



Visual Story

A visual resource for children and adults with Autistic Spectrum Disorder.

This resource is intended to help prepare any visitors for a new experience and to help them to become familiar with the show, surroundings and situation.

The Show

The show lasts for 55 minutes and does not have an interval.

There are 3 performers in the show and the animal characters are all puppets.
The show has recorded music and lots of songs.

Synopsis

Meet Toto. She might look like an ordinary cat, but she's no ordinary feline. Almost completely blind, Toto has incredible ninja skills, a big heart, and a nose for adventure. By day, she naps like any other pet... but by night, she's out on daring missions with her cheeky brother, Silver.

In their very first adventure, a deadly King Cobra has escaped onto the streets of London, and it's up to Toto to use every ounce of her courage and cunning to save the day.

Based on **Dermot O'Leary's** best-selling children's book, illustrated by **Nick East**, this purr-fectly thrilling tale is filled with original music, laugh-out-loud fun, and extraordinary puppetry, promising fun for the whole family.

The story takes place at night and centres around the hunt for a giant snake who the smaller animals fear will eat them. Toto has to take on various creatures, including hungry tigers and an army of rats, but the audience already know Toto is a ninja and can defend herself and her friends. There is fighting but not even the 'baddies' are badly hurt and the tone is of adventure and comedy. The puppets are quite big, especially the tiger and the snakes.

Production photographs by Ellie Kurttz



Characters

Derek and Norma, the Zookeepers, are played by performers. All of the animal characters are puppets.



Toto



Silver



Robert



Catface



Jae Jae



Larry



King Rat



Soldier Rat



Big Brian and Brenda



Small Brian and Brenda

The Show

In this section special alerts are written in blue ink.

Every time Toto pulls a ninja move the moon flashes

When you enter the auditorium you will see the set on the stage. A large moon glows in the sky and the stage is quite dark. It is night time. Music plays as you come in.

Just before the show is going to start the lights get a bit darker and you hear the sounds of animals in a zoo. The show begins.

The show starts with a song about 'what zookeepers do' sung by Derek and Norma the zookeepers. Robert the parrot joins in.

During the song we meet a big Tiger.

Derek is showing Norma, the new assistant zookeeper, the end of the day routine. They are accompanied by Robert the parakeet, who keeps them informed about everything in the animal world.

After the song Derek introduces Norma to Brian, the King Cobra, and Brenda his girlfriend.

Derek explains that they have only been together in the zoo for a couple of days and that it was all thanks to Toto and Silver that they were here together, Norma asks who Toto and Silver are and Derek sings a song to introduce the story.



The song tells the story of Toto and Silver coming from Puglia in Italy to live in London. It describes how Toto is a Ninja cat with fast moves, and **Robert the Parrot squawks with fear when Toto demonstrates her moves!**

Toto and Silver now live in London, and their adventure with Brian the snake begins one evening when they hear a **CRASH outside of their house.**

They decide to leave their new home for the first time and creep out of the cat flap to see what the noise was.

They discover Catface rummaging in the bin.

Catface sings a song to introduce himself.

Catface is shocked to hear that the cats have not explored the sights of London and offers to show them around.

They travel by animal tube! A secret part of the London Underground.

Robert and Norma sing a song about the underground, moving the set around as they build the animal tube. The main lights get darker with gentle pulsing lights and the sound of underground trains in the background.

We see Catface, Toto and Silver enter the animal tube and they sing a song about it. We hear tube related announcements throughout, like 'mind the gap.'

Their first stop is The Tower of London.

The song continues as they pass The Shard and head towards St Paul's Cathedral. They test out the whispering gallery as their voices echo through the air.

They reach 10 Downing Street, where the Prime Minister lives.



They want to take a closer look. Silver and Toto are able to jump over the railings, but Catface can't do it. **He falls in slow motion as a single light flashes for about 7 seconds. Toto dives in to save Catface with a ninja move and cry.**

Larry, the Downing Street Cat appears. Catface introduces them and Larry tells them that he's heard a King Cobra snake has escaped from London Zoo.

Robert comes screeching in shouting that Brian is out! The lights go green and they sing a song about Brian the deadly King Cobra! There are hissing sounds in the background and a giant snake appears .

Norma and Derek explain that Catface then decides to head to the zoo to ask the other snakes if they might have an idea where Brian would go next. They don't realise that Brian is also heading to the zoo—And the Tiger enclosure!

In the Tiger enclosure greedy Silver is trying to eat the Tiger's dinner! **Toto calls out to try and find Silver and stop them getting in trouble with the Tiger!**

Tiger roars can be heard. Before they have a chance to rescue Silver Jae Jae the tiger appears.

Catface tells them to bow down to her as she is most definitely the queen of London Zoo.

Jae Jae sings a song about being Queen of the Zoo. She threatens to eat them, but Toto pulls a ninja move and bashes her on the nose, which stops her in her tracks.



Jae Jae has been subdued. Toto tickles her tummy and she enjoys it. Jae Jae tells them that she heard that Brian was heading down to the sewer.

At the sewer entrance Catface confesses that he isn't actually a cat, but a rat! Catface had fallen out with his father, King Rat, because he looked too much like a cat and so he left the sewer to live above ground.

The lights get darker as they head down into the sewers and they are nervous at the thought of meeting the rat army who protect the king.

The rat army sing a song about how they live to defend their King from cats and dogs. Toto pulls her ninja moves to disperse them while two lights flash alternately.

King Rat appears shouting at everyone to stop.

They explain why they are down in the sewers, but King Rat is already on the lookout. He is just about to go and try and capture Brian himself. Catface realises that he can't let his dad face a deadly King Cobra and they decide to go and help him.

As they head deeper into the sewer they meet the King Rat running away shouting in fear. He has found Brian! They hear the sound of a hissing snake and then a giant snake appears and the animals scream in fear!

Toto pulls some of her ninja moves on Brian and knocks him out! When he wakes up he tells them that he is just looking for his lost love Brenda.



Brian sings a song about his love for Brenda. By the end everyone is crying loudly.

Brian tells them that he heard she had been captured by illegal pet dealers and he was on his way to rescue her.

Toto, Silver and Catface offer to help with the rescue. They ride off on Brian's back. To the block of flats where she is being held. Toto creeps in and pulls her ninja moves on the illegal pet dealers, bringing Brenda back out to safety.

Brenda and Brian are reunited and sing a song about how much they are in love.

Back in the rat kingdom King Rat gives a speech about how proud he is of his son and that he is welcome home. Toto and Silver are awarded crowns of cheese!

It's the end of the story and time for Derek and Norma to do their final checks of the zoo. They open the snake enclosure and find that there are now snake eggs!

The lights go out.

The performers sing one final song about Toto the Ninja Cat. They clap their hands and you can join in with the clapping if you want to.

When the song finishes the performers bow and say goodbye and leave the stage.

We hope you enjoyed the show!

