Sophie Nüßel

Stories of a WATERSPRITE

A visual story



Photo: Franz Kimmel

HELLO

This is the visual story for our performance of ‘Stories of a Watersprite’. We hope it will help you get ready for watching the show in the theatre.

We are really excited to perform for you.

In this visual story we will:

- Explain what to expect at the theatre during the performance of ‘Stories of a Watersprite’.
- Introduce the performers and the puppets in the show.
- Tell you about the different parts of the show.

What to Expect



‘Stories of a Watersprite’ is a story about a magical watersprite whose beautiful pond becomes filled with rubbish. Eventually, there is so much rubbish that there is no more space to swim and slither around.

We use story-telling, dance and puppetry to tell our story.

There will be 5 performers on stage with puppets. Sometimes the performers will be on their own and sometimes they will operate the puppets.



The show is 45 minutes and it happens in the theatre where you will be sitting on seats.

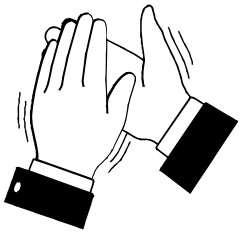
There is no interval.



The show has lights of different colours to light up what is happening on stage. The lights change during the show.



The show uses music to help the performers tell the story



There will also be sounds made by the performers themselves or coming from the materials and props that the performers use during the show, including plastic, crisp packets and old toys.

The show is a **relaxed performance** with an embedded sensory description in the introduction.

For ‘Stories of a Watersprite’ this means:

- Low-level lighting in the theatre all the time. There are no moments of complete darkness.
- There are different pieces of music in the show. Some music and sounds are quiet and others are louder.
- You are welcome to bring your own ear defenders, fidget toys or whatever helps you to feel comfortable.
- You can leave the theatre during the show if you need to and you are welcome to come back in when you’re ready.
- Theatre staff will be able to tell you which seats will make it easiest for you if you need to leave and come back in.

Parents and trusted adults: You know your child best, please feel empowered to do whatever you/your child needs during the performance.



BSL interpretation will be available at:

- Lakeside Arts Nottingham: 5th November 2024
- MAC Birmingham 9th November 2024

If you would like a touch tour before the show please contact the venue prior to the performance date. We will then organise this for you.

Other access provision may be available at particular venues.

Please check with your venue for more details.

Optional pre-performance craft activity

Where possible, we are working with show venues to offer a craft workshop before you come into the theatre to watch the performance of ‘Stories of a Watersprite’.

You can make your own jellyfish out of recycled yoghurt pots and floaty or shiny strips from carrier bags or crinkled crisp packets.

Don't forget to bring it into the theatre with you!

Performers and Puppets

In this section we will introduce you to the performers and puppets in ‘Stories of a Watersprite’.

People performing in the show

Jo





My name is **Jo**.

I have long darkish blonde hair (with a few grey hairs appearing!); large green eyes. I move my hands around a lot when I speak.

In the performance I speak directly to the audience, so it’s my voice you can hear telling the story. I also help puppeteer the Watersprite.

Iris





My name is **Iris**.

I am an East Asian Female in my mid thirties. I have long, straight, black hair that I tie back.

In the show my character likes hiding under rubbish bags and in cardboard boxes!

Marc





My name is **Marc**.

I'm a brown haired man in my late 30's.

In the show I operate the carp (the big blue fish) and I sometimes hide under a massive green fishing net.

I also have fun making sound and movement with the shakers, instruments made up of small plastic bottles.

Sua





My name is **Sua**.

I have long brown hair, I am short and have a cheeky smile.

I love bringing on little rubber duckies and a little rubber frog as my rubbish creature character!

Teele





My name is **Teele**.

I am short with blonde hair and blue eyes.

My favourite thing I do in the show is when I ride around on the tricycle as my Rubbish Creature.

Puppets

The performers will be operating the puppets during the show.



Little Watersprite is a magic fairy-like creature that lives in the pond. Little Watersprite looks after the waters. Sometimes he can be a bit shy!

Our Little Watersprite has big kind eyes, pale skin with rosy cheeks. He has curly pale blue hair and a little red hat. He is wearing a green jumper and sometimes you will see his magic and fairy lights when he moves.



Little Watersprite is a magical creature so you often see his magic dancing around nearby. Little Watersprite and his magic belong to each other. The magic gives Little Watersprite courage and strength. It is Little Watersprite's superpower.

The magic is pale pink, red and cream with fairy lights shimmering through.



The carp is a big blue and gold fish with a big red tail that swims around the pond.

They make friends with Little Watersprite in our story.



The silver sparkly fish are glittery and swim about the pond in small groups. They shimmer, wiggle and dive through the water.

Different parts of the show



Pre-Performance in the theatre

The performers will meet you as you come into the theatre. They will help you find your seat. Feel free to say hello and ask them any questions about the show

Once you are in your seats, one of the performers, called Jo will tell you a little bit about what to expect in the show. There is an embedded sensory description as part of the introduction.

You will get to see examples of how the lights might change and hear some of the music.

The Beautiful Pond



Our story begins by Jo telling you about the world of the pond and all that happens in the water.

The performers will move in different ways, dancing like water to begin with. They melt, drop, curl, grow and sway.

You will hear sounds like ‘squelching mud’ and the breath of the performers.

You will meet Little Watersprite, the carp and the sparkly fish.

Little Watersprite goes on an adventure to explore the pond with the performers and the other puppets.They climb over rocks, swim and slither. They use the rocks as a swing, a trampoline and a slide.

This part of the show finishes with Jo talking again, telling us that a change is happening…

Lights: Blue and green to show the colours of the pond.

Music: It will build from quieter sounds of the breath to gentle piano and chimes.Then, as the rhythm builds and the music gets a little louder, you will hear more instruments joining in.

Here is a link if you would like to listen to one of the pieces of music we use in this section:

The Rubbish Creatures

There are two sections in this scene.

Introduction the Rubbish Creatures







Jo will tell you what happens when other things, objects and rubbish fall into the pond.

Mischievous Rubbish Creatures emerge from all the plastic, cardboard boxes, crisp packets and foil wrapper and other things that we throw away.

The Rubbish Creature characters are the performers dressed in different costumes - hats and jackets made of unwanted or broken things and bits of plastic.

You will see the different Rubbish Creature characters as they play — running, chasing, hiding and jumping. More and more rubbish appears on stage with some clattering, laughing and chattering sounds from the Rubbish Creatures!

Please don't worry - The crinkly, crunching, clonking, rattling rubbish we use in the show has all been washed and it is clean.

At the end of this section you will hear the sound of a foghorn and it will be a little bit louder than the sounds you have heard so far.

It happens about halfway through after we have met the 5 Rubbish Creatures.

You can have a listen to the foghorn sound here, if you would like:

Rubbish Party



The Rubbish Creatures are enjoying playing in the rubbish and creating chaos. They play catch; they dance with the rubbish and with each other. There is clapping, stomping, big smiles and they are having lots of fun, but also creating a lot of mess!

See if you can spot the pink flamingo toy being used as a musical instrument!

Lights: The lights will change to warmer colours - hints of red and orange.

Music: In this section the music is lively and bouncy. Here is a link so as you can have a listen:

What Happens Next?



This scene is divided into three sections:

The Return of Little Watersprite

Little Watersprite comes back and sees what a mess the pond is in! So much rubbish has appeared!

Seeing what has happened to the beautiful pond makes Little Watersprite very sad. Little Watersprite doesn't know what to do so he sends out his magic into the space to try and find the answer. It swoops and sweeps, quivering and making small gentle sounds.

Lights: The lights in this section are very low (but not completely dark) so that we can see the light of the magic as it dances in the space.

Music: This section has no music but we hear the sounds of the breath and small gentle vocal sounds made by the performers.

An Idea

The magic returns to Little Watersprite. At that moment, one of the Rubbish Creatures comes back with more rubbish so Little Watersprite gathers their ‘magic’ strength and stops them.

The Rubbish Creature is showered with magic which helps them to see things differently. Little Watersprite and the Rubbish Creature then decide to work together to help the pond. They begin to sort the rubbish and try to clear the pond, making room for the plants and fish again.

Lights: The blue and green colours of the pond come back.

Music: Gentle piano sounds like a blanket of hope.

The End

In this final section you will see all the puppets again and you will hear Jo talking to you.

The puppets then slowly swim out.

There is then a choreographed curtain call with upbeat and fun music where we can say goodbye to the puppets and performers!



If you have any further questions about this show, please do not hesitate to contact the venue you will be coming to to watch the show or you can contact us at:

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