

factory  
international  
presents

WHAT TO EXPECT GUIDE  
11 DEC - 4 JAN

# SHAUN THE SHEEP'S CIRCUS SHOW



Circa's un-baaa-lievable  
acrobats in a high-flying  
family adventure!

**AVIVA studios**

Water Street, Manchester [avivastudios.co.uk](http://avivastudios.co.uk)

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Note: This resource is designed to support visitors to Aviva Studios who benefit from knowing a bit more about our shows before attending. If you'd prefer to be surprised by the experience, perhaps give this read a miss.

# About Shaun the Sheep's Circus Show

*Shaun the Sheep's Circus Show* is a family friendly theatrical adventure **based on the Aardman animated television series.**

Performed by an ensemble of 12 performers from Circa, it combines **acrobatics, circus skills, dance, music, movement, and theatre** for an evening of mischief and fun.

It is being performed at **Aviva Studios** in Manchester from **Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> December until Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> January 2026.**

The performance is approximately **1 hour, 40 minutes long** and includes a 20-minute interval.

The **energy and volume** of the show will **rise of fall** throughout the performance. Some parts will be loud and fast; others will be quiet and slow. **Headphones** are available to borrow.



## About the Venue

*Shaun the Sheep's Circus Show* is being performed at **Aviva Studios** in Manchester.

The address is:

**Aviva Studios**  
**Water Lane**  
**Manchester**  
**M3 4JQ**

The What3words location is  
**///rent.bids.gather**

The venue can be accessed by **bus**,  
**bike**, **train**, **car** and on **foot**.

For **more information** about getting to Aviva Studios, visit:  
[factoryinternational.org/aviva-studios/](https://factoryinternational.org/aviva-studios/)

**Facilities** available at Aviva Studios include, but are not limited to, a **Chill Out Space**, a Changing Places Toilet and **portable sensory kits**.



# Arriving at Aviva Studios

This is what **Aviva Studios** looks like.

You can enter the building either through the **City** or **River** doors.

Whichever entrance you use, you will arrive at the same place – **the Social**.

In the Social you will find a **bar** where you can purchase food and drinks, and the **toilets**, including accessible facilities and a Changing Places unit.

The Social can be a **busy and noisy** place, especially just before an event.

There will be **announcements** telling the audience what to do and **music** might be playing.

The **digital screens** in the Social will be showing **moving images**.



It's ok to **arrive early** for your show to get used to the Social space before it gets too busy. The Social is **open from 10am** each day.



If you need some help when you arrive, you can go to the **orange information point** that is close to the City entrance.



Here you'll find people from our team who can **answer any questions** you may have.

Our **Hosts** can also help you if you need anything during your visit.

They wear **orange t-shirts** with black writing on them, like this.



There will be Hosts all around the Social when you come in, and in the performance space when you go into the show.

**Volunteers** will also be positioned throughout the building. They will be wearing sheep costumes.





# The Performance Space

*Shaun the Sheep's Circus Show* is being performed in **The Hall**.

To access this space, you will either need to walk up the stairs to the **2<sup>nd</sup> floor** or make use of the lift or escalator.

To enter the Hall, a Host will ask to see your **ticket**. You may have a paper or digital copy. It will show the **date and time** of the performance and your **seat number**.

Once your ticket has been scanned, you will be invited to **find your seat**.

There will be **music** playing in the Hall when you arrive. This will stop when the show is about to begin.

**If you are late** to the performance, you will be asked by the Hosts to **wait outside** the Hall until an appropriate entry point.



The **energy and volume** of the show will **rise or fall** throughout the performance. Some parts will be loud and fast; others will be quiet and slow.



Haze and flashing lights are used, but **no strobe**.

**Headphones** and **portable sensory kits** are available to borrow from the Orange Box.



You are **free to leave and re-enter** the performance space as much as you like, however, our Hosts may ask you to wait a couple of minutes before re-entering the space to ensure the safety of our performers.





# The Characters

## The Farmer

The farmer oversees the farm. He is often unaware of the mischief his animals get up to when his back is turned and is often the victim of their pranks.



## Bitzer

Bitzer is the farmer's loyal sheepdog. He does his best to keep the flock out of trouble but also likes to join in with their fun.



## Shaun

Shaun is head of the flock. He is clever, confident, and prone to mischief, but always makes sure he and his friends get home safely.



## The Pigs

The pigs live next door to the flock and often try and get them in trouble. Shaun and Bitzer work together to disrupt their plans.



## Timmy & his Mum

Timmy is the flock's only lamb. He often wanders off with a toy in his hand but is always followed closely behind by his mum who wears curling rods in her hair.



## Shirley

Shirley is the largest member of the flock. A gentle giant, she loves to eat and her size often proves useful to the rest of the flock.



## The Bull

The bull is powerful and easy to anger. He doesn't like the colour red and is often annoyed by Shaun's antics.



## The Postman

The postman delivers letters to the farm. Bitzer likes to chase him.



## Accessible Performances

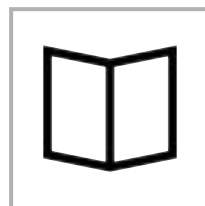
An **Audio Described** performance is scheduled to take place on Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> January at 2:30pm. Audio description will be delivered by Theo Hornsby-Walsh.



A **Relaxed** performance is scheduled to take place on Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> January at 2:30pm. Changes made to this performance include:



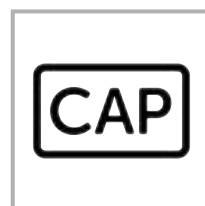
- House lights will remain on low throughout
- Sound levels slightly lowered
- Chill Out Space available
- Sensory kits available
- What to Expect Guide available



This production does not contain any spoken English, so we **do not have any BSL interpreted or captioned performances** scheduled for this show.



The characters occasionally perform animal vocalisations, but these do not contribute to the narrative significantly.

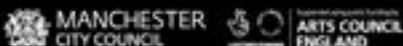


For more information about the event and venue, please visit:  
**[factoryinternational.org/whats-on/shaun-the-sheeps-circus-show](http://factoryinternational.org/whats-on/shaun-the-sheeps-circus-show)**

To speak to our team, you can email us at  
**[access@factoryinternational.org](mailto:access@factoryinternational.org)** or call us on **0161 817 4531**.  
Our phoneline is open Monday-Saturday, 10am–6pm.

This guide was produced by Factory International.

Produced by Shaun Comerford and Yaron Lifschitz with QPAC, Screen  
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By special arrangement with Aardman, Shaun the Sheep's Circus Show.  
Created by Yaron Lifschitz. Based on the Television Series "Shaun the Sheep"  
devised by Richard Starzak. Based on an original idea by Nick Park.



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