

A View on Access – The audio described performance of **The Meeting** that took place at the Chichester Festival Theatre on Saturday the 11th of August at 2.45pm with a touch tour at 1.15pm.

For the Audio of this track click [here](#).

For some time now it has been my desire to visit the Chichester Festival theatre after hearing about the great work they achieve there in relation to access and the diverse array of productions on offer and it's safe to say I wasn't disappointed.

If you don't know already there are two theatres adjacent to each other – The main theatre and then next door the Minerva which presented the new play I was there to experience- The meeting by Charlotte Jones.

I arrived around 1pm for a touch tour at 1.15pm and was warmly greeted by the audio description team who are all professionally trained volunteers. - Sue, David and Suzanne.

The small group of 6 for the tour were led into the auditorium and around the stage area – As soon as I entered the images before me were striking as there were an array of wooden chairs hanging above the stage on a circular carousel that during the performance would be lowered down and the company would lift off when needed and return when not.

The stage was impressive – with a round stone floor and 3 tons of stones piled up at the back of it, and grave stones at the side. There was a detailed overview of the sets and costumes given by the describers and Naomi the assistant stage manager. Some of the props and costumes we got to touch were – a realistic 3 month baby prop, an antique wooden sewing box, hammer and chisel, a straw bonnet and a floppy coat.

The touch tour was an invaluable insight into all the physical and visual aspects of the production offering so much needed information and was enjoyed by all and is highly recommended for anyone with a visual impairment to help to enhance their experience of the play.

This ended around 1.45 pm where we were all issued with headset's, we then had an hour to enjoy some refreshment in one of the bars or restaurants in complex and took our seats for an introduction to the play at 2.30pm.

This and part 1 was delivered by describer David who gave a well scripted account of every visual aspect that unfolded on stage. His introduction crammed so much in – including information on the set, props, costumes, character and the actors playing them. David has a warm assuring style and became like a friend in your ear guiding you where you needed to go.

The second half was described by Suzanne who added a refreshing contrast to David complimenting all that had come before and came in at all the right moments illustrating all the action coming to life before us in a very informative and engaging manner.

They were both incredibly helpful and supportive always checking that we were ok and that there were no issues with the headsets or the technology.

The theatre staff also deserve special mention who were friendly and courteous and went out of their way to make the experience first rate and extra special for all and comes highly recommended.

The next audio described performances at the Chichester festival Theatre will be:

Flowers for Mrs Harris on Friday the 28th of September with a touch tour at 6pm and the audio described performance at 7.30 pm with an audio introduction before at 7.15pm

Flowers for Mrs Harris on Saturday the 29th of September with a touch tour at 1pm and the audio described performance at 2.30 pm with an audio introduction before at 2.15pm

Cock on Friday the 26th of October, with a touch tour at 6pm and an audio described performance starting at 7.30pm with an introduction beforehand at 7.15pm

Cock on Saturday the 27th of October, with a touch tour at 1pm and an audio described performance starting at 2.30pm with an introduction beforehand at 7.15pm

The Midnight Gang on Friday the 2nd of November with a touch tour at 5.30pm and an audio described performance at 7pm with an audio introduction at 6.45pm

The Midnight Gang on Saturday the 3rd of November with a touch tour at 12pm and an audio described performance at 2pm with an audio introduction at 1.45pm

or more access information, call 01243 781312 or visit <https://www.cft.org.uk/your-visit/access>