

“JACK AND THE BEANSTALK – STATE THEATRE SYDNEY

RELAXED PERFORMANCE - Wednesday 17th July 2019 at 11am

‘Relaxed Performances’ are specifically designed to welcome families with children or other family members with special needs including Autistic Spectrum Condition, learning disability or sensory and communication disorders into theatres to give those who otherwise might feel excluded the chance to experience live theatre. They have a less formal, more supportive atmosphere in order to reduce anxiety levels. It is a specialist provision created to provide an opportunity for people who would otherwise find it difficult to come to see a show –

A relaxed performance is designed to provide a more comfortable experience for adults or children who may find it difficult to sit still and stay quiet for the full duration of a show, or who may feel uncomfortable when a show has a lot of flashing lights and noisy special effects. For example, changes are made to sound and lighting to eliminate surprise and soften their impact. There is a relaxed attitude to noise and moving around the auditorium during the performance and a designated 'chill-out' area in the foyers for people to use if being in the auditorium becomes overwhelming.

The houselights will be left at a low level during the performance avoiding sudden blackouts and darkness that may cause anxiety or stress. Elements of the show will be adapted, dampening the sensory overload without compromising quality.

Christopher Wood, Executive Producer and writer of “Jack and the Beanstalk” *“We’re keen to make the panto as accessible as possible and the “relaxed” performance is an ideal way for people to experience the magic of a panto without feeling intimidated by the atmosphere within a normal performance.*

*I am absolutely delighted that **Bonnie Lythgoe Productions** are taking this step towards making the theatre an experience that can be enjoyed by more and more people including those on the autistic spectrum and those who have communication, learning or sensory needs. **Going to a panto is an experience that many children and adults look forward to and enjoy and this relaxed and supportive session should make it possible to ensure everyone can enjoy the magic of a live panto performance in Sydney this coming winter.**”*

All bookers can receive advance information to help familiarise themselves with the production as well as the venue and its facilities ahead of their visit to see the show.