



Relaxed Performance Guide

Miss Bennet: Christmas at Pemberley

by Lauren Gunderson and Margot Melcon



December 16, 2023 at 2:00 pm

100 Spadina Crescent East

Persphone Theatre, Rawlco Radio Hall



This is Persephone Theatre.

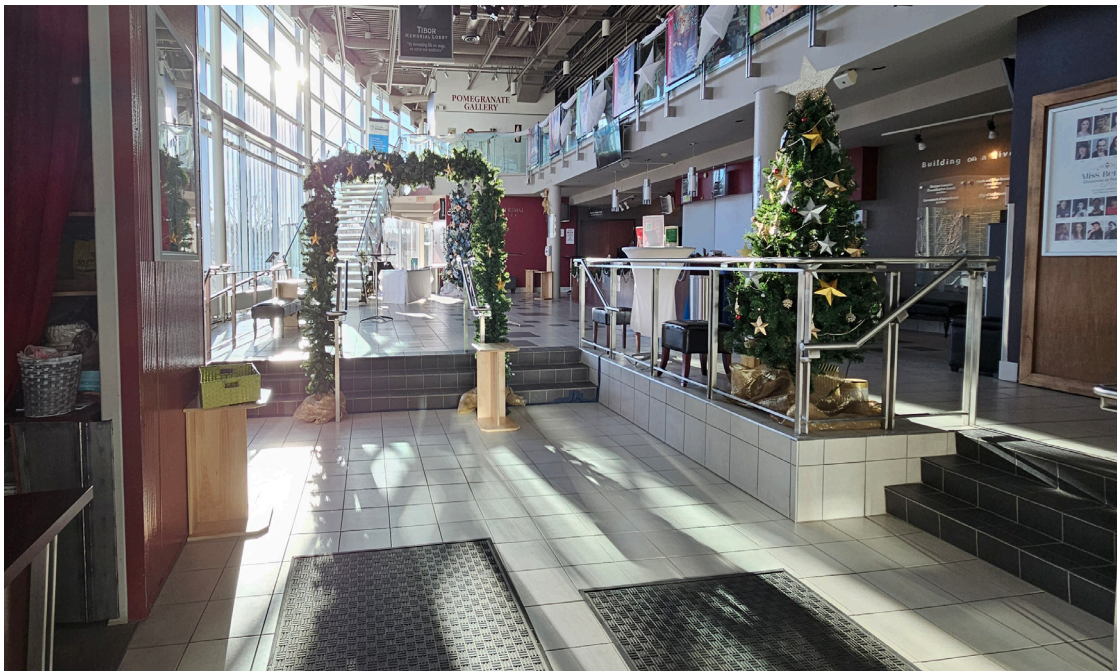
These doors are the entrance.

Enter these doors and you will be in the box office.



You can buy your tickets from the box office.

Don't forget to bring a mask with you if you need one. Audience members can wear masks if they want to. Wearing a mask is encouraged.



Once you have your ticket, you can enter the lobby.

There will be people handing out programme booklets with information about the show.

There is a QR code to scan with your phone to read a digital version of the programme.

You can go up the stairs or the ramp.



You can buy snacks and drinks from the concession stand.



If you want to go to the second floor, use the stairs or the elevator. This is the way to the chill out zone.



This is the elevator.



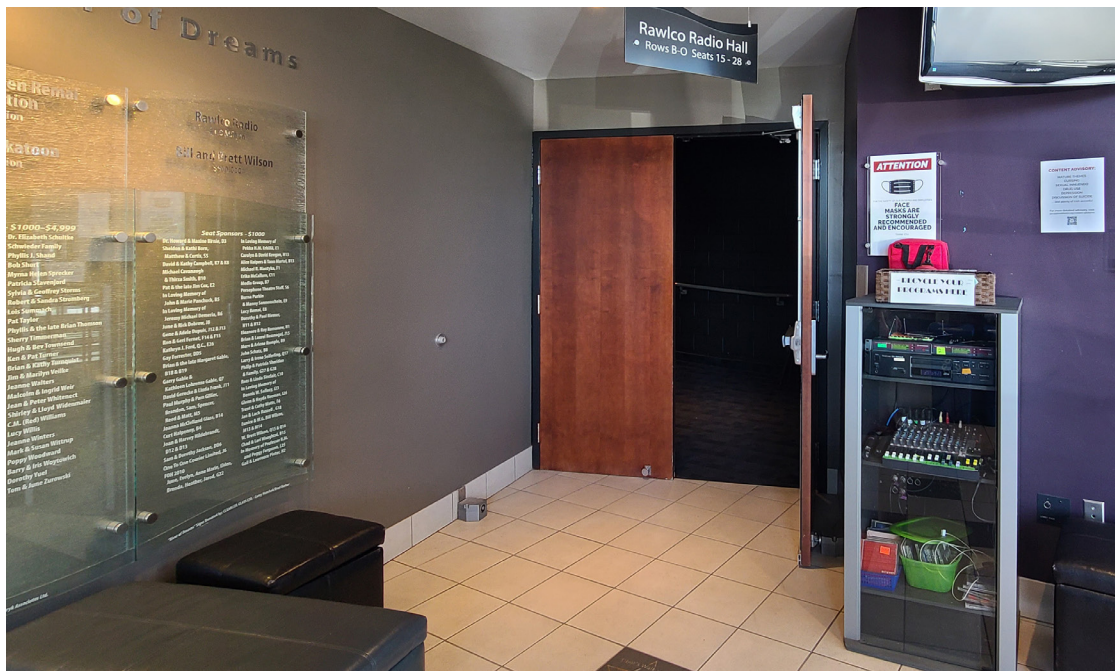
This is the way to the group washrooms.

There are two group washrooms near the back of the main floor available for you to use. One has urinals and the other does not. Signs will tell you with pictures which is which.

There are three single room washrooms you can use. There are two on the second floor and one on the main floor.

All bathrooms are marked with a blue circle.

Like this - 

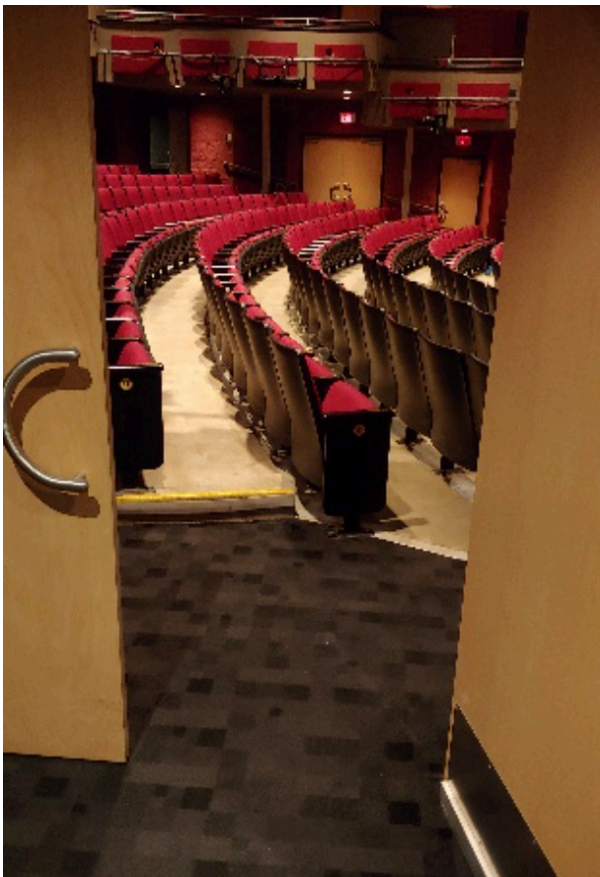


These are the doors to enter the theatre to watch the performance.

These doors will remain open during the performance and you are free to leave and come back any time.



This is the hallway to the theatre.



This is the door to the main floor of the theatre.



These are the rows of seats. Each row has a letter and each seat has a number.

If you need help finding your seat, please ask any of the volunteers wearing black and white clothes.

You can leave the theatre through the same door you entered.



This is Melanie.

She is the Front of House Manger.

Melanie, concession staff, or volunteers can help you find the chill out area or the washrooms.

About the Play

This play has moments when people raise their voices. The actors are pretending. No one is actually upset.

There are moments of miscommunication between characters.

This play is a sequel to the novel Pride and Prejudice by Jane Austen. It is not written by Jane Austen.

Synopsis:

The play is performed by eight actors.

The characters will often refer to each other by their last names, this is a sign of respect from this time period.

This play takes place over the Christmas holidays at the house of Elizabeth and Fitzwilliam Darcy.

The play opens with Mary Bennet, the middle sister of the Bennet sisters, writing a letter to her sister Elizabeth (who is sometimes called Lizzy by her sisters). This letter sets up what each character from *Pride and Prejudice* has been doing since the end of that story. The letter also explains that Mary, her sister Jane, and Jane's husband Charles Bingley, will be coming to visit the Mr. and Mrs. Darcy for the holidays. The last of the attending sisters, Lydia, will be arriving late.

The main curtain then raises and the audience gets to watch Elizabeth and one of the servants getting the house ready for their guests.

Elizabeth ends up climbing a ladder to decorate the Christmas tree, when Mr. Darcy enters and sees her. Mr. Darcy is very worried about her being on the ladder. Having a Christmas tree is a new tradition in this time period, and Mrs. Darcy explains the German tradition to Mr. Darcy.

Mr. Darcy tells Elizabeth that his aunt, Catherine de Bourgh, has died recently and left the estate to the oldest male heir, his cousin Arthur De Bourgh, who will be staying with them over the holidays.

Mary, Jane and Mr. Bingley arrive during this conversation. As they enter, we see that Jane is pregnant. Mr. Darcy and Mr. Bingley are old friends and are happy to see one another. Jane is welcomed by Elizabeth, and she gets her seated on the couch, they are also very happy to see one another.

Elizabeth notices Mary also entered the room and greets her. Mary says a short hello and then heads to the library in the room. Everyone remarks on how fast she found the books.

Mr. Darcy and Mr. Bingley go for a walk and leave the three sisters to talk.

Mary and her two sisters talk about what has been going on for the three of them since they last saw one another. We learn that Mary is a very blunt person who prefers facts over politeness. Mary also prefers her books and piano over the attention of men.

Mary is unhappy because she feels she will eventually not be able to live where she currently does and will end up in someone's attic as an unmarried woman.

Elizabeth and Jane leave to find a room for Jane to rest in. Mary plays a song on the piano about the Christmas tree in the room.

Next there is a transition scene set to music as every prepares for the holidays. As it ends we see Mary alone in the library at night time.

Mr. Darcy enters and comments on Mary being up so late. After a short discussion Mr. Darcy says that Mary is becoming a young lady of wit, and he is sad he did not notice it earlier. Mr. Darcy also notes that Mary reminds him of Elizabeth.

Mary talks about how being the middle sister makes her feel invisible, as she is so different than her sisters.

Mr. Darcy leaves Mary so she can get back to her studying.

The next scene opens with Mary reading by the Christmas tree as Arthur De Bourgh enters looking for Mr. Darcy.

Arthur and Mary introduce themselves to each other and begin talking about maps, books, philosophy and animals. They share a moment

of joy over a part of a book they are both reading about giraffes.

They then talk about how Mr. Bingley married Jane, and that Elizabeth is married to Mr. Darcy. As they discuss Lydia, she announces her arrival from the other room.

Lydia is the youngest sister, she is married to Mr. Wickham, who Mr. Darcy does not like.

Lydia enters telling Elizabeth and Jane that her husband is not coming to Pemberley for Christmas. Lydia comments on the tree in the room and then notices Arthur and Mary.

Arthur introduces himself to everyone who has arrived. As Mr. Darcy and Mr. Bingley arrive they also greet Arthur.

Mr. Darcy asks if Arthur let the people at Rosings, the estate Arthur just inherited, know he will not be there for Christmas. Arthur says he was not sure he was supposed to do that, and that he was distracted by an interesting lecture at Oxford.

Mr. Darcy, Mr. Bingley and Arthur all leave to go for a walk, while the four sisters discuss Arthur. Lydia says she is going to form a friendship with Arthur, and her sisters say she is incapable of doing that without flirting.

Mary and Lydia have a small argument that Elizabeth breaks up. Mary says she is no longer a child, and is not to be underestimated. Mary then plays a beautiful song on the piano to demonstrate her point. As she is playing, Mr. Darcy, Mr. Bingley and Arthur return. Everyone is very impressed with Mary's piano skills. Arthur is especially impressed.

Mary is left alone in the room as everyone else leaves to get refreshments.

In the transition scene, we see Lydia writing a letter to Arthur.

As the next scene begins, Mary is playing the piano as Arthur enters. Arthur and Mary have a discussion about the importance of books and how hard it is for the two of them to fit in regular society.

Arthur is sad that his life, now that he has inherited The Rosings estate, is now decided for him. Mary tells him that he has unlimited opportunities now and must not waste them.

Mary exits as she is frustrated with Arthur. Lydia enters shortly after. Lydia rushes Arthur out of the room. After Lydia does this, she plants a note in what she thinks is Arthur's book declaring her affections for Arthur.

Mary re-enters and finds the note accidentally placed in her book. Mary thinks Arthur left his note for her and reads it.

The next scene Elizabeth and Jane discuss while eating and decorating the Christmas tree. The two of them talk about how Mary has grown up and that Elizabeth empathizes with Mary's frustration of feeling stuck. Jane and Elizabeth also discuss Lydia's marriage to Mr. Wickham, and how it is not a good relationship for Lydia.

The next scene opens with Arthur and Mary is a deep discussion about science. They make jokes with each other and laugh. Arthur remarks about how beautiful Mary's smile is, and Mary says that no one has ever noticed it before.

Lydia makes an entrance looking for Arthur. Mary hides Arthur behind the piano and tells Lydia that he has gone to the stables. Lydia leaves.

The next scene we find Mr. Darcy and Mr. Bingley in the library. Arthur enters looking for help from the two of them. Arthur is confused by his feelings for Mary, Mr. Bingley and Mr. Darcy tell Arthur that he is in love with Mary. The three of them try to come up with a plan for how Arthur will tell Mary about his feelings. Darcy suggests talking to Mary directly, Bingley suggests talking to Mary's sisters, but Arthur decides to write her a letter. Arthur leaves as Darcy and Bingley discuss Bingley becoming a father.

The next scene we see Arthur and Mary simultaneously writing each other letters. They both struggle to find the right words to express their feelings for each other.

The next scene we find Arthur in the library putting his finished letter to Mary inside his book, as Lydia enters trying to get his attention. Arthur is

oblivious to Lydia's flirtation. Arthur attempts to leave when Lydia asks to borrow the book Arthur has to see the letter he wrote. Arthur hands it over and leaves. Lydia opens the book and finds the letter Arthur wrote to Mary thinking this is a letter for her.

Arthur returns, now realizing he left the note in the book. Lydia immediately begins to express her affection for Arthur, as Arthur attempts to tell Lydia it was a mistake and the letter was not meant for her. Mary enters with her letter and is embarrassed that she thought Arthur wrote the letter to her. Arthur is able to untangle the miscommunication between the three of them and tells Lydia that he has affection for Mary and not Lydia.

Just as Arthur is starting to tell Mary how he feels, Anne de Bourgh arrives. Anne is the daughter of Catherine de Bourgh and Arthur's second cousin.

Anne enters with Mr. Darcy and Elizabeth. Anne announces that she and Arthur are to be married. Everyone is shocked as intermission begins.

Act two begins with Arthur trying to explain his situation to Mary. Mary is so angry to have been made a fool, not knowing Arthur was already engaged.

Mary leaves in anger as Anne enters from a different door. Anne tells Arthur that their engagement was her mother, Catherine's last wish before she died. Catherine wanted to keep the estate for Anne and the only way to do that is if Arthur and Anne are married. If the two of them do not marry, Anne will have nowhere to live. Anne tells Arthur that they love one another and that the matter is settled. Anne leaves, and Arthur sadly follows her out of the room.

Mr. Bingley is setting up a puppet theatre while Mr. Darcy watches as Arthur enters the room. Arthur laments that he has ruined everything, and will be leaving back to Rosings shortly with Anne. Mr. Darcy and Mr. Bingley tell Arthur that he does not need to marry Anne, and that the estate is his by law. Arthur is unconvinced as he feels he has ruined his chances with Mary. Arthur leaves to go talk to Anne as Mr. Darcy and Mr. Bingley decide to seek the help of Elizabeth, Lydia and Jane.

The next scene we see Mary angrily playing the piano while Elizabeth and Jane decorate the tree. While Mary is playing unjoyfully, Lydia enters and asks if Mary's mood is because of Arthur. Lydia and Mary argue about the letter Lydia wrote to Arthur, and how it ruined any chance Mary had at happiness. Mary runs out of the room upset as Mr. Darcy and Mr. Bingley enter.

The conversation between Mr. Darcy, Mr. Bingley, Elizabeth, Lydia and Jane reveals to all of them that Mary has feelings for Arthur, and that Arthur does not want to marry Anne, because he loves Mary. The five of them start planning on how to make the match happen.

Mr. Darcy and Mr. Bingley leave to find Mary as Arthur enters. Jane and Elizabeth speak with Arthur and try to convince him to pursue his heart. Arthur leaves the room.

Jane and Elizabeth see how sad Lydia is. Jane decides to invite Lydia to live with her and Mr. Bingley to help raise their soon to be born baby. Lydia happily accepts.

Anne enters looking for Arthur. There is an exchange of insults between Anne and Elizabeth that is covered by polite conversation. Elizabeth leaves as Mary enters. Shortly after Mr. Darcy enters. Mr. Darcy is intercepted by Anne, but he

says he has urgent business with Mary. Anne is insulted and leaves the room.

Mr. Darcy and Mary talk about Arthur. Mr. Darcy encourages Mary to hear Arthur out when he comes to talk to her. Mary is hesitant, but she is convinced by Mr. Bingley. Mr. Darcy and Mr. Bingley leave the room.

Lydia decides she needs to talk to Mary. Lydia apologizes to Mary for how she acted. Lydia confesses that she is very unhappy living with her husband and wanted some positive attention. Mary and Lydia make up. Elizabeth, Jane, Mary and Lydia all talk about how much they love one another and how sisters should be friends.

Elizabeth, Jane and Lydia begin trying to convince Mary to speak to Arthur. They say Arthur is a perfect match for Mary and she would regret letting him go.

Arthur enters the room and Jane, Elizabeth and Lydia leave Mary and Arthur to talk.

Mary and Arthur try to talk about their feelings but cannot communicate what they mean to say. Mary tries to convince Arthur that he does have a choice, but Arthur does not agree with Mary.

Anne enters the room as Mary goes to leave. Anne tells Arthur they need to leave Pemberley. Arthur says no. Arthur tells Anne that he does not want to marry her, and that their engagement is not out of love. Anne tells Arthur that she needs to marry him, or she loses everything. Arthur still refuses to marry Anne, but promises he will take care of her. Anne leaves the room upset.

Mary and Arthur are left to discuss more about their relationship. Mary has seen Arthur defend his love for her and offers Arthur the letter Mary wrote to him earlier. Mary explains that she is in love with

Arthur but it is hard to say that to another person. Arthur agrees. Arthur proposes to Mary and she says yes.

It is Christmas day.

Mr. Darcy, Mr. Bingley, Jane, Elizabeth, Lydia and Arthur are celebrating. Anne enters and tells everyone she is leaving immediately and without Arthur. Mr. Darcy invites Anne to stay for the holidays. Arthur asks Anne to stay as well, saying that he depends on Anne. Arthur asks Anne to stay at Rosings, his estate, and work to keep it in good condition. Anne agrees.

Mr. Darcy and Arthur discuss the night before when Arthur told Mary his feelings. Elizabeth and Jane overhear and are overjoyed to hear the news. Everyone is very excited about Mary's engagement to Arthur. Mary enters the room and her sisters run to congratulate her.

Everyone gathers around the piano and sings a Christmas carol. Lydia hears sleigh bells outside and says that Mr. and Mrs. Bennet have arrived with Kitty, the last of the sisters. Everyone except for Mary and Arthur leave to go greet them.

Mary and Arthur have a delightful happy moment together and then go to greet Mary's family. As they go to leave together, Mary stops and kisses Arthur. They both remark at how excited they are to start a life together. They kiss again and the play ends.



This is the stage at the beginning of the show.

This curtain will be down until after the first scene of the play. Then it will go up.



This is the stage during the show.

The set is the drawing room and library of Pemberley.

The lighting on the stage will change during the show.

Sometimes it will be dark. Sometimes it will be bright. Sometimes it will be colourful.



This is Emily.

**She plays the character,
Mary Bennet.**

**This is what Emily looks
like out of costume.**



**This is what Emily looks
like on stage during the
show.**

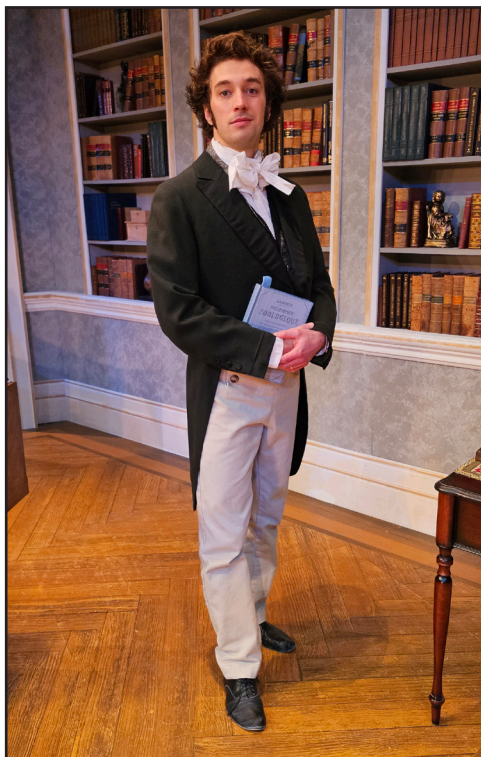
**She is dressed in clothing
or the period in history
that the play takes place.**



This is Mitchell.

**They plays the character
of Arthur de Bourgh.**

**This is what Mitchell looks
like out of costume.**



**This is what Mitchell looks
like on stage during the
show.**

**They are dressed in
clothing or the period in
history that the play takes
place.**



This is Amanda.

**She plays the character,
Elizabeth Darcy.**

**This is what Amanda looks
like out of costume.**



**This is what Amanda looks
like on stage during the
show.**

**She is dressed in clothing
or the period in history
that the play takes place.**



This is Kevin.

They plays the character of Fitzwilliam Darcy.

This is what Kevin looks like out of costume.



This is what Kevin looks like on stage during the show.

They are dressed in clothing or the period in history that the play takes place.



This is Ali.

**She plays the character,
Jane Bingley.**

**This is what Ali looks like
out of costume.**



**This is what Ali looks like
on stage during the show.**

**She is dressed in clothing
or the period in history
that the play takes place.**



This is Tim.

**They plays the character
of Charles Bingley.**

**This is what Tim looks like
out of costume.**



**This is what Tim looks like
on stage during the show.**

**They are dressed in
clothing or the period in
history that the play takes
place.**



This is Sam.

**She plays the character,
Lydia Wickham.**

**This is what Sam looks like
out of costume.**



**This is what Sam looks like
on stage during the show.**

**She is dressed in clothing
or the period in history
that the play takes place.**



This is Elizabeth.

**They plays the character
of Anne de Bourgh.**

**This is what Elizabeth
looks like out of costume.**



**This is what Elizabeth
looks like on stage during
the show.**


**They are dressed in
clothing or the period in
history that the play takes
place.**

During and After the Play

During the performance the house lights will be on and the doors will be open.

You are welcome to leave and come back to your seat whenever you like.

You can leave the theatre during the performance to go to the washroom or to the chill out zone.

The chill out zone will be downstairs. It will be marked by a yellow square. Like this - 

There will be soft furniture to sit on, books, and soft toys available.

The staff and volunteers will be happy to help you with directions to and from the chill out zone.

You will know the performance is over when the actors take a bow. After the performance you are free to go home.

**We would love to hear about your experience at
Persephone Theatre and what you thought of the
play.**

Email us at grahame.k@persephonetheatre.org.

Thank you for coming!