

THE TEMPEST – SHAKESPEARE UNDER THE STARS

THE EVENT

Will there be Grandstand seating this year?

No. Due to the overwhelming popularity of the picnic style auditorium, we will be continuing to develop the event in that format, much like Melbourne's Botanical Gardens.

So where will the audience be seated?

The performers will be on a raised stage with the audience seated, picnic-style, on the Performance Lawn – as they do at other outdoor Shakespeare events around the country. There will be two designated areas for the audience to watch the show, delineated by a rope border. Your choice of area is entirely up to you, on the night. **NO SPACE CAN BE RESERVED** and it will be a case of "first in – best dressed" for position on the Performance Lawn.

1. **Front Picnic Area** – pack your picnic & your picnic blanket and grab a space down the front, closest to the stage in the roped off Picnic Area. (*Low to the Ground chairs are also permissible, provided they do not block the view from patrons seated on the grass behind you.*)
2. **Seated Area** – enjoy the show from the comfort of your very own camping chairs or outdoor chairs. If you don't have one of your own, we will have a limited amount of chairs that you can hire from Front of House for only \$2. There is no advance booking for chairs and is first in best dressed.



Can we still buy seats at Dining Tables in the front row?

We will no longer be providing table service dining as we have done in past years. However, you are invited to bring your own picnic and set it up in the Seated Area if you wish. **NO SPACE CAN BE RESERVED** and it will be a case of "first in – best dressed" for position on the Performance Lawn.

Can I still buy a Picnic Package?

Yes – although we are not providing table service, you are still able to pre-order a fantastic picnic hamper meal through our friends at Cuisine-to-Go. There will be a selection of options to choose from and these can be ordered directly through the Cuisine-to-Go Website. The menu from Cuisine-to-Go is still being sorted and will be placed up on the website as soon as possible. Your hamper will be in the Gardens for pick up as soon as you arrive so you don't have to wait until interval– you can enjoy your picnic throughout the show! NO SPACE CAN BE RESERVED and it will be a case of “first in – best dressed” for position on the Performance Lawn.

Can I still bring my own picnic?

Of course! We encourage you to bring along the picnic of your dreams to enjoy during the show. If you and your group would prefer to wait until interval to eat your picnic, that is entirely up to you! Please note that there is no BYO alcohol within the Gardens.

What if I haven't ordered a picnic hamper?

There will also be a limited number of gourmet pies on sale at the bar as well as chips, lollies, chocolates etc.

Should we bring pillows or blankets?

Depending on the weather and your comfort, you may wish to bring cushions or blankets. Get comfortable and enjoy the show!

What else should I bring?

Being an outdoor event we recommend bringing mosquito repellent. While it is hard to predict the weather, it can become quite cool in the evening outdoors in September, so perhaps bring a coat.

Can I film or photograph the event?

No. The use of all recording equipment (visual and audio) is strictly forbidden as is taking any photo's during the show - with or without a flash.

Are there toilets on-site?

Yes, portable toilets will be provided including one disabled. These toilets are unisex.

What about the wildlife?

We are often visited by a variety of wildlife that call Queens Gardens home. We do not take responsibility for any damage caused by wildlife. Nor do we charge extra LOL!

TIMES

What time does the performance start?

The event begins at 6:30pm but we encourage audience to arrive a bit earlier so that everyone can be seated in time for an 'on time' start. Remember, its first-in / best dressed. Our Front of House staff will be on site from 6pm. The Bar will also open from this time.

How long does the performance go for?

The show will finish at approximately 9.45pm

Will there still be an interval?

Yes. Interval will begin at approximately 8pm and runs for 20min. A chance to run to the toilet and mingle with your friends.

PARKING/PERFORMANCE ENTRANCE

Where do I park?

There is on street parking along Gregory Street and Paxton Street. Please note: TheatreINQ takes no responsibility for the security of your vehicle.

Which gate at Queens Gardens do I enter for the performance?

Patrons are invited to use either the Upper Gregory Street entrance or the Paxton Street Entrance. There will be signs to help you with this. All other gates will be locked so these will also be the only exits at the conclusion of the performance, so make sure you park nearest those gates.

WHAT CAN I BRING AND WHAT IS FOR SALE?

Is there food and drink for sale?

Yes. This year, there will be a fully licensed bar on site (*including EFTPOS facilities*) offering beer, wine, soft drink, water, lollies, packets of chips and chocolates. A limited number of hot pies are also available at interval. BYO alcohol is NOT allowed in the Gardens.

Can I bring my own food and drinks?

Yes. Patrons can bring their own food and drinks (**excluding alcohol**).

Can I bring my own alcohol?

No. Local Laws state that no alcohol is to be brought into public parks for consumption there. As an approved event in the park after hours, we are licensed to sell alcohol in the location for consumption at the event, and sold by trained staff. This must be strictly adhered to. Any alcohol brought in will be confiscated until you leave the Gardens.

Can I buy a programme?

Yes. Programmes will be able to be purchased on site for \$5 – including a synopsis.

TICKETS / EXCHANGES / RAIN POLICY

Can I exchange my tickets for another performance during the season?

Yes. However, you must arrange for the exchange prior to the scheduled performance date purchased and this will be subject to availability. If you fail to attend the performance as booked we cannot reimburse or reissue your ticket for an alternative date.

What happens if it rains?

If a performance is cancelled in advance due to rain, we will attempt to notify and reissue all tickets for another performance during the season subject to availability. If this is not possible we will arrange a full refund or credit.

If the show is interrupted and officially cancelled due to weather or circumstances beyond our control, we will attempt to reissue tickets for another performance during the season. If this is not possible due to availability, we will arrange a credit note with TheatreINQ valid for 12 months.

What if I am feeling unwell – should I still come to the performance?

If you need to cancel your attendance due to illness, and you can't think of anyone to gift your ticket to, please let us know by midday of the day of the scheduled performance. We will be keeping a waiting list and we will attempt to on-sell your ticket for you.

If you have further inquiries or concerns, please feel free to email us at theatreinq@gmail.com.

We hope you have a magical evening at Shakespeare Under the Stars.