

Photo: Peter Morgan

Visual Story Guide:

‘Magic for Opening Minds’ Workshop

This is a visual guide to the ‘Magic for Opening Minds’ magic and performance workshop. It is for participants on the autistic spectrum, those with sensory or communication disorders or learning disabilities. It introduces what will be happening at the workshop.

About us

We are two actors who perform in a play about a magic show. Our photos are above. The show is called *Rabbits Out of the Hat*. The characters we play in the show are called Norvil (that’s the magician, played by Christopher, who is in the photo on the right) and Josephine (the assistant, played by Desireé, in the photo on the left).

One topic in the play is something called ‘stereotypes’. We will talk about that word in the workshop. We will also learn some fun new magic and performance skills.

In this Visual Story, if you see:



It means there may be loud or unexpected noises and you can put your fingers in your ears.



It means there will be music.

Before the Workshop

Young people and maybe also their carers will gather in the workshop room. As everyone waits for the workshop to begin, some may be talking to each other. Others may be sitting quietly.

To start the Workshop

You will meet Desireé and Christopher. First Christopher will perform some magic. You will need to use your imagination to help make the magic happen! When he is done performing, everyone might clap their hands to show that they enjoyed the magic. You can clap your hands too or you can plug your ears.



Drawing Time

Every workshop is a little different, but at some workshops you may be asked in advance to come to the workshop with a drawing you have made of a magician and an assistant.

Definition Time

We will ask the participants if they know what the word ‘stereotype’ means. Don’t worry if you’ve never heard the word before. It’s a big word!

> *A stereotype is an idea a person might have about a group of people. But that idea is not true for everyone in that group.*

Go back up and read that again…

Here is a cartoon that we will look at in the workshop. It helps explain a popular stereotype without words. Can you explain to your carer what’s happening with the couple in this cartoon? And what does the TV show show instead?



Magic and Stereotypes Time

Next, Christopher and Desireé will perform a magic trick together as magician and assistant. We will ask you and the participants to raise their hands when they hear one of us say something that is a stereotype.

Movement / Dance Warmup



Photo: Peter Morgan

Next, Desireé will lead a warm-up. We will play music and move around while Desireé tells us what to do next. It will help you get ready physically for the magic rehearsal!



Learn the Levitating Pencil Trick



Photo: Peter Morgan

After the warm-up, everyone will learn the levitating pencil trick. It's a trick that two people perform together. Your partner might be a young person there who you know, it could be your carer, or it might be a new friend from the workshop. If you know who you want to be your partner in advance, please let us know before we start the workshop.

One person will be the magician and the other will be the assistant. Then we will swap so everyone gets to do both jobs.

First you will WATCH the trick being performed.

Then you will LEARN how to do the trick.

Then you will PRACTICE doing the trick.

Then we will ask for volunteers to come up and PERFORM the trick. You do not have to do it if you do not want to.

Stereotype Spotting Game

Everyone will be asked to sit quietly while we read a list of statements. If you hear a stereotype when we make a statement, you will stand up. If the thing we say is NOT a stereotype, then you can stay seated.

After the Workshop

Before we finish, we will make a summary of the things we learned in the workshop.

You will be able to go home with your carer. Please remember to fill out this feedback form the same day! We have put a lot of time into making a wonderful workshop experience and we can only make it better by hearing what you have to say. Then we will know what works well and what we can improve.

Please fill out this short survey with your carer.

Come to our Show!

We hope you can come with some family and friends to see our Rabbits Out of the Hat show! If you come, see if you can spot any stereotypes. Here's where you and your friends can see the show while it's on tour…

Show Tour Info:

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