



The Storm Whale



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 1 hour 15 minutes but has a 15 minute interval as part of this.

Act 1: 35 minutes

Interval: 15 minutes

Act 2: 25 minutes

There are 3 performers in the show. Most of the characters are played by people but the Whales and the cat are puppets. For a small part of the show Noi is a puppet.

The show has live songs, recorded music and sound effects.

The Storm Whale is based on the books *The Storm Whale* and *the Winter Storm Whale* by Benji Davies.

A Little Angel Theatre, York Theatre Royal, The Marlowe Theatre and Engine House co-production. Photos by Northedge Photography.

Noi lives with his Dad and their six cats by the sea. One spring, while his Dad was busy at work, Noi rescued a little whale that washed up on the beach during a storm. There a friendship began that changed their lives forever.

The following winter Noi's Dad takes one last trip in his fishing boat. Noi is alone once more and longs to see his friend again. He waits and watches, watches and waits... will it take another winter storm to bring them back together again?

Benji Davies' tender and heart-warming children's stories of friendship, love and courage are brought to life as one enchanting theatre show.

The Storm Whale is aimed at ages 4-8, and builds on the simple stories from both the books to create a family show with a wide appeal, exploring friendship, love and loneliness. There is some mild peril when the boy is stuck on the ice, but all ends well.



Characters



Noi



Puppet Noi



Dad

Characters



Flo



The Storm Whale



Sandwich the Cat

The Show

In this section special alerts are written in blue ink.



When you enter the auditorium you will see the set on the stage and someone asleep on a chair. You can hear the sounds of the sea quietly in the background.

Just before the show is going to start there is an announcement with some information about the show. The lights go a little bit darker and the show begins.

Act 1: The lights get darker and music plays.

Two seagull puppets fly in and the music gets a little bit louder. The music stops and the person who was asleep on the chair wakes up. This is Flo.

Flo talks about how she loves living by the sea and that she lives in the red and white stripy lighthouse and has lived there since she was a little girl.

Flo sings a song about how her heart belongs to the sea.

Noi and Dad join in with the song but they do not see Flo.

Flo remembers the little boy she met when she was a child. The little boy is Noi.

The scene changes to Noi's house, when he is a boy. We see Noi and Dad doing the things they do every day. Over and over again! The lights change as it turns from day to night and they get faster and faster as they repeat the actions.



Noi starts to get fed up with doing the same thing over and over again every day, the lights get darker and he starts to slow down. Noi has been left alone again while his Dad is out fishing. He collects treasure on the beach but is lonely. When dad gets home he is tired and often falls asleep in his chair with his favourite cat Sandwich and doesn't spend much time with Noi.

One day something is different. Dad can sense that a storm is coming. Noi has already gone to sleep. Dad goes to bed and the lights get darker.

The sound of lightning crashes and flashes and drumming music plays. The sounds of the storm get louder and the storm blows things around outside while Noi and Dad sleep.

The cat mews to wake them up and they can see that there has been a storm. Noi is excited to see what new treasure has been washed on to the beach, but dad is just excited to go out fishing, as the storm will have brought more fish closer to land. **Noi shouts "treasure!" and Dad shouts "fish!"**

Dad goes out fishing and Noi sings a song about always waiting for his Dad to come home.

Noi remembers what his mum used to say. About the difference between being on your own and being lonely. Noi decides to explore. He notices something in the distance. He starts to walk towards it, then to run.

The lights go out and it is completely dark.

When the lights come back on again Noi has discovered a Whale!

Noi pours water over the Whale as it is stranded on the beach. But he realises he needs to do more and wants to take it home to put it in the bath. Noi tries to put the Whale on to his trolley, and after a bit of a struggle manages it.



The lights get darker and the scene changes to the bathroom. The Whale splashes in the bath tub. Noi talks to the Whale and introduces it to the cat.

Noi decides to read the whale one of his favourite books. Just as he starts he hears Dad coming home. He rushes downstairs and encourages Dad to have a sleep, he is worried that Dad will discover the Whale in the bath! Noi steals a fish from dad to give to Whale, but dad wakes up and discovers what is going on. **He shouts at Noi.**

Noi explains to dad that he is lonely. The Whale is his friend. Dad understands and is sorry that Noi feels lonely every day while he is fishing. He tells Noi that they must take the Whale back to the sea.

The bath becomes a boat and Noi and Dad row out to sea with the Storm Whale. The Whale swims away.

Dad and Noi set up a rug on the beach and have a picnic. Noi is sad to say goodbye to his friend the Whale, but happy that Dad was with him. Dad promises to try and be at home more so that Noi doesn't feel so lonely.

Noi looks out to sea and waves goodbye to the Whale.

The lights go out.

The lights come back on. This is the interval which is a 15 minute break in the show. There is an announcement about the interval.

You can stay in your seat or get up during the interval.



Act 2

A bell will ring to let you know that the interval has finished and you should go back to your seats.

The lights go darker and music plays. It's Christmas! Noi and Dad are putting up Christmas decorations and singing a song about Christmas.

They realise that one thing is missing. Snow! Snow falls from the ceiling onto the stage.

Noi isn't really concentrating on what Dad is saying. He can't stop thinking about the Whale. Dad says it's ok to keep thinking about someone you miss. That's how they stay with you.

Music plays and Dad gets ready for one last fishing trip before Christmas and the sea gets too icy to go out.

Dad goes fishing and Noi sings a song about how he knows that even though his dad is far away he's near to him.

Noi is looking out to see and spots something in the water. He wants to go and see what it is. He walks on the frozen water. It gets darker and darker and the stars come out. Noi runs.

Suddenly it goes completely dark.

When the lights come on again Noi is a puppet.

Noi is lost on the frozen water in the dark.

He sees Dad's boat. It is stuck in the ice. He jumps on the boat but Dad is nowhere to be seen. He calls out for Dad but there is no reply. Noi is all alone on the boat in the frozen sea.

There is a crunching sound. It makes Noi jump! It keeps happening.

Suddenly 3 Whales appear. It is the Storm Whale and two friends.



The Whales push the boat towards the lighthouse. **The lights on the lighthouse come on.**

Noi calls out for dad and all the lights go out.

The lights come back on. Noi is a person again.

Dad is safe at the lighthouse and very surprised to see that Noi has come to look for him!

They wave goodbye to the Whales who saved Noi. The Storm Whale has helped Noi when he needed it because Noi did the same for the Whale.

Dad says that they can stay the night in the lighthouse with the family who live there and go home in the morning when it is safe.

Noi meets Flo, when she is a little girl. They discover that they can both be a little bit lonely, but now they have met each other they can be friends.

Flo sings her song about the sea.

Time passes as Dad and Noi spend time together sailing, often talking about the Storm Whale.

More time passes and Noi and Flo are both adults. They live together in the lighthouse. The Storm Whale has been coming to visit them ever since the night of the rescue. They wave to the Whale as it swims by.

Music plays and the lights gradually get darker until they go completely out.

The lights come back on and the performers sing the Christmas song again.

The performers and the puppets take a bow.

This is the end of the show. You can clap if you want to. We hope you enjoyed the show.

