

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. 40 minutes

There are 2 performers in the show and some puppets.

The show has live songs and recorded music as well as projected animations.

A big adventure for a small city rat

The Curious Rat tells the story of Lucien, a lonely city rat who watches the pigeons from his home under Waterloo Bridge and wishes he could join them in the sky. One day he spots the most amazing pigeon and takes his first brave steps to follow her into the lights of the big city...

Come with Lucien as he scampers across the bridge, dodging rain drops. He will meet a set of troublesome traffic lights, take a ride on a busy bus, dance at the carnival and even escape a flock of angry seagulls. On his adventure he will discover that he may not be a bird with wings, but that he has been given his own special things.

A poignant and poetic tale to inspire children and adults alike. Playfully combining puppetry and animated projection, this story encourages audiences to celebrate the things that make them unique.



NOTE:

There are rows with chairs and soft blocks facing the stage, and some mats on the floor at the front. There will be up to 70 people watching the show, unless you come to a Relaxed Performance where there will be a lot less. There are sometimes a few more than 70 if you come when there are school groups.

If you come on a school day the performers will spend some time after the show talking to the audience asking them questions about what they've seen in the show.

Characters—Puppets



A lonely rat, Lucien



An amazing pigeon, Giniqua

Characters—People



Storytellers



Green and Red Road
Crossing People



Mean Rats



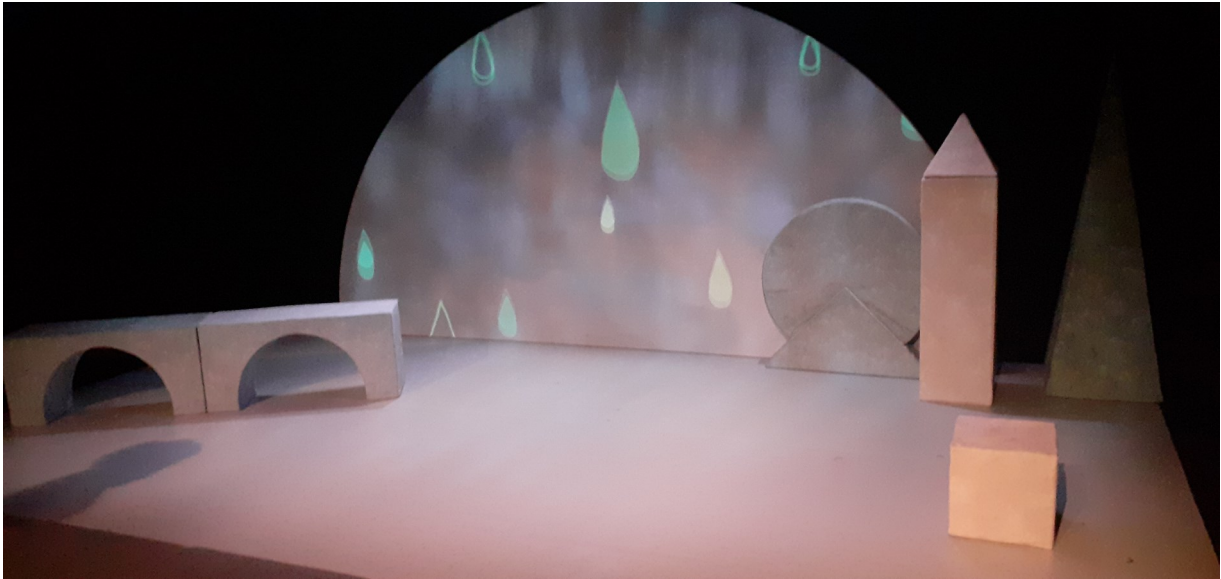
The Bee

There are also characters that feature as animations:

Seagulls, fish, octopus and the legs and feet of people walking around the city.

The Show

In this section special alerts are written in blue ink.



When you enter the auditorium you will see the set. The back of the set is a large screen. Animations are projected on to this screen throughout the show. When you enter there is an animation of rain falling and you will hear the gentle sound of rain and some quiet music in the background.

Just before the show starts the stage manager talks to the audience to remind them to turn off phones and not to go past the line that marks the stage area.

When it's time for the show to start the lights get a bit darker and the sounds of rain gets a bit louder there are also some gentle rumbles of thunder. The two performers come on to the stage and jump around in puddles as music plays.



The storytellers set the scene, describing the rainy day in London. There is an animation of umbrellas swirling. Big Ben lights up and chimes gently, and some of the blocks of set transform into a tunnel and we meet Lucian the lonely Rat, who lives underneath Waterloo Bridge.

We see an animation of feet walking across the bridge and hear the sound of traffic.

We see an animation of pigeons flying and Lucian watches them enviously, he wishes he could fly like a pigeon.



More rain falls and as we watch an animation of a pigeon flying across the screen. A puppet version of Giniqua the pigeon appears from behind the screen.

Lucian admires the beauty and skills of this particular pigeon as she flies above him.

As Big Ben gently chimes the beautiful pigeon flies away. Lucian wishes he could fly away with her.

Lucian looks at the lights across the city on the other side of the river. He has never crossed the bridge over to the other side of the river Thames. There is an animation showing the lights glowing across the city, and then more feet walking as he takes his first brave steps over Waterloo Bridge. Lucian becomes part of the animation as he joins the crowds.

He reaches the other side and stops at a set of traffic lights. He sees the beautiful pigeon sitting on top of a street lamp on the other side of the road.

The Red and Green people from the traffic light come out on to the stage and argue about who is the most important colour. Red means stop and green means go! **There is music, hustle and bustle and red and green light flashing as the crossing people dance and argue about who is best, shouting STOP and GO!**

The red and green traffic people are animated as Lucian crosses the road when the traffic lights beep. Lucian returns to the stage as a puppet and the pigeon flies away.

Lucian walks through the city looking for the beautiful pigeon as he passes animated buildings along the way. It's still wet and swirls of coloured light shine to make glowing puddles on the floor.



We meet two mean rats who live in an alleyway. The grumpy boss rat demands to be entertained by the other rat who tells them some terrible jokes. The grumpy boss rat gets angry because the jokes are so bad!

They spot Lucian and demand to know who he is and what he's doing in their alleyway. Lucian tells them he is looking for a beautiful pigeon and he wants to be able to fly like one. They laugh at him and tease him and run away.

Lucian continues to search. Music plays and he calls out for the pigeon, but she is nowhere to be seen. Big Ben chimes, it is morning time. We see an animation of the sun rising and Lucian exploring the city until he reaches St James park.

There is an animation of flowers and a Bee.

Lucian is lost in the park as music plays and we hear the sound of birds singing and bee's buzzing. Lucian and the Bee appear from out of the screen. Lucian asks the Bee if they have seen the pigeon but Lucian can't understand what the Bee is saying as he doesn't speak Bee! Lucian sneezes and the Bee flies away.

Lucian is looking for a snack. He crawls inside a bag to find food. The bag is picked up by it's owner. The pigeon lands nearby but is shooed away by the bag owner. The bag owner gets on a bus. There is an animation of a bus and toots of a horn as the lights get darker and people panic as they realise there is a rat on the bus!

Lucian leaps up and off the bus. He is in Notting Hill. There is an animation of the tube station sign and swirling lights. It's time for Notting Hill Carnival!



There is an animation of carnival headdresses, with drums beating lights swirling and music playing. The performers dance and the audience are encouraged to clap along. The music gets louder and whistles blow.

Lucian appears and is encouraged to join in with the dancing. He hears the sound of the pigeon. We see an animation of the pigeon on a lamp post—But the sounds of the carnival horns blowing frightens her away.

We see an animation of a red balloon, which turns into a puppet balloon as it floats in front of the screen. It floats over the heads of the front of the audience. Lucian grabs hold of it and floats up into the air. He is flying!

Up in the clouds Lucian flies amongst a flock of angry seagulls who are animated on the screen. The animated balloon is popped by the seagulls and Lucian falls from the sky into the river Thames!

Lucian discovers that he can swim! We see an underwater animation and hear the sounds of bubbles and music as the lights go blue. Lucian swims past fish and then climbs up on to an umbrella floating on the water.

He crawls on the river bank and realises that he is back where he started, alone in his dark tunnel under Waterloo Bridge.

We hear the cooing sounds of a pigeon. The beautiful pigeon that Lucian has been chasing lands nearby!

Finally Lucian makes friends with Giniqua, the beautiful pigeon. She has been looking for a home and Lucian has been looking for adventure! Giniqua is impressed that Lucian was flying! She reminds him about all the other brave things he achieved during his adventure.



The new friends are happy to have met and keep each other company under the bridge!

We see an animation of the new friends heading off on an adventure together, even though they are different they can still be friends and they both have their own special talents.

They sing a song about different creatures and all the different features they have and how each one is special. They ask the audience to join in with the song and shout back some words. You can join in if you want to.

When the song ends the performers and the puppets take a bow. You can clap if you want to.

We hope you enjoyed the show!

