



The Paper Dolls 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 45 minutes and there is no interval.

There are two puppeteers in the show.

The show is a mixture of live dialogue, recorded music, and live songs.

The show is based on the book by Julia Donaldson and Rebecca Cobb

In this guide, information that is particularly important, such as loud noises or people coming into the audience will be written in blue.

The Story

The Paper Dolls tells the story of a little girl who cuts out a string of paper dolls with her mother. She takes them by the hand and together they go on a fantastical adventure whirling through their home and garden.

The Paper Dolls - Ticky, Tacky, Jackie The Backie, Jim With Two Noses and Jo With The Bow - fly through time and tear across worlds of fun and excitement. They face the Jurassic clutches of a toy dinosaur and the snapping jaws of the oven-glove crocodile, and then a very real boy with very real scissors threatens to snip their adventure short...

The Characters



Most of the characters in the play are played by puppets. The main exception to this is the mum, who is played by one of the puppeteers. When she is playing the character of mum she wears a headband.

The central character of the story is Rosie, who wears tiger slippers and a butterfly hair slide.



We also see her older brother, Tommy, who bounces around the stage in a sack.

Rosie and her mum make a chain of paper dolls, which throughout the show we see in different sizes.



During the show, Rosie tells the audience stories about the paper dolls which include different characters such as a dinosaur, a bus, a crocodile, a tiger and three pigs.



Watch out to see how these characters change in size, as different puppets are used at different points.

The set

When you come into the theatre make sure to look above your head and you will see some stars, lights, a disco-ball and some houses hanging down. Watch out for these as later in the show they light up!



This is a picture of what the set will look like when you come into the theatre.



Play Notes

Most of the show is accompanied by recorded music, but it is not very loud.

At the start of the show, we meet Rosie and her mum, who together make a beautiful chain of paper dolls. Rosie names them: Ticky, Tacky, Jackie The Backie, Jim With Two Noses and Jo With The Bow, and the puppeteers sing a short song about the dolls.



With these dolls, Rosie tells us the first chapter of her story- The Paper Dolls and the Dinosaur, who tries to eat The Paper Dolls but they are saved by a bus that takes them safely away. There is music played and lots of dinosaur roars from the puppeteer playing Rosie, but it isn't very loud.



The puppeteers then sing a song with big versions of the paper dolls, and one of them comes down the centre aisle into the audience briefly with the paper dolls.



Then we meet Rosie's brother, Tommy who comes bouncing onto the stage in a sack, looking for his dinosaur.



After Rosie's brother has taken back his dinosaur, Rosie gets annoyed but her mum encourages her to play with her farm, and Rosie tells us Chapter Two of the story- The Paper Dolls and the Pigs.



As Rosie is playing with the pigs, Tommy enters and steals one of her pigs because he is annoyed at her for taking his dinosaur. Rosie gets very upset and throws a tantrum, banging her hands and feet.



The pigs come to life in puppet form and come to investigate marching left, right, left, right what has happened to the third pig.

The puppeteers come into the audience with the pig puppets chasing the brother. The puppeteers may come close to you or if there is space next to you, they may sit down near you. It gets a bit loud at this point, but it doesn't last long.



Rosie's mum comes and puts Rosie to bed as she is tired and upset. Rosie's mum sings her favourite song, *The Rosie Song*, to help her go to sleep.



Rosie begins to tell us Chapter Three: The Paper Dolls who lie on the roof of the house and look at the stars, but she falls asleep.

[Look out for the twinkling stars above your head.](#)

Rosie begins to tell the audience Chapter Four: The Paper Dolls and the Tiger, but her roar turns into a yawn and she falls asleep. Once Rosie is sleeping a big tiger comes on stage and tries to eat the paper dolls, but they grab onto his tail and fling him away!



In the morning, Rosie's brother comes and tries to steal the Paper Dolls, [it might get a bit loud here as people call out to try and warn Rosie.](#)

At breakfast time Rosie eats some toast with Tommy and then begins playing with her Paper Dolls and they get stuck in the waves of the table cloth.



After Rosie has eaten her toast, Rosie sees a desert island on her plate, and with her mum sings *Row, Row, Row Your Boat*, and her mum brings a crocodile oven glove for the end of the song.

Rosie plays with the crocodile glove, her paper dolls and the honey pot and makes a big mess. The puppeteers pull out a blue sheet from the table and bring to life Rosie's scene and a big crocodile tries to eat the paper dolls in their boat.



Rosie's mum sends her out to play in the garden with her paper dolls as she has made such a mess. Two birds fly around the garden, and a green sheet is rolled out with grass and flowers on. Watch out for the two white mice and the ladybird in the garden!



When Rosie goes into the house to give her mum some flowers, her brother comes and cuts up the paper dolls with scissors! It may get quite loud here as people call out to try and stop him from cutting them up.



Once they are cut up there are pieces of paper thrown around the stage.



When Rosie gets upset about her paper dolls being gone, her mum reminds her that things that are loved are never truly gone as we always have them in our memories.



The backdrop of the set then changes and we see Rosie recalling her memories whilst swinging on a swing that is put up on the set.



We see Rosie remember all of the characters that we have seen in the story and make friends with them all.



There are quite a few lighting changes at this point so look around the stage and above your head.



We then see Rosie grow up, through a series of images.



At this point the puppeteer of Rosie becomes grown up Rosie herself. When she becomes Rosie she puts on a purple cardigan. The adult Rosie then has her own little girl who she makes paper dolls for.



This is the end of the show. The audience will now clap and cheer. You can join in if you would like to. The puppeteers will come on stage and take a bow, and then they will bring on some of the puppets to have a bow. After the clapping finishes it is time to go home.

**Thank you for coming to the show,
we hope you enjoyed your time at The Little Angel Theatre.**