



THE MUSEUM OF

MARVELLOUS THINGS



Hello!

We are so happy that you are coming to watch *The Museum of Marvellous Things*.

We want to make sure you feel as comfortable as possible during the show, so we have put together this guide to let you know what to expect.

It is normal to feel a bit nervous about visiting a new place. So, if you haven't been to the theatre before and have any questions, please let us know. You can send us a message on our website www.practicallyperfectpictures.co.uk or you can ask someone at the theatre.

We really hope you enjoy the show!



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USEFUL INFORMATION FOR THE DAY

- ★ You can wear whatever you like to the theatre. You do not have to dress smartly.
- ★ If you need to leave the theatre at any time, you can.
- ★ If you wriggle or make noises during the show that's fine.
- ★ You are welcome to wear ear defenders during the show if you like.
- ★ You are allowed to use tablets and phones during the show, if this helps you, but please do not take pictures of our performers.
- ★ There will be a chill out space in the building that you can go to if you need somewhere to relax for a while.

★ BEFORE THE SHOW ★

When you arrive, our performers might still be getting ready, so you may not be able to go into the theatre straight away.

There will be lots of space in the foyer to wait or you can ask the people at the theatre if there is a quiet place for you to sit.

When the performers are ready there will be an announcement on the speakers to let you know that you can go into the theatre.

When you arrive at the theatre door, someone will check your ticket. If they scan it, you might hear a little bleeping sound.

You will also be given a small paper bag which you will need to open at the end of the show. Keep the surprise hidden, if you can!

Inside the theatre, another person will help you find your seat.

Once everyone has found their seat and is ready, the show will begin!



★ DURING THE SHOW ★

Our show lasts roughly 50 minutes from beginning to end.

In the show, the performers often make silly jokes, and some audience members may laugh. You can laugh too if you want to.

Some people might clap to show that they are enjoying themselves. You can clap too, if you want to. If the clapping is too loud, you can cover your ears, or leave the theatre for a moment.

There will be times when music is played. Some of the music will be recorded and played on speakers and some will be played live on musical instruments.

There will also be lots of times when the actors on stage will talk to everybody in the audience and ask if you would like to get involved in the show.

The actors will also invite some people from the audience to come onto the stage and take part in the show. They will only choose people who want to come onto the stage. They will help you get there safely and make sure you get back to your seat afterwards. Do not worry if you do not want to take part as watching is just as much fun.

WHO'S WHO?

Our story today is told by four main characters. Each character is played by an actor or puppet, and sometimes both.

In the show, the actors wear costumes to help them look like the characters they are pretending to be.

If you see something in the show that makes you feel scared or sad, just remember that all the actors are pretending. They are working together to tell a story and make sure you have a memorable day.

As well as the actors on the stage there are also people working behind the scenes to help make the show as special as it can be.

You won't be able to see them, but the technicians will be controlling the lights on the stage to make different colours. There will also be a Front of House team in the theatre to make sure everyone has a great time during the show.

Kristina Stephenson

Kristina is the author of our story today. She wrote the book that the show is based on.

In the show Kristina will be telling us the story as we watch and she will be helping our characters on their journey.

Pictured with Kristina is the **Muffle-Wumper**, who is a character in our story - a magical backpack that comes to life in the museum.



Musical Impresario

Nigel Ellis is a musician who will help us tell the story. Nigel wrote all the music for the show and he plays the saxophone, clarinet and sometimes the piano too. Nigel also looks after the magic measuring machine.





Norbert Norris



Norbert is the main character in our story. Norbert knows almost everything and is very sensible but very serious. Sometimes Norbert gets confused by things that feel silly or don't make sense.

The actor that plays the part of Norbert is called Jess Lobo. Jess wears blue overalls, red glasses and a green hat. Jess plays the piano, piano accordion and sometimes the trumpet.



Tilly T. Pott



In our story, Tilly T. Pott is the great, great, great granddaughter of Professor T. Pott who created *The Museum of Marvellous Things*. She now looks after the museum.

The actor who plays the part of Tilly is called Maddie Hansen. Maddie wears green dungarees with a red and white stripy t shirt. Maddie plays the trumpet, flugelhorn, piano and piano accordion.



Maddie



Jess





THE SET



The theatre stage has been transformed to look like *The Museum of Marvellous Things* with lots of things to look at and explore.



On the left you will see the magic measuring machine.

The machine measures the magic that comes when people use their imagination. At the start of our story the lights are low because there isn't enough magic. When the magic grows, the magic measuring machine will become more colourful and will have more lights.



In the middle of the stage you will see lots of wooden crates.

Inside the crates are all the marvellous things that are in the museum. During the show, the boxes will open and puppets and characters may pop out.

You will also see lots of brightly coloured costumes on a clothing rail.

These are for dressing up as Doo-Dahs and Noo-Nahs later in the show.



If you look carefully you might see lots of colourful balloons.

These bouncy balloons are the magical moons and planets that are part of the museum's collection. The balloons are all covered in a soft material like a big, squishy pillow.



★ ★ THE STORY ★ ★

Our show follows the story of Norbert Norris and his visit to *The Museum of Marvellous Things*.



Norbert is very clever and knows lots of things. Norbert is also very sensible and very serious.

One day Norbert receives an invitation to go to the *The Museum of Marvellous Things*. When he gets there, he is quite confused by all the silly things he finds inside. He finds out that he needs to learn to use his imagination. ★

While learning about imagination and all the marvellous things in the museum, the magic measuring machine begins to glow with light and colour. But it's not enough. ★

Tilly T. Pott comes and welcomes Norbert to the museum and explains that she needs Norbert's help to make even more magic to keep the museum running.

Because she needs lots of magic, Tilly asks everybody in the audience to help her by using their imaginations to fill the magic measuring machine and save the museum. ★



BITS OF THE SHOW YOU MIGHT FIND FRIGHTENING

Our show includes lots of music, played on lots of different musical instruments. Some instruments will be loud and some will be soft. If you don't like the sound, you can cover your ears or leave the theatre for a little while.



During the show, you will meet lots of different puppets.

They are there to help us tell our story. Some people can find puppets frightening because they often use funny voices and move in ways that we do not expect.

Behind every puppet will be an actor who is controlling how the puppet moves. If you would like to, you can ask to meet some of the puppets before the show, so that you can see what they are like up close.

At one point in the show the actors will pass bouncy balloons around the audience. They will let you know when this is going to happen.

The balloons might come in your direction, but don't worry, they are very light and covered in a soft material, so they will not hurt you.

If you are worried about this part of the show, you are welcome to leave the theatre and come back when you are ready.

BITS OF THE STORY WHERE YOU CAN GET INVOLVED

Sometimes the actors will ask everybody to help by saying a special phrase. It is the phrase that Norbert Norris hears in the *The Museum of Marvellous Things* whenever he doesn't understand something. Why not practice saying this phrase at home before you arrive at the theatre? The phrase is:

“Professor T. Pott will know what’s what.”



Dressing up ★ ★

At two points in the show Kristina, Norbert and Tilly will invite some of you onto the stage to dress up in costumes and pretend to be **Doo-Dahs** and **Noo-Nahs**.

The costumes have lots of bright colours and are very fluffy. Some of the costumes are made out of squishy, springy play tunnels that you can stand in. Under the lights on the stage, the costumes may also glow a bit too.

If you would like to go onto the stage and try on the costumes, you should put up your hand so that **Kristina, Norbert and Tilly** can see you clearly.

Not everybody will be able to go onto the stage. But don't worry if you are not chosen, there will be lots of time to see and try on the costumes after the show.

If you don't want to go onto the stage, that's absolutely fine. Instead, you can watch others dress up and imagine that you're wearing the costumes, if you like.


Making your own puppet

When you come to the theatre, you – or someone you are with – will be given a goody bag with a surprise inside. Try to keep the surprise hidden until the end.

Inside the bag are: a stripy cotton sock, three fluffy pom-poms, two Velcro circles and some other shapes made out of foam. On the back of each shape is some double-sided tape which you will use to stick the pieces together.

Towards the end of the show, the performers will invite you to open the bag and they will show you how to use what's inside to make your very own sock puppet.

All the materials come in lots of different colours, and this is what helps to make the puppets really special and beautiful.

When the show is over you can take your sock puppet home with you. 



EMOTIONS

During the show, you might feel different emotions based on what is happening in the story. If you do, this is completely normal.

There might be some moments in the show when you feel really happy. 😊

You can cheer or clap if you like. 🙌 Or show us your biggest smile. 😄

There might be moments that you find funny. 😂

Some audience members may laugh. You can laugh along too, if you want to. 😄

Some parts of the show might make you feel sad. 😞

You are welcome to cry if you want to and, if you need to leave for a short while, that's really okay. 😭

Some parts of the show might make you feel scared or worried. 😱 😟

This is completely normal and if you need to leave for a little break, that's absolutely fine. 🙌

★ ★ THE END OF THE SHOW ★ ★

You will know that it is the end of the show after you have made your puppet and danced at the *Doo-Dah Disco*.

Our performers will say thank you for coming and they will bow. This is a really good time to clap and cheer if you would like to.

After this, everyone will start to leave the theatre. You can go home if you are ready. Or you can wait in the foyer to see Norbert and Tilly who will come out to meet you. You can say hello and have your photo taken with them, if you'd like to.

We really hope you enjoyed coming to the theatre to see *The Museum of Marvellous Things*.

And we hope to see you again.