Red Phone

Red Phone is an **interactive installation** and **theatre experience** which will take place at the Aotea Centre, in the Circle Foyer on Level 3, from **Wed 4 – Sat 7 March.**

The experience lasts 8 – 15 minutes long.

Please visit the event webpage for more information.

At a Glance – This Experience has:

- Free entry - no tickets required
- Reading aloud required
- A mostly auditory experience
- Detailed Content Notes Available
- Standing room only – this experience takes place in a small booth which is unlikely to fit a wheelchair or chair

Accessibility

- Braille scripts available
- No New Zealand Sign Language available
- No Audio Described Performance or Touch Tour
- No Relaxed Performance

You can view venue and accessibility information in more detail HERE.

Included in this document

This document includes information about the experience to help you decide if it's right for you. You can use the links below to jump straight to the information you need or scroll down to read through everything.

How to Take Part
About The Experience
- Show Blurb
- The Red Phone Project Set
- People Involved
- How the Experience Works
- More About the Experience
- What to Expect As An Audience Member
- Content Notes

How to Take Part

This experience is **free**!

You do not need to book tickets; you can just show up. The experience is **available from 11am - 5pm, daily**. If there are a lot of people, you may need to wait for your turn.

Please visit the *Red Phone* event webpage for more information.

Keep scrolling for the next section or click to return to the menu.

Spoiler Alert!

The next sections of this document give more information about the experience, what to expect as an audience member, and some content notes. We've tried to avoid spoilers, but if you want everything to be a surprise, you can skip these sections.

Keep scrolling for the next section or click to return to the menu.

About The Experience

Show Blurb

Step inside a beautifully **handcrafted phone booth and pick up a vintage red telephone**. On **the other end is another participan**t which could be a friend, a family

member, or a complete stranger and between you sits **a teleprompter loaded with a collection of scripts**, including one by **acclaimed Aotearoa playwright Victor Rodger ONZM**.

Part theatre and **part social experiment**, *Red Phone* is the **theatrical equivalent of singing in the shower**. Playful, intimate, and unexpectedly revealing, it **invites you to be both performer and spectator**; creating small, unforgettable moments that linger long after the conversation ends.

This **FREE** installation by **Canadian interdisciplinary theatre company Boca Del Lupo** has toured Canada, Norway, and Latin America to critical acclaim. Now it arrives in Tāmaki Makaurau Auckland for a strictly limited season.

The *Red Phone* Set

Red Phone has **two phone booths, which audience members will step inside** to take part in the show.

Here are some photos of the booths.

People Involved

There will be **a few staff members you might meet during *Red Phone*.** The first staff member **will greet you before the experience and talk you through the process**. They will make sure you know how the phone booths work. **They will also help to match you with another audience member and will choose the script you read.**

If there is anything you are worried about, this staff member is a great person to talk to.

The next person you might meet will help to line you up and get you ready for your turn

The last person you might meet will be running the teleprompter. You may not see them, depending on how things are set up, but they will be there to make sure the teleprompter runs correctly.

How the Experience Works

Inside the booth, you will find a teleprompter screen and a red phone. Here is a photo of what the phone and screen look like.

You will p**ick up the telephone receiver** like you would a regular telephone.

Once you are both ready, the first person's lines will appear on the screen.

Read what you see on the screen.

Once the line has been read, the next person's lines will appear. There is no rush, so you can read at your own pace.

You can **leave when the screen tells you to.**

More About the Experience

Red Phone is about the **relationship between audience and playwright**. This means instead of watching a story onstage, you read lines with someone else and tell the story yourself.

There are **26 scripts** in *Red Phone*, each following its own story and relationship.

Each script is different, and some can be about characters arguing or having a disagreement with each other.

While we pretend to be these characters when we read the lines on the screen, we are not these characters and we aren't expected to be these characters after reading the lines in the phone booth.

How a person speaks or behaves as the character on the phone does not mean that's who they are as a person.

We get to leave those characters, and those disagreements, in the phone booth at the end.

While reading the script, sometimes people laugh at what they are about to say, or what the other person has just said.

Sometimes what someone is about to say can surprise or trouble people, which may make them stumble over what they are saying.

It is also possible for people to become invested in the text, and for their emotions to become attached to the emotions of the lines of the character they are playing.

Sometimes characters argue or get upset at each other in the scripts. It's important to remember that that is just in this experience, and it isn't how the person reading the lines actually feels.

What to expect as an audience member

When you arrive, **you may need to wait for your turn if there are people already in the booths**. A staff member will help you line up and get ready for your turn.

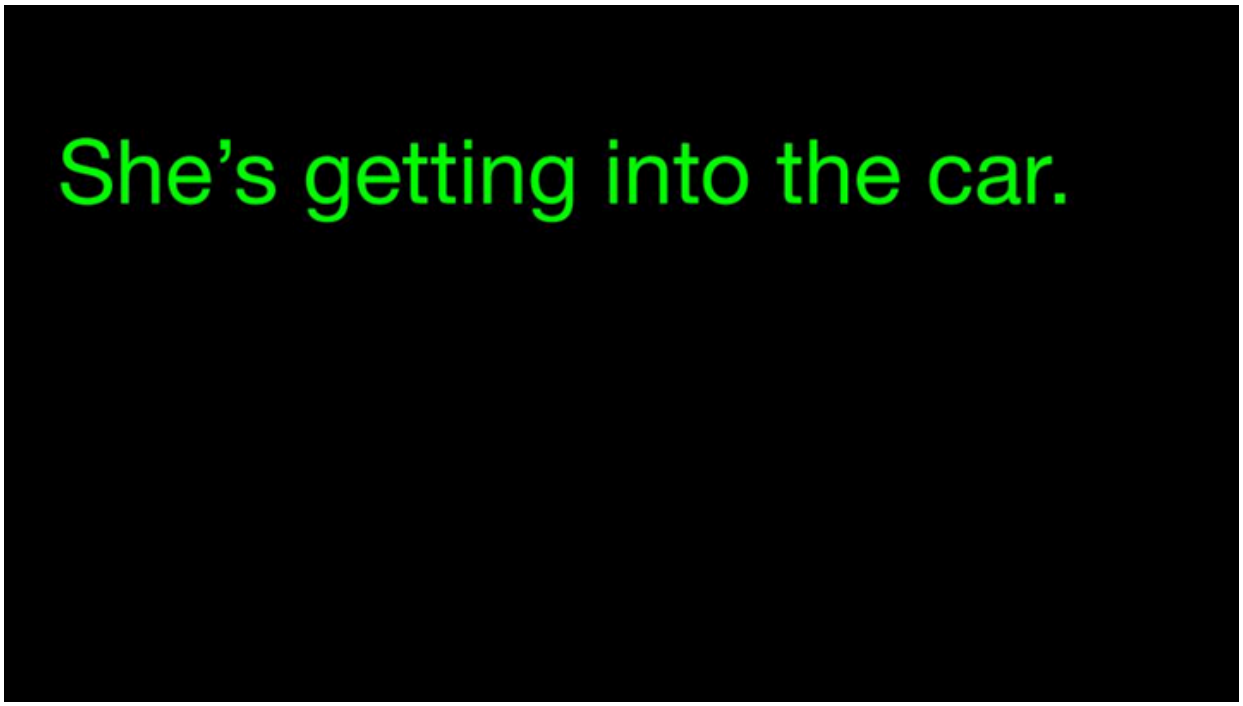
When **it's your turn, you will chat with one of the staff members**. If you came to *Red Phone* with someone, you will each chat separately with the staff member, however you can always ask to read with the person you came with. T**he staff member will talk with you about what sort of experience you want to have**. You can let them know if there are **any subjects you want to avoid.**

Once the script has been chosen, the staff member will then usher you and another person each into your own phone booth.

Here is a photo of someone in the booth.

When both people are ready, the phone will make a ringing sound. This might be quite sudden. The screen will tell you to pick up the receiver. That is when you will pick up the receiver and wait until you see words on the teleprompter.

Here is an example of what the words on the screen will look like.



When you see words on the screen, say them into the receiver. The other audience member will say lines back to you. **If you read braille,** you will read the words in a book copy of the script provided.

If you see words first, then you will start speaking first. If the other person starts speaking before you see words, listen to them first and wait for your words to appear.

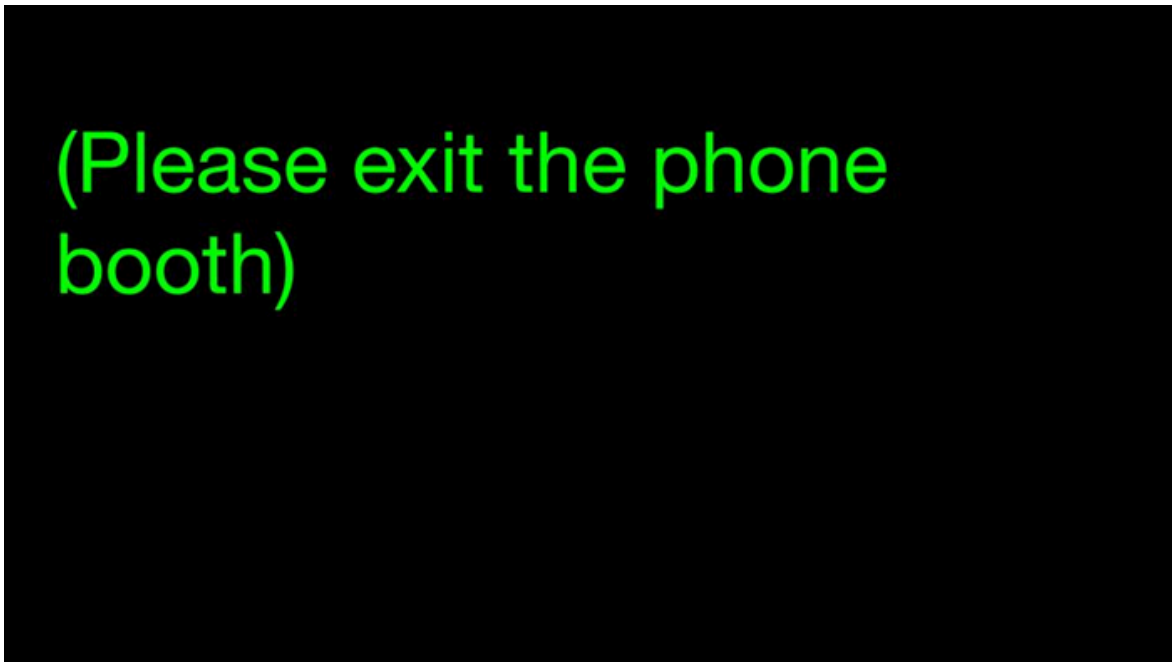
When words are on your screen, read all of them out loud, then listen to the other person and wait for new words to appear on your screen. **Start to follow the story of the two characters’ relationship to each other and what they want.**

Only you two can hear each other. **No one outside the booth knows what is happening**.

The characters you are reading may be different from who you are as a person, and that difference is okay. These characters you are reading are not meant to be accurate to who you are.

When the teleprompter tells you to, step out of the phone booth.

Here is a photo of what you will see on screen when it's time to leave.



The experience is now over.

Once you are out of the phone booth, you can meet the person you talked to on the phone if you want to.

You can leave and consider what it was like to read a script for just you and the other person in the other booth, or if you want to, you can get back in line to read a different script.

Keep scrolling for the next section or click to return to the menu.

Content Notes

Enclosed Space – This experience will take place **inside a small booth**. You will need to stand inside the booth, and **there isn't room for a wheelchair or chair.** There is only room for one person inside the booth. This may feel claustrophobic for some people. The sides of the booth are glass, so you can see out at all times.

Sounds and Noises – The experience **begins with a phone ringing**, which might be quite abrupt. The voice over the **phone may sound tinny,** and the spoken dialogue will be live, and may vary in volume. At times, **people may shout or speak quietl**y or unclearly.

Reading Aloud – this experience involves **reading text aloud**, either from a teleprompter or a braille script. Only you and the person in the other booth will be able to hear you.

Audience Participation – All audience members in this show will be required to **take part by reading the script aloud**, acting with another person in a separate booth. Only you and the person in the other booth will be able to hear you. It has been described as similar to singing in the shower, where you are performing mostly for yourself.

Coarse language – some of the scripts contain coarse language.

Difficult Subject Matter – The scripts cover a range of different subject matters, some of which may be challenging or upsetting. **If there are any subjects you really want to avoid (for example, family violence) you can let the staff member know,** and they will choose a script which doesn't explore this topic.

If any of this content becomes distressing for you, you can **take a short paus**e before you read your next line, or leave the booth early. **Please note,** if you do leave early, that will be the end of the experience for you and the person in the other booth.