aeroplane, which lands in a field nearby. The pilot calls them over to ask for directions and, to thank them for their help, he gives them a bag of sweets.



Present Day: By his bed in Flanders, Tommo speaks with an army Chaplain. He tells him that he wants to see his brother.



Memory: Charlie comes home from work and Tommo tells him that he got into trouble at school. Charlie starts to tell Tommo that he's also in trouble, when they are interrupted by the Colonel knocking on the door. He accuses Charlie of stealing a fox hound, but Charlie argues that he was saving it from the Colonel who was planning to shoot it. Mrs Peaceful pays the Colonel for the hound, but he still fires Charlie.



Memory: Tommo reads a love letter that Charlie has written. He then tries to deliver the letter to Molly, but her mother sends him away. Instead Tommo meets Molly by the river, who says that her parents won't let her see Charlie. Tommo gives her Charlie's letter and she asks if he can keep delivering letters between the two of them.



Present Day: Sitting on his bed, Tommo checks the time again. He thinks about growing up and about his friendship with Molly and Charlie.



Memory: In a farmer's field, Tommo and Charlie are working together. They return home to see their mother and Big Joe sitting with Molly who has a suitcase. Mrs Peaceful tells Charlie that Molly's parents are kicking her out because she is having his baby, so Charlie and Molly get married.



Memory: A military band is playing in a busy market and a soldier encourages young men to sign up to join the army. An old lady calls Tommo a coward for not signing up. At home, Charlie announces that he has decided to join the army and Tommo says that he'll join him.



Present Day: Tommo is asleep in Flanders again and seeing flashes of memories in his dreams. He wakes up and hopes that he won't sleep for the rest of the night.



Memory: Charlie and Tommo go to an army recruiting office and claim that they're twins so that they can both volunteer. They get sent to a training camp, where Sergeant Hanley orders them around. Charlie fights the sergeant, to stand up for Tommo, and gets punished.



Present Day: Tommo checks his watch again and wishes it could stop time.



Memory: The two Peaceful brothers arrive in France and begin marching to the front lines. At the rest camp they receive a letter from Molly, before leaving with the other soldiers to go to a pub. Here, the soldiers tease Tommo about liking the owner's daughter.



Memory: At the camp the next day, Tommo and Charlie have to set out into No-Man's-Land. They climb into German trenches and capture a German soldier. In the fighting, their Captain gets injured and Charlie carries him all the way back to safety.



Memory: The Captain is taken away to recover and the soldiers meet their new commanding officer. They arrive in their new trenches and are bombarded with bomb shells. Charlie and Tommo go over the top to fight in No-Man's-Land and they lose each other. When Charlie returns, he has been shot in the foot, so the Lieutenant sends him back to England.



Memory: At the pub, Tommo meets Anna, the owner's daughter. They get along and she kisses him goodbye. Inside the pub, Tommo finds out from a fellow soldier that their new commanding officer is Sergeant Hanley.



Present Day: It is early morning and Tommo is still awake. He thinks about his childhood and his time as a soldier.



Memory: Tommo's trench is gassed and he has to pull on his gas mask. He goes to the field hospital to be examined by a doctor. When Tommo is released, there are three letters waiting for him from his mother, Charlie and Molly. Tommo visits the pub, but Anna isn't there. Her father tells him that she was killed by a bomb.



Present Day: Tommo sits on his bed, still checking his watch.



Memory: Sergeant Hanley is training the soldiers. Charlie returns to the group and the sergeant warns him not to step out of line. A bomb drops and the soldiers have to go into No-Man's-Land.



Present Day: In Flanders, Private Peaceful is sentenced to be killed by a firing squad.



Memory: German soldiers have cornered Tommo's squadron but Sergeant Hanley orders them to leave their shelter and keep attacking. The soldiers know that they would be immediately killed and Charlie argues this to the sergeant, but he insists that anyone who disobeys his orders will be court martialled and killed. All the soldiers, except Tommo and Charlie, leave and are killed. Sergeant Hanley returns for the Peaceful brothers and Charlie is taken away.

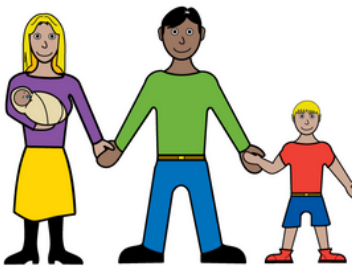


Memory: Tommo visits Charlie, who tells him about the trial. He wasn't allowed witnesses and the court all believed Sergeant Hanley's word over Charlie's. At the trial, Charlie is found guilty and sentenced to death. Back at the camp, Tommo promises to look after the Peaceful family.

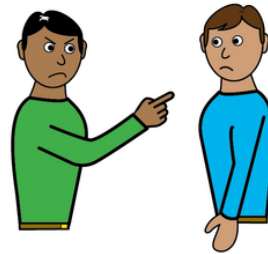


Present Day: Tommo watches as his brother is shot dead by a firing squad. He vows to survive the war and keep his promise to Charlie.

Key Words and Symbols



Family



Bullying



Letters



Growing up

A Video Visual Story for Your Visit



A video visual story is available on our website.

Here you can see the auditorium, foyer spaces and Box Office area. Visit the Relaxed Performances webpage to see it.

<https://nottinghamplayhouse.co.uk/your-visit/access/relaxed-performances/>

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