

**Black Beauty**  
**Relaxed Performance**  
**Visual Story**

Southbank Centre's Purcell Room  
Sunday 22 December at 11am

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This visual story is designed for visitors attending the performance of Black Beauty on Sunday 22 December at 11am. Relaxed performances (RP) are for people who benefit from a more relaxed performance environment, including people with an Autistic Spectrum Condition, sensory or communication disorders, or a learning disability.

This document contains information about the performance and lots of images to help prepare you for your visit.

The performance is around 90 minutes long with a 20 minute interval approximately 42 minutes in. You can leave the auditorium at any time and come back in whenever you like. If you need a chill out place you can go to the Foyle Pavilion, Level 3, Blue Side, Royal Festival Hall.

**Please do not use or share this preparation story for any other purposes.**

## What happens in the performance?

The performance takes place in the Purcell Room auditorium, this is where you sit and watch the performance. When you arrive at the door, a host looks at your ticket and tells you where your seat is.



When you go into the auditorium to find your seat there is a soundtrack of birds singing with smokey mist circulating around the stage.

There are two bright lights either side of the stage and on the stage there is a yellow telephone box with a black phone attached. In the centre of the stage a light blue horse carriage is positioned with a satellite aerial attached to the top of the carriage.



When it is time for the show to start the auditorium will get a little darker and people will be quiet.



Black Beauty is performed by two actors, who play characters called The McCuddy Brothers

This is Big Andy



and this is Wee Andy.



When the show starts, you hear voices from the side of the stage.

You then see Big Andy and Wee Andy appear on stage on a tandem bike for two people.

One of the actors pretends to be scared, but don't worry – he's okay really.



The McCuddy Brothers live in a horsebox, which is parked at the side of a road.

Their job is to be a pantomime horse.

The pantomime horse lives with them in the trailer and is called Hamish.



Sometimes the characters express their emotions and can seem sad, annoyed or excited, but it is nothing to worry about – it's just part of the story.

In this scene, Big Andy is upset as the brothers haven't had work for a long time. He decides to sell their things to make money by having a car boot sale.

When he clears things out from their house they find their mum's favourite book, *Black Beauty*, and the brothers decide to tell each other the story to cheer themselves up.

*Black Beauty* is a famous story about a horse.



The characters tell the story of Black Beauty through talking, singing and dancing, and use lots of objects and props as puppets.



The horse in the story of Black Beauty is shown in lots of different ways.

You see Wee Andy act as Black Beauty.



You see Black Beauty as a black welly boot.



You see Black Beauty as a black handbag.

And you hear horse noises like neighing and clopping.



During the show, the actors sometimes talk to the audience, but you don't have to talk back to them if you don't want to.



Sometimes sound effects are used to tell us that something is happening. In this scene, there is a storm and you hear the sounds of thunder, rain and lightning. It doesn't last long and there is nothing to worry about.



In this scene, the actors tell a story about a fire in a horses' stable.

The lights get darker, red lights come on in the horsebox to indicate a fire and the music is faster than it has been.



In the middle of the show, there is a break. This break is called an interval. The interval will last 20 minutes.

During the interval you can use the toilet and have a drink or a snack.

If you need any help finding the toilets, getting food or drink, or anything else, our Front of House staff are happy to help. They are in the foyer and auditorium.



After the interval, everyone comes back and sits down in their seats again. It gets darker and quieter, just like at the beginning of the show.

The characters come back on stage dressed up as Hamish the pantomime horse and do a dance routine as Hamish.



The McCuddy Brothers have an argument and fall out about how to tell the story of Black Beauty. They seem angry and upset, but they are just acting and it's nothing to worry about.



Big Andy decides to take over telling the story and plays the character called Alfred Smirk, who is a baddy.

This is Big Andy as Alfred Smirk.

Wee Andy is afraid of Alfred and puts a rug on his head, so he can't hear what happens in this part of the story.



The brothers get ready for bed and try to go to sleep. The stage lights turn blue to show that it is night-time. They make up after their argument.



The next day, the brothers receive a very exciting phone call offering them a job.

They are very happy and start packing up their belongings to leave.





The job is to be in a film in Hollywood. The brothers get on their tandem bike and leave to go to Hollywood.

You then see the film they go to Hollywood to make, projected onto a screen on the horsebox.



At the end, the actors come out and take a bow and you can clap if you like.

## Characters you will meet and hear about in Black Beauty

The McCuddy Brothers – Wee Andy and Big Andy

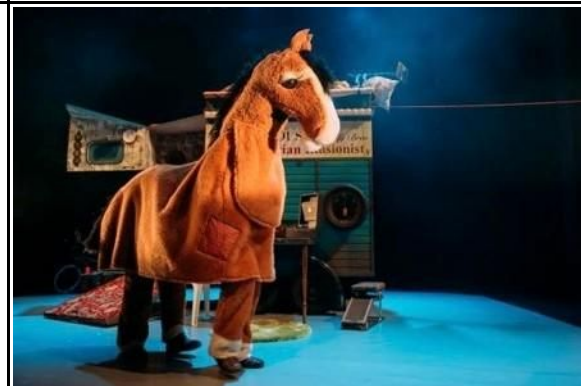
Big Andy:



Wee Andy:



Hamish the pantomime horse



Black Beauty – we don't ever see Black Beauty as an actual horse. Instead he is shown as a welly boot, a bag, a book and played by Wee Andy.

Black Beauty as a black welly boot:



Black Beauty as a black handbag:



Wee Andy playing Black Beauty:



Joe Green the stable boy (played by Big Andy).



The Lady of the House,  
(played by Wee Andy)



Alfred Smirk-a baddy  
who is cruel to Black  
Beauty (played by Big  
Andy)



Jerry the Cabby- a taxi  
driver who is kind to  
Beauty (played by Big  
Andy)



Taxi Customers:  
Doctor Bridget  
Mrs MacDonald and her daughter Emily  
Roger  
Christmas party-goer  
(all played by Wee Andy).



The old ladies who run the retirement home for horses where Beauty goes to retire.



**Characters that we hear about but don't see**

- Mum
- Daisy the cow
- Towler – horse minder who starts a fire in the horse stable