

A View On Access – The Audio Described Performance of Girls and Boys at The Royal Court Theatre, Sloane Square London on Saturday 10th March 2018.

Touch tour 1pm – Play 2.30pm

Click [here](#) for Audio.

Girls and Boys – A one woman play by Dennis Kelly performed without an interval by actress – Carey Mulligan.

This experimental new play from the Royal Court is one that screams out more for a touch tour and introduction than for an audio description throughout even though it has both. This is due to the innovative stage design that is used during certain scenes and without exploring or the ability to ask questions would be extremely confusing for anyone blind and visually impaired.

The detailed set which includes a lounge and kitchen is purposely built and painted entirely a light blue with a few splashes of colour sprinkled throughout this becomes significant after the conclusion to the story has played out on stage. The performance is split between scenes in this environment and monologues delivered from a blue passed cube like space. When the action switches to the fore mentioned set for a brief moment the light blue set becomes multi-coloured and natural with the use of hi tech projection then it reverts back again.

The complexity of the drama that unfolds on stage is not only compelling but engaging and is from the point of view of an unnamed woman in her 30's who takes the audience on a journey through specific experiences of meeting her husband and having children. It's a totally unpredictable experience that tricks the audience into believing its one thing then in the last 15 minutes it becomes something different entirely and proves very moving, reflective and shocking in the process.

Due to it being an unconventional text and format a touch tour, introduction and description were invaluable tools to help form a greater understanding of everything unravelling on the stage. The audio description and touch tour lead by Kerry Elkins and Ronnie Evans of VocalEyes was at the top of its game, clear confident and informative and couldn't have been better.

The touch tour really was the standout here as both Kerry and Ronnie along with a whole team of staff from the Royal court guided a group of about 8 to 10 patrons around the stage detailing every important aspect answering questions along the way. We were all able to touch and feel every physical element in front of us and a real cherry on the top of the cake was that actress Carey Mulligan came by for 15 minutes to talk to us and also answer any questions we had. She was so warm and welcoming and gave invaluable insights into her character and the play. This addition helped to make the touch tour very memorable.

The actual description was minimalist but delivered expertly as the touch tour and introduction gave most of the detail needed to apprehend what was about to happen but helped to give a sense of direction and changes from the scenes in the main set and the switch to the monologues.

The customer care team at the Royal Court were so attentive, thoughtful and supportive and they allowed all those using the audio description into the auditorium before everyone else.

The overall experience was excellent and I look forward to visiting the venue again very soon.

The next audio described performance at the Royal Court is

Instructions for Correct Assembly by Thomas Eccleshare, Sat 28 Apr 2.30pm.

To find out more about access at the Royal court or what's coming in the future visit.

[The Royal Court](#)

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