

Animal

Relaxed Performance Show Information

Show Information

- *Animal* is a circus show that's a tribute to growing up on a farm. Alongside traditional circus stunts, the show is performed visually through comedy skits, slapstick humour and dance. The company also plays their own instruments, performing music throughout in their native Quebecois. Using props like a pedal-powered tractors, giant cowbells, long knives, rubber chickens, a huge tractor tyre, inflatable animals and a mechanical bull, this is a silly and energetic show.
- The skilled performers use acrobatic stunts mixed with comedy to shock and wow the audience, heightening tension on purpose as part of their routine.

Location: Rangitira, accessible through the main foyer of the Q Theatre. Staff can direct you to the correct entrance for finding your seat.

Time: 2pm, 65 minutes, there is no interval.

Pre-show Demonstration

Before the show starts, we will have a pre-show demonstration in the theatre at **12:30pm**. This will introduce the lighting and the chance to see the set and discuss the show, and possibly be introduced to the performers. Because most all the music and sound effects are performed live, we may not be able to demonstrate these before the show. We will talk about what the show will be like and how the relaxed show will work. This document will give you even more details about the show.

We will meet at the back of the foyer beside the main theatre doors, next to the wall with names on the yellow lighted tiles. Katie, your guide for the pre-show demonstration, will be wearing a black baseball cap.

Relaxed show features

During the relaxed performance, the audience may come and go, move around, visit breakout spaces, and use comfort and fidget items. If you need to leave during the show and then come back, please return to your same seat. Please don't go onto the stage with the performers. The theatre doors will remain closed, but you can leave the theatre at any time. To come back into the theatre, an usher will let you in when it's ok to return. You might have to wait outside the closed doors for a moment. If you'd like assistance to come and go, please let theatre staff know.

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You are welcome to use the foyer of the theatre as a breakout space. While there may be some people in the space, it shouldn't be crowded.

If you need to use devices for accessibility, please dim the brightness and put them on silent. At the start of the show, the whole audience will be reminded with an announcement that during the relaxed performance it's ok for the audience to be themselves.

Lighting

- A shiny corrugated metal wall at the back of the stage reflects the stage lighting as it changes colour during the show. It's may be bright to look at sometimes, so focusing on the performers or the props may help if your eyes are strained
- A large fan high up in the wall will be silhouetted on the stage floor at times, and will spin
- Two bright lights on the back left and right of the stage will turn on at some points in the show, and will shine toward the audience. The lights are low down, and depending on where you are sitting may shine into your eyes
- At the start of the show, at the end, and once in the middle the lights will flicker or rapidly flash around the stage, to match the pace and excitement of the show. The lights will turn off and on quickly, but they won't strobe, and the effect doesn't last long
- Twice, in the middle of the show and at the end, all the lights will turn off and the theatre will be dark for a brief moment
- We will demonstrate some lighting effects during the preshow demonstration

Sound

- The performers play a range of instruments live onstage, including drums, keyboard, saxophone, tuba, trumpet, flute, shakers, electric guitar, banjo, and more. They also sing and vocalise. Sometimes the music is slow and beautiful, sometimes it's loud, fast paced, and energetic. If you don't speak Quebecois you won't understand all the words, but that's not important to enjoy the show.
- They use their voices to make the sounds of bees droning, to yodel, and to sound like monkeys. The performers also squeak rubber chickens in a cacophony of squawking and clang giant cowbells.
- The audience may be very active and excited during the show, clapping in rhythm, cheering, whooping, and laughing. The performers love it when the audience feels free to respond- you are invited to respond however you are comfortable, with noise and movement or sitting quietly.
- The show is very loud, and earplugs or headphones may be helpful.

Stunts and acrobatics

- All the acts are performed by professional circus artists, and there are many safety systems in place. You will see performers watching each other during the show and standing by as spotters, which means they are paying attention to help out if a performer slips or needs assistance.
- The performers do a huge range of stunts and tricks. They balance, climb, flip, and contort, showing off their strength and skill. Their tricks are performed on a teeterboard, long poles, in wheelbarrows, standing on milk churns, balancing on tractor types, balancing on each other, and more.
- Sometimes tricks and stunts don't go exactly to plan, and the audience might groan in sympathy. This is all part of live performance, and the performers have plans for trying the trick again or moving on to the next trick safely.
- The performers use their voices and eye contact to stay connected to each other and make sure everyone is ready for the stunts, alongside other safety systems like mats and spotters.

Audience Interaction

There is no audience interaction, but the audience will likely be very noisy and excited as they react and cheer.

Triggers

- Sometimes it can be quite tense as the audience waits for a performer to perform a difficult stunt.
- The lights flash at the very start and end of the show, and a bit in the middle- the flashing is short and does not strobe.

Want to know more?

Email the Access and Inclusion Coordinator Hannah at access@aaf.co.nz or call/text 022 1239 759.