

Watershed Productions present a Little Angel Theatre and
Royal & Derngate Theatre, Northampton, production

JULIA DONALDSON ★ LYDIA MONKS

THE SINGING

MERMAID



Visual Story

to accompany Relaxed Performances

www.singingmermaid.co.uk

About this visual story

This visual story is designed for visitors to the Relaxed Performance of The Singing Mermaid. Relaxed performances are for people who will benefit from a more relaxed performance environment including people with an Autistic Spectrum Condition, sensory or communication disorders, or a learning disability.

We hope this information about the play will help you prepare for your visit.

If you'd like more information about the production, please go to:
www.singingmermaid.co.uk

Some of the photos in this pack are of different actors, who were in the play last time we did it. But don't worry, the story is the same.



The actors

The play is performed by three actors who act and sing and operate the puppets.



Ruth Calkin

Ruth mainly operates The Mermaid but the others help with her tail!



Daisy Porter

Daisy mainly operates Annie the Acrobat.



Samuel Dutton

Samuel mainly operates Sam Sly, the Ringmaster. Sam Sly is often **cross** and sometimes **shouts** a bit.

The three actors also operate other puppets and sometimes tell bits of the story in between the scenes.

The other puppets are The Seagull, Fabrizo the Fire-eater, Eugene the Fire-Eater and lots of sea-creatures.

What happens in the play

The play is about 56 minutes long (just a bit less than an hour). You can leave the theatre space at any time and come back when you like.

The play is set in a circus - you'll see a circus ring and part of the circus tent. At the beginning, the actors come on stage without their puppets and do what is called a warm-up - like rolling their shoulders, laughing and clapping. They'll ask you all to join in with - but you don't have to if you don't want. They may also do some circus tricks.

Then the lights above the audience go down a little and the stage is more brightly lit and the play begins.



Scene 1 - Silversands

Then Ruth brings on the Mermaid and she **sings her song** Swimming Free – you'll hear this later on as well.

There are other sea creatures as well, such as fish and clams.

The Mermaid also has **another song**, How I Love to Sing.



Sam Sly appears. He's the Ringmaster of the Circus and we soon learn he's a real **baddie**! He says to the Mermaid that he can make her rich and famous if she joins his circus.

The Mermaid is very tempted, even though her old friend The Seagull doesn't trust Sam Sly.



Scene 2 - The Circus

The next scene takes place at Sam Sly's circus.

Here you'll meet more puppets - The Clown, Eugene The Unicyclist, The Dancing Dogs, Fabrize the Fire-eater and Annie the Acrobat.



This scene is a bit noisier than the first scene, with drum rolls to announce the circus performers. Annie asks the audience to practice some noises, like they did at the start, saying Ooooh! and Aaah!. It maybe a bit noisy but you don't have to join in if you don't want to.

Then Sam Sly introduces the Mermaid who is in a fish tank. She sings her beautiful song.



Scene 3 - The Caravan Site

After the circus show, the next scene is in the caravan site where the circus performers live. The actors **sing a song** about their friendship.

But then we hear how the Mermaid is not happy. She doesn't like Sam Sly and the fish tank she lives in is not big enough for her to swim - it's not what he promised at all.



Sam Sly comes in and counts the money he made from ticket sales.

The Mermaid asks him to set her free and let her go home but he just laughs.



Scene 4 - On Tour

We see the seasons pass: autumn leaves fall, the blossom fall, snowflakes fall.

The Narrator explains that the circus moves from town to town all year long. Sam Sly sings his song about his love of money.

Then the Narrator explains that the circus has arrived back in a town near the beach where the Mermaid used to live. The Seagull hears her singing her old song.



Scene 5 - The Caravan

The Seagull arrives at the caravan site and realises that The Mermaid is being kept prisoner. He **taps on the window** and tells the Mermaid he wants to help her, to set her free. But the Mermaid doesn't think it's possible – after all, she can't swim across the land between the circus site and the beach.

Annie the Acrobat has a great idea! The Mermaid may not have legs but she does have hands – and Annie will teach her to walk on her hands.

But even so, The Mermaid is locked up at night! The Seagull says he can help. He waits until Sam Sly is asleep and then he steals the key to the Mermaid's caravan. He sets her free and the Mermaid starts to walk on her hands, all the way home. She **sings a new song** The Mermaid's Coming Home.

At last she gets home to the beach and into the sea.

She **sings How I Love to Sing** again with all her friends.



At the end

At the end of the play, the actors **come forward** and **bow** to the audience. There will probably be some **clapping** from the audience to show they have enjoyed themselves but you can **wave** if you prefer.

