

Visual Story Guide: The Show

This Guide is intended to help prepare visitors for a new experience and to make an accessible introduction to this play about a magic show: *Rabbits Out of the Hat*.

(SPOILER ALERT: This material contains spoilers about the show!)

About us

This show takes place long ago in the year 1905. That's when light bulbs were new and women did not yet have the right to vote! The women who wanted to change that law were called suffragettes (but more about that later!)

The show is performed by two actors who play a magician and assistant. They are called 'Norvil and Josephine' and they are brother and sister. They will pick a few people from the audience to help but if you are asked to help and do not want to, it's OK. Just say, 'No thanks!'

This is Josephine, the assistant:



And this is Norvil, the magician:



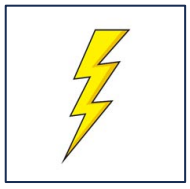
In this Visual Story, if you see:



It means there may be loud or unexpected noises and you can plug your ears.



It means there will be music or singing.



It means the lights may change quickly or flash so you may close your eyes if it bothers you.

Before the Show





You will see some magical props on stage and music will be playing. It will look a bit like the picture above.

During the Show

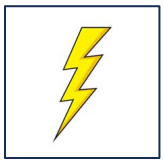
After magic, a song or dance is performed, the audience might clap their hands. This is to show that they liked what they just saw. They might even cheer. If you want to, you can join them but you do not have to.



Scene 1







Norvil walks on stage. He sings a playful song and makes things appear magically. Then Josephine appears, being very cheeky. A man in the audience is then asked to stand up. He is 'The Impresario.' That's the director of an important theatre called The Egyptian Hall. The Impresario has come to judge if Norvil & Josephine are good enough to star there. He will reveal his decision after the show!

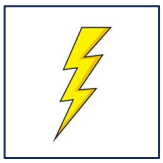
Scene 2



To impress The Impresario, Norvil & Josephine perform a new trick. Josephine goes inside a cabinet and looks like Norvil cuts her in half (but it's just an illusion!) Norvil will see a pair of beautiful sparkling pink shoes which send him into a dream world. As he dreams, he sings about how he yearns to not need to dress in black. He wishes he could let everyone know he loves colours and sparkly things.

Scene 3







In magic shows around 1905, magicians often demonstrated new inventions on stage that seemed magical. Here, Norvil shows an ‘elecktrickity machine’. It’s a glowing lamp. He pretends that it electrocutes him. The lights turn off for a short time and Norvil asks the audience to make noises (but you do not have to make noises if you don’t want to). The scene lasts about 2 minutes.

Scene 4



Josephine tricks Norvil into reading a newspaper review about their show. It says he should learn from Josephine and embrace sequins and panache! Norvil is jealous and tears up the paper but it fixes itself back by magic! Josephine tells the audience her dream is to make the show full of sequins and panache – not the traditional show that Norvil thinks the audience want.

Scene 5



Josephine enters with a broom because she wants to do a ‘suffragette magic act’ with it. Norvil is afraid that The Impresario will not like it so he sends Josephine away.

Scene 6

Norvil reassures The Impresario and the audience that this is a traditional show. He explains that this show was inherited by their parents: their mother taught Josephine her dances and their father taught Norvil his magic.

Norvil performs the first trick his father ever taught him: The Incredible Transforming Handkerchief. He turns a handkerchief into an egg!

Scene 7



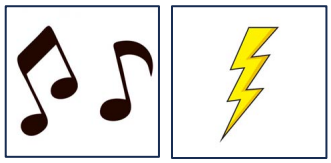




Norvil then shows the last trick his father taught him: how to make a table float with his mind! But when the table starts to misbehave, it pulls Norvil off stage.

Scene 8



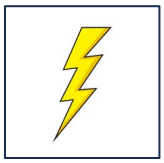


Norvil calls Josephine out to save the day. She performs a dance in a flowy white costume about a bird escaping a cage.

Scene 9







Norvil starts to perform a trick with tarot cards. It will predict his future and say if he will star at The Egyptian Hall. He explains that backstage he removed most dangerous card, the tower card (it's the card of chaos and change).

But then Josephine runs on stage dressed like a fortune teller. She found the tower card backstage and before Norvil can do anything, she pushes it back in the deck.

Josephine makes Norvil shuffle the cards before an audience member is asked to pick any card from the deck. Josephine looks into her crystal ball and correctly guesses the card. It is the tower card!

Norvil then does a trick with an umbrella to destroy the tower card so its magic to make change will not work.

Scene 10





Norvil is still worried though and he goes to meditate which will help him perform a levitation trick.

While he does, Josephine gets inspired again to do her suffragette magic act with the broom. This time Josephine gets the audience on side and she starts to levitate on the broom.

Josephine's magic inspires Norvil, who sings his song again. He still wishes he could wear colours and sparkly things but he's also still afraid of letting the audience know.

Josephine hears what he wants and brings out sparkling pink shoes but Norvil pretends he doesn't want them (because the audience is watching!)

Scene 11



Norvil pretends to hate the shoes and is still totally convinced he needs to present a traditional show. So he doubles down to perform what he thinks is a terrifying rings routine that makes him look like a fearless matador. He twirls a matador cape then he performs his magic rings act. Things start to go wrong, it gets worse and worse and Norvil ends up flat on the floor! He’s so embarrassed!

Scene 12





Norvil tells Josephine to behave and perform her mother's ballet act. Norvil hopes to impress The Impresario with it. But she is tired of wearing the tutu and throws it off to do her own dance. She teases Norvil with the pink sparkling shoes but he pretends that he does not love them.

Scene 13





Josephine is happy with her unique dance routine without the tutu on but Norvil is horrified. She teases him with the sparkly pink shoes again but again Norvil pretends he doesn't like them.

They have a big argument. Norvil starts to lose it a bit and decides to perform his father's Incredible Transforming Egg trick again. It goes wrong and Norvil is upset. Josephine feels bad for him. She tells Norvil he will feel better if he stops doing his father's boring old routines and does something new. Josephine shows him what she means. It's a big success and she's super happy.

Scene 14



Josephine does a happy dance. Norvil is sad because he believes his dreams of performing at The Impresario’s Egyptian Hall theatre are ruined.

Scene 15



Norvil sings a song. He’s sad about his Egyptian Hall dreams ending but when he thinks instead of living a life of color and sparkles, he gets happy. Then Josephine sings about how she always just wanted to be herself. Josephine inspires Norvil to do the same.

Scene 16



Norvil finally decides to do the new exciting routine that Josephine has been asking for the whole show. He gets locked in a trunk. Josephine stands on top of it with a curtain and when the curtain comes down, Josephine is gone and Norvil appears! He is now dressed in color and wearing those pink sparkly shoes!

Scene 17



Norvil and Josephine sing and dance. The decision of The Impresario arrives. They are sure that he does not want them to perform at The Egyptian Hall. Josephine tears up the paper and it magically transforms into streamers. Out of the streamers comes a contract! It says that The Impresario loves their show and he wants to them to star at The Egyptian Hall!

After the Show

Norvil & Josephine take their final bows and go backstage. Happy music will keep playing while people leave the theatre.




Thank You for Coming

If you want to read more about Norvil & Josephine, you can visit our website or social media! If you like the show, please tell friends and family about it so they can see it someday too.

Post-Show Feedback

Please remember to fill out this feedback form after the show. We have put a lot of time into making a wonderful show experience. We can only make it better by hearing what you have to say. Then we will know what you like (what we should keep) and what you don't like (what we can improve.)

Click to fill out the 1-minute survey!

Info on the Tour:
www.norvilandjosephine.com/rabbits-out-of-the-hat

Social Media:
Instagram: https://instagram.com/norviljosephine
Facebook: https://facebook.com/norviljosephine
X (Formerly Twitter): https://x.com/norviljosephine

#MagicRabbits