

A VISUAL GUIDE IS AVAILABLE FOR THIS PERFORMANCE.

It is available on the National Theatre of Scotland website and also from Box Office.

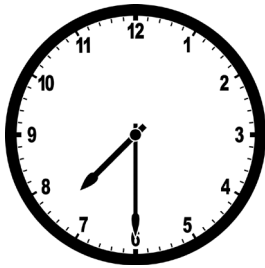
Please ask a member of staff for more information.

If you have any feedback, please contact us at [**access@nationaltheatrescotland.com**](mailto:access@nationaltheatrescotland.com)

VISUAL GUIDE FOR BURN AT HIS MAJESTY'S THEATRE



I am going to see Burn at His Majesty's Theatre, Rosemount Viaduct, Aberdeen, AB25 1GL



The evening shows will start at 7.30pm.
The afternoon show will start at 2.30pm
I should arrive a little earlier than this.

The show will last around 1 hour and will not include an interval break.



This is the outside of His Majesty's Theatre, where the performance will be taking place.



This is the entrance to the box office. If I have been before, this might be different from the usual box office entrance.

I should enter here.



This is the Box Office. This is where I can buy tickets or collect prepaid tickets for the show.

If I have an e-ticket on my phone, or already have my tickets, I do not need to go to the box office.

When I have my tickets, I can go into the theatre.



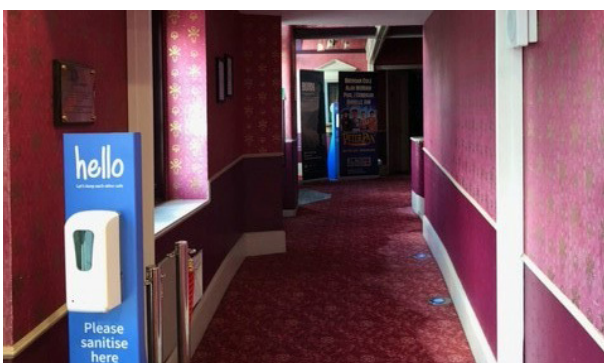
Near the box office there are signs with arrows to point me where I need to go.

There will also be red stands with arrows around the theatre.

My ticket will say which area i'm sitting in. A member of staff can help me if I'm are not sure.



There are toilets on all levels of the theatre. If I need to go, I should look for the toilet signs or ask a member of staff for directions.



There is a long corridor to go down that leads to the old foyer of the theatre.



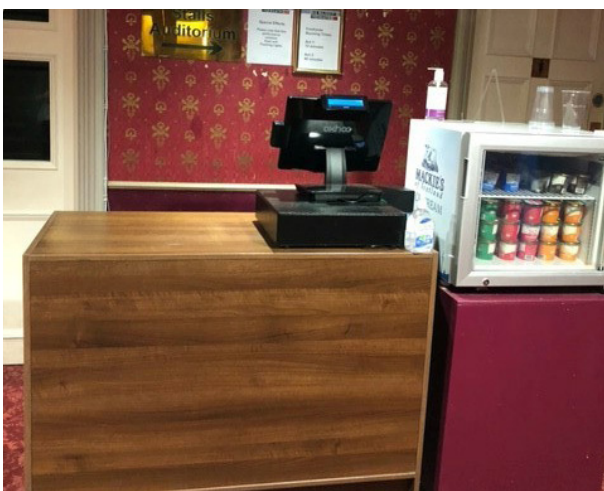
There is a lift that goes between different levels and can be accessed on the box office level.



This is the old foyer. There is a refreshments kiosk here where I can buy drinks and snack before the show begins.



There will be signs next to the box office and in the stairwell to the auditorium that will say the running time of the show and any other information that would be useful to know.



There is another refreshments kiosk on the stalls level where I can buy drinks or snacks before the show.

If the other one is busy then I should go here.



Auditorium/ Performance space: Burn takes place in a traditional theatre.

I will watch the performance in this large room. My seat number is on my ticket. It will have a letter for the seating row and a seat number. A member of staff can help me find it.



The lights will dim when the show is ready to start and the actor will come on to the stage.

The actor won't be able to talk directly to me during the play. He will be in character.



If I would like to take some time out during the show, I may leave at any time and find a seat in the Dress Circle bar until I am ready to go back in.

This room is next to the box office on the level where you entered the theatre.



At the end of the show the audience will clap to show the actor that they enjoyed the performance.

When the clapping has ended, the lights will get brighter. This means the show is over.

I can now leave the theatre. The front of house staff will show me which way I can exit.

VISUAL STORY SYNOPSIS

BURN

The piece follows the poet Robert Burns from his birth to his death, representing key events and themes in his life. This includes his life as a farmer, his relationships with women, the publication of his poems, his time spent in Edinburgh, his work as an Excise Officer (overseeing the payment of taxes on goods like alcohol) and his struggles with physical and mental health.

Sometimes you will see dates projected which correspond to the years that events in his life happened. Other times there are no dates because we're exploring themes that happened throughout his life. It is not important to pay close attention to the dates.

In 'Burn' there is lots of dance, music, and images on a screen. There is some text on screen, and some text spoken by the actor mostly live and some pre-recorded. All the text spoken by the actor is taken from real letters and poems that Robert Burns wrote.

Things to know about the show:

- There is loud music, bright, sometimes flashing lights, strobe lights and moving video design. Sometimes all these elements happen at once.
- The lighting on stage and in the auditorium tends to be quite dark.
- There are a few special effects in the show including one fire effect.
- The text includes sexist language, swear words and moments of mental distress.

ACTOR AND CHARACTER

There is only one performer and main character in this show.



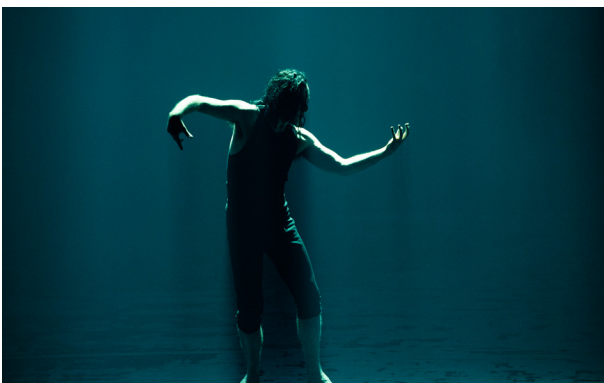
ALAN CUMMING

Robert Burns

BURN - SHOW BREAKDOWN



Before the show begins the auditorium and stage will be quite dark and there will be the sound of a storm. On stage there is a desk and a pile of papers and books. On the back wall of the stage is a large screen where images and text will appear. As you take your seat you will see heavy rain on this screen.



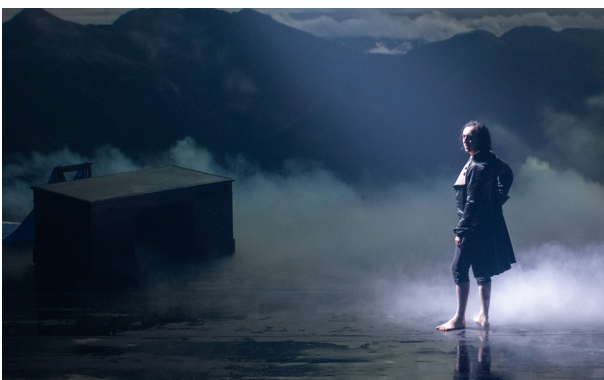
The show will begin when the music starts and the word "BURN" appears on the screen and the actor playing Robert Burns appearing on stage. He will perform a dance in a pool of light in the middle of the stage. Text on the screen tells us Robert Burns's birth date in 1759.



Throughout the show Burns will perform many dances. Some will be in one spot, others will take up lots of space. Sometimes he will use his whole body and sometimes just bits of it. He will also talk to the audience and sometimes to objects on stage. Sometimes he will dance and talk at the same time.

Robert Burns talks directly to the audience telling us about his life up to the age of 16, as the dates flash forward to 1775. We see the name of his father's farm.

Burns tells us about his farming work. Two more farms where he lived appear on the screen. A projection of a horse passes by.



He tells us about his process for writing poetry. He moves outside looking for inspiration. He throws a light into the sky which explodes into stars. He dances a big joyful dance. There are bright moving lights, swirling images on the back wall and swelling music.

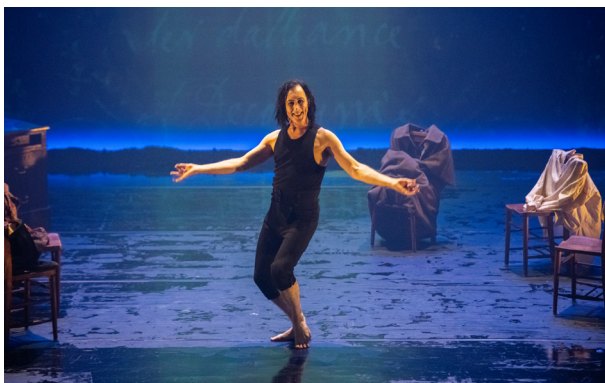
Burns retires to his study and balances, swinging on his chair.



Four shoes come into view hanging in the air. Burns begins to tell us about his relationship to women. A slowly blooming flower appears on the back wall and red and blue light fills the stage. Burns addresses us then the shoes themselves. Some of the things he says are romantic, some of them are sexist and unkind.



A loud painful noise is heard. Suddenly Burns falls to the ground. He lies very still then pulls himself towards the desk. He tells us about his anxious state. There is loud noise and flashing lights and imagery.



It is 1786. Burns gets a job offer on a plantation in Jamaica. We see an image of the sea. Burns is torn between two women Jean and Mary, and whether to leave for Jamaica or not. At one point a marriage certificate he is holding bursts into flame.

Chairs slide into view with items of clothing on them. Burns greets them. This is Edinburgh 1786. Burns performs for the crowd but things begin to go wrong.

There is a nasty loud sound and Burns falls into a deep depression. There are flashing lights and flickering images, it is dark and loud. Smoke comes from Burns's head.

There is gentle music and the pile of papers transforms into a woman, Mrs Frances Anne Dunlop. We hear a selection of the letters Burns wrote to her throughout their friendship.



Burns dances, showing us his many children. We see their names on the screen.

Back at his desk Burns tells us about the need throughout his life to ask others for help and money. He expertly writes his letters.



We see Burns in a mountainous landscape. He puts a large saltire flag around his shoulders. Rousing music plays and we hear about his pride for Scotland.

The shoes appear again and Burns talks about married life, and his continuing relationships with women. He is frustrated and some of his words reflect the more problematic side of his relationships with women.



Burns puts on a coat and he tells us about his job in the Excise.

Burns is tired, his health is getting worse. We see him becoming frail as he nears death.

Burns's whole life flashes before his eyes. There is loud music, lots of movement, and flashing lights. Burns falls to the ground and the stage goes dark, we see the date of his death. The audience will applaud, and the actor will take a bow. The red curtain at the front of the stage will go down.



We see Burns one last time as he recites a little bit of his poetry. The red curtain will go up. The actor playing Burns will take a bow with the stage managers who will come onto stage dressed in black.

END OF SHOW

