



FINDING JOY

Visual Story

#findingjoy

Welcome

This is a visual guide to *Finding Joy* 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 *Finding Joy*.

About us and our masks

Finding Joy is by Vamos Theatre. Our actors wear masks that completely cover their faces. They use different masks to become lots of different people in the show. 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. Our shows are funny and can be a little sad too.



Before the show starts

At the start of the show 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. Don't worry, this is meant to happen and it won't be too dark, so if you want to leave at any time you will be able to see where you are going. You can come and go as you like during the show.





Scene 1: Birthday

Finding Joy begins on Joy's 83rd birthday, when we meet Joy, her daughter Jean, and grandson, Danny. We find out Joy can be forgetful.



Scene 2: In the street

It's now evening. Danny and his friend Billy are out in the street and see Joy, who is lost and confused. Danny takes her home.



Scene 3: Going to bed

At Joy's house, Danny tries to get Joy ready for bed, but isn't very good at it. When he leaves, Joy can't find her handbag. She looks for it and falls and hurts herself. We hear an ambulance siren.



Scene 4: Air raid

Joy dreams about being a child in the war, when a different kind of siren warned of danger. Joy as a child is with her mother in an air raid shelter.



Scene 5: At the hospital

Joy is in the hospital. The doctor examines Joy and finds her hip is damaged. He tells the nurse to take Joy for an X-ray.



Scene 6: Joy has an X-ray

Joy has an X-ray on her hip. She finds it confusing and thinks about a time in her childhood when she was frightened. She had to leave her mother as a little girl because of the war.



Scene 7: The train station

Joy as a child is at the train station during the war, waving goodbye to her mum. Both Joy and her mum are very sad to leave each other.



Scene 8: On the ward

Back in the hospital, Joy is teased by another patient, who steals her handkerchief. Joy asks Danny to help her to leave. He sees how unhappy she is, and agrees to take her home.



Scene 9: Cinefilm

Joy is out of hospital and at home again. Danny plays a black and white film of Joy when she was a small girl. In it, Joy as a child plays with her mum and her white dog.



Scene 10: Football

Danny and his friend Billy watch a football match with Joy. Half way through, Joy decides to go out. Danny wants to watch the match, but has to go with her to make sure she is safe.



Scene 11: Sewing shop

We meet Joy when she was 25 years old. She works in a sewing shop. It's the day when she meets her future husband, Walter. He comes to the shop to have his trousers taken in, and Joy falls in love.



Scene 12: Dance

Joy and Walter go dancing, and by the end of the dance they are married!



Scene 13: Bedtime

Danny and Joy have been shopping, and now it's time for bed. Even though she gets confused and forgets things, Danny loves her and keeps her calm and happy by being kind and playful.



Scene 14: Picnic

Joy dreams of going for a picnic with her husband, Walter. They feed the ducks. When it begins to rain Walter puts up an umbrella. When the umbrella comes down again, they have a little baby!



Scene 15: The row

It is morning. Joy's daughter, Jean, is cross about the mess Joy and Danny have made. She gets angry and wants to send Joy away. Danny and Jean have a big row. Joy opens the front door and leaves. No one notices until too late.



Scene 16: Joy is lost

It is evening, and Joy is lost. She is dazzled by the traffic. She is confused. She thinks about when she had to leave her mum at the train station in the war, and about her husband Walter. She stands in the road, and cars hoot all around her. Danny finds her and pulls her to safety.



Scene 17: Back home

Back home, Danny and Jean look after Joy. They are relieved to have found her again. Joy dances with Danny, and then with Jean, who hugs her tightly with love.

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 or shout 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!

Thank you for coming to our show. If you want to read more about Vamos Theatre or our shows you can go to our website, or visit us on Facebook and Twitter.

website: www.vamostheatre.co.uk

Facebook: /vamostheatre

Twitter: @vamostheatre #FindingJoy



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