

easy read



# Princess PICNIC PROMENADE Thursday 14 & Friday 15 July

Love Pikaniks  
Hate Empire

## An Easy Read Guide



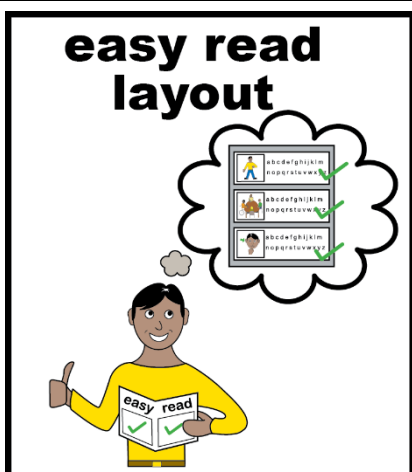
## 1. What's an Easy Read?

**easy read**



This is an easy read guide for **Princess Picnic Promenade**

**easy read layout**



An Easy Read uses words and pictures to help people understand written information.

Easy Read Information is helpful for some people who:

- have a learning disability
- have low literacy levels
- use English as a second language
- are elderly

- are Deaf.



There are lots of performances happening at Princess Picnic Promenade.

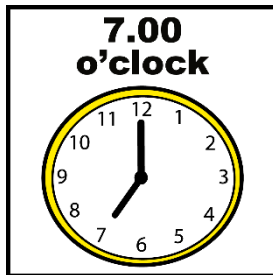
Some of these performances are completely new.

We have written this guide with the best information we have, but some things may be different at the event.

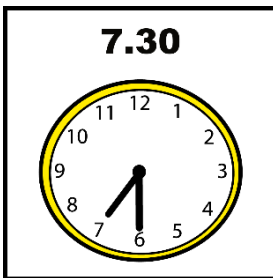
## 2. About the event



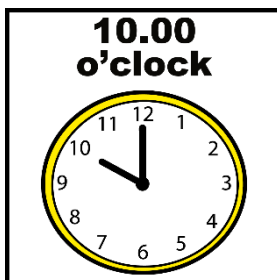
Princess Picnic Promenade is happening at Birmingham Botanical Gardens



You can arrive after 7pm



Performances will start at 7:30pm



The event will finish around 10:30pm.



You have to be over 18 to come to this event.



The event is about the British Empire, gender expression and sexuality



Before the British Empire, in a lot of countries it was normal or even celebrated to be LGBTQ+

**hijra  
muxa  
two-spirit  
bakla**

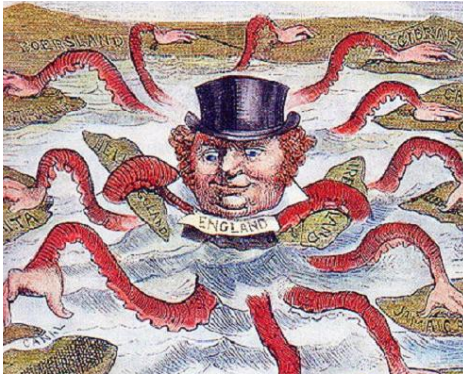
Lots of cultures had their own names for LGBTQ+ people, but many have been lost



They had their own music, dances and traditions. They were important parts of their communities



This event is about remembering what the British Empire did to LGBTQ+ people around the world.



It's about remembering the British Empire was not long ago.



It still affects what people are allowed to wear, do, say, or who we should love.



Some people will be wearing fancy clothes, costumes, and bringing picnics.

You can do this if you want to, but you don't have to.

### 3. Getting There



The number 23 and 24 buses stop just outside.



If travelling by car, there are parking spaces on site.

There is an overflow car park located at the school next door.



There are 5 Disabled Parking Bays.

## HOW TO FIND US



There is more advice about how to travel to Botanical Gardens here:

<https://www.birminghambotanicalgardens.org.uk/visitor-information/how-to-find-us/>



The event is happening outside



Which means we aren't using the main entrance.





The event entrance is the green gate at the back of the car park



It looks like this.

#### 4. Moving Around the Event



The Botanical Gardens have electric mobility scooters available for hire.



Ask one of the wardens or Access Hosts for help borrowing one (See the Here to Help Section)



All of the performances are happening in spaces with step-free access.



Some of the performances are only accessible via gravel or woodchip paths.



This may not be accessible for some wheelchairs.



Some slopes are too steep to safely use in a wheelchair.



These will be marked with a green sign with a crossed out wheelchair.



There will be a sign like this to show when a slope is safe to use in a wheelchair.



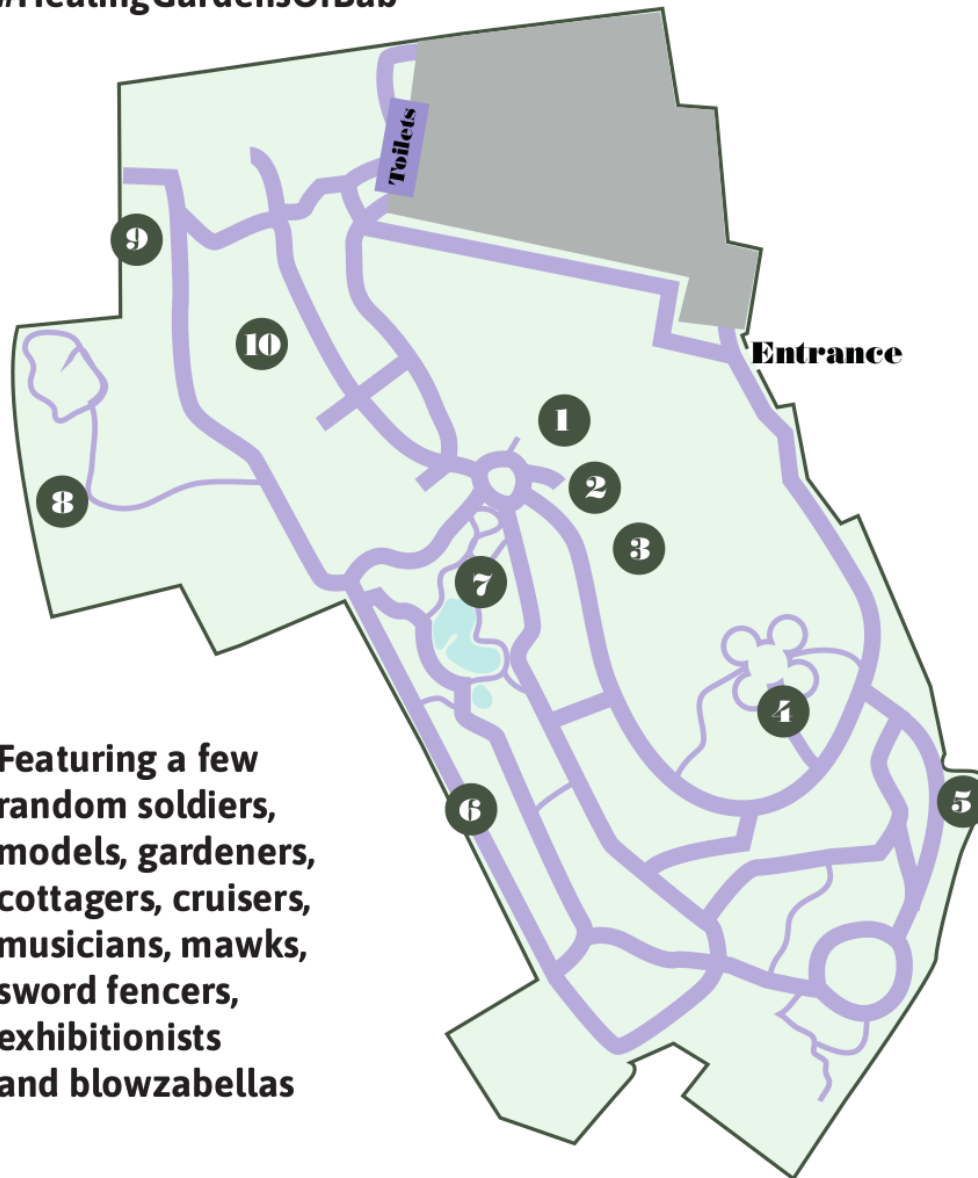
There are green signposts showing key areas of the Gardens, including the toilets.



Some areas of the Gardens are closed during the event. They will be blocked by metal barriers.

Here is a map to help you find each performance

## #HealingGardensOfBab




Featuring a few random soldiers, models, gardeners, cottagers, cruisers, musicians, mawks, sword fencers, exhibitionists and blowzabellas

## TEN SIDESHOWS

- 1. Bird la Bird**  
on the back of a truck
- 2. Ginny Lemon**  
on the grass
- 3. Jaivant Patel**  
on the bandstand
- 4. George Chakravarthi**  
in the birdcage
- 5. E-J Scott**  
in the bamboo maze
- 6. Kieron Jina**  
around the cameron catwalk
- 7. craziniST artist**  
in the waterfall
- 8. Francesca Millican-Slater**  
beside the wishing well
- 9. Ange Loft & alaska B**  
within the walled gardens
- 10. Krishna Isha, Tamir Amar Pettet & Felix Mufti**  
on the west lawn

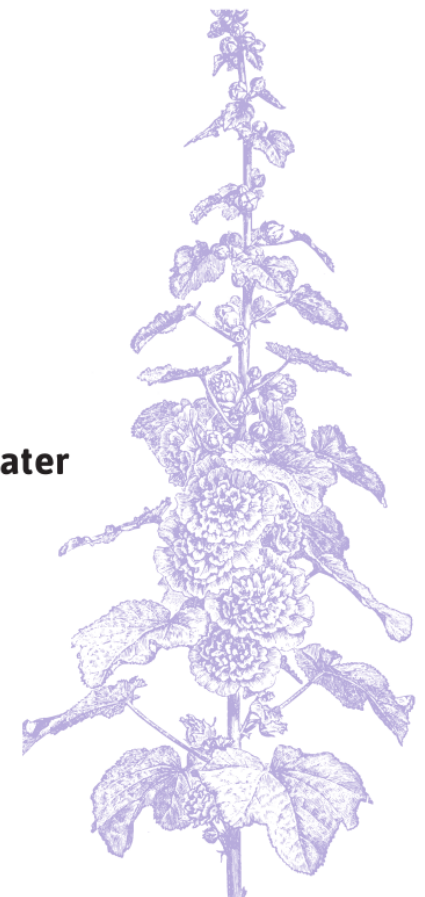
## Access:

 BSL interpreted on Friday only

 Step free venue and shows

Easy read guide available

Access workers on site



## 5. Here to Help



At the entrance, there will be someone to check your tickets and give you directions.



It will probably be one of the "wardens". They will be wearing grey & brown coats.



There are 3 wardens at the event.



They can help give you directions, or answer questions about the event



There are two "access hosts" who are here to help. They will be wearing pink backpacks.



They can tell you things about the event and performances - like if there's loud noises, scary moments, and how long each performance is.



They will have backpacks with things you might find useful:

- Ear defenders
- Fidget toys
- Water
- Tissues
- Hand gel, wipes, face coverings, etc.
- Map of the gardens
- Running times
- Copies of the easy read guide



There are two medics at the event. They will be wearing green vests



They have bandages & medicine.

They will help if someone gets hurt.



They will be based at the medical station.



This is on Wilson's Walk, close to the Aviary

## 6. Toilets



There are two sets of toilets at the event.





As you arrive through the gate, they are both on the right.

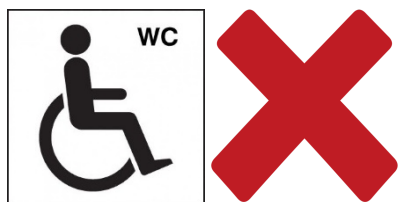


The first toilets are in the café.



There are toilets with urinals and toilets with cubicles facilities here.

These toilets are usually gendered but will not be for this event.



There is no accessible toilet in the café



The second set of toilets are in the corner of the event.



When you walk through the gate, you reach the toilets by taking the path to the right past the main building

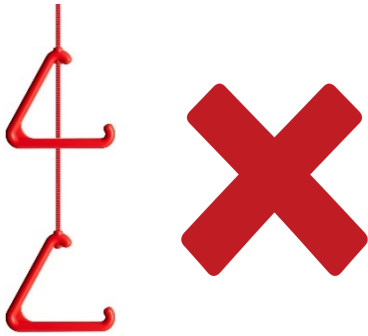


There are toilets with urinals and toilets with cubicles facilities here.

These toilets are usually gendered but will not be for this event.



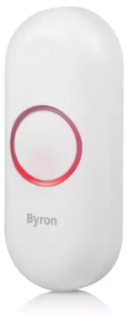
The accessible toilet is on the ground floor.  
There is a small, grated drain to cross to reach it.



There is no emergency red cord in this toilet.



If you fall and need help,



There will be a button like this on the floor.

Press the button.

Someone will come to help you.

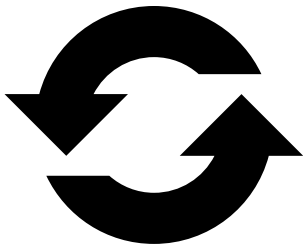


Unfortunately, there are no hoists in any of the toilets on site.

## 7. The Performances



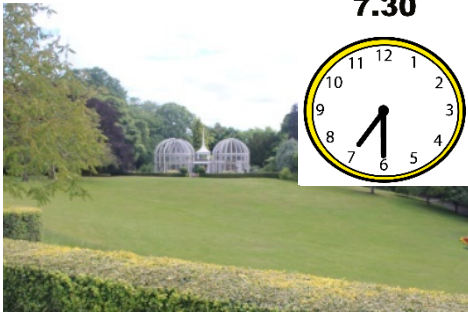
There are 10 performances happening at the event.



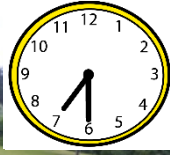
Most of them happen more than once.



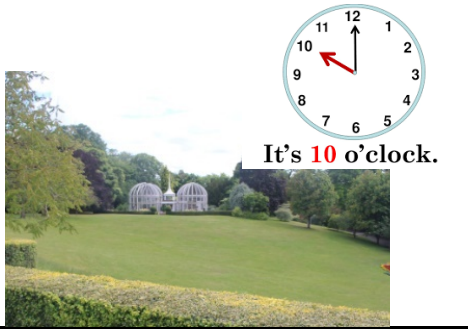
You can watch them in any order.



7.30



2 performances are only happening once. At 7:30 Bird will perform on the Main Lawn

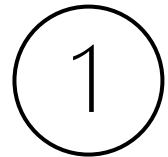


It's 10 o'clock.



And at 10pm Ginny Lemon will perform on the Main Lawn

## Bird la Bird



The first performance will happen at 7:30pm on the Main Lawn



This is a performance you watch, but don't touch.



Bird makes a grand entrance on the back of a truck dressed as a fucked up Rule Britannia.

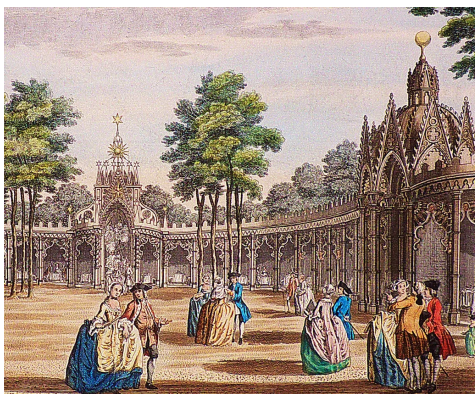
Bird gives the audience a fun history lesson about the gardens, queerness and the British Empire.



The performance is about the history of the song Rule Britannia.



The music for the song was written by composer Thomas Arne.



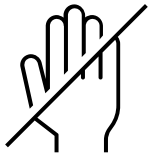
Arne was the resident composer of the Vauxhall Gardens – a very famous site of queer history.

# Jaivant Patel

3



This performance happens in the Bandstand.



This is a performance you watch, but don't touch.

Come and go as you wish from each of the durational performances



Jaivant will be dancing to famous songs from Indian Cinema which are important to the South Asian Queer Community



Jaivant will be wearing a veil.



This is to remind us about the different ways South Asian Queer people were forced to hide, or were left out of queer history during the British Empire.



It's also to remind us of how this still happens in queer communities today, in the UK and around the world.

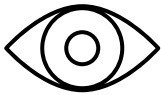


# George Chakravarthi

4



This performance happens behind the Aviary.



This is a performance you watch, but don't touch



This performance happens in a small space, for a few people at once.

You may have to wait before you can see it.

There are 5-minute breaks between performances.

6 of the shows are durational, 2 of the shows are appointments to view.

Come and go as you wish from each of the durational performances



The performance is inspired by Human Zoos



Human Zoos were real things during the British Empire.



They were spaces where white British people would look at black & brown people from around the world.

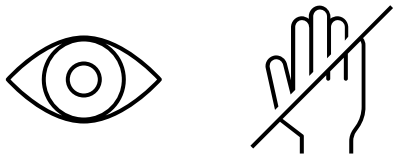
The performance reminds us how horrible this was.



It also asks us to think about how black and brown people are still looked at as different or exotic today.



This performance happens in the Bamboo Maze.

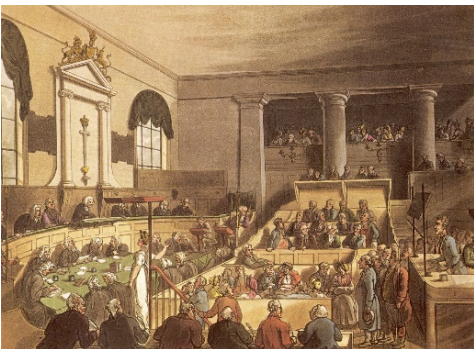


This is a performance you watch, but don't touch.

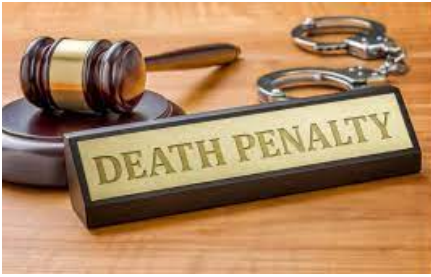


EJ Scott will be retelling the famous story of Princess Serafina.

EJ Scott will perform at 8pm, 8:20pm, 8:40pm, 9pm, 9:20pm and 9:40pm



She was famous for appearing in court attempting to sue a man who robbed her.



Despite being assigned male at birth, she acted lady-like throughout her trial.

This risked the death penalty.

## Kieron Jina

6



This performance happens on Cameron Walk.



This is a performance you watch, but don't touch

Come and go as you wish from each of the durational performances



Kieron creates a ritual from walking.



Kieron changes into different costumes.  
This represents the body in transformation.



This performance explores migration and love.



It asks the audience to think about how to  
create rituals to help us heal.

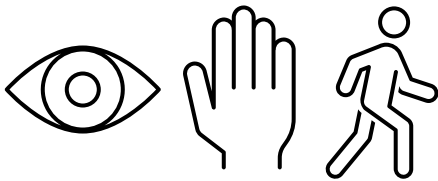
# crazinist artist

7



This performance happens in the Rock Garden & Pool

Come and go as you wish from each of the durational performances



This is a performance you watch, touch and move in.



The performance is a ritual mass wedding.



The audience will pick a text from a Jar and read that to each other in pairs, like wedding VOWS.



	<p>After being “married” the audience will share a glass of wine as a symbolic seal and kiss and hug.</p>



# Francesca Millican-Slater

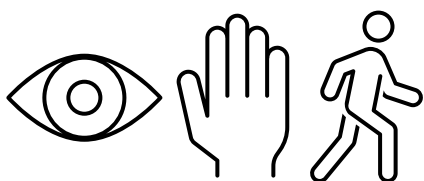
8



This performance happens in the Cottage Garden



This will include close contact and different textures, sexually explicit language and behaviour.



This is a performance you watch, touch and move around in  
Come and go as you wish from each of the durational performances



Francesca will be wearing a large skirt decorated with plants.



They will talk to the audience about English Country Plants, Trees and female pleasure, and the links between them.



The audience will be invited to reach inside Francesca's skirt and find a large fake clitoris to stroke.



The audience will be invited to hug a tree along with other people



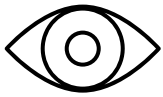
The performance talks about Female Pleasure & anatomy, propagation, history of plants and trees and what is considered 'English'.

# Krishna Isha, Tamir Amar Petter & Felix Mufti

9



This performance happens on the West Lawn.



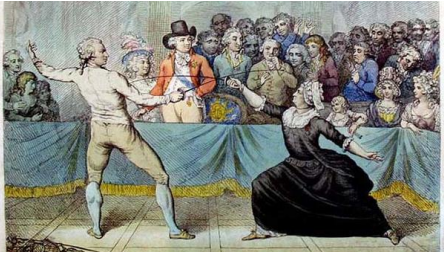
This is a performance you watch but don't touch



Krishna Isha's performance tells a story through sword fighting and music.



The story is about Chevalier D'Eon, a French spy who was famous in London for being "half-man, half-woman".



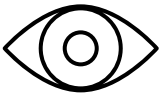
After living as both a man and a woman at different points in their life, they died as a woman.

## Ange Loft and Alaska B

10



This performance happens in the Historical Gardens.



This is a performance you watch but don't touch.



This performance tells the story of three scheming macaronis

Timings for this performance are to be confirmed



A macaroni was an English gentleman who wore incredibly elaborate costumes, make-up and hairstyles.



The three macaronis are jealous of someone who just became very rich.



They want to stay the most fabulous and well-dressed - so they plan a visit to a faraway Island of Flowers & Furs.



The performance reminds us our clothes are still made by people making very little money in other countries.



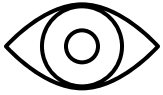
It's also a warning about how trying really hard to stay important makes things worse - like the British Empire.

# Ginny Lemon

2



This performance happens on the Main Lawn.

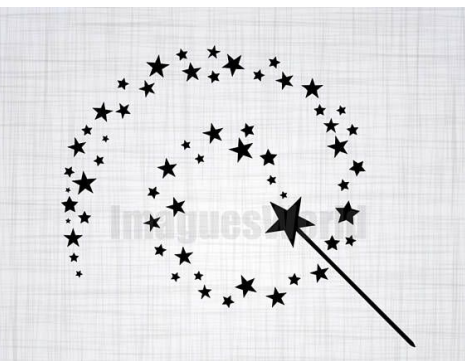


This is a performance you watch but don't touch.



Ginny Lemon closes the show in a mournful song dressed in black.

Ginny will be singing the song 'Heaven Have Mercy' on a loop station



Ginny will gather all to reflect on the queer spirits we have lost, the fight we have fought

and the fight we have yet to begin. The song is a spell to remember and to remind.



At the end of Ginny's performance, the whole company will come onto the lawn at the end and take a bow.