

A Review of Cyrano – Audio described performance and Touch Tour at the New Vic Theatre Basford – Newcastle Under Lyme on February 25th 2017.

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The New Vic Theatre in Basford in the heart of Newcastle Under Lyme is a quirky theatre in the round that offers a unique experience.

They produce a lot of plays and productions in house and in collaboration with other theatres.

On the afternoon of Saturday the 25th of February I attended the touch tour and audio described performance of Cyrano an adaptation by Deborah McAndrew in conjunction with the Northern Broadsides theatre company.

On Arrival I was warmly met by Audio describers Tracey and Beverly who are part of a team of volunteers who provide the description and about a hour before the play we were led around the stage for the touch tour where the sets, props and costumes were explained and together with two patrons who were blind were allowed to walk around and touch and feel all the elements that make up the show. This is invaluable for anyone Blind or Partially sighted as it provides an important insight into what to expect.

We were given a head set and went for a tea and a biscuit before Cyrano began at 2.15PM

Cyrano is a complex story of unrequited love and mistaken identity with lashes of emotional drama, action, musical entertainment and farcical comedy that featured a large cast with many different combinations of characters with many doubling up and playing different roles so for anyone blind or partially sighted audio description is needed to not only understand what's going on but to enjoy it.

Beverly audio described the first part with Tracey covering after the interval. The audio description was clear and expertly prepared detailing all actions and movements, physical elements and nonverbal communications with confidence and precision.

The New Vic is a great theatre to visit and experience as plays in the round are more creative and innovative due the challenging use of the space, It's also very accessible, has a bar, cafe and restaurant and is always welcoming choosing a diverse array of plays to suit all tastes to showcase throughout the year.

The Next audio described performance at the new Vic will be Beryl on Saturday the 18th of March at 2.15 pm to find out more or to book tickets call 01782 717 962