



## Medusa's First Kiss Visual Story

A visual resource for young people 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 1 hour and does not have an interval.

There are 2 performers in the show. The snakes in Medusa's hair are puppets.

The show has recorded and live music and lots of songs. You can listen to the songs on Spotify here: [Medusa's First Kiss \(Original Cast Recording\) - EP by Holly Mallett, Poppy Burton-Morgan | Spotify](#)

## Synopsis

A modern day teen Medusa sets out on an odyssey of discovery and self-acceptance. In search of love she meets a host of teen-movie trope Greek gods and goddesses on the way - from cool girl Athena to moody goth Persephone, Picture perfect Aphrodite to sports star Atlas. She hopes each exchange will bring her closer to transformation and eventually love. Finally ending up with the expelled school witch Circe - whose transformation spell yields unexpected results...



Medusa has just started at Olympus High. Look, there's sports star Atlas out on the field, Aphrodite cheerleading from the side, goth Persephone hanging out by the school gates and don't forget mysterious school-witch Circe... Maybe this is the school where Medusa will finally learn how to fit in. But soon enough she's out with the gods, as mean girl Athena writes a load of nasty words on her locker and even her own snakes-for-hair decide to give her the cold shoulder. She's on her own. Will she ever find friends, let alone love? And who will help her along the way?

Note: The characters are young people at secondary school exploring emotions and relationships, including romantic relationships. The story deals with bullying, including online bullying. There is a scene where girls talk and sing about dealing with unwanted attention. Another song touches on adult relationships when Hera / the headteacher sings about her marriage to Zeus.

There are some references to sexual orientation and gender identity. The character of Circe uses they / them pronouns and one of the snakes says they identify as non-binary.

There is sophisticated vocabulary in places, and ideas and references that might be new to young people, but it isn't necessary to understand every word, or to be familiar with the mythical Greek figures, to follow Medusa's story. All ages can enjoy the music and puppetry, but children who are much younger than the teenage characters may not relate as well to the feelings they are expressing or the issues they are facing.

## Characters

Medusa is played by the same performer throughout the show. Medusa's snakes are puppets.  
All of the other characters are played by the other performer.



Medusa and small snakes

Snakes:

Miss—Pink

Fliss—Yellow/orange

Diss—Green



Large version of the snakes



**ATHENA** - one of the popular girls at school. And she knows it. Clueless / Mean girls vibes.  
Strong and confident, lives a charmed golden life.



**HERA** - headmistress of the school. An old-fashioned character, with very considered hair and a lifetime of repressed emotion.



**ATLAS** - school sports star. Holding up the world, the world of anxiety and pressure inside their head. A brusque exterior hiding a tender soul.



**PERSEPHONE** - Queen of The Underworld. Spooky goth vibes. Intense and then unexpectedly light hearted. Everyone is afraid of her.



**APHRODITE** - the most beautiful girl in school. Cheerleader vibes. Friendly, approachable and utterly worn down by the constant unwanted attention she receives.



**ARTEMIS** Eco warrior, goddess of nature, optimistic and strong. Spoken word poet in her spare time.



**CIRCE** - trainee witch. New age, crystal healing hippy vibes. Expelled from school for turning the rugby team into pigs. Hasn't been deterred by that and is still carrying it on as a hobby. Quietly confident in a grounded way.

## The Show

In this section special alerts are written in blue ink.



When you enter the auditorium you will see the set. The show is set in a school. **Music is playing and the space is hazy with mist.**

**Just before the show is going to start a school bell rings and there is an announcement over the speakers from Hera, the Headteacher. She reminds the 'students' to turn their phones off or on to silent.**

The show starts with a song as the large versions of the snakes enter. **They sing a song to introduce themselves and decide that they want to try and help Medusa achieve her hearts desire.**

**At the end of the song the school bell rings.**

Medusa appears, she is writing in her diary and talking to the snakes in her hair. She hasn't been at Olympus High School for very long. She has a crush on Athena, but this has backfired and Athena has started spreading rumours about Medusa around the school and writing nasty things on her locker door.

**Athena comes in and sings a song about Medusa being a monster. During the song some lights flash for a bit and at one moment it goes dark very briefly.**



**Medusa sings a song about how she wants to be kissed. During this song the lights change from a spotlight to flashing lights and back again.**

Hera, who is the Headmistress of Olympus High enters. She wants to talk to Medusa about fitting in. Medusa hopes that she will get some sensible help with her issues but all that Hera is offering is a makeover and new hairstyle!

**Hera sings a song about striving for perfection. During the end of the song Hera loses control a little bit as she is faced with the pressures of trying to be perfect in public when she is struggling privately herself.**

Medusa is hanging around outside the school. **There are sounds of traffic and car horns as she leans against the school gate.** Medusa talks to the snakes about her encounter with Hera and the snakes decide that they need some time out from the situation and think it's time to go into hibernation for a bit. They go to sleep, leaving Medusa all alone.

Medusa's phone pings and she looks at it. It's a TikTok of Athena making fun of Medusa. Persephone enters. With the snakes asleep Medusa decides to ask Persephone for some help—Even though Persephone isn't a very approachable person.

Persephone and Medusa talk about how they feel and the upsetting situations they are both in.

**Persephone sings a song about letting the bad weather go so that the sun can shine again. During the song there are sounds of thunder and flashing lights.**



Atlas enters holding a giant ball. Atlas feels the pressure of holding on to things all the time. **Atlas sings a song about the pressure of holding the world on their shoulders.**

**Medusa takes the ball from Atlas and they sing about how things are easier and more fun if you can share them. During the song they decide to crowd surf their collective worries and throw the inflatable ball into the audience. You can hit the ball to bounce it to someone else if it comes near you. At the end of the song the lights go out very briefly.**

Medusa's phone pings—It's a voice message from Atlas. Atlas thinks that Medusa should go and talk to Aphrodite. They think that she might be able to help her improve her confidence.

The big snakes enter. **They sing about helping Medusa**, but decide that this is something she needs to do herself.

Medusa sets out on her quest to find Aphrodite. **The lights go darker and there is a small screen with some shadow puppetry.** Using the shadow puppets we see Medusa meeting Polyphemus, the Cyclops, in his cave who everyone thinks is bad.

**Medusa plays guitar and sings a song about discovering that Polyphemus has been bullied by Odysseus, and that it's better to be kind to everyone no matter who they are.**

When Medusa finally meets Aphrodite she is surprised to find out that Aphrodite was also looking for her to ask for some advice.

Aphrodite hates being the centre of attention and the feeling that she is always being stared at because of her beauty.





They sing a song about what it feels like to be in this situation, and Medusa offers her advice. During the song there are pink lights that come out of the lockers and Medusa and Aphrodite encourage the audience to join in with some singing and arm movements. You can join in if you want to.



Medusa is happy that she has helped Aphrodite to feel better, but she still doesn't feel any better about herself. She looks at the school notice board for ideas of things she could do to help distract or cheer herself up. She decides to try the Climate and Ecological Crisis Action Group. She meets Artemis, who leads the group, just as **her phone pings** with another message from Atlas, but she ignores it. **Artemis sings a song in a spoken word poetry style about working together.** During the song there are some blue flashing lights and police sirens when they talk about protesting.



Medusa is inspired by the group but still feels that something is missing. **She sings a song about feeling like she is still a work in progress.** During the song there are some gentle flashing lights.



**Her phone pings again, but it isn't Atlas, It's Athena!** Athena enters, still recording the message. She sings a song about how sorry she is for the way she treated Medusa.

At the end of the song she also tells Medusa that the Headmistress has left the school and also her husband Zeus, who was treating her very badly. She also recommends that Medusa go and visit Circe, a witch, who might be able to help her transform her life for the better.



**Circe enters with a trolley full of snorting and squealing pigs and sings a song about how she uses her powers to turn rude men into pigs!**

Medusa enters and is impressed! Circe tells her that she can help her transform her life by staring into a mirror for 100 days.

During this time the snakes wake up!

**On the 100th day Medusa sings a song about looking in the mirror.** She expects to see a big change in the way she looks, but she looks the same. The snakes and Circe sing with her and help her to realise that she has changed, because she is now caring, courageous, fierce and free.

Medusa realises that something has changed, and that her feelings have also changed and that she now feels love. The love she feels is for Circe, and Circe feels love for Medusa.

Circe and Medusa share a kiss. Medusa has found what she was looking for.

**In the final song all of the characters from the story come back one by one to sing about what they have learnt about life and themselves. During the song the lights change and during Persephone's section there is a crash of lighting.**

The song ends with Medusa realising that this isn't the end of her story, and that life is always a work in progress.

**Medusa and Circe share another kiss and the lights go out.**

**The lights come back on and the performers take a bow.**

**You can clap if you like to show that you enjoyed the show.**

