

# VISUAL STORY FOR *OLIVER!*

A Visual Story helps people prepare for coming to a show or decide if this show is right for them.

**Here are the show times for *Oliver!***

Thurs. Dec 12 – 7:30PM (Pay-What-You-Will Preview)  
Fri. Dec 13 – 7:30PM (Opening Night)  
Sat. Dec 14 – 1:00PM & 7:30PM  
Sun. Dec 15 – 1:00PM  
Tues. Dec 17 – 7:30PM  
Wed. Dec 18 – 1:00PM  
Thurs. Dec 19 – 7:30PM  
Fri. Dec 20 – 7:30PM  
Sat. Dec 21 – 1:00PM (Open Experience)  
Sat. Dec 21 – 7:30PM  
Sun. Dec 22 – 1:00PM  
Thurs. Dec 26 – 1:00PM  
Fri. Dec 27 – 7:30PM  
Sat. Dec 28 – 1PM ([VocalEye Live Audio Description](#) option available)  
Sat. Dec 28 – 7:30PM  
Sun. Dec 29 – 1PM  
Tues. Dec 31 – 1:00PM & 7:30PM ([New Year's Eve Toast](#))  
Thurs. Jan 2 – 7:30PM  
Fri. Jan 3 – 7:30PM  
Sat. Jan 4 – 7:30PM

## About Open Experience

Usually at the theatre, the audience is supposed to be quiet and sit still during the show. We know that this isn't possible for everyone – some people like to make noise, or need to move around and fidget to stay comfortable.

At the Open Experience show, audience members can relax and be their natural selves. You can move in and out of the theatre, laugh as loudly or quietly as you want, and fidget in your seat as much as you need. If you need to take a break from watching the show, you can go to the “chill-out zone” in the lobby on the 2nd floor. There will be comfortable seats and stim toys for you to use. A volunteer can help you go back to your seat when you are ready.

# What information is in this Visual Story?

*You can click on the things you want to know about:*

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## **Schedule / Important Times**

*These times may be slightly different for every show.*

The performance is about 2 hours long, plus a 20-minute intermission approximately halfway through the show. You are welcome to leave the theatre and then return to your seat during the show.

### **Evening Shows**

**6:30 PM** – Lobby doors open and you can pick up your tickets

**7:00 PM** – Theatre doors open and you can find your seat

**7:30 PM** – The performance starts

**9:50 PM** – The performance ends

### **Afternoon Shows**

**12:00 PM** – Lobby doors open and you can pick up your tickets

**12:30 PM** – Theatre doors open and you can find your seat

**1:00 PM** – The performance starts

**2:20 PM** – The performance ends

## Arriving at the theatre

When you arrive at the theatre, you will enter the main lobby through one of two doors. Volunteers will be at both doors and in the lobby. They will be happy to help you if you have any questions or do not feel sure about where you should go.

If you need to pick up your physical ticket from the Box Office, you will enter through the doorway marked "Theatre Entrance." The Box Office is through these doors. Box Office staff will be able to help you.

If you already have your ticket, then you will enter through the doorway near the concession.

This is the Box Office where you can pick up your physical tickets:



## Before the show

You can enter the theatre to find your seat 30 minutes before the show begins. You are also welcome to hang out in the lobbies. There are comfortable seats in the lobby where you can sit. When it is time to go into the theatre, the lights in the lobby will flash on and off and someone will make an announcement.

You can also leave your coat, sweater or bags at the Coat Check, if you would like. Volunteers at the Coat Check will safely store your items during the show. When you drop something off, they will give you a token with a number on it. When you want to get your item back, you bring your token back to the volunteers at the Coat Check.

Our concession will be open. You can purchase snacks or drinks there if you would like to eat or drink something. You are welcome to bring your food and/or drink from the concession into the theatre.

## Chill-out zone

There will be a chill-out zone at the Open Experience performance at 1:00PM on Saturday, Dec. 21.

If you need to take a break from the show, you can leave the theatre at any time. The chill-out zone will be in the lobby on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor, and it will look like this:



It will have comfortable seats, a yoga mat, fidget toys, colouring sheets, and a weighted blanket. When you are ready to go back to the theatre to watch the show, a volunteer can help you find your seat.

## The Set

There is one main set that stays on stage the whole time. The set is made to look like a Victorian-era jungle gym, with brick walls and metal bars. It is circular and has multiple levels that the actors will stand on. The set is built on a revolve, which is a special type of equipment that is used to make the set turn in a circle. The revolve will turn to show different areas of the set, and to show that different scenes are happening in different places.

Here is what the set will look like when you go into the theatre:



When the revolve turns, the other side of the set will look like this:



Different pieces of furniture and props will be used to make the set look like different places in the story. For example, here's what the set looks like when there is a scene at Fagin's hideout:



## The Cast

There are twenty-four actors in the cast. Some of them play multiple roles, meaning they pretend to be many different characters in the play. A few of the actors only play one character the entire time.

Rickie Wang plays the role of Oliver.

This is what Rickie looks like normally:



This is Rickie in costume:



Anthony Santiago plays the role of Fagin.

This is what Anthony looks like normally:



This is Anthony in costume:





Miranda MacDougall plays Nancy and Mrs. Sowerberry.

This is what Miranda looks like normally:



This is Miranda in costume:



Nancy



Mrs. Sowerberry

Cecilly Day plays Widow Corney and Mrs Bedwin.

This is what Cecilly looks like normally:



This is Cecilly in costume:



Widow Corney



Mrs. Bedwin

Tanner Zerr plays Bill Sykes and Mr Sowerberry.

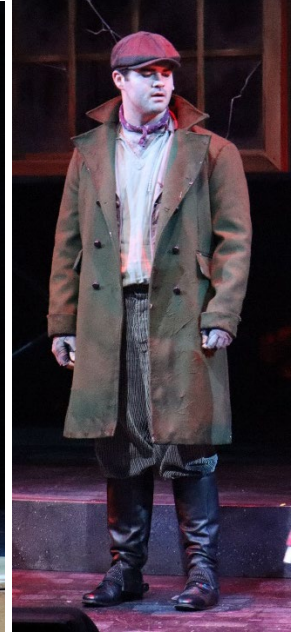
This is what Tanner looks like normally:



This is Tanner in costume:



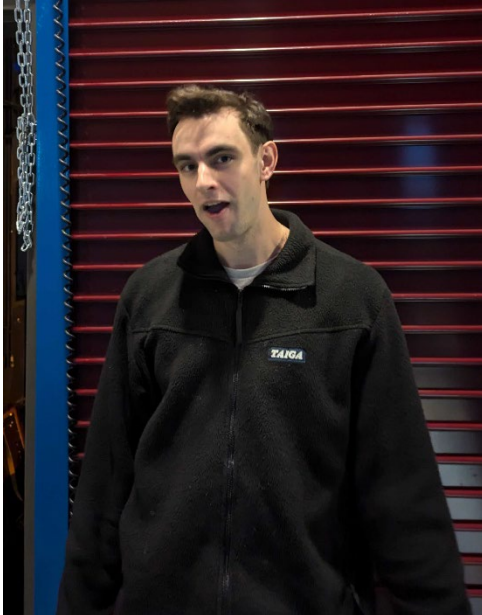
Mr. Sowerberry



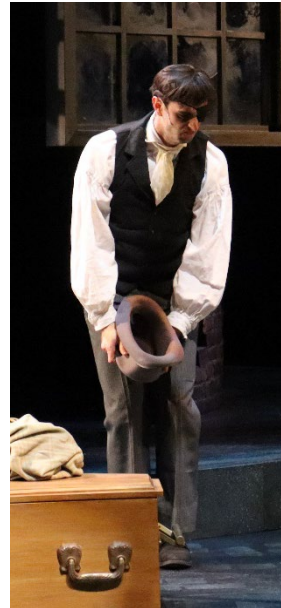
Bill Sykes

Daniel Curalli plays Mr. Brownlow and Noah Claypole.

This is what Daniel looks like normally:



This is Daniel in costume:



Noah Claypole



Mr. Brownlow

Lucas Gregory plays the Artful Dodger.

This is what Lucas looks like normally:



This is Lucas in costume:



The rest of the actors are part of the ensemble, which means they get to play a lot of different characters. Some of them play specific characters that have an important role in the story, and other times they play general people living in London.

The ensemble is made up of the following cast members: Helena Ayas, Grayson Besworth, Joya Bevacqua, Laine Gillies, Victor Hunter, Danica Kobayashi, Kate Malcic, Powell Nobert, Mela Pietropaolo, Suani Rincon, Katrina Teitz, and Allison Leia Wall.

Laine Gillies plays several characters, including Charlotte, Dr. Grimwig, and Old Sally.

This is what Laine looks like normally:



This is Laine in costume:



Charlotte



Dr. Grimwig



Old Sally

Victor Hunter plays Mr. Bumble, and some other characters.

This is what Victor looks like normally:



Here is Victor in costume:



Danica Kobayashi plays a few different characters, including a strawberry seller.

This is what Danica looks like normally:



This is Danica in costume:



Kate Malcic plays a few different characters, including a rose seller.

This is what Kate looks like normally:



This is Kate in costume:



Powell Nobert plays several characters, including a Chairman and a knife grinder.

This is what Powell looks like normally:



This is Powell in costume:



Suani Rincon plays a few different characters, including Bet.

This is what Suani looks like normally:



This is Suani in costume:



Katrina Teitz plays a few different characters, including a boxer.

This is what Katrina looks like normally:



This is Katrina in costume:



Allison Leia Wall plays a few different characters.

This is what Allison looks like normally:



This is Allison in costume:



There is also group of young actors in the ensemble, who play the kids in Fagin's gang and other characters. Here's what they look like normally:



Here are some more pictures of the ensemble, dressed as different characters:







## About the story

This is a show based on the classic book *Oliver Twist* by Charles Dickens. The story takes place in the Victorian era and is about a young orphan named Oliver who lives in a workhouse. He is sold to an undertaker (someone who prepares dead bodies to be buried or cremated), where he works as an apprentice until he escapes to London and joins a group of pickpockets led by a criminal named Fagin. While learning how to be a pickpocket, Oliver gets captured for a crime he didn't do, and a kind man named Mr. Brownlow takes him in and gives him a chance at having a family.

It is a story about hope, family, and forgiveness. Some things happen that are sad, but there is also a lot of humour, singing, and dancing. Keep reading the next few sections for more details about what happens during the show.

## Things in the show that might be intense

These are some things in the show that might be intense. On the following pages, we will explain more, or you can click on items on the list.

- [Lighting](#)
- [Fog & haze](#)
- [Live music & singing](#)
  - [Weapons](#)
  - [Fighting & violence](#)
  - [Intense emotions](#)
- [Kissing & physical intimacy](#)
  - [Domestic violence](#)
    - [Death](#)
    - [Dead body](#)

If something feels too intense, you are allowed to leave the theatre during the performance. A volunteer will help you return to your seat if or when you feel ready to return to the theatre to watch the show.

### LIGHTING

The lighting changes a lot during the show to signal that the scene is changing or that something important is happening. Some of these changes might feel intense if you are not expecting them. In general, a lot of the lighting is dark, and you may not be able to see what's around you very well during the show.

Here are some pictures of what the lighting looks like at different times in the show:





## FOG & HAZE

Haze is used during the show. It will come out from the side of the stage to create different feelings in different scenes, but it is never very thick or overwhelming.

Here is an example of what it looks like when there is fog:



## LIVE MUSIC & SINGING

There are about 23 full or partial songs that are sung in this show. There is a band that plays music live, but you won't see most of them because they are in a room beneath the stage called an orchestra pit. Their instruments include a piano, a bass, a clarinet, a trumpet, a French horn, and a drum kit. Because they are playing live instruments, they can sometimes be louder than we expect.

Song lyrics may express intense emotions, refer to injustice, talk about things like kissing or falling in love with someone, or use metaphorical language that is not meant to be understood literally. Sometimes the band will play music that sounds stressful when the characters are going through something difficult in the story.

## WEAPONS

At the end of the play, one character will bring a gun on stage. The gun is fake and can not hurt anyone, but it looks real and will be used to “shoot” another character. Here’s what that looks like:



## FIGHTING & VIOLENCE

There are a few fights that happen in the show. Sometimes, this involves adults hitting children, which can be especially hard to watch. All of these fights are choreographed and no one will actually be hurt.

In Act One, Oliver gets in a fight with Noah Claypole after Noah insults Oliver’s mother. Oliver hits Noah, slams his head against a coffin, and punches him on the ground. Noah grabs Oliver and traps him inside the coffin. Here are some pictures of the fight:



After this, other characters come in and let Oliver out of the coffin. Mrs. Sowerberry tells Oliver that his mother probably deserved the insults, and Oliver gets mad again. He fights everyone until they all pass out and then he escapes. Here are some pictures from this fight:



## INTENSE EMOTIONS

Things will happen during the show that make the characters very emotional. Sometimes they will cry or shout at each other when this happens. For example, at the end of the play when Nancy dies, Bet cries while holding her dead body:



## KISSING & PHYSICAL INTIMACY

Some of the characters have intimate moments with each other, and sometimes they kiss.

At the beginning of the show, Widow Corney and Mr. Bumble sing a song called "I Shall Scream" where they flirt with each other. Here are some pictures from that song:



In Act Two, Bill sings a song called "My Name." At the end of the song, Bill and Nancy kiss.



### **DOMESTIC VIOLENCE**

Nancy and Bill are dating, but Bill is very abusive and doesn't treat her well. Throughout the play he threatens her, tries to control her, and hits her. Even though he is cruel to her, she says she loves him and stays with him because she thinks he needs her. This can be very upsetting to watch.

After Bill finds out that Oliver got caught by the police, he's afraid that Oliver will tell the police about Bill and Fagin's crimes. Bill wants to kidnap Oliver, but Nancy says to leave Oliver alone. Bill gets mad and grabs her by the throat. She won't actually be hurt, but it is meant to look real:





## DEATH

Death is talked about a lot – about how Oliver’s mother died when he was young, about the dead people at the funeral home Oliver works at – and we also see three characters die on stage. All of these deaths happen in the Act Two.

Old Sally comes to see Mr. Brownlow to tell him how she took care of Oliver’s mother before she died. Sally is very sick, and at the end of the scene she dies.



When Bill finds Nancy helping Oliver escape, he grabs her by the head and twists her neck, which kills her.



Bill gets shot at the end of the play and dies. When he dies, he falls backwards over part of the set.



### DEAD BODY

In Act One, there is a scene at the funeral home where one of the actors pretends to be a dead body. The other actors will do some choreography with the body. This is meant to be funny, but some people might find it hard to watch.



## How people react

People might sing along or clap when they hear some songs in the play. When songs end, people might clap their hands or cheer to show their appreciation for the singing and the music. You can clap or cheer if you want to, but you don't have to. You can also laugh if you think something is funny.

## The end of the show

When the show ends, people will clap and cheer to show their appreciation for the performance. If they really like the performance, they might stand while they do this. This will go on for a few minutes, while each performer steps forward to take a bow. You can clap or cheer to show that you liked the play, but you don't have to. If the clapping is too loud, you can cover your ears or wear ear protection.

## Everything That Happens in the Show

**IMPORTANT NOTE:** This section includes a detailed description of every thing that happens in the show. If you do not want to know every thing that happens in the show, then do not read this section.

The show begins in a workhouse where many orphaned children live. The actors will enter from the back of the audience and walk down the left aisle to get to the stage.



They start by singing a song called "Food Glorious Food," where they sing about all the delicious foods they'll probably never have because they are poor. They are each given a bowl of gruel and sit down to eat. Oliver decides to ask for more food, shocking everyone. Mr. Bumble, who is in charge of the workhouse, and Widow Corney, his assistant, punish Oliver. They sing a song called "Oliver!" about all the ways they'll punish him. The children chase Oliver around, and when they catch him, they lift him up in the air.



In the next scene, Mr. Bumble flirts with Widow Corney. She pretends to be annoyed at first, but she ends up on his lap and agrees to marry him while singing a song called "I Shall Scream!". To get rid of Oliver, Mr. Bumble sells him to an undertaker named Mr. Sowerberry. He sings a song called "Boy for Sale."



At the undertaker's house, Mr. Sowerberry and his wife make fun of Oliver and treat him poorly. They sing a song called "That's Your Funeral." They send him to sleep next to the coffins. Lonely and sad, Oliver wonders if anyone will ever love him and sings a song called "Where Is Love?".

The next day another boy named Noah Claypole, who also works for the undertaker, insults Oliver's mother. Oliver gets mad and attacks him. Mrs. Sowerberry and her daughter Charlotte, who is Noah's girlfriend, come to help Noah and lock Oliver in a coffin. Mr. Bumble is called, and they all argue about what happened. Oliver pushes Mrs. Sowerberry and escapes.

The next scene is in London, where Oliver has run away to. He meets a boy named the Artful Dodger. Dodger is friendly and invites Oliver to come with him to Fagin's house to stay the night. They sing a song called "Consider Yourself" about how Oliver is going to be part of their family, and as they walk through the market, all the people around them sing along too.



Dodger takes Oliver to meet Fagin, an older man who trains children to be pickpockets and steal things for him. Fagin welcomes Oliver and starts teaching him how to pick pockets, though Oliver doesn't realize he's being taught to steal. Fagin and the other children sing a song called "You've Got to Pick a Pocket or Two," as they all bring out the things they've stolen to show Oliver. At one point during the song, one child sits on another's shoulders and wears a big, long robe, to make it look like they're one very tall person.



Fagin then tells them all to go to bed. While the children are asleep, Bill Sikes comes in and gives Fagin a bunch of stolen treasures like silver candlesticks and pearls. Bill asks Fagin to pay him, but Fagin says he doesn't have cash and tells him to meet him tomorrow at a pub.

Bill leaves and Fagin takes out his jewels, admiring each one. Fagin notices that Oliver has woken up and is watching him. Fagin gets upset and worries that Oliver saw him talking to Bill, but Oliver says he only just woke up. Fagin tells Oliver to go back to sleep and then quickly hides his jewels.

Nancy and Bet enter, and Fagin wakes up the boys. They all sing a song called "It's a Fine Life" about staying positive even though they have a lot of problems in their lives. Fagin introduces Oliver to Nancy and Bet, and he bows. The other children make fun of him, but Nancy compliments him for having better manners than the others. They sing a song called "I'd Do Anything" about how gentlemen are supposed to treat women. Then Fagin sends all the boys out to the streets to pickpocket. They sing a song called "Be Back Soon."

Oliver, Dodger and another child named Charley go off to steal together. Dodger and Charley steal a handkerchief from a rich man named Mr. Brownlow. When the man notices, Dodger and Charley run away, leaving Oliver behind. Mr. Brownlow thinks it was Oliver who stole from him and gets the people around him to chase him down. Oliver gets pushed to the ground by some police officers. Oliver is arrested.



This is the end of Act One. The lights will come up and it will be intermission. This is a chance to stretch your legs, go to the bathroom, get a snack from the concession, or whatever you need to take a break from the show. The intermission will be about twenty minutes long.

Act Two starts in a pub, where an exciting boxing match is going on. Two people are fighting and the rest of the people at the pub cheer them on.



Nancy comes in and sings a lively song called “Oom-Pah-Pah” to entertain everyone. The mood changes when Bill Sikes arrives and sings a song called “My Name” about how everyone is afraid of him. After the song, Bill and Nancy kiss. Suddenly, Dodger rushes in to tell Fagin that Oliver has been arrested. Fagin and Bill worry Oliver might tell the police about their gang, so they decide to find him and bring him back. Bill asks Nancy to help. At first she says no, but Bill threatens her and pushes her. Fagin tries to stop the violence, but Bill hits her hard on the face. Fagin goes to help Nancy, then leaves with the children. Nancy sings a song called “As Long As He Needs Me” where she convinces herself that she loves him even though he is cruel to her.

The next scene is at Mr. Brownlow’s house. We find out that Oliver has been staying there. Mrs. Bedwin, the housekeeper, sits next to Oliver’s bed and sings a lullaby (“Where Is Love? [Reprise]”). Oliver hugs her.

Outside, people on the street sing a song called “Who Will Buy?” about all the things they are selling. Oliver sings along, about how happy he is about his life right now. Mr. Brownlow comes in with a doctor, who is here to see how healthy Oliver is.



A child comes to deliver books Mr. Brownlow ordered from the bookstore, and Mr. Brownlow decides to send Oliver out to return some other books he had ordered before. On the way out, Oliver notices a painting on the wall. Mr. Brownlow says it’s a portrait of his daughter, Agnes. Oliver leaves. Mr. Brownlow tells the doctor he thinks Oliver looks a lot like Agnes.

Out on the streets, people continue to sing “Who Will Buy?” Nancy and Bet come out, and Nancy pretends that Oliver is her brother who had ran away. Oliver tries to tell the people around him that Nancy is lying, but they all believe Nancy. Bill also appears, and he and Nancy take Oliver back to Fagin’s hideout.





At Fagin's, the rest of Fagin's gang push Oliver around and take the books and money that Mr. Brownlow gave him. Oliver tries to run away, but Bill stops him. Nancy defends Oliver, and Bill threatens her again.



Fagin, Bill, and Nancy sing "It's a Fine Life" again, but this time the song is not optimistic. Nancy and Bill leave, and Dodger takes Oliver away, leaving Fagin alone. Fagin sings a song called "Reviewing the Situation" about whether or not he should change his life and be a good person, but decides to stay the same after thinking about it ("Reviewing the Situation").

The next scene is back at the workhouse, and we find out that Mr. Bumble and Widow Corney are now unhappily married. A woman named Old Sally comes to their door, to tell Mr. Bumble and Widow Corney something important before she dies. Sally says she took care of Oliver's mother before she died, and that Oliver's mother left behind a gold locket. Sally dies.

Hoping to make money, the Bumbles take the locket to Mr. Brownlow, who has been searching for Oliver. Mr. Brownlow takes the locket, scolds the Bumbles for selling Oliver for money, and tells them to leave. Mr. Brownlow recognizes the picture inside the locket as his daughter Agnes, and realizes Oliver is his grandson.



Nancy comes in and promises to bring Oliver back to Mr. Brownlow. She refuses to say the name of the others who helped her take Oliver, but tells Mr. Brownlow that she'll bring Oliver to him if he meets them at London Bridge that night.

Before the meeting, Nancy sings "As Long as He Needs Me" again, reflecting on her love for Bill and her guilt over her choices.

Next, Nancy and Oliver wait for Mr. Brownlow at the bridge. Bill appears and is very angry that Nancy betrayed him. Bill grabs Nancy and twists her neck. Nancy dies, and Bill runs away with Oliver. Mr. Brownlow comes in, sees Nancy's body and shouts for help. A crowd gathers around the body, and someone says it was Bill who killed her. The crowd decides to go to Fagin's to confront Bill and save Oliver.

Bill arrives at Fagin's hideout and says they've been caught. Fagin sends his gang away to avoid being caught by the police. Fagin and Dodger runs away, but Dodger goes back to get his hat and is caught by some people from the crowd. As Fagin runs away, he trips and spills his box of jewels. One of the kids helps him get up and they keep running.



The crowd finds Bill, who is on a rooftop with Oliver and threatening to kill him. Suddenly Bill remembers Nancy and hesitates. Someone from the crowd takes the opportunity to shoot Bill, who falls off the roof and dies.



Oliver is saved! Mr. Brownlow and Mrs. Bedwin appear. Oliver runs to them and hugs them. They take him home, and the crowd leaves as well. Fagin is left alone on stage. He sings "Reviewing the Situation" again, and this time, he decides to change his ways and be a better person.

This is the end of the show.