



## *Visual Story*

A visual resource for children and adults with Autistic Spectrum Disorder.

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. 50 minutes with no interval.

There are 2 performers in the show. Some of the parts are played just by puppets, some are played by the performers and puppets.

The show has both recorded and live music throughout as well as songs.



**King Reginald is a ruler who likes to keep in style. But the fashions change so fast, he's afraid he can't keep up...**

Hearing of the King's predicament, two fast-talking "Weavers" head to the palace with their brand new fabric: it's "smart" and it's "in" and it NEVER goes out of fashion. Soon the Kingdom is alive with talk of the magical cloth and Reginald can't wait to wear his "smart" new suit to the Big Parade. But what are these "weavers" really spinning...?

MONSTRO and Little Angel Theatre's latest Puppet Musical is an anarchic re-telling of Hans Christian Andersen's Emperor's New Clothes, in which the characters (and the audience) discover that people can be made to believe ANYTHING. With songs, puppetry, slapstick and more, the two Swindlers (or should we call them "actors"?) will weave their cunning magic on children and adults alike...

The King of Nothing is aimed at ages **5-11**. It is a comic and playful show, and the younger children will enjoy the slapstick humour, while older children and adults can also appreciate the verbal and theatrical wit. Under-5s may not stay engaged as well.

## Characters



Tina and Gerald, the swindlers, are played by the performers and puppets



King Reginald is played by a performer and a puppet



The Narrator Mouse



Bernard, The Keeper of the Royal Capes



## Characters



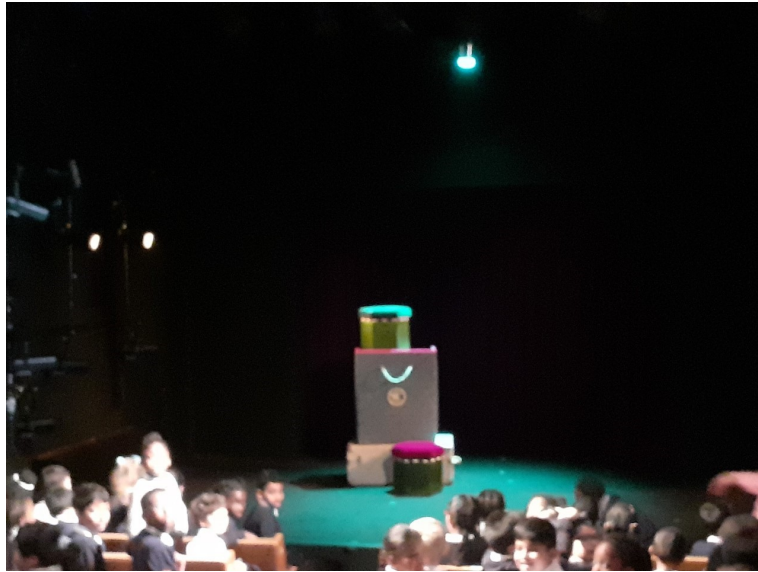
**Dolores, The Keeper of the Royal Trousers**



**James, The Keeper of The Royal Undergarments**

## The Show

In this section special alerts are written in blue ink.



When you enter the auditorium you will see a pile of bags and boxes on stage. The stage area is the space where the performance takes place, although the performers do come down into the aisle at certain points and one puppet talks to the audience from the back of the theatre. **Music is playing in the background.**

When it's time for the show to start the lights go darker and a spotlight focuses on the back of the theatre up in the lighting box and a voice says 'I'm over here!'

There is a mouse up in the lighting box and she explains that she is going to be the narrator of the story.

The lights focus back on the stage and there are now two large bags added to the collection.

First we hear voices, then arms, then legs then heads appear out of the bags.

Tina and Gerald the Swindlers have been hiding in the bags.

They explain to the audience who they are and what they do. **They ask the audience if they can trust them. You can answer if you want.**

They sing a song explaining about their lives as swindlers. They play ukuleles while they sing.



The Swindlers talk more about their lives and all the different types of people they've pretended to be. **When they explain they were once dentists there is a scream as they act out someone having a tooth pulled out!** The performers change the scenery as they talk. They remember the time they were once weavers.....

The Swindlers go behind a screen and pop back up as puppets! The Mouse also appears behind the screen to narrate the story. She tells the Swindler puppets that they can't talk to her or look at her as she is the narrator and not actually in the story!

The Mouse tells the audience about King Reginald. The ruler of the Kingdom of Fa La La, and how much he loved clothes and fashion and didn't care for anything else, including the problems his subjects were having.

The puppet version of King Reginald appears, popping through the curtain. He is worried about his outfit. Is it in or out? He looks in a magazine to find out.

He calls on three assistants to help him decide what to wear based on what different fashion magazines claim are 'in' or 'out'.

The first person to help him is Bernard, the Keeper of the Royal Capes. The King is worried about his birthday parade in three days time. What will he wear that is special enough?

He calls on Dolores, to advise about his trousers. He is obsessed with how he looks.

He calls on James to advise about his undergarments as they are clashing with his trousers. James tells him the people are rioting, they are not happy. He advises that the King makes a speech to try and keep them happy.





The Swindlers (as people) come out from behind the screen. They have arrived at the Kings palace. They are amazed by everything they can see. **They walk up the aisle of the theatre looking around at everything. They start to steal things from the audience (if they take anything from you don't worry you will get it back straight away).** They hear a noise and run back on to the stage to hide leaving everything they have stolen behind.

James introduces the King, who is going to make a speech to his subjects.

The King comes out on to the stage. **This time it is one of the performers playing the part of the King, not the puppet.**

The King sings a song about how his main responsibility is looking good. **He interacts with the audience, complimenting them on what they are wearing.** He takes a note from someone in the front row. The note tells him that someone he knows has died. He doesn't mind though as he knows he looks good in black!

**The King continues his song about how he needs a new outfit for his birthday parade.** He pops his head through holes in giant fashion magazines, trying out different looks.

The Swindler puppets pop up. They are listening to the King sing about needing a new revolutionary outfit.

**When the King finishes his song he calls for more clapping! He notices the Swindlers and jumps and screams.**

The Swindlers tell the King that they are weavers, and can make the most amazing fabric. **As they describe what they are able to do the main lights go darker and swirling lights mesmerise the King.**



The swindlers describe the fabric they will make for the Kings birthday outfit and that it is magical and only smart people can see it. The King is impressed by the idea of such a unique outfit and so he tells the Swindlers they have three days to make his birthday outfit. He pays them and leaves.

The Mouse appears. She tells the audience they don't have to wait three days to find out what happens, but to help show the passing of time she will sing a song. **She starts to sing a song about being a little mouse, but she is interrupted by the King.** He can't see the mouse, but says that three days have now passed and he can't wait to see his birthday outfit.

The King is worried that he might not be able to see the fabric himself, so he decides to send James to check on it—Who is the wisest of his advisors.

James is nervous that he won't be able to see the fabric himself and so he decides to send Dolores! Dolores is also nervous, so she decides to send Bernard!

The Swindlers are down in the basement drinking tea and lazing around. **They sing a song about how hard they are working! The song begins with one of the Swindlers tapping a tin cup with a spoon, and then the other one joining in on their ukulele.**

**At the end of the song the cup tapping gets louder and there is a knock on the door.** It's Bernard, coming to check on the fabric.

The Swindlers rush around trying to make it look like they've been doing something.

**Bernard comes in and the main lights go darker and the swirling lights appear and mystical music plays as the Swindlers describe the beautiful fabric.** Bernard is confused. He can't reply when they ask him what he thinks. He leaves and the





As the Swindlers mime cutting out the invisible fabric the mouse appears and exclaims that there is nothing there! We hear the voice of Bernard in the background describing the wonderful fabric to the King. The Mouse announces it is time for the King to prepare for the birthday parade.

**The main lights go dark and the swirling lights and music start as the swindlers sing a song about the amazing outfit they have made for the King.**

He goes behind a screen and gradually passes his clothes over the top as he undresses and puts his birthday outfit on.

**The stage is set for the parade, with flags and music.**

**The King puppet comes out. He is naked! He asks the audience if they like what he is wearing. You can tell him he doesn't have any clothes on if you want to.**

**The King sings a song about getting on with things. He continues the parade even though he realises he doesn't have any clothes on and he has been tricked! He walks up the aisle of the theatre as he sings**

When the parade is over the King sits down. He takes off his crown and shivers and cries. The Mouse comes over and comforts him and gives him a blanket. He is very grateful and admits he has been very selfish, only thinking about himself and how he looks and ignoring the needs of his subjects.

**The Swindler puppets appear. The King asks the audience if they have seen them. You can tell him if you want. The Swindlers realise they have been caught out. The performers playing the Swindlers run down the aisle and out of the theatre back doors to get away! Police sirens can**



The Mouse appears. As a reward for comforting the King he has given her permission to sing her song!

**There is a spotlight on the Mouse as she sings her song about being a little mouse.**

When the song is over the performers come on to the stage and bow. They are wearing handcuffs to show that they have been caught!

**This is the end of the show. You can clap if you like.**

**We hope you enjoyed the show.**

