

Visual Story

The Paper Bag Princess



Virtual Performance

February 13, 2022 at 1:00 PM

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 autistic people and people with learning disabilities, but they can be used to help anyone prepare for their visit to the theatre.

About the Performance

Performance Time

The performance is approximately 50 minutes in length.

Post-Performance Talkback

There will be a 10 to 15 minute talkback 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 talkback.

Things to Look Out for

- This is a live 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:
 - Fairy tales
 - Family and social expectations
 - Gender role stereotypes
 - Personal growth and independence

The Characters

There are 3 actors in the play. They all play more than one character.

This is Hilary:



She plays:

- Elizabeth, a lively princess who is more interested in becoming Prime Minister than marrying a prince.
- Prince Ronald's mother

This is Kaeleb:



He plays:

- Ronald, a handsome prince destined to marry Elizabeth
- The King, Elizabeth's father
- Julia and Bethany, Elizabeth's sisters (Bethany is a puppet that Kaeleb and Maria puppeteer together.)

This is Maria:



She plays:

- The dragon
- Elizabeth's Fairy Godmother
- Sir Puffy the Pompous, a knight
- Marg and Bethany, Elizabeth's sisters (Bethany is a puppet that Kaeleb and Maria puppeteer together.)

The Locations

The play takes place in a kingdom. Different scenes happen in:

- A castle
- The forest
- A dragon's cave

Diana Uribe designed the set and costumes for this show. She made the stage look like all the different parts of the kingdom we see in the play, and she decided what clothes the actors should wear to look like the characters they are playing.

Troy Slocum is the sound designer for this show. He decided which music and sounds to use to help bring the audience into Elizabeth's world.

The Story

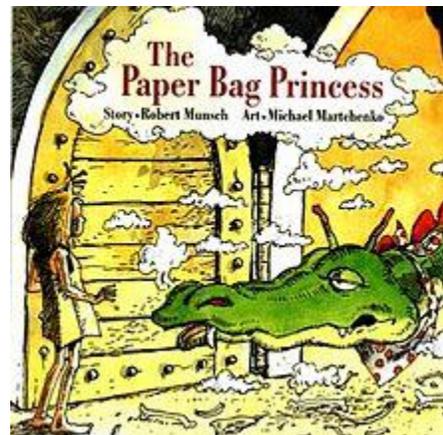
The Paper Bag Princess is based on a book written by Robert Munsch. Alissa Watson is the writer who turned the book into a play, and Mike Payette directed the play.

This is what happens in the play:

As the play begins, we meet princess Elizabeth's Fairy Godmother, who looks and speaks quite differently than a traditional fairy godmother.

She tells the tale of the beautiful princess Elizabeth, who lives in a big castle and wears fancy princess clothes. She is destined to marry Prince Ronald, a handsome and wealthy prince, son of her parents' best friends. However, her godmother warns us that Elizabeth has another destiny: to be an *extraordinary* princess...

Unlike her sisters, Julia, Marg and Bethany, Elizabeth is an unusual princess who is more interested in playing outside than primping and preening. One morning, Ronald visits Elizabeth and he is pleased by her neat, princess-like appearance.



They are interrupted by Sir Puffy the Pompous, the kingdom's head knight, who has them practice a protocol to save them against a dragon attack.

Elizabeth shares with her father, the king, that she aspires to become Prime Minister rather than Queen, to lead - not rule, the kingdom. She is unhappy with her education, her "princess-iples" lessons that teach her how to be a traditional princess: placid, patient and poised. Suddenly, a dragon appears, smashes the castle, burns Elizabeth's dress and most of the kingdom, and flies off with Prince Ronald.

Elizabeth, in her burned clothing and worried about Ronald, meets her fairy godmother, who sells her a paper bag dress and advises her to follow the trail of burned forests to find the

dragon and save Ronald. Her sisters try to dissuade her from saving a prince, because it's "not what princesses do". Nevertheless, Elizabeth sets off on her quest to rescue Ronald.

After a long and difficult journey, Elizabeth, discouraged, is reminded by her godmother and father that she is able to accomplish anything to which she sets her mind. Elizabeth finds and outsmarts the dragon to rescue Ronald. The ungrateful prince is more concerned with Elizabeth's disheveled appearance than what she has gone through to save him. After berating Ronald for being superficial and the dragon for the negative environmental impact his burned forests have on the ecosystem, Elizabeth leaves by herself.

While her sisters are shocked that Elizabeth has left her prince behind and no longer intends on marrying him, both her father and godmother are supportive and proud of her adventure and of her future plans of becoming Prime Minister.

Glossary

Betrothed: The person you are supposed to marry

Carbon dioxide: A gas made of carbon and oxygen. If there is too much, it can be dangerous.

Ecosystem: The combination of plants, animals and other living beings, and the environment they live in

Engrossed: Busy doing something

Executive: Executive decisions are important decisions that need to be made by a person in a position of power.

Flammable: Which can be set on fire

Greenhouse gases: Gases that trap heat and make the Earth warmer

Horrendous: Horrible

Lavish: Excessive, luxurious. Someone with lavish tastes likes having fancy and expensive things.

Mortal: Which can cause death

Persevered: Kept trying, didn't give up

Persistent: Someone who is persistent doesn't give up easily.

Persuasive: Good at convincing people

Placid: Quiet and cooperative

Poised: Graceful, balanced, with good manners

Pompous: Someone who is pompous acts in a very grand and formal way, like they are very important.

Precocious: Early. A child who is precocious is mature for their age, or able to do certain things at an earlier age than expected.

Protein: Nutrient that living beings need to survive, found in many foods

Protocol: A set of instructions to follow in a certain situation

Puny: Small, weak and unimportant

Transpired: Happened

Très: “Very” in French

Wade: Walk through water, with difficulty