THE TEMPEST

VISUAL STORY

This visual resource is for children and young adults visiting the Unicorn Theatre to see a performance of The Tempest.

This visual story is intended to help prepare you for a new experience and help you to become familiar with the surroundings and the performance.

This performance is silly, colourful, and musical and contains some scenes with sound effects, magic effects and fast, physical action.

CONTENT

The performance contains magic, suspension of disbelief, actors in elaborate costumes, spirits, mystical monsters, moments of fast action, and many moments of audience interaction.
SCENES TO NOTE

There are some scenes where it seems that the character **Prospero is quite angry**, and he controls Ariel and Caliban using light tubes that are like handcuffs. These parts might be scary or loud, but he is just pretending; everything will be resolved by the end of the play.

There is a scene at the start of the performance where there is a **big storm** on the sea. There are some **flashing lights and loud thunder and rain sounds**. You might also hear thunder and rain later in the play. You can cover your ears or close your eyes if you want to.

There is also a scene in which Caliban, Stefano and Trinculo make a **plot to hurt Prospero**. This might be scary, but everyone will be ok at the end.

SOUND

On Prospero’s island, the weather is not very good! Sometimes there will be a **storm**, so you will hear **loud thunder and rain**. There might be some loud noises.

You will hear some **sound effects**, like a **bird singing** or an **animal in the jungle**. You might also hear an electric buzzing sound from the handcuffs of some characters. It looks like they’re getting a shock, but don’t worry, they’re ok!

There will be songs and music throughout the show. The actors will sing and you will hear a soundtrack. This might get a little loud.

Throughout the performance, the performers will **speak to the audience** and **ask the audience questions**. The audience may **answer**
and join in and these moments may be quite loud. You can cover your ears if you want to.

We have adjusted the volume on all sound effects to be lower.

LIGHTING & EFFECTS

During the performance, the lighting will change between scenes. Sometimes it is darker onstage, and sometimes it is brighter. Sometimes there is only light on one part of the stage, and sometimes on the whole stage.

There are a few storm scenes where the lights will flash.

We have slowed down any flashing light effects.

The house lights, which are the lights in the audience seating area, will remain on at a low level throughout the performance.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

Throughout the performance, the actors will ask for some help from children in the audience, and will ask them to call out to other characters, or to sing along.

If you want to, you can join in with the singing and shouting.

These moments can be quite loud, so you can cover your ears if you want to!

AUDIENCE REACTIONS

During the show you might find something funny, you can laugh if you like.
During the show you might see or hear something that makes you feel **sad**. You can feel **sad** if you like, that’s okay.

During the show, other audience members might **react** to what is happening onstage, by **laughing**, **shouting**, **screaming**, **clapping**, being **surprised**, or **speaking out loud**. These moments may be quite **loud**.

You can **join in** if you want to or you can cover your ears if you want to.

During the show you might feel that you need to take some time out.

If you do, don’t worry about it, **find an Usher** and let them know.

They will take you to the **chill out space** where you can relax and return to the show when you feel ready.

The performance is approximately 75 minutes. There is no interval.
THE BUILDING

Welcome to the Unicorn Theatre! We are a theatre for children, young people, and adults.

This is the main entrance of the theatre.

There are some steps before you get to the front door.

There is also a ramp you can use to get to the front door.

When you enter through the front door, you will see a big space with lots of tables and chairs in an area called the Foyer.
In the foyer, you will see the Box Office and Tuck Shop.

This is where you can ask us any questions about your tickets. You can also buy a book, snack or ice cream before the show!
You might see some adults and children sitting at some of the tables having something to eat or drink. You can also bring your own drinks and snacks with you.
When you arrive at the theatre, you will be met by one of the Ushers, who will be wearing a dark red shirt with USHER written on the front and back like the one you see here.

You can ask an Usher if you have any questions and they will do their best to help you.
If you need to use the toilet, there are some **downstairs**. You can use the stairs going down one floor, or you take the lift to **Floor -1**.

These are the toilets downstairs.
There are also some toilets upstairs, on Level 2 and 3. You can use the lift if you want to, or take the stairs up. These toilets are family and all-gender, so anyone can use them.

When it’s time to see the performance, you will hear a loud bell ring.

That means it’s time to go inside the theatre, which is upstairs on Floor 3. You can use the stairs, or take the lift.
When you get to Floor 3, you will go inside the Weston Theatre.

When you enter the theatre, you will see the stage where the actors stand and act.
You will see a brown stage with big white sheets hanging down, and an upper level with a ship’s wheel.

At the front of the stage, you will see lots of litter and fishing nets.

On the sides of the stage, there will be big metal trees covered with vines and flowers.

At the back of the stage, there are more vines hanging down.

Some lights are hanging from the ceiling.
The rest of the room is full of purple seats.

You can find your seat and make yourself comfortable. An usher can help you find your seat.

You will hear **birdsong, gentle waves on the shore, and some jungle animals.**
There are six actors in the show.

This actor plays Prospero.

This actor plays Caliban and Antonio.
This actor plays Miranda and a sailor.

This actor plays Ferdinand and Trinculo.
This actor plays Alonsa and Stefano.

This actor plays Ariel.
There are some goddesses:

And some strange shapes, but they are just the actors!
When the show is about to start, you will hear an announcement asking you to turn off your phones and save your snacks until the end of the show.

The lights will get a bit darker onstage, and you will hear low droning music.

Ariel and Caliban walk on to the set. They will wave at you. You can wave back if you like!
Ariel and Caliban start **singing**; this is the call of the island, and they will teach it to you. You can sing along if you like.

When you sing, you will see **flowers bloom** at the sides of the stage.

Ariel and Caliban **sing a song**, and the lights will get **brighter**. You will see Prospero and Miranda arrive at the island; they will walk down the stairs through the audience, and onto the stage.
Ariel and Caliban explain that Prospero and Miranda arrived twelve years ago, and they showed them around the island. Then Prospero used magic to take them prisoner, so now they work for him.

There are light tubes wrapped around Caliban and Ariel; they are like handcuffs which Prospero controls. Prospero will make the lights flash and you’ll hear a buzzing sound, and Caliban and Ariel will be sad because they are trapped.

Caliban will look hurt when the lights flash – don’t worry, he’s ok!

Prospero will stop the song, and call Ariel over. He will tell Ariel that his enemies are near, and ask her to make a storm to shipwreck them. Prospero is angry with the people on the ship.
Ariel will pick up the white sheets hanging from the set, and shake them. There will be a thunderstorm on the sea and the lights will go darker. You will hear thunder rumbling and see some lightning. This might be scary, so you can close your eyes or cover your ears if you like!

Trinculo, Stefano, Alonsa, Antonio and Ferdinand are washed ashore in different locations, but they are all ok.
The **white sheets will fall down** and be taken away, and you’ll see a new part of the set. This is Prospero’s workshop; you will see **plastic walls**, lots of **computers** and **light tubes**, and an **exercise bike**, with some trees in the background.

The lights will get **brighter**. Miranda asks her Father why he raised the storm. She tells him how **sorry** she feels for the sailors. Prospero tells her about how they came to live on the island.
Miranda sings the song Who am I?

Ferdinand appears. He is sad because he is alone on the island.
Throughout this scene you will hear the **handcuffs buzzing** and **flashing**. Caliban and Ariel might seem hurt, but they’re just pretending.

Ariel and Caliban ask Prospero to set them free; they want their island back. **Prospero is angry** with them because he taught them lots of things, and thinks they are ungrateful.

Caliban is sad and angry; he threatens Prospero, but Ariel stops him. Prospero sends Caliban to work.
Caliban gets on to a bicycle and starts to ride – this creates the power for the island. Caliban sings a song. **He cries loudly** because he isn’t free. You might feel sad for Caliban, but he’ll feel better soon.

The **lights get brighter**, and Ariel brings Ferdinand to Prospero and Miranda.
Ferdinand is the first human Miranda has seen other than Prospero, because she has lived on the island for so long. She likes Ferdinand a lot!

*Ferdinand* is sad, because he thinks his mother Alonsa has *drowned* in the storm; don’t worry, we know that she’s ok really!

You’ll hear a *piano playing*. Ariel sings a twinkly song and casts a spell; you will see *confetti* fall on Ferdinand and Miranda, and they will fall in love.

Ariel is very pleased with herself; Prospero will *pretend to be annoyed*, but he isn’t really! He wants them to fall in love too!
Prospero casts a spell to put Ferdinand under his power.

Ferdinand will pick up an umbrella and **try to use it as a sword**, but Ariel will stick it to the ground. This section is funny, and you can laugh if you want to!

Prospero makes Ferdinand pick up the litter at the front of the stage.
Caliban is riding the bike, and there is a **strange sound** that scares him. He thinks Prospero has sent spirits to **punish him** for not working fast enough, and he hides.

You will hear **rain and thunder**. Someone runs in down the stairs. He is screaming! It is Trinculo! He is a funny character, and you can laugh if you want to!
Trinculo is scared of the storm, and needs to find somewhere to hide. Some children might shout and tell him where to go, and you can join in if you want to.

This bit might get a bit loud. You can cover your ears if you want to.

He looks around, and then hides under Caliban. Caliban is very smelly.

Stefano will come in singing loudly. Some people might sing along, and you can if you want to. She thinks Caliban and Trinculo are a monster, and will run away!

They’re all scared and scream a lot, but they’re being silly. You can laugh if you want to or cover your ears.
Trinculo and Stefano recognise each other and are very happy! They’re good friends. They give Caliban a drink from their bottle – he likes it so much, he offers to show them the island and be their servant.

Caliban and Stefano **plot to steal Prospero’s books and hurt him when he’s sleeping**; this bit might be scary, but everyone will be ok! She says she’s going to kill him, but she’s just pretending.

Trinculo is **upset** because Stefano won’t let him be king of the island. He might seem sad, but he’s ok really.

They sing a song with a **silly dance**, and will encourage you to **sing and dance** with them. You can join in with the singing and dancing if you like.
Ariel has been watching. The **lights will go a bit darker**, and she will sing a **sad song**.

She doesn’t know whether to protect Prospero, or to help her friend Caliban. She wants Caliban to come back to the island, and not serve a human any more.
Alonsa and Antonio will appear through the audience. Alonsa is sad because she has lost her son Ferdinand, and she is looking for him.

She thinks he has drowned, but don’t worry! We know that Ferdinand is safe really.

Ariel sings a sleepy song, and Alonsa falls asleep.

The music and lights will change, and Antonio will tell us that he wants to take Alonsa’s company, Naples, from her.

Ariel is scared that Antonio will hurt Alonsa. She will ask for your help to wake Alonsa up. Some children might shout out “Awake!” to help Ariel. This bit might be quite loud, so you can cover your ears if you need to!
The lights will change, and Alonsa will wake up and be very confused! Antonio will tell a lie, and say he heard lots of lions roaring nearby. He is pretending that you are the lions!

Antonio and Alonsa will go to carry on looking for Ferdinand.

Ferdinand will appear, picking up litter for Prospero. He doesn’t mind doing it because it means he can spend time with Miranda, and he likes her a lot!
Miranda will tell him to take a break, and offer to help him with his work.

The lights will go pink, and they will sing a **funny song** about falling in love. Prospero and Ariel are watching from above.

Prospero send Ariel to fetch Alonso and Antonio. They are **really tired** because they’ve been looking for Ferdinand all day!
Ariel summons some spirits in **silly costumes**. They enter **quickly** on scooters. They will do a **cool magic trick** where they make burgers appear and disappear.

There will be **disco lights spinning** and you’ll hear a **funky song**. Some people might **clap along**, and you can join in if you like.

The **lights will go darker**, and someone will appear on the top level with **big silver wings** and a **space helmet**. The music will change and you will hear them **scream** and talk in a **booming voice**.
This might be **scary**, but it is just our friend Ariel playing a trick on Alonsa and Antonio, so don’t worry!

Alonsa will be **very sad** because Ariel says that Ferdinand has drowned. Remember that he’s ok really!
It will seem like Ariel is making *Antonio choke*, but he’s just pretending.

There will be *thunder and lightning*, and Prospero might seem *angry*. Really, he’s a little sad because he’s coming to the end of his plan, and going to give up his magic. He will sing a *sad song*.

Ariel stops Prospero from giving up his magic. She forgot about *Caliban and Stefano’s plot*!

Ariel is sent to bring everyone together.
The music and lights change, and Ferdinand and Miranda appear. Prospero will make them jump, and they’ll be very surprised, but they’re ok.

Prospero will tell them he’s been testing them on purpose, and they passed the test! He is happy for them to get married. Everyone will hug each other.

The lights will become really colourful, there will be gold confetti, and three colourful characters who are goddesses appear to bless the marriage. There is a fun song and dance, and everyone will celebrate.
You can *clap and sing along* if you like!
The **music and lights will change**, and Caliban and Stefano will sneak on. Prospero is tired and goes to rest.

Ariel will appear and sing her song about the island. **The lights will change** and there will be **twinkly music**.

While Caliban, Stefano and Trinculo are plotting together, Ariel will **ask for your help**.
She will ask you to call out and to make a funny noise. You can help if you want to! This bit might get quite loud, so it’s ok to cover your ears.

Caliban, Trinculo and Stefano will sing very quietly and sneak up on Prospero. Ariel will ask you to help get Prospero’s attention.

Prospero will seem very angry with Caliban, but then he will finally set him free!
Caliban is very happy, and runs away to enjoy the island. He **shouts for joy!** You can cover your ears if you like.

Ariel wants to be free too, but Prospero has one more job for her first.

Ariel brings Alonsa and Antonio out, and they finally see Prospero. Alonsa is **very sorry**, and gives Prospero back the company she took.

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Prospero brings out Ferdinand; Alonsa is so happy to see her son, and to meet Miranda for the first time.
Miranda is amazed by all the new people she is seeing.

Prospero also decides to forgive Antonio, even though he hasn’t been very nice.
The music will change, and you can sing the call of the island with everyone if you want. This will make the sea safe for the journey home.

Miranda and Prospero finally set Ariel free!

The lights will become brighter and colourful, and the music is funky and fun!

The back walls of the set will be opened, and you will see all the plants on the island. You will also see some bubbles at the edges of the set.
Everyone will sing Caliban’s song once more; you can join in if you like! This bit can get quite loud.
Once the song is over, they will all take a bow. You can **clap for them** if you want, or cover your ears.

That's the end of the show.

Thank you for coming to the Unicorn Theatre!