

Visual Story

Virginia Wolf



Virtual Performances

May 7-16, 2021

Questions? Contact Geordie Theatre: info@geordie.ca

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What is a Visual Story?

A visual story is a tool to help audience members familiarize themselves with a venue and/or with a show. It allows audience members to know in advance what to expect from a theatrical experience, so that they can prepare themselves accordingly. Visual stories were created as an aid for people with autism or learning disabilities. They can be used to help anyone prepare for their visit to the theatre.

About the Performance

Performance Time

The performance is approximately 45 minutes in length.

Pre-Performance Talk

Geordie staff will tell you a little bit about the show before it starts. They will also talk about the land on which the theatre is located.

American Sign Language (ASL) Interpretation

The performance will be interpreted into sign language.

Post-Performance Talk-back

There will be a 10 to 15 minute talk-back after the show. This is a time where audience members can ask questions to the actors or special guests. Audience members can leave the performance before, after or during the talk-back.

Things to Look Out for

- This is a virtual performance.
- You are welcome to come and go from the performance as you please.
- There are music and sound effects in the show. If audience members are sensitive to loud noises, they are encouraged to use noise-cancelling headphones or turn down the volume.
- There is a glossary at the end of this document. There you will find the definitions of some of the more complex words in the play.
- Some themes explored in this play are:
 - Sibling relationships
 - Mental health
 - Sadness and depression
 - Emotional support
 - Personal growth and resilience
 - Creativity and imagination
 - Cooperation and caring
 - Unconditional love

The Characters

This is Jennifer:



She plays the role of Virginia, a young girl who is feeling down.



Jennifer as Virginia

This is Alexandra:



She plays the role of Vanessa, Virginia's sister who does everything she can to make Virginia feel better.



Alexandra as Vanessa

The Locations

The play takes place in Virginia's bedroom.

The room transforms depending on how Virginia is feeling.

Virginia and Vanessa use their painting supplies to turn the room into a bright and colourful world called Bloomsberry.

Brian Dudkiewicz designed the set for this show, Amelia Scott designed the projections and Audrey-Anne Bouchard designed the lighting. Together they made the stage look like a bedroom and decided what it should look like at different moments in the play.

Sam Ferguson is the sound designer for this show. He decided which music and sounds to use to help bring the audience into Virginia and Vanessa's world.

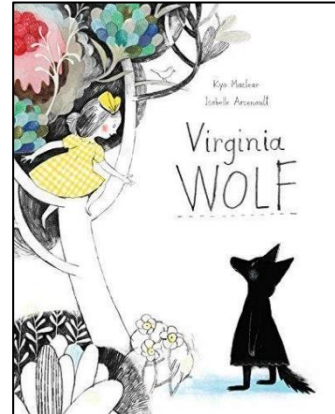
Brian Dudkiewicz is also the costume designer for this show. He decided what clothes Jennifer and Alexandra should wear to look like Virginia and Vanessa.

The Story

Virginia Wolf is based on a book written by Kyo Maclear. Cole Lewis is the writer who turned the book into a play, and Mike Payette directed the play.

This is what happens in the play:

It's morning but Virginia is still in bed and is feeling "wolfish". She announces her bad mood by growling at everything she sees and hears. Her sister, Vanessa, cheerily comes knocking on the door and attempts to uplift her sister's mood with a bag of special items.



Vanessa tries everything to help her sister shed her dark mood; she opens the curtains for sunlight, brings her breakfast, proposes they go outside... She even paints her portrait, an activity that Virginia typically enjoys. But Virginia growls and grumbles through all the attempts.

Vanessa encourages Virginia to get ready to play outside. Virginia is almost tempted to join in a rhythm while Vanessa plays the violin, but instead, she explodes at Vanessa and rips the portrait. Vanessa is upset and she leaves, on bad terms with her sister.

Days later, Vanessa comes back to Virginia's room, which seems to have sunk into the ground, below the door. Vanessa manages to open the curtain and they spend some time together, cloud gazing from the bed. Virginia abruptly interjects that she might feel better if she could fly, fly to a better place, a perfect place with no doldrums, a place she names Bloomsberry.

Vanessa uses her paint supplies to paint a colourful and magical world on the walls of Virginia's room. Virginia eventually joins in to complete the creation. They lie in bed to admire the room's transformation, their Bloomsberry. When they wake up the following morning, it seems Virginia has also undergone a transformation; her mood has lifted and they joyfully go out to play.

Glossary

Bloom: A flower

Blossom: A flower, or a mass of flowers

Copious: In large amounts

Doldrums: A time when someone feels sad or down

Lenticular: Round, shaped like a lentil

Portrait: A painting of a person

Racket: A loud and unpleasant noise

Slugged: Dragged itself

Smudgy: Blurry

Stratocumulus: A type of cloud that is dark and low in the sky

Tooth decay: Cavities

Wolfish: Like a wolf

Resources

Information:

BeThere.org – Online platform with tools to help us support one another:
<https://bethere.org>

Child Mind Institute – Info on Childhood and Teen Depression:
<https://childmind.org/topics/concerns/depression/>

Children of Parents with a Mental Illness (COPMI) – Online and printable resources: <http://www.copmi.net.au/find-resources?view=overview>

Teen Mental Health – Online platform with mental health info and tools for teens: <http://teenmentalhealth.org/>

Mental health support:

Kids Help Phone: 24/7 support available in English and French

Phone helpline: 1-800-668-6868

Crisis text line: 686868

Info and resources: <https://kidshelpphone.ca/>

Tel-jeunes: Support available in English and French

Phone helpline (6:00am-2:00am): 1-800-263-2266

Text line (8:00am-10:30pm): 514-600-1002

Online chat, info and resources: <https://www.teljeunes.com/Tel-jeunes-en>

Suicide Action Montréal: 24/7 suicide prevention helpline

514-723-4000 <https://suicideactionmontreal.org/>

Youthspace.ca: Online crisis and emotional support chat between 6:00 PM and midnight PST (9:00 PM-3:00 AM in Montreal)

Online chat: <https://www.youthspace.ca/>

Text line: 778-783-0177

Guide for supporting others: <https://www.youthspace.ca/youthspace-resources/youthspace-guides/>

Interligne: 24/7 help and information for LGBTQ+ people

Phone helpline: (514) 866-0103

Text line: 1-888-505-1010

Online chat: <https://interligne.co/en/chat/>

Email support: aide@interligne.co

ACCESS Open Minds: Mental health services for ages 11-25

1-833-761-6131 <https://accessopenminds.ca/>