



## **AUTISM SPECTRUM GUIDE**

### **Riverside Theatres**

Located on the banks of the Parramatta River, Riverside Theatres is nestled in the midst of the Church Street restaurant precinct. The building is on the corner of Church and Market Streets, Parramatta, and entry via covered a walkway/ balcony that overlooks the river, just off Church Street. The main doors are 20 metres along the walk way, and lead into the foyer of the three theatres.

Riverside Theatres opened in 1988 offering three venues under the one roof. The Rafferty's Theatre, the most intimate space seats 88 people and suits seminars, stand-up comedy acts, small scale productions, cinema. The Lennox Theatre is a flexible space seating 213 people. The largest theatre, the Riverside Theatre, can house up to 760 patrons and has comfortable, plush seating in a conventional proscenium arch stage with orchestra pit and fly tower. Larger scale productions including international acts are often seen on the Riverside stage including Shakespeare, comedy, drama, ballet, contemporary dance and musicals.



There is a long, carpeted foyer with amenities at both ends, some chair and bench seating, and sometimes food service at the bar. There is also a central, outdoor but partially covered courtyard. The ground is concrete and the space is open to the elements. There are tables and chairs to sit at and eat.

Explore the foyer and courtyard: [Riverside Theatres, Parramatta 360' views](#)

- ✓ The main doors into the foyer are double doors made of glass and have movement sensors. When the theatres are open the doors automatically open when you approach.
- ✓ There are no lifts but all venues have ground level access
- ✓ There are accessible toilets at both ends of the foyer
- ✓ More information about Riverside Theatres accessibility at <https://riversideparramatta.com.au/your-visit/special-access/>

## Raffertys Theatre

Raffertys Theatre is the smallest theatre and seats 88 people on six rows of raked seating. The aisles are steps at each end of the block of seats. In theatre circles this type of space is known as a “black box” theatre. This means that the floors and walls are painted or curtained black to try and make these spaces seem invisible during the show. The seating set up can be done in different ways for different shows.

*Seating density:* 6 rows of 14 seats  
*Seating configuration:* Raked bank of seating in one block

- ✓ *Seating has back support*
- ✓ *Enclosed space*
- ✓ *High ceilings* - Yes, 7-8 metres high
- ✗ *Mezzanines*
- ✓ *Ventilated/ air-conditioned*

✓



## Lennox Theatre, Riverside



The Lennox Theatre, like the Rafferty's, is a “black box” theatre, where the floors and walls are painted or curtained black so that they seem to disappear into the background during the show. These black box spaces can sometimes have their seating set up in different ways for different shows. The Lennox seating is red and is currently set up at one end of the space, raked up, so audiences walk up aisle steps to get to their seats. To enter into the

Lennox Theatre you have to walk through a dim corridor next to the seating bank before arriving at the foot of the seating bank. It is hard to see what is around the corner and may feel a little strange.

*Seating density:* 213 seats across 10 rows with 2 aisles

*Seating configuration:* Raked bank of seating in one block

- ✓ *Seating has back support*
- ✓ *Enclosed space*
- ✓ *High ceilings* - Yes, 7-8 metres high
- ✗ *Mezzanines*
- ✓ *Ventilated/ air-conditioned*

## **Riverside Theatre**

A 'proscenium arch' theatre has a raised stage, a fly tower for moving thin scenery to and from the stage from above, and sometimes an orchestra pit can be formed at the front end of the stage. This is the biggest space with the highest ceiling, and fits the most people.



*Seating density:* 760 seats in total. 534 down stairs and 114 on the first mezzanine ('Circle') and 112 on the second or higher mezzanine ('Gallery')

*Seating configuration:* Large, curved auditorium with central seating and aisles on the sides, plus balcony levels for additional seating

- ✓ *Seating has back support*
- ✓ *Enclosed space*
- ✓ *High ceilings* - Yes, 14 metres high
- ✓ *Mezzanines*
- ✓ *Ventilated/ air-conditioned*

## Note

*Does the venue have a quiet space? If so, where?*

Not necessarily, but there are different spaces nearby which can prove suitable for this purpose, including:

- A long, carpeted foyer with 'corners';
- An internal outdoor courtyard with a high roof open at the sides;  
A long walkway balcony out the front which overlooks the river;
- A small deck with seating next to the river