

VISUAL STORY FOR *OTOSAN*

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 *OTOSAN*:

Mon. Feb 17 – 10:00 AM
Wed. Feb 19 – 10:00 AM
Wed. Feb 19 – 1:00 PM
Thurs. Feb 20 – 10:00 AM
Thurs. Feb 20 – 1:00 PM
Fri. Feb 21 – 10:00 AM
Fri. Feb 21 – 1:00 PM
Sat. Feb 22 – 10:00 AM (ASL Interpretation Available)
Sat. Feb 22 – 1:00 PM (Relaxed Performance)

About Relaxed Performance

A Relaxed Performance is a theatrical event that's designed to be more accessible and welcoming for a wider range of audience members. Relaxed Performances are often adapted for people with disabilities, neurodivergence, or sensory sensitivities. They can also be good for families, first-time theatergoers, or anyone else who prefers a more relaxed environment. Not all Relaxed Performances have the same elements, so we've put together a quick table so you can know what to expect at the Relaxed Performance for *Otosan*.

✓	Visual Story available for the production
✓	Chill Out Zone available in the lobby
✗	Spaced out seating in the theatre guaranteed
✓	Pre-Show introductions by the cast
✓	House lights at half during the show
✓	Reduced lighting and sound intensity
✓	Audience about to come and go during the performance as needed
✓	Relaxed audience expectations (able to move around and make noise as needed, no "shushing")

What information is in this Visual Story?

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

[Schedule / Important Times](#)

[Arriving at the theatre](#)

[Before the show](#)

[Chill-out zone](#)

[The set](#)

[The cast](#)

[About the story](#)

[Things in the show that might be intense](#)

[How people react](#)

[The end of the show](#)

[Everything that happens in the show](#)

Questions? Feedback about this Visual Story?

Please email the Administrator, Ashley Bate at abate@gatewaytheatre.com.

Schedule / Important Times

These times may be slightly different for every show.

The performance is about 45 minutes long. You are welcome to leave the theatre and then return to your seat during the show.

Morning Shows

9:00 AM – Lobby doors open and you can pick up your tickets

9:30 AM – Theatre doors open and you can find your seat

10:00 AM – The performance starts

10:45 AM – 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

1:45 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 lobby. 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 Relaxed Performance at 1:00 PM on Saturday, February 22.

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 1st floor, to the right of the bar:



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

Here is what the set will look like (with the performers):



The Cast

All of the performers will be dressed in black. They will not be playing the characters as humans, they will be telling the story by making the puppets move.

June Fukumura plays Shizu.



Shizuka Kai plays Otosan.



Randi Edmundson plays the Dog, the Owlets, the Lemmings, and the Bear. Randi also helps Shizuka play Otosan.



Lisa Goebel plays the Dog, the Plane, the Owl, and the Lemmings. Lisa also helps June play Shizu.



About the story

The story is about a little girl, Shizu and her father Otosan. Shizu hides in her father's suitcase and secretly travels with him to his most dangerous destination: The North. Her father is very surprised and annoyed when he finds out. Together, they face snowy owls, white wolves and grizzly bears in places very far away from any other people. They have to work together. And as they work together they learn to communicate how much they love each other as well.

The story is inspired by Co-Creator Shizuka Kai (who will be manipulating the Otosan puppet) and things that happened with her father who is a wildlife videographer.



The performers use human and animal puppets to tell the story. The actors manipulate the puppets to make them look like they are alive.

There will also be videos and pictures on the screen and music.

The puppets do not speak.

They do make sounds through breath.

Keep reading the next few sections for more details about what happens during the play.

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](#)
- [Sound effects](#)
- [Owl diving](#)
- [Owl eating Lemming](#)
- [Lemmings running into the audience](#)
- [The storm](#)
- [Breaking something & Ototan being upset](#)
- [Bear attack](#)

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

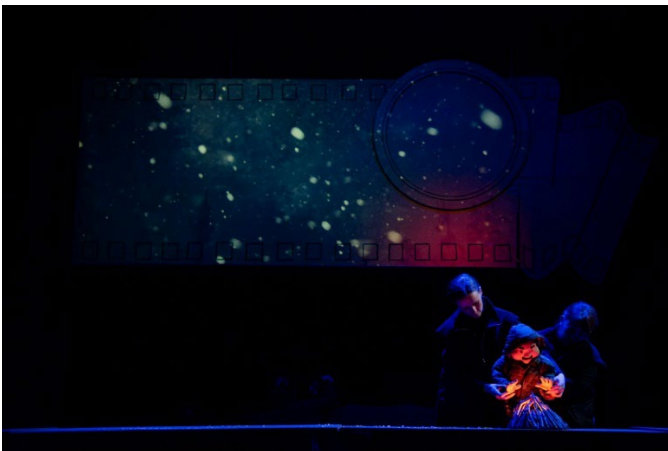
Overall the lighting is simple. Sometimes it lights up the stage so it looks like daylight, sometimes it is more dimmed for scenes that are in the evening. The projection screen is also lit up for the whole play. When going from one scene to the next it sometimes is completely dark.

Sometimes it stays dark for up to 30 seconds because the performers are moving things around.

These are the most intense light effects:

- Darkness in between scenes
 - Spotlights
- Lightning: light flashes
 - Storm: darkness

Here are some examples of spotlights:



SOUND EFFECTS

There is sound and music but not talking.
Sometimes the music is soft and peaceful, sometimes it is rhythmic and energetic.

These are the moments or effects that will be most intense:

- Lightning
- Bear Roar and Bite
- Owl Screeching

OWL DIVING

When Shizu and Ootosan are out in the Arctic, Shizu finds an owl nest. The mama Owl puppet is protective and dives at Shizu and Ootosan to scare them away. The Owl dives two times, then flies around close to the audience. After that, it feels safe and lands and feeds its babies.



OWL EATING LEMMING

Once the owl lands, it feeds its babies a lemming (a small animal that looks a bit like a mouse). To do this, the owl rips the lemming into pieces. While the owl puppet is doing this on stage, the audience can see a real video of the owl doing this. There is no blood or gore.



LEMMINGS RUNNING INTO THE AUDIENCE

Later in the play, Shizu and Otsan find lemmings. Otsan stomps on their mound to get them to come out of their hole. The Lemming puppets are energetic and skittish and make squeaking noises, sometimes shrieking. They bounce over Shizu and Otsan and come into the first row of the audience, but don't touch anyone. Shizu helps one of the Lemmings calm down.



THE STORM

Later in the play there is a storm. There is rain, thunder and some lightening. The storm starts out light then builds to be big storm as the tension in the play builds. At one point, Shizu is lost and sad, crying.



BREAKING SOMETHING & OTOSAN BEING UPSET

Otosan's camera gets broken when Shizu slips and falls, bumping it out of his hands. It falls in slow motion to the ground and cracks. Otosan is very upset and looks at Shizu sharply. She turns and runs away because she feels guilty.



BEAR ATTACK

Otosan comes back to the campsite alone. It looks very messy. The tent rustles, and he thinks it is Shizu but it is actually a Bear. The Bear goes back into the tent and Shizu comes running. Otosan tries to tell her to stay away, but the Bear pops up between them. The Bear is curious, and goes toward Shizu to check her out. Otosan throws a shoe and a mug at the bear, the bear gets angry, stands up and runs to Otosan. The Bear knocks the tent and it goes flying. The Bear roars at Otosan, then bites his arm. Shizu finds the bear spray and sprays the Bear in the face to get her away from Otosan. The Bear's eyes hurt, and it runs away. Otosan's arm is hurt, but Shizu and Otosan are both okay.



How people react

During the show, the audience will generally be quiet. There will be some funny moments, some exciting moments, some calm moments, and some scary moments. People react differently – sometimes people laugh, sometimes nobody laughs. You can 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. 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.

At the beginning of the play there are 2 rolling tables set up with a living room scene. A title card that reads "Otosan" is projected on a screen hanging above the tables.

The lights go dark and music begins to play. Images of Vancouver from the 80s start to play as the puppeteers come onto the stage in the dark.

Shizu is sitting on the couch, coloring her cardboard wolf ears. The Dog watches her. Shizu and the Dog look out the window: they are waiting for Otosan to come home.



Otosan comes home with a lot of bags. The Dog is happy to see him. He pays more attention to the Dog than to Shizu. He looks at her and say hello. Shizu tries to help Otosan clean his camera but he doesn't want her to help. Shizu shows Otosan her backpack: she's ready to go with him. Otosan doesn't say anything.



Shizu decides to hide in Otosan's suitcase to go with him.



Otosan flies to the Arctic. He arrives and starts to set up camp. He discovers Shizu. He is surprised, upset and a little big angry. But when she has to pee he has to let go of that and help her go to the bathroom.



The plane flies away, and Shizu and Otosan are stuck together in the Arctic.



After a scary first night in the Arctic, Shizu has to follow Otosan who is looking for white wolves. They find an owl's nest. The mom Owl is upset they are close to her nest so dives at them.



Shizu and Otosan duck to avoid getting hit by the owl. This happens a few times, then they move away from the nest.



The owl lands and the starts to feed the owl babies a lemming.



Then, Otosan and Shizu ride an ATV. They get stuck in the mud. They find a herd of Caribou and film them. Then their stomachs grumble because they are hungry.



Otosan and Shizu eat Cup Noodles and look at the colorful northern lights. Shizu finds the big dipper in the sky.



Otosan and Shizu sleep well that night.



The next day Otosan and Shizu are looking for the white wolves again.



They find a lemming hole, and Otosan stomps on the mound to get them to come out. The lemmings run around frantically.



Then Shizu picks up one lemming and helps it calm down. Otosan sees how well she gets on with the animal. They hear a real wolf howl.



Shizu and Otosan search for the wolf they heard.



There is a lot of wind.



At the top of a mound they howl for the wolf. Otosan howls but the wolf doesn't respond. When Shizu howls the wolf does respond. She keeps howling and then the wolf comes out.



They are both excited, and Otosan films the wolves.



In her excitement, Shizu bumps Otosan's camera out of his hand. It flies through the air, falls on the ground and breaks.



Otosan is very upset. Shizu is shocked and feels terrible, so she runs away. Otosan chases after her.



Shizu is lost and sad. She sits on the ground and cries on the ground.



Otosan arrives back at the campsite to find a bear in the tent. He tries to stop Shizu from coming near it, but it pops up between them.



The bear is curious about Shizu and sniffs her to check her out. The bear gets very close. Otosan throws a shoe and then a cup at the bear to distract it away from Shizu. The bear gets mad and charges at Otosan.



The bear bites Otosan's arm and flings him around.



Shizu finds bear spray and sprays the bear's face. The bear's eyes hurt and it runs away. Shizu has saved her Dad's life.



Shizu is okay, but Otosan's arm is injured and painful. They travel back home.



At home, Otosan's arm is in a sling. Shizu and Otosan watch a TV show that uses the footage they shot together in the arctic. They see all the animals they filmed together. Otosan scares Shizu when the grizzly bear is on screen. She scares him back.



Otosan has to leave on another adventure. This time, he asks Shizu to carry the camera for him. He is very happy. This is the end of the play.

