End of Summer Time

By Roger Hall

Relaxed Performance Show Information

# Show Information

*End of Summer Time* is a one-person play about Dickie Hart, a 70-something retired farmer who reluctantly moves from Wellington to Auckland to be closer to his grandchildren. The story follows Dickie's journey from 2019 to 2023 as he adjusts to apartment living, makes new friends, and faces unexpected challenges.

This touching and often humorous play explore themes of aging, change and loss. The play also covers loneliness and associated emotions. If any of the themes are triggering to you, we suggest phoning or texting **1737** reaching out to services listed on: <https://letsendloneliness.co.nz/get-help-now/>

Dickie speaks directly to the audience throughout (as if talking to himself), playing multiple characters by changing his voice, posture, and mannerisms. The actor uses different voices for each character - Glenda has a higher-pitched voice with rigid upright posture, while Stephanie is portrayed with sunglasses and a high-pitched voice.

The performance includes joyful moments (cheering at rugby matches, adventures with grandchildren) and sad moments (dealing with loneliness and grief). The show contains emotional content about death and isolation during COVID-19 but ultimately ends with hope as Dickie finds new purpose and companionship.

The performance uses theatrical effects including projected images on a TV screen that match Dickie's stories, lighting changes to show different locations, and sound effects to create atmosphere. The show opens with pre-show music, followed by a music intro with strong drum pumping before the curtain lifts.

This document includes spoilers. If you don’t want to know details about the show, don’t read any further.

You can watch the full show via this link: [WATCH DRESS REHEARSAL ON YOUTUBE](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MeHXLxtiH6k)

# Key Details

**Location:** ASB Waterfront Theatre, 138 Halsey Street, Auckland Central, Auckland 1010. Entry through the glass doors on Halsey Street.

Step free access, and wheelchair accessible seating and toilets available.

[ASB Waterfront Theatre’s “Know Before You Go” page with arrival info](https://www.atc.co.nz/asb-waterfront-theatre/know-before-you-go).

**Time:** 1 hour, 50 minutes, with a 15-minute interval.

**Date:** The relaxed performance on Tuesday 1 July is at 7pm. For the relaxed performance there is no lockout policy, and the internal theatre doors will remain open for the whole show.

# Pre-show Demonstration

Before the show starts on Tuesday 1 July, we will have a pre-show demonstration on stage at **6.30pm**. Please meet at the Breakout Room on Level One, and we will travel into the theatre together. The demo will introduce the lighting, sound, special effects, surprises, and characters, and we will talk about what the show will be like. We will also talk about how the relaxed show will work.

This document will give you even more details about the show.

# Relaxed show features

During the relaxed performance, the audience may come and go, move around, visit breakout spaces, and use comfort and fidget items. If you need to leave during the show and then come back, please return to your same seat. Please don't go onto the stage with the performers.

There are two sets of doors leading into the theatre: internal doors and external doors. The internal doors (those directly entering the auditorium) will remain open throughout the performance. The external doors (the first set you encounter from the foyer) will remain closed but unlocked.

You can leave the theatre at any time. To come back into the theatre, an usher will let you in when it's okay to return. You might have to wait outside the closed external doors for a moment. This arrangement helps maintain a balance between accessibility and minimizing light and sound disruptions. If you'd like assistance to come and go, please let theatre staff know.

If you need to use devices for accessibility, please put them on silent. At the start of the show, the whole audience will be reminded with an announcement that during the relaxed performance it’s ok for the audience to be themselves.

# Lighting

The auditorium lights will be on dimly throughout the show, so the auditorium will never be entirely dark. There is lighting along the stairs and railings.

The lights are very bright, and the white set means that the theatre is bright. The show is bright the whole time. The stage uses warm white lighting for Dickie's apartment, with colour changes to show different locations:

* Blue lighting for beach and water scenes
* Orange/warm tones for the library
* Dark blue/purple for the Civic Theatre
* Dark blue with red near the floor during ANZAC Day (with poppies on TV screen)
* Pink and disco lighting with multi-coloured flashing lights and disco ball on TV during the drag queen bar scene
* Multi-coloured disco lighting with flashing effects during the drag queen bar scene in Act Two

There are no sudden blackouts, but there are lightning effects during the storm sequence in Act Two. No lights point directly into the audience. All major lighting changes will be demonstrated before the show.

# Sound

Pre-show music plays loudly before the performance begins. The show starts with a music intro featuring strong drum pumping. During the show, sound effects are played, sometimes abruptly, to create atmosphere. These sounds include:

* Dogs barking (there are no dogs on stage, just the sound effects)
* Kettle boiling (you'll see steam during the first 5 minutes)
* Loud splash when entering the pool area, followed by gentle water splashes
* Gentle waves and birdsong at the beach, with growing drone of jet skis
* GPS voice giving directions
* Traffic sounds: cars honking, cars driving past, tires squeaking on concrete
* Car door slamming, with echo effects in the car park
* Bus brakes squeaking and passenger chatter
* City sounds: general chatter, traffic, birds
* Ferry moving through water
* Loud Wellington wind sounds
* Pigeons cooing
* School bell ringing
* Heavy rain and thunder during flooding
* Music including "Nowhere Man," "Once in a Lifetime" (during cleaning montage), "I Will Survive" and "Dancing Queen" (bar scene)
* Elevator-style music during the supermarket list scene

Sudden sounds include phone ringing, doorbell, door knocking, celebratory trumpet blasts, and chips flying when Dickie throws his arms up. The loudest moments are the opening drum pumping, when Dickie cheers for rugby matches, and during the storm sequence. All major sound effects will be demonstrated before the show.

# Special Effects

The main special effect is the transformation of the set for the final scene - the apartment walls pull aside and lift to reveal a beach projection. No pyrotechnics, smoke, or haze effects are used.

# Audience Interaction

There is no direct audience interaction in this show. Dickie speaks to the audience throughout but does not expect responses or participation. He always remains on stage and does not enter the audience area. No audience members will be brought on stage.

# Triggers

This show contains emotional content that some may find distressing:

* Discussion of COVID-19 pandemic, lockdowns, and isolation
* Death of a spouse from COVID-19 (handled sensitively, occurs offstage)
* Depression and self-neglect following bereavement
* Brief mentions of other deaths (friends who have passed away)
* Natural disasters (flooding and cyclone damage to homes)

The saddest content occurs early in Act Two, but the play moves toward hope and recovery. Support resources are available - please speak to front of house staff if you need assistance.

# Want to know more?

Reach out to Sam Phillips, Auckland Theatre Company’s Head of Learning and Participation, on sam@atc.co.nz or on 0212986253. Sam will also be at the ASB Waterfront Theatre and will present the pre-show demonstration.

This show information by Auckland Theatre Company used a template designed and provided by [Arts Access Aotearoa](https://artsaccess.org.nz/).