



The Singing Mermaid

Visual Story



A visual resource for children and adults with Autism, Asperger's, Sensory Processing Disorder and associated conditions.

This resource is intended to help prepare any visitors for a new experience and to help them to become familiar with the show, surroundings and situation.

The Show

The show lasts for 50 minutes and does not have an interval.

There are 3 performers in the show. Most of the characters are puppets but the performers also act and narrate as well. Sam Sly, the Ringmaster is not a puppet.

The show has recorded music and lots of songs.

Synopsis

*Did you ever go to Silversands
On a sunny summer's day?
Then perhaps you saw the mermaid
Who sang in the deep blue bay.*

One day, the singing mermaid is tempted away from all of her sea creature friends and her peaceful home at Silversands to join a travelling circus. The audiences love to hear her sing, but the poor mermaid was tricked! Instead of the swimming pool she was promised, she is kept in a small tank by the wicked circus master Sam Sly, and she soon longs to return to the freedom of the sea.

Will she ever escape? And who will help her along the way?



This play is based on the original book *The Singing Mermaid*. Text copyright © Julia Donaldson 2012. Illustrations copyright © Lydia Monks 2012. Published by Macmillan Children's Books.

Characters

Apart from Sam Sly the Ringmaster all of the other characters are puppets:



The Singing Mermaid and the Gull



Sam Sly the Ringmaster



The Fish



The crabs and the clams



Eugene the Unicyclist



Ding and Dong the Performing Hounds



The Clown



Fabrizze the Human Volcano



Annie the Acrobat

The Show

In this section special alerts are written in blue ink.



When you enter the auditorium you will see coloured lights hung from the ceiling the stage is lit and circus music is playing in the background.

Just before the show is going to start one of the performers comes into the auditorium and talks to the audience to welcome them.

They go up on to the stage to join the other two performers to start the show with a warm up. They ask the audience to join in from their seats with stretching, clapping, cheering and silly laughing. You can join in if you like.

The performers sing a song about the sea. Seagulls fly across the stage and then the lights turn blue as we meet underwater fish and jellyfish.



We meet the Singing Mermaid, who sings about her life in the sea. The crabs and clams join in with her.



The Mermaids friend the Gull flies down to see her.

The gull makes a loud cawing sound.

Sam sly, the Ringmaster of the circus hears the Mermaid singing and decides he wants her to join his circus.

He sings to her to persuade her to come with him.

The Gull does not want her to go and he caws at Sam Sly to try to frighten him off.

While he is singing Sam tries to get rid of the Gull including pulling the Gull puppet off the puppeteers hand and throwing him away.

The Gull warns the Mermaid not to go with Sam, but Sam convinces her and he takes her away with an evil laugh.

When the song finishes the blue lights change to flashing coloured circus lights and circus music plays.

There is a drum roll and we are at the circus!

Sam Sly welcomes the audience to the circus and Eugene the unicyclist enters. Sam helps him by providing balls for him to use in his act. To build up excitement there is a drum roll. The audience are asked to join in using their hands to make drum noises.

Sam uses magic to make balls appear from his mouth and get bigger. .

They ask the audience if they think Eugene can balance a ball on his head. When Eugene balances a ball on his head he asks the audience to join in with counting to 3. There is a sound of a circus crowd cheering.



Sam introduces the next act—
Two balancing dogs.

A balloon on a pole is brought
on stage as part of this act. But
it does not pop

The dogs perform some
balancing tricks.

A clown enters. There is a
honking sound from his nose and
the dogs bark with excitement.
He tries to climb the pole with
the balloon but keeps sliding
down. Whenever he slides down
there is a whistling noise. When
he gets to the top he grabs the
balloon and starts to float away.
The dogs grab hold of the balloon
and the clown drops down. The
dogs float away holding on to the
balloon.

The clown gets stuck in a bucket!
When the bucket is stuck on his
face he crashes down to the
ground with a bang!



Sam introduces the human
volcano.

This act can breathe fire!

He is also very cheeky and
keeps teasing Sam and chasing
him around.

Fire comes out of his mouth, but
don't worry it isn't real fire. The
lights turn red during the fire
breathing.



Sam introduces Annie the Acrobat. She waves to the audience and asks them to wave back.

The lights get darker and the circus music stops. Dramatic music plays.

Annie walks along a tightrope and can do amazing acrobatic tricks on it!

The circus crowd cheers, the lights get brighter again and the Circus music plays.



Sam sings a song to introduce the Singing Mermaid. She is very nervous so at first she can't sing very well.

Sam isn't very happy with her, He tells her she has to do better.

As she improves the circus crowd cheer and call out for more.

The Mermaid is the last act at the circus.

The lights go out and the circus is closed for the night.



The circus stage is transformed into the caravan that the mermaid lives in. She has been put in a small fish tank, not the marble pool she was promised.

Although the Mermaid is not as happy as she thought she would be she has made lots of new friends at the circus and has a new circus family. The friends sing together.

she does not like Sam, who treats her cruelly and keeps her trapped in a fish tank where she can't swim.



Sam enters counting his money. He asks the audience to help him count it as he keeps losing track.

When the Mermaid tries to talk to him about going back to the sea he won't listen.

Finally when he is tired of her asking he shouts No and laughs loudly!



The lights are darker and we see the caravans travelling all around the country through the different seasons. The performers scatter leaves, snow and petals to represent the different seasons.

Once again the Mermaid begs Sam to let her go home back to the sea but once again he shouts No and laughs loudly!

Sam sings a song about how much he loves money. The lights flash.

He waves his money over people in the front row then whips it away if anyone tries to touch it.



The circus is back near Silver Sands, the Mermaids home.

She dreams about swimming in the sea and sings a sad version of her song. She remembers what it was like in the sea and the lights go blue as she thinks about underwater life.

Her friend the Gull hears her sing and comes up with a plan to steal the key of her caravan and set her free.



The Mermaid is excited about the plan to escape, but realises that even if she is set free she can't walk to Silver Sands as she only has a tail and no legs.

Acrobat Annie sing a song and teaches her how to walk on her hands so that when she escapes she can walk away.

It's night time.

The lights are darker and Sam settles down to sleep. The other puppeteers sneak around the stage moving the set and ask the audience to be quiet so that Sam doesn't get woken up.

Tense music plays and Sam talks and sings about money in his sleep. The Gull tries to steal the key and eventually manages it.

Sam wakes up! He realises the key is gone. He asks the audience if they took it? He asks the audience who took it. You can tell him if you like!

Sam realises it was the Gull who stole the key. The Gull caws loudly as he tries to get away from Sam's grasp. He bites Sam and Sam screams loudly each time!

The Gull finally escapes Sam's clutches and the Mermaid is set free!

The Gull guides the Mermaid down the path to the beach as she walks on her hands in the darkness of the night under the glow of the stars.

At the end of the path she dives into the sea with a loud splash and is free again!

The lights turn blue.



The Mermaid is back in the sea,
swimming with her friends the fish,
the crabs and the clams.

She sings her song as she swims
with joy with the sound of the sea
in the background.



The stage lights go out briefly. This is
the end of the story.

The performers come back on the
stage and the lights come on again.

You can clap if you want to.

The performers invite the audience to
join in with one final song and to clap
and sway along if they want to.

They take a bow. You can clap to say
thank you if you want to.



This is the end of the show! We hope you enjoyed it!