

Hello and welcome to *Magnificat*! My name is Jane Court and my task is to ensure that you are comfortable during your visit with us, so that you can really enjoy the show. So here is some information to help you.



### **When I arrive**

There is a car park next to St Laurence church. There are a few steps from the car park so if I can't manage those I can be dropped off at the end of the Shambles, by Costa Coffee.

I will arrive close to 4.30pm and wait outside the Church until a steward asks me to come in.



There may be people lining up to go in before me.



When I get to the front of the line I will show my e-ticket to a steward.



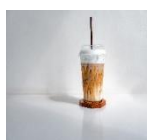
A steward will show me where I will stand to watch the performance. (If I need a chair the steward will get me one).

A steward can also show me where the disabled toilet is. This is across the path outside the church.



If I can, I will stand to watch the performance

The performance will start at 5pm and last for about 50 minutes



I won't be offered any refreshments, but I can bring my own if I want to .



Parts of the performance may be loud.

There is a sensory space if feel overwhelmed. A steward will show me where this is. (this area is up a few steps)



At the end of the performance people may clap. A steward will show us out of the church.

**We are delighted to have been able to offer this performance free of charge, but if you would like to make a donation towards the costs of the Festival of Wonder there will be collection buckets and card readers available. I hope you have a wonderful time. Jane**

**My name is Andy Bewley and I am the director and writer of the show.  
I can't wait to see you at the performance next week!**



### **Background to the show:**

Our show “Magnificat!” is based on something the church knows as the Annunciation. This is when The Angel Gabriel offered the Virgin Mary the chance to conceive a child by the power of the Holy Spirit. When Mary said “Yes” to the Angel Gabriel, she agreed to carry the son of God - it is a beginning, the first moment of Jesus of Nazareth.

“Magnificat” is the name given to Mary’s hymn of praise.

We dug deep into the interpretations of this moment, and we discovered - through the constant support and good-natured collaboration of Rev. Simon Howell - the idea that maybe Mary wasn’t just given the responsibility of carrying a physical heartbeat that had universal significance, but also, was given an awareness of a universal rhythm, a universal something, a universal pulse that connects us all.

### **What expect from the show**

Our show is really interested in space, the universe, the stars, and how we all came from them.

Our lead character, Marie, becomes fascinated in the stars because she lets go of her cherished balloon and then she follows it as it disappears into the sky. As she stands there, she becomes lost in space and ponders: “Where did it all come from?”. She then has what could be likened to a panic attack. The reason being is that Marie has a phobia called Apeirophobia - a phobia of the infinite.

Luckily, our show is all about helping her deal with her phobia and begin to look at the stars with wonder and aware, once again. And circus-artists are a great way of doing that - let’s meet them!

### **Svetlana Gorachenka**

Svetlana is a sand-artist. In our version of the show, the sand you see is actually star dust. She represents the Universe, the Creator, the first beginning of life.

You can see Svetlana’s act by clicking [here](#)

More info here: <https://showsand.com/>





## Gordon Marquez

Gordon is a world-class juggler. He juggles everything! Including ping-pong balls that come in and out of his mouth!

Watch him [here](#)

## Steph Wake-Edwards

Steph plays Marie in our show. She is an opera singer who has performed all over the world. I don't want to give any spoilers away, but you can expect to hear Steph sing when you least expect it.

There is also a younger version of Marie in the show.

You can see her perform by clicking [here](#)



## Evoke Gymnastics

Evoke are based in Swindon and are lead by two ex-international gymnasts; Nikita a World Champion in Acrobatic gymnastics and Rebecca a British and Commonwealth Games champion in Rhythmic gymnastics.

In our show, they represent the constellations that we see in the Universe.

For more info: <https://www.evokegymnastics.com/about>