

A CO-PRODUCTION WITH MERCURY THEATRE COLCHESTER AND
A CO-COMMISSION WITH LONDON INTERNATIONAL MIME FESTIVAL

A BRAVE FACE



VISUAL STORY



Supported using public funding by
**ARTS COUNCIL
ENGLAND**



**london
international
mime
festival**



Supported by
**worcestershire
county council**



Welcome!

This is a visual guide to *A Brave Face* for audience members on the autistic spectrum, or those with sensory or communication disorders or learning disabilities.

It will introduce the characters and story of *A Brave Face*.

About us and our masks

A Brave Face is by Vamos Theatre. Our actors wear masks that cover their faces. During the show, they change masks to become different characters. There are no words: instead our actors use their bodies and movement to tell the story, and there is music to go along with it. *A Brave Face* can sometimes be sad, but it is funny too.



Before the show starts

When the performance is about to begin, someone from Vamos Theatre will come on stage. They will introduce themselves and show you what our masks look like. The lights inside the theatre will go a little dimmer. This is meant to happen and it won't be too dark. You can come and go as you like during the performance.





Scene 1: Packing up

We meet Ryan and his family on the day he is joining the British Army. His mum is helping him get ready, and his younger sister, Katie, is playing games with him. His mum and Katie will miss him.



Scene 2: Training and journey to Helmand

Ryan begins his army training. He learns to march and at first he finds it difficult, but he gets better. Katie sends Ryan a card for his 18th birthday. Ryan and the other soldiers travel to Helmand, which is in Afghanistan. We meet Khatera, a little Afghan girl.



Scene 3: Khatera

Ryan meets Khatera, a little Afghan girl. She is funny and playful, and tries to sell him things. She shows him her doll, which she loves. She reminds him of his little sister Katie.



Scene 4: Letters home

Ryan writes to his mum and she sends him a parcel. Ryan becomes more friendly with Khatera. Khatera runs away because she has been seen talking to Ryan, which is not allowed.



Scene 5: Daft song

Ryan, Ravi and Jimmy film themselves miming to a pop song. They send it home to their families to show they are having fun. Katie watches the film on her computer.



Scene 6: The worst day

On patrol, Ryan finds Khatera's doll and then sees she has been badly hurt. He is upset and asks Ravi to take the lead. Ravi sets off and is killed by an explosion.

Things to look out for

This scene is dark and has flashes of light. The sound may make you feel tense.



Scene 7: Nightclub

Back home, Ryan and Jimmy go to a nightclub. Ryan drinks a lot and gets into a fight. He is ill in the toilets and becomes upset as he remembers the bad things that happened in Afghanistan.



Scene 8: Supermarket

Ryan gets a job in a supermarket. Whilst he is working, a customer drops a basket, which makes a loud bang. Ryan is reminded of the explosion that killed Ravi.



Scene 9: Pillar to post

Ryan is finding life difficult, and he and his mum look for help. He goes to the job centre, sees a doctor, and visits a local charity, but no one can help him feel better.



Scene 10: Numb bubble

Ryan gets sadder and finds it hard to cope. He doesn't want to eat and he drinks alcohol to make him feel better. His mum and Katie try and help him but don't know how.



Scene 11: Under siege

Ryan has a nightmare about Afghanistan. The nightmare continues when he wakes up. He sees Khatera, the Afghan girl, and he believes his mum and Katie are in great danger. He re-lives the moment when Ravi died in the explosion.

Things to look out for

This scene is dark and the sound may make you feel tense.



Scene 12: Binned

Ryan's mum is looking for him. She phones his mobile and hears it ringing in a dustbin nearby. Ryan has got into the dustbin as it is the only place he feels safe. Mum tries to get him out, but he won't come.



Scene 13: Attempt

Ryan is so sad he doesn't know if he wants to live anymore. He decides to take some pills.



Scene 14: Hope

Just as Ryan is going to take the pills, Katie runs in. She is upset because she has wet the bed. At first she is angry with Ryan, as she blames him. Then they comfort each other and both cry. This helps Ryan to see there are people who love him, and that perhaps there is a reason to live.

At the end of the show

At the end of the show our actors will join hands and bow. When this happens the audience might clap their hands. They may even whoop to show they have enjoyed themselves. You can join in with them if you like, but you don't have to.

Thank you for coming!

If you want to read more about Vamos Theatre and our shows, you can visit our website or visit us on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.

vamostheatre.co.uk

Twitter: @vamostheatre | Facebook: /VamosTheatre | Instagram: /vamostheatre