



FINDING JOY

Visual Story

#findingjoy

Welcome

This is a visual guide to *Finding Joy* for audience members who are living with dementia and their carers.

It will introduce the characters and story of *Finding Joy*, and highlight scenes that may evoke memories or emotions.

About us and our masks

Finding Joy is by Vamos Theatre. We are a full mask theatre company, which means our actors wear masks that completely cover their faces. By changing the mask, they play different characters. *Finding Joy* has no words: instead our actors use their bodies and movement to tell the story, accompanied by music. *Finding Joy* is funny, but also poignant.



Before the show starts

At the start of the show someone from Vamos Theatre will introduce themselves and show you what our masks look like. The lights inside the theatre will go dimmer, but not too dark. If you want to leave or move around, you'll be able to see where you are going. You can come and go as you like during the performance.





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.

Things to look out for

The stage is darker for this scene. The sounds of sirens may be a little worrying or bring back memories of the war, but they are not too loud.



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.

Things to look out for

The stage is darker for this scene.



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.

Things to look out for

This scene is set in the 1940s, and Joy is a child evacuee. The music is *Goodnight Children Everywhere* by Vera Lynn.



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.

Things to look out for

The stage is darker for this scene. An old cinefilm is projected. The music is *With All My Heart* by Al Bowley.



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.

Things to look out for

This scene is set in the 1950s and features bright costumes and music from the era.



Scene 12: Dance

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

Things to look out for

This is a 1950s dance in swing style, with uptempo music from the period.



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!

Things to look out for

This scene is set in the 1950s and features costumes and music from the era.



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, remembering when she had to leave her mum at the train station, and about her husband Walter. She stands in the road and cars hoot at her. Danny pulls her to safety.

Things to look out for

The stage is darker for this scene. Joy's confusion is reflected in sound and lighting.



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.

Thank you for coming!

We hope this Visual Story makes the story clearer for people living with dementia, and is useful in preparing carers for scenes which may bring back memories or evoke emotions. If you think that in future we could include anything else useful to you in this guide, please let us know.

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

website: www.vamostheatre.co.uk

Facebook: /vamostheatre

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