

Visual Story

Perfect Storm



La Maison Théâtre

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Questions? Contact Geordie Theatre: info@geordie.ca

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What is a Visual Story?

A visual story is a tool to help audience members familiarize themselves with a venue and/or with a show. It allows audience members to know in advance what to expect from a theatrical experience, so that they can prepare themselves accordingly. Visual stories were created as an aid for autistic people and people with learning disabilities, but they can be used to help anyone prepare for their visit to the theatre.

About the Performance

Performance Time

The performance is approximately 50 minutes in length.

Pre-Performance Talk

Geordie staff will tell you a little bit about the show before it starts. They will also talk about the land on which the theatre is located.

Post-Performance Talkback

There will be a 10 to 15 minute talkback after the show. This is a time where audience members can ask questions to the actors or special guests. Audience members can leave the performance before, after or during the talkback.

Things to Look Out for

- You are welcome to come and go from the performance as you please. Here are some of the different spaces you can spend time in before, during and after the show:
 - The Quiet Room is directly at the bottom of the staircase and to the right. It has objects meant to be calming, like noise-cancelling headphones, weighted plushies, and comfortable chairs and cushions.
 - The Dynamic Space is perfect if you need to move around and get rid of excess energy. It is at the top of the staircase on the side of the theatre with the odd-numbered seats. You can move around in the hallway, and/or use the benches and dynamic seats.
 - The Reading Corner is in the hallway between the odd and even-numbered seats. You can relax and read books there.
- During the show, you can ask the theatre staff for a weighted blanket, weighted plushie, noise-cancelling headphones and/or fidget toy.
- There are music and sound effects in the show. If audience members are sensitive to loud noises, they are encouraged to use noise-cancelling headphones.
- There are lighting effects in the show.
- There are moments in the show where the actors ask audience members to do things, for example clap or boo. Audience members can follow their instructions if they want, but they don't have to.
- There is a glossary at the end of this document. There you will find the definitions of some of the more complex words in the play.
- Some themes explored in this play are competition, friendship, and mutual support.

The Characters



This is Masha. She plays the role of Max.

Max is a perfectionist. Everyone in school knows her as “perfect girl”.



This is Meenu. She plays the role of Kelsey.

Kelsey is shy and quiet. Everyone in school knows her as “perfect girl’s best friend”.



This is Sebastian. He plays the role of Mr. B.

Mr. B is a fourth-grade drama teacher. When he was younger, his dream was to become a Broadway actor. He starred as “the hand” in a Pepto-Bismol commercial in 1995.

Sometimes the actors speak to the audience as themselves, not a character. There are also moments when they play a cloud and the sun.

The Locations

The play takes place at Max and Kelsey's school.

Hailey Verbonac is the set designer. He decided what the stage should look like.

Julian Smith is the composer. He created the music and sounds to bring the audience into Max and Kelsey's world.

Mayumi Ide-Bergeron is the costume designer. She decided what clothes the actors should wear to look like their characters.

The Story

Perfect Storm is written by Gillian Clark and directed by Jimmy Blais.

This is what happens in the play. Skip to the Glossary on page 6 if you don't want spoilers!

Perfect Storm takes place over the course of a school year where best friends Max and Kelsey attend drama class. Throughout the play, the sun and a raincloud act as the voices inside the characters heads. The sun says nice and encouraging things to them. The raincloud insults them and makes them feel bad about themselves.

Max, who is used to being the best at everything, struggles in drama class. Kelsey, who is usually shy, does a great job. Kelsey gets the lead role in the school play. Max is upset with her minor role. They get into an argument where Kelsey, who is enjoying her first time in the spotlight, tells Max that a real friend would be happy for her.

On opening night, their teacher Mr. B announces that there are very important people in the audience, so he has decided to play the main role himself. Kelsey is heartbroken. Mr. B, Kelsey and Max perform the play. It is a disaster.

While they are all feeling down after their bad performance, the raincloud inside their head creates a huge storm. They find their way out by working together using an exercise from their drama class. They agree to make a new play where they can all be the star. A play in which their characters are more understanding and nicer to each other, and to themselves. They accept that the raincloud is a part of them, and the sun is too. Both can exist at the same time, and without either one, there would be no rainbows.

End of play.

Glossary

Amateur: Someone who isn't very good at something, or doesn't have a lot of experience.

Aspirational: With strong hopes of becoming something great.

Break a leg: An expression that means "good luck", usually said to performers before a show.

Composed: Calm, under control.

Disdain: Dislike of something or someone you look down on.

Divine: Like a god.

Impulse: A sudden strong feeling that you need to do something.

Ingenue: This word is used to describe a character in a play or movie who is a sweet, innocent young woman.

Magnetic pulse: A wave of magnetic energy.

Marzipan: A sweet paste used in desserts.

Mature: Grown up.

Monologue: A long speech by an actor.

Nuclear physicist: A scientist who studies the centre of atoms.

Prominent: Important, famous.

Splendid: Very good.

Thespian: Fancy word for actor.

Triumph: A great success, victory, achievement.

Visionary: Someone with original, creative ideas that are better than everyone else's.

Woe: Great sadness, distress, troubles.

WWE WrestleMania: A professional wrestling competition that is livestreamed every year.