

London Theatres

Before you read

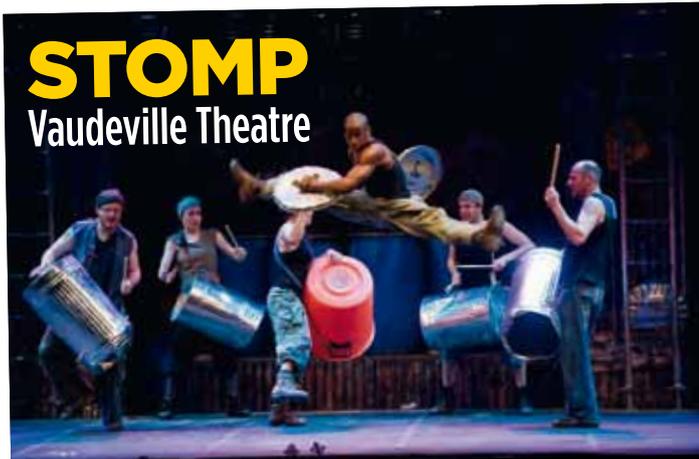
1 Find these words in the introduction. Translate them.

- 1 play _____
- 2 performance _____
- 3 show _____
- 4 comedy _____
- 5 to run _____
- 6 to show _____

Reading

2 Read the programmes for the two shows. What type of shows are they?

London is worldly famous for its theatres. For most visitors seeing a show while they are staying in the capital is one of the most important attractions. The West End is the name of the area in central London where most of the popular theatres are. There are about a hundred theatres in this area which show the latest plays, musicals and comedies. The big theatres often have more than one performance a day and many of the most successful plays run for years.



STOMP Vaudeville Theatre

Show times

Monday	no show
Tuesday	8 p.m.
Wednesday	8 p.m.
Thursday	3 p.m. and 8 p.m.
Friday	8 p.m.
Saturday	3 p.m. and 8 p.m.
Sunday	3 p.m.

The performance runs for 1 hour and 40 minutes (no interval).

Tickets: £15, £38

Stomp is an incredible experience! There is no story, no dialogue and nobody speaks a word! A group of virtuoso dancers and musicians find beauty and music in everyday things. This unique spectacular show combines music, dance, theatre and mime. Don't miss it!

THE WOMAN IN BLACK

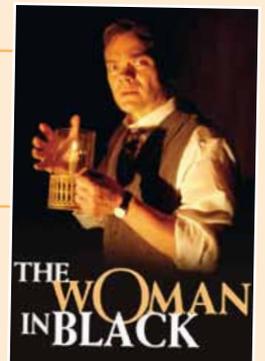
The Fortune Theatre

Show times

Evenings: Mon – Sat 8 p.m.
Matinees: Tue 3 p.m.
and Sat 4 p.m.

The performance runs for 2 hours (no interval).

Tickets: £12.50, £32.50



When a reclusive old woman dies, an enthusiastic young lawyer goes to her remote and mysterious house to conclude her affairs. His experiences in the house were terrifying and now, as an old man, he is telling his story, desperate to be free of the ghosts of the past.

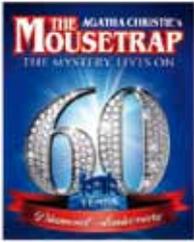
Robin Hereford directs this brilliant stage version of the famous thriller by Susan Hill.

3 Read the two programmes again and answer the questions.

- 1 What is showing at the Fortune Theatre?
- 2 What is showing at the Vaudeville Theatre?
- 3 How much are the cheapest tickets for *The Woman in Black*?
- 4 Why does the young lawyer go to the old woman's house in the play?
- 5 Who tells the story in the play?
- 6 What's unusual about the show at the Vaudeville Theatre?
- 7 How many performances are there of *Stomp* every week?
- 8 Which performing arts does the show include?

Listening

4 **7** **P** Listen and complete the text about theatres in London.



Most of the theatres in the (1) _____, like the Lyceum, the Aldwych and the Palace, show popular commercial productions which are big (2) _____ attractions. Some of these

productions are so successful that they run for many (3) _____: *The Mousetrap*, a (4) _____ by Agatha Christie, and *The Phantom of the Opera*, a (5) _____ by Andrew Lloyd Webber, are good examples of this phenomenon.

Other important but less (6) _____ theatres outside the West End are the Barbican, the Old Vic and the Globe. The productions in these theatres are usually more (7) _____, including the latest plays from new writers and interesting new productions of (8) _____ plays. The Globe in particular is a reproduction of the 16th-century theatre where (9) _____ worked and specialises in productions of his plays. Theatre is so important in London that the city also has several prestigious (10) _____, including the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art (RADA) and the Guildhall School of Music and Drama. Many world-famous theatre and cinema (11) _____ studied at these schools.



- 3 Why do they show only Shakespeare's plays at the Globe?
 - a Because tourists only like Shakespeare.
 - b Because the productions there run for years and years.
 - c Because it is a special reproduction of the theatre where he worked.
- 4 RADA and the Guildhall School are famous...
 - a theatres.
 - b drama schools.
 - c pubs.

Writing

6 Work in small groups. What's on in your area at the moment? Find out about any plays, musicals, dance shows or special theatrical events that are happening now and choose one. Take notes about it and complete the table.



Show	
Theatre	
Days and times	
Ticket price	
Description of the show	

STUDY SKILLS

Preparing an interview

When you are preparing an interview, you have to think about the type of information you want to find out from the other person then think of key words you know in English related to it. For example, if you want to know the time of an event, related words could be *when, a.m./p.m., starts/finishes*. It can be useful to make a table to refer to during your interview with prompt words for your questions on the left and space for the person's answers on the right.

5 **7** **P** Listen again, then choose the correct answer (✓).

- 1 What type of plays can you see in the big West End theatres?
 - a only musicals
 - b shakespearean tragedies
 - c popular commercial productions
- 2 What type of plays can you see at the Barbican and the Old Vic?
 - a thrillers
 - b new experimental productions
 - c opera

Speaking & Writing

7 Your group is going to make a theatre poster for another group's show. Prepare to interview your classmates in another group and get ready to explain the information about your show too. Prepare a table with about six questions using the prompts from exercise 6. Note down their answers in the column on the right. Use the information they give you to make a poster like the ones in exercise 2. Illustrate it with photographs of the show if you can.