THE OWL WHO WAS AFRAID OF THE DARK

VISUAL STORY

This visual resource is for children and young adults visiting the Unicorn Theatre to see a performance of The Owl Who Was Afraid of the Dark. This visual story is intended to help prepare you for a new experience and help you to become familiar with the surroundings and the performance.
Welcome to the Unicorn Theatre. We are a theatre for children and adults. This is what the building looks like from the outside.

This is the main entrance of the theatre. There are some steps before you get to the front door. The words and pictures on the windows tell you what shows and activities are happening inside.
When you enter through the front door, you will see a big space with lots of tables and chairs in an area called the **Foyer**.

There are also some instructions on the floor tiles, you can choose to follow these instructions or you can ignore them.
The **Box Office** is also in the **Foyer**. This is where you can buy tickets or collect tickets that you have already paid for. There may be other adults and children waiting to buy or collect tickets when you arrive.
You will be met by one of the **Ushers**, who will be wearing a dark red shirt with white writing like the one above.

You can ask an usher if you have any questions and they will do their best to help you. When it’s time for *The Owl Who Was Afraid of the Dark* to start, you will hear a bell and an **Usher** will tell you where you need to go.
You might see some adults and children sitting at some of the tables having something to eat or drink from our \textit{Unicornershop}.
There is a cafe in the Foyer called the **Unicornershop** where you can buy drinks and snacks. You can also bring your own drinks and snacks with you.
If you need to use the **Toilet**, they are downstairs from the **Foyer**. Look for the stairs going down or you can use the **Lift**.
These are the boys’ toilets.  

These are the girls’ toilets.
As you walk into the Clore theatre you will see a large green floor that looks a bit like grass, a large tree branch shape across the space, lots of green cushions and small chairs especially for children to sit on. It will look like a park.

You can sit on any of the seats or cushions or a bit further back on the benches against the wall. It’s up to you. You will also hear sounds of a park before the show starts. You might hear some birds too.

There will be a lady and a man walking around the room smiling at you. They will stay in the room for the whole show. They are the actors.
When the show begins the actress and the actor will come into the middle and talk to you.

The actress plays lots of the characters. When the actress is a different character she will add **costumes**.
An old lady

A boy scout
The Young Lady

A man with a telescope
The actor will play the character of Plop, the Baby Barn Owl.
The actress will tell the story of Plop and move around the room to see you. Plop will **climb** on the tree branches and move around with her.

During the story you will **hear music played** and the **sounds of the park, the street and other birds**. Sometimes the music will be a bit **louder** and the lady and the man will **run and jump** on the branches. They will be **okay** they have **practiced** what to do.

Sometimes the room will be much darker because owls are supposed to be awake in the night time. You will see lots of night time **lights and stars**.

The walls are painted white but during the show you will see images of roof tops, badgers, bats, **fireworks** and other lovely images. When the pictures are on the walls there will be **louder music played**.
Plop falls off his branch each time he meets a new character. He will do a roly-poly, or a cartwheel and a jump.

Plop will move around the branches a lot. He will jump, climb, balance and fall. He will be okay.
The actress will wear a red heat, a blue coat and a red scarf when she is playing the little boy with sticks. The little boy tells Plop all about how much he loves fireworks. Do you like fireworks?
The actress playing **Mummy** and the actor playing **Plop** will sit on a tall branch and look at the walls with you during the **fireworks scene**.

There will be colourful **fireworks** to look at on the walls and the flashes of light will fill the room.

**Don’t worry, they are not real fireworks.**

You will hear some **whizzing, zooming and popping** noises. Some of them will be **loud**. Don’t worry it doesn’t last too long.
When the actor playing Plop is trying to make an owl noise he climbs to the very top of the branch and makes a loud shrieking noise. He is just practising his owl sound. He is being friendly.
When the actor playing Plop meets the actress playing the Boy Scout they sit on a branch and light a fire. Don’t worry the fire is small and the actor and actress look after it.

They sing a song together and ask you to join in. You can if you want to.

‘Cook the baked potato in the old camp fire,
‘Cook the baked potato ‘til it’s nice and hot,
‘Eat the baked potato by the old camp fire,
‘We want baked potatoes and we want a lot.’
(three times)

They also eat little potatoes wrapped in foil. They will offer you a little potato and then put the bowls in the middle for you to collect one. You can eat one if you want to. If you don’t want to move into the middle you can get one at the end of the show.
The actress will then put on a **red coat and bag** to be the **young lady** who meets **Plop**. They will talk to each other and look at her drawing book. Her **drawings appear on the walls** and they move. This is when you will see **badgers and bats**.
The actor playing Plop will try to hang upside down to be like a bat. He is just being silly and playing. **He will be okay.**
The actress as the **young lady** and the actor playing **Plop** will talk about hedgehogs and a **toy hedgehog** on wheels **will zoom onto the grass** from a corner. The **hedgehog will move around** the space and then go away to hide again. **He is friendly.**

The actor playing **Plop** will practice his **screech again**. He is getting better at it now.
The actress will put on a coat and carry a telescope into the middle. The actress is now a **man that likes to look at the stars**.

You will see **lots of stars on the ceiling** and the room will get **darker** so you can see them clearly. **Don’t worry about the dark.** The stars are very pretty.
The actress will put on a black jacket to be **the cat Orion** and she will pretend to fall asleep on the floor.

When the actor playing **Plop** wakes her up they talk about the dark and the night and you will see more **images on the walls** of the cat and the owl walking around the town at night. The owl and the cat are great friends.
The actress playing Mummy Owl and the actor playing Plop will climb back on the branches and tell us that Plop is not afraid of the dark anymore. You will see moon pictures on the walls, hear music and the room will get darker.

This is the end of the show.
During the show you might find something funny, you can laugh if you like.

During the show you might see or hear something that makes you feel sad. You can feel sad if you like, that’s okay.

You might hear other people in the audience cheer, clap, shout out or scream. You can join in if you like.

During the show you might feel that you need to take some time out. If you do don’t worry about it, find an Usher and let them know. They will take you to the chill out space where you can relax and return to the show when you feel ready.