

BOX OFFICE BRIEFING NOTES

ABOUT REASONS TO BE CHEERFUL

Celebrating the infectious music of Ian Dury and the Blockheads, REASONS TO BE CHEERFUL is a punk rock musical and gritty coming of age tale, which always leaves audiences shouting for more. Featuring Ian Dury and the Blockheads' greatest hits including *Sex and Drugs and Rock and Roll*, *Sweet Gene Vincent*, *Spasticus Autisticus* and *Hit Me with your Rhythm Stick* this acclaimed show will fill the theatre with raucous glee!

The show is also full of protest and placards, highlighting the fact that the welfare cuts that D/deaf and disabled people faced in the 1970s are the same cuts that they are facing now, almost 40 years later.

Audiences don't need to be existing fans of Ian Dury and the Blockheads music – the show ignites passion, and audiences will come out feeling energised, uplifted and loving the music if they didn't already!

'It's energising, it's moving, it's enormous fun. It comes as close as you can get to a 1979 Ian Dury and the Blockheads gig. This is how theatre should be!'

Jemima Dury, daughter of Ian Dury

'Rough, ready and bldy brilliant'** Time Out

ACCESSIBILITY

As with all Graeae shows, all performances of Reasons to be Cheerful will include creative audio description, British Sign Language and captioning, meaning it is fully accessible to a D/deaf and disabled audience.

All of the accessibility services will be woven creatively into the show, meaning they add to the aesthetic as well as ensure the show is fully accessible.

Audio and BSL versions of the flyer are also available, on the Graeae website (www.graeae.org) and your theatre's website as well.

AUDIO DESCRIPTION – IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Anyone using the audio description (which takes place live on stage at every performance) will need to collect head-sets before they watch the show. These will be provided by Graeae and will tour with the show.

People using this service should also be encouraged to be in the auditorium 15 minutes before the start time, as they will get a pre-amble about the characters and the layout of the stage.

The show is performed by an inclusive cast of D/deaf and disabled artists, as well as non-disabled artists.

TACTILE MATERIALS

Tactile materials will be available for blind and visually impaired audience members front of house, so that they can get a feel for some of the costumes, props and stage layout of the show.

RUNNING TIME

50 mins either side of an interval

AGE GUIDANCE

14+. Strong language and some sexual references

SPECIAL EFFECTS/GUN-SHOTS

None

NUDITY

None

WELCOMING DISABLED AUDIENCE MEMBERS

Graeae are a disabled-led theatre company, and as all performances of Reasons to be Cheerful are fully accessible, many D/deaf and disabled people are likely to come and see this show.

Under the **social model of disability**, people are disabled by barriers within society, rather than being 'victims' of their impairments or conditions.

You can help welcome D/deaf and disabled people to your theatre by using the correct language, and keeping the social model of disability in mind.

This media language guide can also be downloaded at <http://graeae.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/10/Graeae-Media-Language-Guide.pdf>

A good video to help explain the social model of disability is also available at <https://youtu.be/0e24rfTZ2CQ>

BASIC LANGUAGE GUIDE	
Yes	No
disabled	handicapped, cripple, invalid
disabled people	the disabled...people with disabilities
has... (an impairment)	suffers from... victim of....
non-disabled	able bodied, normal, healthy
learning disabled	mentally disabled, retarded, backward
wheelchair user	wheelchair bound, confined to a wheelchair, in a wheelchair
Deaf	the deaf
Deaf sign language user, BSL user	deaf and dumb, deaf mute
blind or partially sighted people, visually impaired people (VIP)	the blind
mental health service user / survivor	mentally ill. Insane, mad, crazy
has cerebral palsy	spastic
person of short stature	dwarf, midget

SEATING DEAF AND DISABLED AUDIENCE MEMBERS

When receiving bookings, it is important to ensure audience members are in the best position to access the accessibility features of the show. Audience members may miss this information when looking at marketing materials or online, so you can help by asking in if bookers have any access requirements and directing them accordingly.

Audience members using the captions should be advised to sit centrally. Visually impaired audience members may wish to sit towards the front of the stalls in order to be close to the action on stage. The BSL interpretation occurs all over the stage rather than to one side (as it is fully integrated into the action) but BSL users may also wish to sit closer to the stage to be able to observe facial expressions.

We would strongly advise including this information on the booking page of your website so that audience members can book the best seats for their needs.

If you have any questions about the access elements of the show and how this impacts on seating audience members, please contact helen@graeae.org

ACCESS ESSENTIALS GUIDE

The below guide is a short and useful A5 handbook with lots of advice and helpful guidance on welcoming D/deaf and disabled audience members.

<http://graeae.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/05/Graeae-access-essentials-A5-highres-with-hole-guides.pdf>

We can also provide hard copies free of charge to be distributed to your box office staff. If you'd like any copies, please email charlotte@graeae.org with the amount you require and the address.

PROTEST SONG CAMPAIGN

As the Ian Dury and the Blockheads songs in the show such as Spasticus Autisticus are protest songs, we are also running an engagement programme asking members of the public to write and record their own protest songs. All of these will go onto Graeae's website (www.graeae.org) and we'll also be taking the best ones on tour up and down the country. Further information on this programme can be found at

www.graeae.org/protest-song

TOUR DATES

Friday 8 & Saturday 9 September
Belgrade Theatre, Coventry
www.belgrade.co.uk
Box office: 024 7655 3055

Tuesday 12 – Saturday 16 September
Derby Theatre
www.derbytheatre.co.uk
Box office: 01332 59 39 39

Tuesday 26 – Saturday 30 September
Nuffield Theatre, Southampton
www.nstheatres.co.uk
Box office: 023 8067 1771

Tuesday 3 – Saturday 7 October
New Wolsey Theatre, Ipswich
www.wolseytheatre.co.uk
Box office: 01473 295 900

Tuesday 10 – Saturday 14 October
West Yorkshire Playhouse
www.wyp.org.uk
Box office: 0113 213 7700

Tuesday 17 – Saturday 21 October
Liverpool Everyman
www.everymanplayhouse.com
Box office: 0151 709 4776

Tuesday 24 October – Saturday 4 November
Theatre Royal Stratford East
www.stratfordeast.com
Box office: 020 8534 0310