

LA Little Angel Theatre



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 approx. 40 minutes

There is 1 performer in the show who is the Ringmaster. All of the other characters are puppets.

The show has recorded circus music throughout.

Roll up! Roll up! Take your seats for the smallest circus in town.

George the ringmaster has quite the challenge on their hands. The circus isn't quite what it once was but even still, George has curated a programme of acts more bedazzling than ever.

But first they must make sure all of the acts are ready to razzle-dazzle. Where on earth is Flop? And why is Smelly Dog making all that fuss?

Join Little Angel's Miniature Travelling Circus and be delighted by beautiful puppets, nostalgic magic tricks and acts so tiny you may wonder how you can possibly see them! From performing mice to acrobatic fleas – this circus has stars you won't see anywhere else!

Little Angel Theatre's Miniature Travelling Circus is aimed at **ages 3-6**. The performer chats with the audience and keeps them engaged with surprises and magic tricks, and there are moments for joining in. There is nothing scary in the show – there is an annoying cat called 'Scratchy Cat', but she's not so bad. The show is quite wordy and some children may get a little restless as the audience stay in their seats for the duration.

Little Angel Theatre Staff will be wearing circus style clothes to welcome you.

On your way up to the main auditorium you will see circus style bunting and signs directing you to the space where the circus show takes place.



Characters



The Ringmaster



Smelly Dog



Potzo the Clown



Flip and Flop the Rabbits



Monty and Mervyn the Mice



Miss Scratchy Cat

Note: There are also performing fleas but they are so small it is very hard to get a photograph of them!

The Show

In this section special alerts are written in blue ink.



When you enter the auditorium you will see a trolley on wheels with a case and a book on top. The stage area is draped in fabric like a circus tent and there are rugs on the floor. This is the area where the performance takes place. **Circus music is playing. Music plays in the background for most of the performance.**

When it's nearly time for the show to start the performer playing the Ringmaster comes out. They start to say hello to the audience, and welcomes people to the circus. Some people might still be coming in and sitting down at this point.

When it is time for the show to start the Ringmaster makes an announcement to welcome everyone and to remind them to keep their phones quiet and not take photos.



The Ringmaster asks the audience to practice some things they might need to do during the show. You can join in if you like.

- **Drum Rolls (tapping knees)**
- **Clapping**
- **Cheering**
- **Sitting very still and quiet when they signal with their hands.**

It is time for the show to start. The lights on the audience get darker and the lights on the stage get brighter.



The Ringmaster sings a song asking people to Roll up Roll up to the circus.

There is a tinkling noise and the lights go darker and focus on the Ringmaster, who tells the audience the story of the history of the circus.

The Ringmaster spins a globe as they explain that the circus was once much bigger, and used to travel the world. Using a map with tiny holes and a torch to shine light through to follow the route we hear a train whistle blow as the Ringmaster tells the audience about the travelling circus.

The book unfolds to show how the circus used to be with elephants, lions, tigers, monkeys and clowns (there is a honk of a horn when the clowns are mentioned).

The wild animals were too big and too wild to be kept in cages and so they all went home to the countries they came from. This was the end of the big travelling circus. The Ringmaster is sad and asks the audience to say Ahhhhhhhh. The ringmaster disappears behind the trolley. The Ringmaster re-appears and is happy, because now we have the miniature traveling circus!

The Ringmaster introduces the first act in the circus. The performing fleas! The lights go red. The fleas are tiny and you can't see them. You have to imagine they are there! They are kept in a glass jar.



As the Ringmaster introduces the fleas they ask the audience to drum roll and clap. The fleas do some tricks but then they start to escape. The Ringmaster tries to catch them in a paper bag. One of the fleas settles on someone in the audience. The Ringmaster gives them an envelope to post the flea back if they find it when they get home. **The Ringmaster asks the audience to clap for the fleas.**



The Ringmaster starts to introduce the next act, Flip and Flop the balance bunnies, but instead Smelly Dog pops up. **He is barking and howling.** He also starts to fart! The Ringmaster sends him away.



The Ringmaster is looking for Flip and Flop. They ask the audience if they have seen them. They look in their hat. There are no rabbits in the hat. **The Ringmaster asks for help from an audience member to see if they can use magic to get the rabbits from the hat. The Ringmaster chooses one person from the audience to help.** After a few attempts the magic works and Flip appears from the hat. But Flop is missing. They can't find her. **The audience are asked to say goodbye to Flip as he goes to look for Flop.**



The Ringmaster asks the audience again if they have seen Flop. You can call out if you see a rabbit peeping out of the case! The Ringmaster does not see Flop.



The Ringmaster introduces the next act. Monty and Mervyn the twin performing mice. **The Ringmaster asks the audience to drum roll and clap as the mice perform their trapeze act.**



Flop briefly pops out of the case and Smelly Dog comes back. The Ringmaster does not see Flop and tells Smelly Dog that they will come and help look for her.

The next act is Potzo the Clown. Potzo does a balancing act on a ladder while trying to do some window cleaning. You can hear the squeak of the windows being cleaned. He hangs and flips and balances until he eventually falls. **The Ringmaster asks the audience to clap for Potzo.**



The Ringmaster hasn't found Flop, but you might see her popping out of the case again. The Ringmaster introduces the final act. Miss Scratchy Cat. Miss Scratchy Cat dances and purrs to music, but she can't stay and assist with the magic tricks because she has to go and help find Flop.



Because Miss Scratchy Cat has gone the **Ringmaster asks an audience member to help with the magic trick**, pulling scarves out of an empty bag.

Smelly Dog comes back. They still can't find Flop. The Ringmaster asks Smelly Dog to do the tightrope act that Flop usually does. **The Ringmaster asks an audience member to hold some sausages to help tempt Smelly Dog along the rope.** With a bit of wobbling he does it!



The Ringmaster announces that this is the end of the show, but just then Flop appears out of the case. Flip and Flop are reunited.

The Ringmaster asks Flop why they were hiding. Flop whispers to the performer that it's her birthday, but she was hiding because Miss Scratchy Cat wasn't nice to her.

The Ringmaster talks to Miss Scratchy Cat. She says she was jealous because she wanted it to be her birthday again! She wanted to be the special one. The Ringmaster tells Miss Scratchy Cat that today she is still special. She has the special job of making Flop feel special on her birthday!

Everyone sings Happy Birthday to Flop. You can join in if you want. At the end of the song shiny paper drops from the ceiling over the Ringmaster.

The Ringmaster thanks everyone for coming. They say thank you to all the acts and you can join in with the clapping if you want.

The Ringmaster sings the Roll up, Roll up song again and says thank you and goodbye and leaves. You can clap at the end of the show if you want to.

This is the end of the show. A rope is hung across the front of the stage as the audience leaves.

We hope you enjoyed your visit to Little Angel Theatre's Miniature Travelling Circus!

