

## **Essential Companion Scheme**

Membership of the Essential Companion Scheme is open to patrons who need additional assistance to access the services within The Octagon Theatre and Westlands Entertainment Venue.

South Somerset District Council is firmly committed to enabling everyone to participate in all events at The Octagon Theatre and Westlands Entertainment Venue equally and with dignity and respect.

We recognise that some customers with disabilities may require the services of a helper or friend to enjoy the facilities offered at our venues. This person is designated as an 'Essential Companion'.

The Essential Companion Scheme entitles our disabled patrons to claim a free or reduced price ticket for their 'Essential Companion' to enable them to visit both The Octagon Theatre and Westlands Entertainment Venue.

### **FREE TICKET FOR ESSENTIAL COMPANION:**

Available to those in receipt of the higher rate of Disability Living Allowance (care or mobility component), the higher rate of Attendance Allowance, the enhanced rate of the Personal Independence Payment (daily living or mobility component), the Armed Forces Independence Payment or for those who hold a Certificate of Visual Impairment or are registered blind.

### **50% PRICE REDUCTION ON ADULT TOP PRICE TICKET FOR ESSENTIAL COMPANION:**

Available to those in receipt of the middle rate the care component of Disability Living Allowance, the lower rate of Attendance Allowance or the standard rate of the daily living component of Personal Independence Payment.

**We regret that if you are receiving any other form of benefit you do not qualify for this scheme.**

**The scheme is not open to, or intended for, those who simply require assistance with transportation to The Octagon Theatre or Westlands Entertainment Venue. An 'Essential Companion' is somebody who is able to help the individual with a disability to use and enjoy the services of The Octagon and Westlands Entertainment Venue, as well as ensuring their safety and wellbeing during their visit.**

The 'Essential Companion' should familiarise themselves with the layout of The Octagon Theatre or Westlands Entertainment Venue and the location of services. They should liaise with staff if the individual with a disability requires assistance and take instructions should there be a need to evacuate the building. The 'Essential Companion' is required to attend to the needs of the person with a disability at all times whilst on the premises.

As The Octagon Theatre and Westlands Entertainment Venue are publicly funded organisations, we require either the person with a disability or their appointed representative to complete the attached form and provide photo ID and proof of entitlement.

The information you give us is protected by the Data Protection Act and will only be used for the purpose set out in this document. All tickets are subject to availability at the time of booking. The Octagon Theatre and Westlands Entertainment Venue reserves the right to review the availability of tickets within the scheme, to review a member's eligibility and to revoke that membership following review.

Any abuse of this scheme could result in your membership being revoked with immediate effect.

**If you have difficulty completing the membership form or would like more information, please contact the Box Office. A member of our team will be pleased to assist you.**

**Tel: 01935 422884**

**Email: [octagontheatre@southsomerset.gov.uk](mailto:octagontheatre@southsomerset.gov.uk) | [westlandsyevil@southsomerset.gov.uk](mailto:westlandsyevil@southsomerset.gov.uk)**



**Box Office: 01935 422884**

**[www.octagon-theatre.co.uk](http://www.octagon-theatre.co.uk) | [www.westlandsyevil.co.uk](http://www.westlandsyevil.co.uk)**

**The Octagon Theatre | Hendford | Yeovil | Somerset | BA20 1UX**

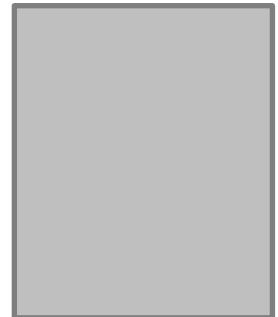
**Westlands Entertainment Venue | Westbourne Close | Yeovil | Somerset | BA20 2DD**



## Essential Companion Scheme - Membership Application Form

### 1. Applicant Photo

Please provide a passport-sized colour photograph that is an accurate and recent likeness of the applicant. Please write the applicants name on the reverse of the photo and affix to the grey rectangle.



### 2. Applicants Details

Title:	Forename:	Surname:
Address:		
Telephone Number:	Mobile:	
Email:		

### 3. Proof of Eligibility

Please enclose proof of eligibility that clearly demonstrates the applicant is in receipt of **one** of the following:

#### **FREE TICKET FOR ESSENTIAL COMPANION:**

- The **higher rate** of the Disability Living Allowance.
- The **higher rate** of Attendance Allowance.
- The **enhanced rate** of the Personal Independence Payment.
- The Armed Forces Independence Payment.
- A Certificate of Visual Impairment or is registered blind

#### **50% PRICE REDUCTION ON ADULT TOP PRICE TICKET FOR ESSENTIAL COMPANION:**

- The **middle rate** of the Disability Living Allowance (care component).
- The **lower rate** of Attendance Allowance
- The **standard rate** of the Personal Independence Payment (daily living part).

If you are sending original documents then please enclose a stamped-addressed envelope (SAE) for their return. Documents provided without a SAE will be securely shredded.

Signed:

Date:

Print Name:

**Please send your completed form and documents to:**

**Post: Essential Companion Scheme, Octagon Theatre, Hendford, Yeovil, Somerset, BA20 1UX**

**Email: [octagontheatre@southsomerset.gov.uk](mailto:octagontheatre@southsomerset.gov.uk)**

We will endeavour to process your application within 10 working days of receipt.

You will not be permitted to book any free or discounted Essential Companion seats until we approve your application. If successfully approved your membership of the scheme will be valid for one year.

For Office Use Only

Received on:	Proof & Photo Attached:	Date Approved:
Customer Notified by:	Added to Spektrix:	Initials:
ESC Expires:	Any other comments:	