

Hello and welcome to this introduction to **Beowulf** by Chris Thorpe.  
Directed for the Unicorn by Justin Audibert.

The touch tours for Beowulf are on Saturday 28 October at 12 o'clock with a 1 o'clock performance and Tuesday 31 October at 1 o'clock with a 2 o'clock performance. The show lasts for 1 hour and 15 minutes. There is not an interval.

We are looking forward to meeting you at the touch tour.

In this introduction I am going to tell you about *Beowulf*, the characters, costumes and what the stage looks like.

The story is told by 1 actor and 1 musician. The female actor will be the only voice of the performance; the male musician will provide all the sound effects and live music.

The story is about Beowulf, an all-conquering monster-slayer, rock star, hero, looking back over her life. In an age of heroes, a mighty warrior named Beowulf arrives at the court of King Hrothgar and offers to rid the kingdom of a vicious demon called Grendel. Set to an immersive metal and electro-infused live soundtrack, this new version of the text is a recounting of Beowulf's dark, bloody and difficult journey as she prepares for battle one last time.

Please note: contains loud music, flashing lights in parts and dry ice.

The Weston stage is very big, open and wide. The stage floor is raised, by approximately 72 centimetres and has been made to look like a rock concert stage. There is a silver metal structure in the middle of the stage that contains all the musical equipment and the musician. Either side of the metal structure are tall walls of speakers. There are moving lights and lights that make the shape of a roof. There is an object suspended by chains that looks like a crown made from broken mirror glass. The stage has grills that allow dry ice to drift through.

The show begins with a very dark, smoky stage and the musician in the metal structure. Beowulf will enter in a cloud of smoke and louder music.

**Beowulf** is a petite but very athletic woman; her afro hair is in neat rows and braids that reach down her back. She wears tight denim trousers, a white tight vest and a decorated denim waistcoat. Both the trousers and waistcoat are ripped and studded with silver metal studs. The fronts of the legs have leather panels that are also covered in studs. She is wearing very sturdy, heavy black leather boots and black leather fingerless gloves. The clothes all look well worn and dangerous to touch. Her makeup is silver and white around the eyes and her hair has silver metal spikes in it to match the clothing. Attached to her leg is a pouch for a dagger. She looks like a warrior or a rock star. She moves around a lot, sometimes with high energy.

When Beowulf is telling you the story of her life she will move around the raised stage and climb on both the speakers and the silver metal structure. There is a sign on the front of the metal structure that says Heorot. The stage moves to create the outline of a hall or room; the speaker walls move forward and the lighting moves down.

**The Musician** is a slim young man. He wears a leather jacket with a very large hood that is raised. He has very big knee length leather boots with flat form bases that are padded with silver details. His dark jeans are also covered in studs. He wears a mask that has glowing eyes and then later a mask made from broken mirror. He moves from the metal structure to the front of the stage with his guitar. He does not speak. He moves quite slowly and appears quite sinister.

During a scene when Beowulf talks about Grendel the monster a set of claws will be pushed through a speaker front. The claws are made from the same broken mirror material as the suspended crown and the musician mask.

During a scene when Beowulf talks about a character called Unferth she will use a microphone that appears from the top of the stage. The microphone is a silver vintage style microphone.

During a scene when Beowulf meets the mother of Grendel a section of the stage will raise up by approximately 1.8 meters and she will be able to reach the suspended crown object. She will reach her hand into the centre and blood will run down her arm.

There are also 3 moments of fire in the performance. The jets of flame come from the either side of centre stage and reach a height of about 2.5 meters.

The approximate timings for these flames are 48 minutes into the performance, 68 minutes into the performance and 73 minutes into the performance. They last no longer than 5 seconds each.

“At the end of this tale, I will go to fight a dragon.  
And I will be no more.”

### **Cast and Production Credits**

Beowulf is played by Debbie Morley

Music and sound is composed and performed by Danny Saul

Written by Chris Thorpe

Directed by Justin Audibert

Set and costume by Samal Blak

Sound Designer David Glover

Associate Director Leigh Toney

Wardrobe Supervisor Claire Nicolas

Deputy Stage Manager Cat Fiabane

Assistant Stage Manager Sophie Macfadyen