

A Visual Story
To support your visit to Shakespeare's Globe.

**SHAKESPEARE'S
GLOBE**



'A gripping triumph'

The Telegraph

MOTHER COURAGE AND HER CHILDREN

By Bertolt Brecht

Translated by Anna Jordan

Contents



Visual Story

This document will give you a detailed description of what to expect from Mother Courage and Her Children at Shakespeare's Globe.

Included:

- Pictures of the cast in and out of costume
- Show notes and helpful information
- Synopsis
- A sonic story provided by TourettesHero
- Contact details

The Cast

This shows the cast in and out of character. Some of the characters appear in multiple costumes throughout.



Rawaed Asde



Swiss Cheese



Trieve
Blackwood-Cambridge



Sargeant / Clerk / Man



Rachelle Diedericks



Kattrin



Sarita Gabony



Woman / Soldier



Keaton
Guimarães-Tolley



Recruiter / Fur Coat /
Soldier



Vinnie Heaven



Eilif



Nadine Higgin



Yvette



Daniel Rainford



Ensemble / Cover



Ferdy Roberts



Minister



Max Runham



Narrator



Simon Scardifield



General / Bloody Nose /
Orange Sargeant



Nicolas Tennant



Chef



Michelle Terry



Mother Courage



Ayla Wheatley



Ensemble / Cover

The role of Child is played by two actors; you may see either one of the two actors on stage.

Their names are Eiden-River Coleman and Sienna-Rae Kenna-Braithwaite.

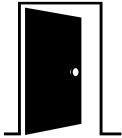
Show Notes



Relaxed Performance

A relaxed performance will take place on:

Saturday 6 June 2026 at 2.00 pm
and
Friday 19 June 2026 at 2.00 pm



This will mean:

- An open-door policy: you can come and go as much as you want or need to.
- A culture of acceptance and respect for however you want to experience the show.
- Movement and noise are welcome should you need or want to.
- Pre-show information packs are available online and at the welcome desk.
- A Quiet Space in the Upper Foyer.

The content of the show is exactly the same.

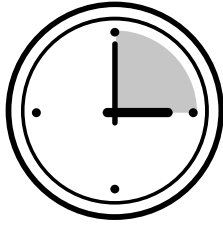
Content Notes

This play includes:

- Strong language
- Scenes of a distressing nature, including war and violence
- Death, murder, and dead bodies
- References to rape and sexual violence
- Loud noises including gun shots and explosions
- Drug use
- Weapons

The information below can help you to know which moments may be overwhelming.

Show Notes



Times

The show is roughly 2 hours and 30 minutes long.

This includes a 20 minute interval.



Music and Sound

The sonic story gives details on the music and sound throughout the show.

You are welcome to wear your own audio mufflers or borrow some from us.

Lighting

Shakespeare's Globe Theatre is an open-air theatre. During the daytime the theatre is lit by daylight. At night the stage will be illuminated so you can see the performers clearly.

The lighting therefore remains the same throughout the whole show.

Set and props

You can see many of the costumes used throughout the performance in the pictures throughout the synopsis.

The set looks like this:



This show contains many distressing themes. You can find detailed information in the synopsis below, or more general content notes on page 8.

There are loud noises replicating gun shots and explosions throughout the show. You can find more details after the synopsis, on page 19.

If you don't want to know the plot of the show, you can skip to page 19.

Mother Courage and Her Children - Synopsis

We first meet Mother Courage (whose real name is Anna Fierling) and her three adult children: Eilif, Swiss Cheese, and Kattrin. Kattrin is mute, which means she doesn't talk. Some of them speak to the audience from the stage a few minutes before the show starts, selling their items.

The Narrator introduces the story to us: "War has been raging for decades. Land mass is divided into areas on "The Grid." The Purple Army fight the Blue Army. They do not fight for countries, they fight for resources."

There is a loud bang to start the show. A Sergeant and a Recruiter from the Purple Army stop them at a checkpoint, and shoot a gun to scare them. They want to find men to fight in the war. While Mother Courage tries to sell the Sergeant a protective vest, the Recruiter convinces her brave but reckless eldest son, Eilif, to join the army. Mother Courage is very angry and sad when she realizes Eilif has left with the Recruiter.



Mother Courage and Her Children - Synopsis

Two years pass. Mother Courage is now travelling with the Purple Army with her other two children. She meets a Chef and tries to sell him a scrawny chicken for the General's dinner. Inside the General's tent, she is happily reunited with Eilif. The General, who is there with the Minister, is praising Eilif because he was very brave and clever; Eilif tricked some local peasants and stole their pigs to feed the hungry soldiers. Mother Courage hugs Eilif but also slaps him and reminds him not to get himself killed.

Three years later, Mother Courage's cart is pitched at a military camp. One of her 'employees', Yvette, a prostitute, sings a sad song about her lost love. Yvette takes a lot of drugs. Kattrin tries on some of Yvette's clothes: a bra and some high boots. Mother Courage screams at her to take them off, shouting 'Do you want to be raped?'.



Mother Courage and Her Children - Synopsis

Suddenly, the camp is attacked by the enemy Blue Army. To protect Kattrin from attack, Mother Courage smears cow dung on her face, which makes Kattrin retch in disgust. Mother Courage quickly changes her flags so she can pretend to be on the winning side. Her honest but simple son, Swiss Cheese, tries to hide the Purple Army's cash box safely inside the cart. However, enemy soldiers discover what he has done and arrest him.

Yvette bargains with the enemy soldiers for Swiss Cheese's release. Mother Courage haggles for too long over the price because she wants to save enough money to keep her cart. Tragically, the soldiers shoot Swiss Cheese many times, and his face is heavily mutilated (this effect is created using make-up and prosthetics). The soldiers bring his body to Mother Courage to see if she will cry, but to save herself and Kattrin, she has to pretend she does not know him.



Mother Courage and Her Children - Synopsis

Two years later, Mother Courage is travelling with the Blue Army. The Minister joined her when the Blue Army attacked and has been with her ever since. The war has brought great destruction to a local village, and many innocent peasants are badly injured. The Minister asks Mother Courage for some of her officer's shirts to use as bandages to help the bleeding peasants. Mother Courage refuses at first because she does not want to lose her valuable stock or her profit. Kattrin gets very angry at her mother's selfishness. Kattrin rescues a crying baby whose mother is dying.

A year passes and the camp is holding a funeral for the Great Blue Commander. Mother Courage and other soldiers sit together outside the cart drinking and talking about the war. The Minister argues that the war will go on for a very long time because there is always a new reason to fight. Mother Courage sends Kattrin to the next square with a clerk from the Blue Army to buy munitions from a bombed-out factory.

When Kattrin returns, she has been brutally attacked with acid, leaving her with a scar on her face. She has been sexually assaulted and has blood running down her legs. Mother Courage comforts her and gives her a pair of Yvette's old red boots to try to cheer her up.



ACT 2

The second part of the show starts with the characters having a rave on stage, which is suddenly broken by a gunshot noise. The war is going very well for business, and Mother Courage is making a lot of money selling munitions. She stands on her cart wearing a fancy new coat and jewelry. She believes that as long as the war continues, she will always be able to provide for her remaining family. Kattrin's face is now scarred by the acid attack.

Suddenly, there is a big announcement that peace has been declared. Mother Courage is deeply worried because peace means nobody will buy her weapons or ammo anymore. The Chef returns and argues with the Minister over Mother Courage. Yvette also arrives, now sleekly dressed as a senior member of the Orange Union. Yvette propositions Mother Courage to join her on the road. Yvette wants to start a 'bidding war' for Kattrin. On seeing Kattrin and the scars Yvette changes her mind. Mother Courage is enraged and tells Yvette to stay away from them.



Mother Courage and Her Children - Synopsis

While Mother Courage is away at the market trying to sell her stock before prices drop, Eilif is brought to the camp in chains. During the brief peace, he did the exact same thing he was praised for during the war – killing peasants for food – but now it is considered a crime. Eilif is taken away to be executed, and the Minister follows him. The Chef keeps Eilif's fate a secret from Mother Courage.

Suddenly, gunfire erupts again; the peace is over, and Mother Courage happily goes back to her war business, completely unaware that Eilif is dead.



Mother Courage and Her Children - Synopsis

Two years later, the war has made everyone very poor and hungry. Mother Courage and Kattrin are lost on a snowy country road. While Mother Courage and the Chef are begging for food, the Chef reveals that his mother has died and left him a small kitchen business. He invites Mother Courage to come with him to run it, but there is a catch: he refuses to let Kattrin come because the business is too small and her facial scar might scare away customers.

Kattrin overhears this and packs her bags to run away. Mother Courage refuses to abandon her daughter, tells the Chef to leave by himself, and throws his belongings out into the snow. Mother Courage and Kattrin harness themselves to the cart and pull it away together.



Mother Courage and Her Children - Synopsis

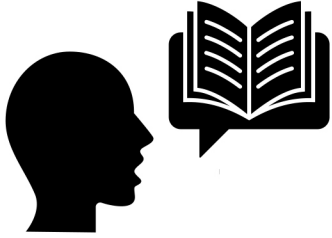
The cart is pitched near a small village at night while Mother Courage is away trading. A group of Orange Union soldiers sneaks into the area, planning a surprise attack to slaughter the sleeping villagers. Kattrin learns about the danger and wants to protect the innocent children in the village. She climbs onto the roof of the cart and begins frantically and very loudly beating an oil drum to wake up the villagers. The soldiers scream at her. Desperate to silence the noise, a soldier shoots Kattrin. Her brave action works - the drums wake up the village and the alarm sounds, but Kattrin dies from her wounds. Some actors go into the Galleries and shout to create the noise of the villagers.

Mother Courage sees Kattrin's body. She is completely heartbroken and in deep denial, sitting by her daughter's body and singing her a gentle lullaby. Now entirely alone, with all three of her children taken by the war, Mother Courage resolves to get back into business, pulling the heavy, empty cart forward into the ongoing war all by herself.



MOTHER COURAGE AND HER CHILDREN

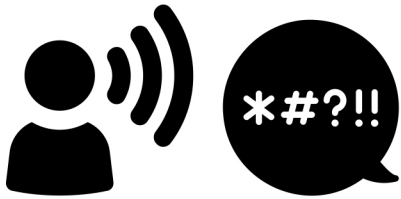
SONIC STORY



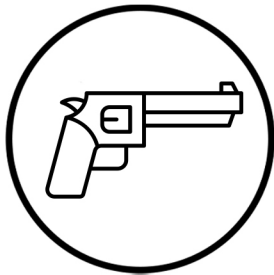
There is a **narrator** who comes on stage and **tells parts of the story** (saying things like '2 years later . . .').



There is **live music**. Instruments include **trumpet, tuba, drums, percussion and woodwinds**.



There is lots of **shouting and swearing** throughout.



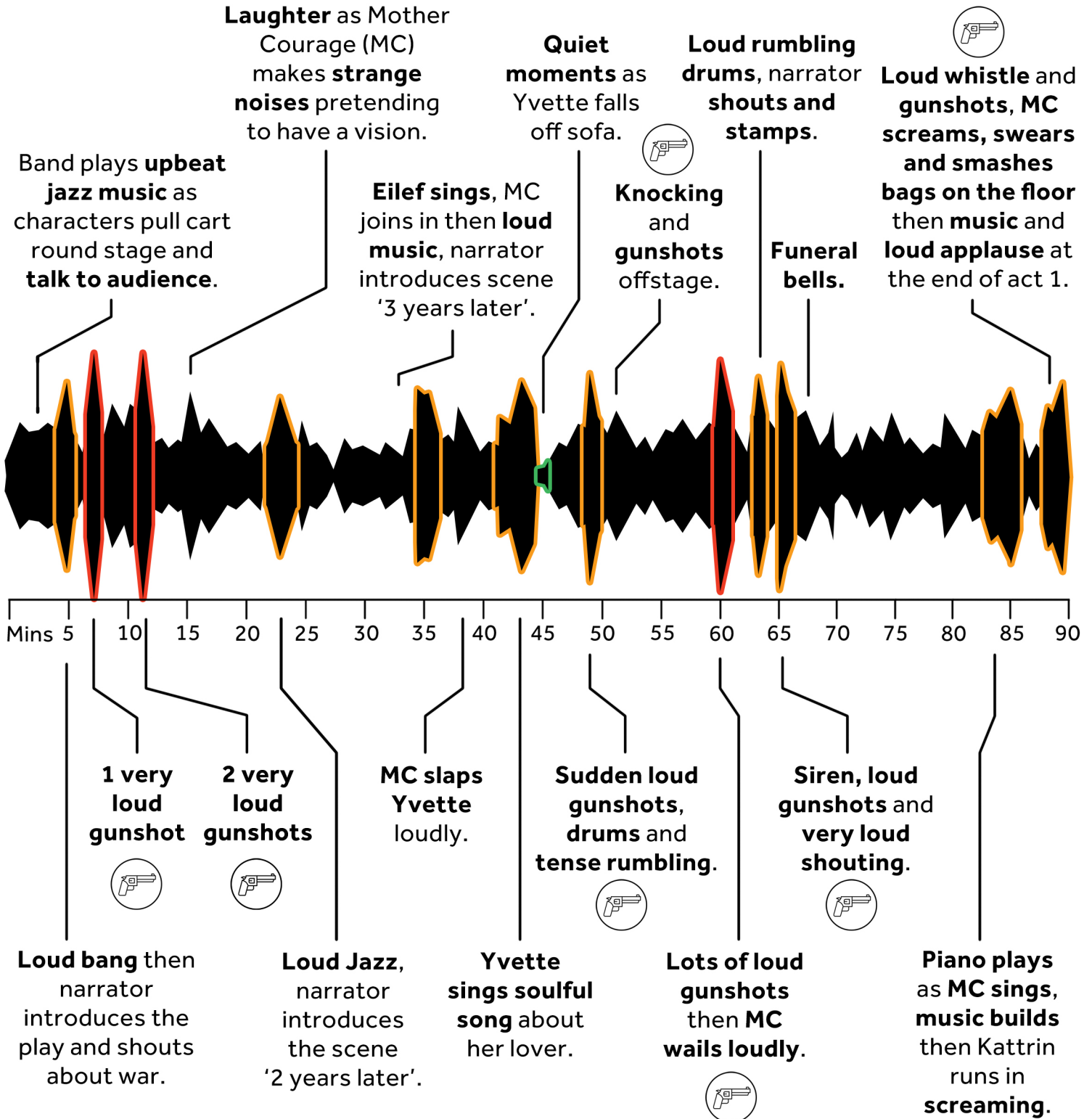
There are **lots of gunshots** – sometimes guns are **on stage** and sometimes they are **offstage**. These are marked with a **gunshot symbol**.



The next two pages describe the **sounds of the show in more detail** – highlighting **loud and quiet moments** and moments when the **sound changes suddenly**.

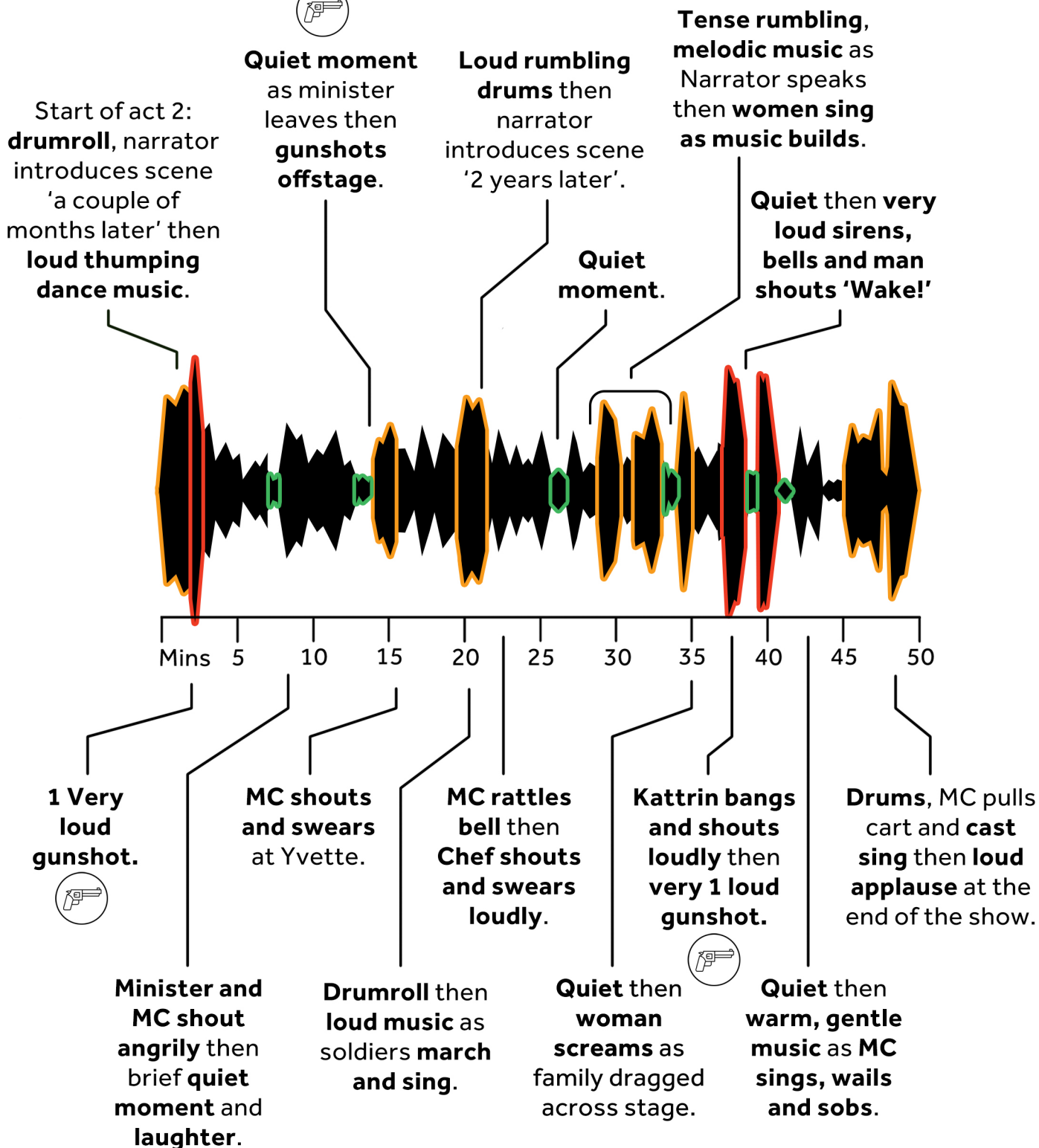
MOTHER COURAGE AND HER CHILDREN

SONIC STORY - ACT 1



MOTHER COURAGE AND HER CHILDREN

SONIC STORY - ACT 2



- VERY LOUD
- LOUD
- QUIET

Further information



Contact Details

Should you require more information or wish to discuss your access requirements please contact the Access team on access@shakespearesglobe.com or 020 7401 9919.



We welcome feedback about your Relaxed Performance experience at Shakespeare's Globe. Please contact us on the above details.