

BlueShore Financial  
**CENTRE FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS**



# **CAPILANO UNIVERSITY**

**Visual Story for the Relaxed Performance**  
**Saturday February 17<sup>th</sup> at 2pm**



This visual story is designed for visitors to the Relaxed Performance of *The Cherry Orchard*. It contains information and images to help prepare you for your visit.

***The BlueShore Financial Centre for the Performing Arts at Capilano University. Also known as BlueShore at CapU***

- The play is being performed at the BlueShore at CapU. Here are two photos of the outside of the theatreso you know what it looks like:



- When you come into the building there is a café with several tables, a concession and a box office (where you can pick up your tickets). It may be busy as there will be a lot of other people coming to see the play.

It will look like this picture



- This is the auditorium where the play is performed. The audience (that's you) sit down to watch the play. It could be full of people and quite noisy.

This is a picture of the auditorium.



- The stage is where the actors perform the play.

Here is a picture of the stage.



## **How long is the play?**

The play is 2 hours and 30 minutes long including intermission. You will still be able to leave the theatre if you need.

## **Chill-Out Areas**

If you want to have a break during the play you can go to a chill-out area. You can ask an usher to show you where they are.

Here is a picture of a chill out area.



This is usually a board room and will look a little different on performance day.

Feel free to bring a sensory kit for use in the theatre and/or the chill-out area.

### **Ushers and Front of House Staff**

Ushers are people who check your tickets for the theatre. If you need help or have a question you can ask them. Here is a picture of a Front of House Manager.



### **Pre Show Session**

At the start of the show the actors will come on stage for 5 minutes to talk about what will happen in the show. They will be wearing their costumes.

**To be confirmed**



## What is the play about?

Set in Russia, in the very start of the 20th century, around 40 years after serfdom was abolished and about 17 years before the start of Russian Revolution, *The Cherry Orchard* revolves around Lyubov Ranevskaya's family. Lyubov, an aristocratic matriarch and landowner, returns to her ancestral estate after spending time abroad. The estate includes a beautiful cherry orchard, which holds significant emotional value for the family. Upon returning, the family discovers that the estate is on the verge of being auctioned off to settle the family's debts. Despite the imminent loss of the cherished orchard, the characters in the play struggle to adapt to the changing social and economic landscape in Russia. Lyubov, in particular, is unable to face the harsh reality of losing her estate and clings to the past.

*The Cherry Orchard* is a play about the clash between tradition and progress, about social change and generational conflict.

Here are some sketches of what the costumes might look like



## **The characters in the play**

Below are the names of the characters in the play. Some actors play more than one character and, so that they look different, they change the way they move and talk and they change their costume (a costume is the name for the clothes actors wear onstage).

Lyubov Ranevskaya, *a landowner*

Anya, *her daughter*

Varya, *her adopted daughter*

Leonid Gaev, *her brother*

Yermolay Lopakhin, *a merchant*

Petya Trofimov, *a student*

Semyonov-Pishchik, *a landowner*

Charlotta, *a governess*

Yepikhodov, *a clerk*

Dunyasha, *a maid*

Firs, *a valet*

Yasha, *a young valet*

A Stranger

## Station Master

**Spoiler Alert!** The notes below are provided for those who would benefit from being prepared for some of the more dramatic or scary elements of the performance.

- The play touches on subjects that the audience may find upsetting, including talk of a child's death by drowning, grief, a mention of suicide, and a threat of violence.
- Two guns are seen during the show although no guns are fired.
- A character gets hit on the head with a cane offstage and enters rubbing his head.
- A cup is dropped and broken on stage.
- An umbrella is swung as if to hit a character on the head but does not make contact.
- A character falls down the stairs offstage.
- There is loud singing and dancing in Old Russian styles.
- A character that looks like the Grim Reaper appears and scares some characters.
- There are screams and loud voices throughout.
- A bum is grabbed onstage without consent.
- A character bumps into furniture and steps on a hatbox destroying it.
- There is a lot of alcohol drinking.
- A fake cigar is smoked.
- There are card tricks and ventriloquism with a Dummy.
- A character is left behind at the end of the play to die.
- Characters weep with tears

**A message from us**