

# Visual Story for Robot Song



May 27 - June 2

At Performance Works  
on Granville Island



A visual story helps people prepare for a new experience  
or decide if this show works for them.

# What information is in this visual story?

You can click on the things you want to know about

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This is the visual story for the show, [click here to see the visual guide for Performance works](#), the theatre.

# Schedule / Important times

These times will be a little different for every performance.

The doors to the theatre open 15 - 30 minutes before the show, before that you can wait in the lobby.

The performance is about 40 minutes long.

# The Stage

This is what the stage will look like



## The Performers



Ashlea Pyke plays Juniper  
She also plays Principal Scryber



Phil McInnes plays Juniper's Dad and Miss Cummings  
He won't have a beard for the show this time



## The Musician/Mum



Bridget a'Beckett plays the piano  
and does the voice of Mum.

Sometimes she sings along with the songs too.



She sits on the left side of the stage  
and you can see her.



## The Curtain Speech

Before the show starts someone will come to the stage and talk. It might be a little bit different, but these are the things they often talk about:

- The indigenous land we are on
- Thank you to sponsors and donors and volunteers
- How you can donate to the festival or help in other ways

This is a short speech  
between 1-3 minutes

[Click here to read the speech](#)

This is someone doing a curtain speech.  
When you go, it could be another person.

## About the Story

Eleven-year-old Juniper May is teased at school because people say she's like a robot. One day she receives a petition signed by her entire class stating that she is 'the most hated person in the school'. The performance shows how Juniper feels because of this letter, and what she does because of the letter, and how a robot from a TV show helps her think about the letter in a different way.

- Juniper talks directly to the people in the audience
- She also tells the audience that she is making a theatre show
- It is never mentioned in the show, but Juniper is on the Autism spectrum
- The letter in Robot Song is true. It was really sent to a child who is on the Autism spectrum. But the rest of the story is made up.





# Things in the show that might be intense

These are some things in the show that might be intense.  
On the next pages we will explain more, or you can click on them.

- There is an intense moment with [darkness, flashing lights and loud noise](#)
- [Bullying](#)
- [Hurting someone else](#)
- [Poo](#)
- [Juniper and Dad both will talk to the everyone in the audience and ask them to do things](#)
- [A play battle with a toy dinosaur and Dad dressed as a robot](#)
- [Smoke or haze](#)

## Dark stage, strange lighting and loud noise

At the very beginning of Robot Song, the stage is dark and someone wearing lights starts to slowly walk through a haze as music starts getting louder and more intense. This is Juniper May wearing a robot costume. She becomes overwhelmed by the noise and shouts “shut up!” The noise stops immediately and the lights will come on.



## Bullying

Juniper and Dad read a letter that was written and signed by her whole class. The letter is mean and unexpected. It hurts Juniper's feelings.

The letter in Robot Song is true. It was really sent to a child who is on the Autism spectrum. But the rest of the story is made up.

The kids in her class also break the VHS tapes with Juniper and her Dad's favourite tv show.



## Hurting someone else

When the children at school bully Juniper and break the VHS tapes she brought to school that have her and her Dad's favourite show on it, she becomes so angry that she pushes Susan Pritchard off her chair and Susan's arm breaks.

We don't see this in the show, but Juniper explains that two days after she pushes Susan, Susan is wearing a bright pink cast, that is how we find out her arm is broken because Juniper pushed her.

# Poo

In one scene Dad talks about finding something under a container on the carpet. It is a poo.

The poo you will see on the stage is made from paper - it is not a real poo. But in the story it is a real poo.

Juniper and her Dad perform a funny song called “poo song” to tell the story of the poo on the carpet.



## Play fighting

In one scene Dad and Juniper have a play battle with Dad dressed as a robot and Juniper flying a pterodactyl.



# Smoke or haze

There are some scenes where there is mist.

It looks like smoke.

It is not real smoke, it is made from water.

It is safe and does not irritate your eyes or throat.

There will be haze at the very start of the show

and during these songs:

“People say I’m like a robot”

and “If I sing”.



## Talking to us / asking to do things

Juniper and Dad both will talk to everyone in the audience.

Juniper will ask people to sing along and stand up and stretch with her.

She will also ask for one volunteer to yell “poo”.

If you don't want to be that person, that is ok,  
she will only pick a person who puts their hand up.



# Sound

The actors in Robot Song use microphones so we can hear them better.

There are six songs in the show which are played live.

The musician plays the music with the performers.

The most intense moment of sound is at the very start of the show,  
the music gets louder and more intense.

[Find out more here.](#)

# Lights

Overall the lighting is simple.

It lights up the stage so the audience can see everything in the space.

At the very beginning of the show the lights are out,  
then there are a few flashing lights.

This lasts for about 8 seconds, then the lights come up.

[Find out more here.](#)

## How people react

People in the audience will laugh and sometimes sing along with Juniper.  
Juniper asks the audience to stand up and stretch with her.

Sometimes people in the audience cry because they feel sad that Juniper is struggling or upset that people sent said mean things about her.

Often people in the audience  
laugh at the funny things Juniper and Dad say or do.

## SPOILER ALERT :

Don't read this unless you want to know everything that happens.

# Everything that happens

1. It is dark.

Dad is setting up the microphone for a show and talking to Mum. He talks to the audience and lets them know that they are allowed to move and regulate themselves as they need to to make themselves comfortable.

In all the pictures, Dad has a beard.  
For the shows in Vancouver, he will not have a beard.  
It is still the same person,  
but he has shaved his beard off.





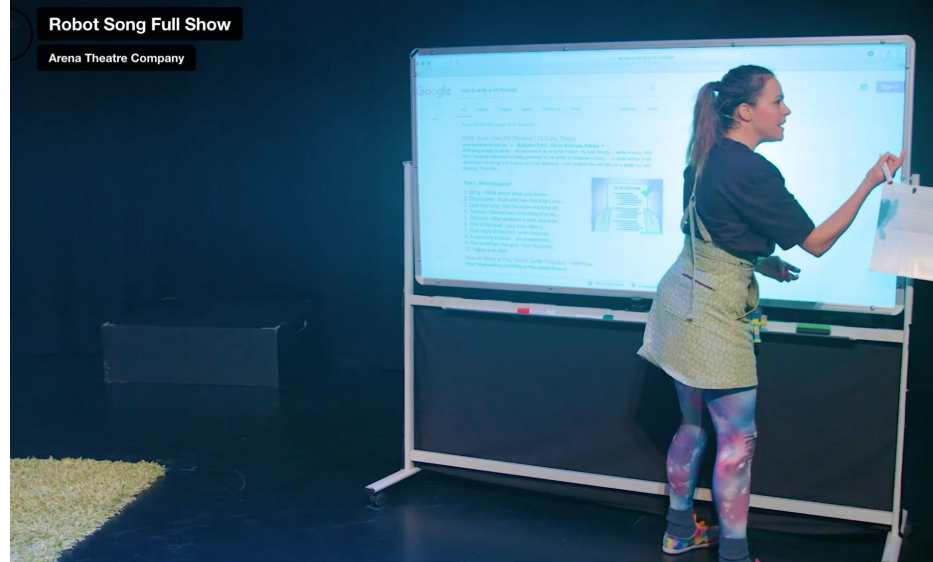
2. Juniper walks through the mist dressed as a robot with loud music, bright lights, and singing. She yells "Shut Up" and the sounds stop and lights turn on. Juniper decides she doesn't want to perform the show anymore so Mum tells the audience that the show will be unable to continue. Once Juniper hears she doesn't have to perform the show, she feels better and decides to do the show.



3. Juniper sings a song about making a theatre show. The lights turn on in the audience and she talks to the audience.



4. Dad performs some possible introductions to the show and Juniper gives him feedback. Juniper introduces herself and talks about the mean letter she received from the kids at school. Dad and Juniper read the letter together.



5. Juniper shows on her whiteboard what will happen in her show.



6. Juniper asks the audience to stand up and stretch and breathe with her. Juniper and Dad sing the Poo Song about Dad picking up real poo. Juniper asks for a volunteer from the audience to say "Poo" when she points to them.



7. Juniper and Dad sing a song about a magic bin named "Gomi" that lives in their backyard. Gomi is Juniper's best friend and she finds interesting things inside the rubbish bin to play with.



8. Juniper acts out some Youtube videos she's made and Dad pretends to be Juniper's Art Teacher, Miss Cummings. Juniper introduces Battletac in art class, a Japanese Robot from a TV series in the 1980's. Juniper brought VHS cassettes of her and Dad's favourite show. The video cassettes are pulled apart and Juniper is upset that the kids at school didn't think Battletac was real. Dad gets upset that the video cassettes are broken. Juniper is upset.



9. Juniper finds a pterodactyl inside Gomi. Dad pretends to be a robot and fights the pterodactyl. There are lights, smoke and music that make the playing fight feel dramatic.





10. Juniper pretends to be the principal Mr. Scryber on the day she receives the letter. The principal explains that Juniper pushed a child off her chair and her arm was broken. Juniper was upset that the kids in her class wrecked the VHS video cassettes that she brought to school. Juniper has stopped going to school because she was so hurt by the letter. Juniper sings a song about her school.



11. Juniper sings a song about people thinking she is like a robot. The kids at school gave her a letter saying that she is like a robot and they wish she was never born. Juniper is upset. Letters fall from the ceiling onto Juniper. Juniper thinks she hears voices calling her a robot. She feels alone, like she is underwater.



12. Juniper finds the arm of a robot inside Gomi. The arm lights up and makes noises. Juniper meets Battletac on her whiteboard. Battletac can see and talk to the audience. Juniper lets Battletac read the letter. He talks through the letter with Juniper and shows her that the letter can be looked at in a different way. She gets to decide what the letter means. Juniper signs a song about the letter, realising it could be read in a more positive way. Juniper holds the letter while she moves around the stage, then she puts the letter into the whiteboard and it appears as an animation.



13. Juniper and Battletac sing "Falling, Flying" together. The audience is invited to sign along.



14. Juniper invites Battletec to come live with her and her family inside Gomi in the backyard. Gomi opens up and reveals the large robot inside. Battletac talks to the audience.



15. Juniper asks Mum to tell the audience this is the last song. She brings all her friends out for a final bow while she sings with Dad. Juniper asks the audience to stand up and breathe. The show is over and the audience claps while Juniper and Dad finish with a song called "That's what love can do". She points to the same child in the audience who helped with the "Poo Song" and they finish the song by yelling "POO!".

# Credits

This Visual Story was created with the help of a template created with the input of many consultants, patrons, artists and fellow arts organizations.

Special thanks to the Vancouver International Children's Festival Intrepid Theatre, Vancouver Writers Fest, PuSh, the Gateway Theatre and Jake Anthony.

Want to create a visual story for your show, event or venue?  
Email Anika Verveckan and she will share the template: [access.activator@gmail.com](mailto:access.activator@gmail.com)

She also welcomes all feedback!