

What to expect when at the Relaxed Performance of Elf – The Musical:

When you come into the theatre, the stage at the front will be covered by a red curtain. This is where the play will take place.

There are many actors in the play, some adults and some children. A few of the actors will come on stage to introduce themselves and say hello along with Ksenia, who works in the office at MTC. Ksenia will also explain some of the events in the show that nobody is too surprised, and some sounds that you will hear during the show so that people can get used to the volume.

The play you will see is called *Elf – The Musical*. It is the story of Buddy, who thought he was one of Santa's elves, but learns that he is actually human. He goes to New York to find his father, where he brings Christmas spirit, laughter, and music to the whole city.

The characters will change the clothes they wear during the play to show that it is a different day or event. Some actors, called the ensemble, play multiple characters – for example, someone might play an elf in the workshop, a store employee, a writer at the publishing house, and a news reporter.

Santa Claus will talk to us in the audience and tell us the story. He lives at the North Pole. Sometimes he is annoyed by the elves, but he still has a jolly nature.



The main character in the play is Buddy. He is kind and happy, and loves Christmas and spreading joy to others. At the North Pole and when he arrives in New York, Buddy wears the same kind of clothes as all the other elves. Buddy wears a suit in New York, which he calls “human working clothes.”



When the play starts, Buddy is living at the North Pole working in Santa's workshop, but he isn't very good at making toys.



Tiara and Charlie are two of the elves who make sure that all the toys are finished just as they should be.



Walter Hobbs is Buddy's dad, who did not know about Buddy. He is a businessman in New York, working to publish books. He spends most of his time at his job and is grouchy, without Christmas spirit. With Buddy's help, he eventually softens and learns to balance his family and career.



Deb is Walter's secretary who is responsible for keeping the office running smoothly. She finds Buddy's personality refreshing and charming.



Walter's boss is Mr. Greenway. He cares only about the success of his business, creating the next big-selling book, and demands a lot of his employees.



Matthews and Chadwick also work at Greenway Publishing. They try to come up with a popular book idea.



Emily Hobbs is married to Walter. She is warm and caring. They have a child, Michael (Buddy's half-brother), who is twelve. They both wish Walter would spend more time with them as a family. They accept Buddy, and get their Christmas spirit back with his help.



Jovie works at Macy's department store. When we first see her there, she is wearing an elf costume for her job. Jovie is tough, and not impressed with Buddy or the idea of Christmas when she meets him, but eventually, she warms up to him and the magic of the holiday.



The stage will transform to show different locations.

This the toy workshop at the North Pole.



On the streets of New York City, there are many signs, bright colours, and lights.



This is Greenway Publishing, where Buddy's dad Walter Hobbs works.



This is the "North Pole" at Macy's Department Store.



This is the Hobbs home.



This is the skating rink.



About watching the relaxed performance

During the play, there will be bright lights and music on the stage. Sometimes the actors shout. You can close your eyes or cover your ears if anything becomes too bright or loud. You can also get some earplugs in the lobby if you need them.

The lights shining on the stage will change colour throughout the play. They will get brighter and darker. There will always be some lights on in the audience, so you will always be able to see.

Please do your best not to have conversations - everyone else is doing their best too! But if you need to react to the show, that is totally okay! Other people might also make some noise as they react. Everyone is welcome to be themselves and enjoy the show.

If you need to, you can leave and go to the lobby or the quiet room on the second floor to take a break. A volunteer can help you leave the theatre and come back in when you are ready. Please do your best to exit and re-enter carefully to be respectful of the people around you.

After about an hour and fifteen minutes, there will be an intermission. An intermission is a 20-minute break.

At intermission, you can stretch your legs and talk to your family and friends. You can also use the bathroom in the lobby, or sit in a quiet room, if you need to.

You will know the play is starting again when you hear bells and an announcement. You will go to back your seat. The lights will dim, everyone will make sure their phones are off and stop talking, and the play will begin again. The second piece of the play is about 55 minutes long.

When the play is over, the actors will come on stage as themselves again. Everyone will clap their hands. If the noise is too loud, it is okay to cover your ears.

Everyone will leave the theatre at the end of the play the same way they came in. You can wait in your seat until the crowd is gone if you want.

The play is a total of 2 hours 35 minutes long including the intermission break.

You can find more information about the MTC building and the general audience experience in the [Venue Guide](#).

Some things to know about this play:

There is an orchestra with many musical instruments underneath the stage. They play all the music in the show.

You might be able to see the hands of the leader of the orchestra, the conductor, through a hole at the front of the stage.



There will be some yelling between some of the actors. It is only pretend.

There is a physical fight onstage, and Buddy is manhandled by actors playing security guards and police officers. This is all pretend; these moments have been staged by a fight director whose job it is to make sure that everyone is safe and comfortable while making the fight and struggles look real. The actors practice their movements every night before the show begins.

There is a fireplace on the stage, and it looks like smoke comes out of it. This is a special effect, there is no real fire. It's actually a haze made out of water.

If you want to learn more about the play, including a scene-by-scene synopsis, you can look at the [Enrichment Guide](#).

If you have questions, you can contact Ksenia, Royal MTC's Education and Enrichment Manager by email at kbroadamillian@royalmtc.ca or phone at 204 956 1340 extension 221.

Credits:

These are the people responsible for what you see in the photos in this booklet.

Photos by Dylan Hewlett.

Director/Choreographer: Julie Tomaino

Music Director: Joseph Tritt

Set Designer: Scott Penner

Costume Designer: Jessica Oostergo

Lighting and Video Designer: Hugh Conacher

Assistant Director / Choreographer: Rebekah Jones

Santa Claus / Mr. Greenway / Ensemble: Daniel Bogart

Buddy: Ryan Brown

Tiara / Ensemble: Cassandra Consiglio

Deb / Ensemble: Victoria Exconde

Sam / Ensemble: Megan Fry

Matthews / Ensemble: Tiana Jung

Emily: Rochelle Kives

Charlie / Ensemble: Tyler Leighton

Walter: Kevin McIntyre

Ensemble: Reid McTavish

Chadwick / Ensemble: Luke Opdahl

Jovie / Ensemble: Jade Repeta

Michael: Alex Schaeffer, Xaiden Garcia (alternating – Alex pictured)

Manager / Ensemble: Joseph Sevillo

Mrs. Claus / Ensemble: Jillian Willems

Youth Ensemble: Pierson Alibudbud, Philip Paley, Zoé Gautron, Anastasia

Rautert, Alicia Kliewer, Sophie Sewell, Nathan Malolos, Jada Tackie, Alba

Manuel, Silver Tennant

To see the names and biographies of the full cast, musicians, and creative team, check out the Ovation program or visit <https://royalmtc.ca/Current-Plays/Elf-The-Musical.aspx#cast-crew>

This guide was created by Ksenia Broda-Milian.