



presents...



## **A visual story & performance guide**

Our visual story contains lots of information and pictures of the play to guide you through the show and your visit to the theatre!

If you require any further details about the performance, please give us call or email on:

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# Welcome to the theatre!

Theatr na nÓg welcomes you to The Dylan Thomas Theatre to enjoy our performance of  
The Butterfly Hunter.

In this guide, you will find...

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## **Theatre Foyer**

Welcome to the theatre! Your first stop in the theatre will be the theatre foyer. This is where all of the audience members enter the theatre so they can see the show. Because so many people want to come and see the show, theatre foyers can often be very busy and quite noisy.

In the foyer you might meet our ushers. Our ushers are helpful people who will be able to answer any questions you may have about your trip to theatre and direct you to all of the theatre facilities including toilets, café's and where to go to take your seats for the show.

## **Taking Your Seats**

Once the usher has showed you into the auditorium, you may notice that there are lots of chairs in rows facing the stage. The theatre ushers and your teachers will help you to find the seat you should sit in.

Before the show starts, the auditorium can get very busy and it may be quite loud as people get excited for the show to begin.

## **Running Times**

The Butterfly Hunter runs at approximately:

1 Hour.

There will be no interval.

After the performance, there will be a question and answer session with the actors, which will last approximately:

15 minutes.

After the question and answer session, there will be a nature expedition with the actors, which will last approximately:

15 minutes.

## On with the show...

When it is time for the show to start, you may see an usher politely asking everyone to turn off their mobile phones. You must make sure you to switch off all mobile phones and tablets, or set them to silent before the show begins.

Once everyone backstage is ready to go, the lights in the auditorium will dim, meaning that the theatre will get very dark!

You may find this a little bit scary, but there is no need to worry – If at any point you need to leave the theatre, there will always be enough light for you to see where you are going. An usher will always be around to help you find your way.

When the show begins, **sit nicely and quietly** in your seat.

It is important that you do this as it helps everyone else in the theatre enjoy the show too!

There will be lots of different songs throughout the show.

If the music or sound effects are too loud for you, it's ok to cover your ears or use ear defenders, if you've brought them with you.



At times, other people in the audience may show the actors on stage that they are enjoying the show by clapping their hands together.

This can be quite sudden and quite loud.

If you enjoyed something in the show, you can clap too, if you like!

If at any point you need to leave the auditorium, there are designated quiet spaces for you to go and sit. Just ask an usher for details and directions of where to go.

# The Story

*(Spoiler Alert!)*

The sounds of the rainforest are all around us and Alfred Russel Wallace is writing in his notebook, from within his tent. We can only see his silhouette (his shadow).

Alfred's dad, Thomas Wallace appears on stage and begins to tell the story. He explains how Alfred had always dreamed of travelling to far-away lands.



Suddenly, we're no longer in the jungle, but seeing Alfred and his brother John as children in Wales. They are playing in the river and catching fish. While they are talking, Alfred learns from his older brother John that they are a poor family.

When they get home their mother is shocked at how muddy they are! Alfred's dad arrives and tells the family that soon they will be rich because of his new newspaper business.



Time passes and we find out that the newspaper business fails, and the family leave their home in Wales and move to England. They go by boat, and we see the family as shadow puppets, crossing the water. The journey is stormy, so there are loud noises of thunder. It is a bit scary.



We see Alfred in school in England with his teacher. His teacher disapproves of his adventurous childhood in Wales.



Back at home, Alfred goes into his dad's library where they talk about a book of adventures written by famous explorer Alexander Von Humboldt. Alfred would love to go on his own adventure to the Amazon, the world's longest river.



Alfred meets a young boy, Henry Walter Bates. Henry is just as excited about adventures as he is! Henry shows Alfred his collections of bugs and butterflies and together they wonder why there are so many different types.

Shortly after talking to Henry, Alfred discovers that his father has died and he must go back to Wales to help his brother in his job surveying the land for new railways.



Alfred talks to the Ferryman and decides he would rather travel home by coach than by boat (he hates boats after his first trip to England!)

He gets on the coach to Neath, where he is joined by a lady and her 3 sons.  
The lady talks a lot!



We see Alfred in Neath, reading a letter to his mother. Then we see him working with his brother who is surveying the countryside. Alfred is worried that the railways will mean that the wildlife will lose their home.

His brother William explains to him that part of their job is to collect rent from the people who live on the land that the railway will run through.



While Alfred is walking through the valley to find the people living there and collect rent, he meets a young girl. The girl is speaking in Welsh. She explains that her name is Grug and that her mother is dead, just like Alfred's father.



Alfred goes to meet his boss, who wants the rent he has collected. His boss is not very sympathetic to the local people. His boss likes to play the violin. He begins to play for Alfred, but he is terrible at it! Alfred pretends that it was good so that he doesn't get upset!



Alfred goes back to the valley where he met Grug. He sees butterflies and catches one in a net. Grug sees him and asks him lots of questions about his butterflies, she thinks they are beautiful.



Back at home, Alfred tells his brother that he wants to go on an adventure, to collect lots of new species. He needs money for the trip, so he visits the Philosophical Society to see if they will let him borrow the money to go. Mr Dillwyn, who runs the society, says no.



Later on, Alfred finds out from his friend Henry Walter Bates that the British Museum have agreed to loan them the money for the trip. They're delighted! They are finally going on an adventure. They start to pack their bags and talk about their plans of sailing over to the Amazon.



Henry and Alfred set off for the Amazon on a big ship, and finally arrive in the rainforest. There are lots of loud rainforest noises and leaves everywhere.



They set up camp and are amazed by the beauty of everything around them. There are lots of animals there, and they even see a jaguar! It's quite scary but very beautiful. Eventually Henry and Alfred decide to go their separate ways, and explore different places.



Alfred prepares to go home. He has a big trunk full of all of the bugs and butterflies he has collected and he takes it onto the ship.



They are far out at sea and something terrible happens. The ship catches on fire, and everyone has to escape in lifeboats. Alfred's treasured collections are burned in the fire and he only just makes it to the safety of land after spending 10 days floating out at sea in a small boat.



Alfred decides to continue his adventures and goes to Malaysia next. He adopts a baby orangutan and makes friends with a man called Charles, who helps him to collect new species.

It is here in Malaysia that Alfred finally puts everything he has learned together in his head, and realises that animals adapt in order to survive. This is the theory of evolution – a major scientific discovery!



**THE END**

## **Feedback**

We hope you had a wonderful time at the theatre and enjoyed today's performance of The Butterfly Hunter!

### **Got something to share?**

We'd love to hear what you have to say about any of our shows and resources.

If you have anything you'd like to share with us about our Visual Story, your trip to the theatre today or just want to know more about us, please get in touch.

You'll find us on...

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Thank You!

We hope to see you again soon!

