



An Introduction for Carers



OILY CART

Since 1981, Oily Cart has been taking its unique blend of theatre to children and young people in schools and venues across the UK and around the world. Challenging accepted definitions of theatre and audience, we create innovative, multi-sensory and highly interactive productions for very young children, and for young people with profound and multiple learning disabilities, young people who are on the autism spectrum, and young people who are deafblind.

LIGHT SHOW

LIGHT SHOW has been created for young people aged between three and eleven years old who are on the autism spectrum.

In LIGHT SHOW, we are inviting the children and you, their carers, into a world of **WHITE**. In **THE PAPER PALACE**, the environment, the seating and the costumes are all white. It is a beautifully calm space where **COLOURFUL SENSORY DELIGHTS** unfold to provide a fully immersive experience.

LIGHT SHOW takes you, the participants on a multi-sensory journey of textures, smells and tactile experiences, all accompanied by enchanting live music from a virtuoso double bass player.

This introduction contains information to help you prepare for the show. Please read it carefully beforehand, as it should help you get ready for the show and so enable your young people to get the most out of the experience.

ABOUT THE SHOW

A performance of LIGHT SHOW lasts about 50 minutes. Each show is performed for **SIX** young people, aged 3 to 11, each accompanied by a maximum of **TWO** adults per show – one adult will sit directly beside the child and the other adult will sit in the observer space. There is space for up to **15** observers, however this figure includes the 6 additional adults accompanying young people.

Every young person must be accompanied by an adult carer. We welcome parents who come and enjoy the show alongside their children.

THE ROLE OF THE ACCOMPANYING CARERS

Throughout the performance of LIGHT SHOW the role of parents and carers is very important. You know the young person you're escorting. You know the sort of things they'll really get a lot out of – and the things they don't care for. You're also able to interpret their reaction to what's happening around them far better than we can.

So we really want you to tell us: "She really likes that. More of that one please!" or "I don't think he's enjoying this. Can we move on to something new?"

We will rely on you to help us to make sure that the young people are positioned comfortably.



THE THEMES

Light and Dark – day and night, white and colour

Stillness and Movement – where your body is in space

Beautiful Music and Silence– loud and soft, fast and slow, dancing and singing

Me and You – meeting new people, taking turns, your name,
seeing yourself in a mirror



The White Room - waiting area

VOCABULARY

This will be kept to a minimum. However, the following words may be useful.

Hello. My name is... Goodbye

More, please. No, thank you Hot, Wet

Lights On, Lights Off

Finish

PREPARATION RESOURCES

There is a short Social Story to help young people on the spectrum to prepare for the experience and a Timeline that covers the show from Hello to Goodbye. These are available to download from the Big Umbrella Festival website. We also have a CD of music from the show which includes a multi-sensory social story. This can be purchased on the Oily Cart website.





Rustle



Hat





Plane



THE CHARACTERS

The name of each character suggests his or her object of reference, which will further help to identify them.

PLANE

HAT

RUSTLE rustles paper but also plays the double bass

FLOWER the stage manager

BAZ the puppet

THE SET AND SEATING

There are 3 areas to the set. The first is a Waiting / Chill Out space outside the performance space: the White Room. **THE WHITE ROOM** consists of a circular carpet with a white circular umbrella above it. There will be examples of multi-sensory elements used in the show and Social Stories and other preparation resources.

The White Room is where the audience will meet the characters for the first time. The show starts in this area and then after a few minutes, progresses into the main space. If a young person needs a break from the intensity of the performance, they can use this space for a Chill Out area.

The second area, inside the performance space, is a carpet with floor seating where the observers can sit and is a half-way house for the most reluctant audience members.

The main performance space, **THE PALACE OF PAPER**, consists of a set of white “paper” screens arranged around a projection screen. The audience seating consists of six rocking lounge-chairs for the children and six stools for carers. Wheelchair users can stay in their wheelchairs. Please let the venue know before the performances how many wheelchair users to expect.



In the Paper Place - performance space



OUTLINE OF THE SHOW

Top Tips included regarding seating and allergies etc.

It would be good if the children could come into the show without their shoes on.

The show starts in **THE WHITE ROOM** waiting area. This is a quiet space with a carpet and some comfortable seating where the audience can relax before entering the performance space for the show itself. The **LIGHT SHOW** characters arrive one by one and introduce themselves to the children. Then they suggest it is time to go off to the beach – so, with music playing we make our way from the waiting room to the theatre, off we all go.

In the theatre we will find **THE PALACE OF PAPER**, where the audience sit in a semi-circle in front of the projection screen. There are stools for the carers. Ambulant children can lie on loungers. Children in wheelchairs can stay in their chairs.

If you leave the brakes off, the wheelchairs can be danced to the music and can be “blown” by the wind.

CAN YOU FEEL THE HEAT? The characters make the sound of the sea through paper trumpets. We are now on the beach and Baz is feeling **HOT**. The first white box is presented. It contains six **SHOCKING PINK FANS**, one for each carer to fan their child while the cast sing an enchanting melody. A silhouette on the projection screen echoes the activity in hand. The fans are put back in the box.

Baz is worried about sunburn. A new white box brings “**SUN TAN**” **LOTION** from **ORANGE** bottles. We will use the lotion for gentle hand massage. Baz dances on the screen.

We are actually using baby lotion. Where children cannot tolerate any lotion on their skin, a warning to the company manager before the show or a gesture to the performer when he/she offers the lotion, will make us aware of the issue. Carers can have the lotion if they choose to. Paper towels will be used to clean away the lotion.

CLOUD. Baz pushes in a new, very large box. A white cloud floats out against a **BLUE** sky. Not to worry, it is a white fluffy cloud. But then a mischievous **PURPLE CLOUD** comes. Uh oh. We’re getting wet. There are **PURPLE** umbrellas to protect us and chase the rain cloud away.

Now night falls and the screen turns **MIDNIGHT BLUE**. The cast bring out a large box that contains six boxes filled with UV light and beads to make a shaker sound.

The light boxes are a little bit heavy. We will have some lap-trays for the children on the loungers.

The show concludes with a **NAME SONG** for each child while they are offered a look at themselves in a **MIRROR**.

Finally the cast will sing **GOODBYE** as the audience leaves the performance space. All the characters, including Baz, wave goodbye. Then the show is **FINISHED**.



SENSORY MATERIALS FOR LIGHT SHOW

Fans

‘Sunscreen’ – unscented baby lotion

Paper towels

Water (sprayed mist) and umbrellas

Light boxes – UV light and beads

Mirrors

Each character has a wristband with a dab
of scented oil to identify them – rose, lemon, bubblegum, peppermint and aniseed



THINGS TO DO BEFORE THE SHOW

Bring some paper

Each of LIGHT SHOW characters has a favourite **PAPER** object. If the young people coming to meet us bring some sort of paper or object made of paper, the characters will be delighted to share their interest.

Everyone wear white dress-ups

Come to the show wearing something white like a tee shirt or apron, a white towel or a toga.





ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

HAT – Griff Fender

PLANE – Katherine Gray

FAN – Mark Foster

RUSTLE (double bass) – Adam Storey

FLOWER – Deanne (stage manager)

Written and directed by Tim Webb

Designed by Claire de Loon

Music direction by Max Reinhardt

Music composed and arrangements by Max Reinhardt
and Adam Storey

Lighting Design – Jack Knowles

Associate Lighting Design – Anthony Doran

Advisory Teachers – Katelyn Langley and Pamela Copeland

Video Artist – Paul Williams

Photography – Neal Houghton & Suzi Corker

Graphic design – Jo Hill and Ed Currie

Production team – Claire de Loon, William Aubrey-Jones,

Gareth Howells, Holly Murray, Alice Rose Searle,

Hannah Sharp, Alison Alexander

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