THE RAINBOW FISH

Mermaid Theatre of Nova Scotia

STATE THEATRE NEW JERSEY

AUTISM-FRIENDLY RELAXED PERFORMANCES

SOCIAL STORY
I am going to State Theatre New Jersey in New Brunswick to see a play!

The play is called “The Rainbow Fish.”
The play will have three different stories about Rainbow Fish.

Rainbow Fish lives in the ocean.

He has lots of friends!
All of the animals in the play will be puppets.

The puppets are very colorful!

There will be three people holding the puppets.

They will make the puppets swim, dive, wiggle, and do other things.
I will be going to the show with

We will have a lot of fun!
I will go to the theater in a car or on a school bus.

I will get out of the car or bus in front of the theater.

Or I will park nearby and walk to the theater.
If I go to the show on a bus, I will wait quietly until it’s time to go into the theater.
I will go into the theater.
I will be in the lobby.

A helper called an usher will tell me where to go next.

The usher will show me where to sit.
There will be a lot of people at the theater.

I must stay with my parent or teacher so I don't get lost.
There are a lot of seats in the theater!

My seat might be downstairs.

My seat might be upstairs.

Upstairs is called the balcony.

I will walk up the stairs if my seat is in the balcony.
There are bathrooms downstairs that I can use if I need to.

There are also bathrooms upstairs I can use.
If I get scared or things are too loud, I can cover my ears, use my iPad or my headphones, or squeeze a toy.

Or I can take a break in a quiet room where I can sit, color, or do something else.
I will wait quietly in my seat for the show to start.

When the show is ready to start, the lights will get a little darker.

But not too dark.

When the show starts, I will stay in my seat and watch the show.
When the show starts, I will hear music.
I will hear a voice say the name of the first story.
It is called “The Rainbow Fish.”

Then I will see
Then I will see a little rabbit with a book.

He loves his book!

The book is about a magic forest.

This is what the forest looks like.
Rainbow Fish will meet different animals in the ocean.

- an octopus
- a fire octopus
- crabs
- seahorses
- a friendly lion
Then the stage will get a little darker. But not too dark.

I will see two little rabbits with wings.

Rabbits can't really fly!

The little rabbits will lift the big rabbit up in the air.
Then I will see the rabbit and other animals swim in a lake.

It is not a real lake.

Then I will see a giant’s foot.
I will hear the giant’s footsteps.
It is a loud sound, but not too loud.
Then I will see a unicorn.

It looks like a horse with a horn on its head!

Then I will see a frog prince kiss a sleeping princess.

When he kisses her, she will wake up.
Then the princess and the animals will have a party!

Then the rabbit will be very tired.
He will go to sleep.

This is the end of the first story.
Then I will hear a voice say the name of the next story.  
It is called “Guess How Much I Love You.”

The story is about Little Nutbrown Hare and Big Nutbrown Hare.
Little Nutbrown Hare will stretch out his arms.

He will say to Big Nutbrown Hare: “I love you THIS much!”

Then Big Nutbrown Hare will stretch out his arms.

He will say to Little Nutbrown Hare: “I love you THIS much!”

Big Nutbrown Hare has much longer arms than Little Nutbrown Hare!
Little Nutbrown Hare will stretch his arms way up.
He will hop as high as he can.

Big Nutbrown Hare will stretch up and jump higher.
Then Little Nutbrown Hare will tell Big Nutbrown Hare:

“I love you right up to the moon!”

Then Little Nutbrown Hare will go to bed and fall asleep.
Then Big Nutbrown Hare will whisper:

“I love you right up to the moon—and back!”

Then I will see the stage get a little darker.
The music will stop playing.

The lights will get brighter.

Then the actors will bow to the audience.

I can clap and cheer.
Then the actors will show some of the puppets to the audience.
They will tell us about the puppets.

Then the actors will leave the stage.
The show will be over.
I will wait quietly until it is time to go.
Then I will go home or back to school.

Going to the theater is so much fun!
DO & DISCUSS

BEFORE THE SHOW

Explain to the children that they will be seeing a play, and that the play has two different stories.

If you have copies of the books, read them with the children to help them become familiar with the stories and characters.

Explain that the characters in the play will be puppets, and that the puppeteers will be visible to the audience. The puppets will not speak. (There is a pre-recorded voice narrating the story as it goes along.)

Discuss what it’s like to go to the theater:

- Have you ever gone to a theater to see a play before?
- If you have, what was it like? What did you see?
- What was it like to be a member of the audience?
- What is the difference between watching a show on TV or a tablet and watching a play onstage at a theater?
- How do you behave differently at the performance of a play in a theater? Why?

QUESTIONS FOR AFTER THE SHOW

- What was your favorite part of the show?
- Who did the rabbit meet in his storybook? What did they do?
- Do you have a favorite storybook? What is it? If you could, would you like to meet any of the characters in your book? What would you say to them?
- How did Little Nutbrown Hare and Big Nutbrown Hare show that they loved each other? What are some ways that you show love to your friends and family?

DRAW WHAT YOU SAW

After the show, have children decide what part of the show was their favorite. Have them draw a or paint picture of that scene. You can even have them put themselves into the scene, interacting with the characters.