

Visual Story for OTOSAN



May 28 - June 2
at The Nest
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 here?

You can click on the things you want to know about

[Schedule / Important Times](#)

[What to expect at the relaxed performance](#)

[Chill-out zone](#)

[The set](#)

[The performers](#)

[The musicians](#)

[Other people](#)

[The curtain speech](#)

[About the story](#)

[Things in the story that might be intense](#)

[Sound](#)

[Sound at the relaxed performance](#)

[Lights](#)

[Lights at the relaxed performance](#)

[Introduction at the relaxed performance](#)

[Other things](#)

[How people react](#)

[Visual Story for the show](#)

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 45 minutes long.

There is no intermission.

You will know the play is ready to start when the theatre doors close.

What to expect at the relaxed performance on Sat June 1st at 10.30 am

The lights above you will always stay on, it may be a bit dark sometimes, but **never all dark**

- It is ok to move
- It is ok to make noise
- It is ok to react
- It's ok to have a snack or a drink
- It is ok to use your electronic devices (on silent)

BUT it is not ok to take pictures or make calls

There will also be a chill out zone, find out more on the next page

Chill-Out Zone

There will be a chill-out zone on the day of the relaxed performance on June 1

- If you want to leave the theatre at any time, there is a Chill-Out Zone
- It is one floor below
- A volunteer or usher can show you where it is
- It will have
 - Comfortable seats, yoga mats, pillows
 - Fidget toys & colouring books
 - Weighted toys and blankets
- You can go back into the theatre any time

The Stage

This is what the stage will look like (with all the performers)



The Performers



June plays Shizu



Shizuka plays Otsan



The Performers



Jess plays the Dog, the Plane, the Owl, the Lemmings, and helps June play Shizu



Randi plays the Dog, the Owlets, the Lemmings, the Bear and helps Shizuka play Ootosan



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

The story is about a little girl, Shizu and her father Otosan. Shizu hides in her father's suitcase and secretly travels with him to his most dangerous destination: The North. Her father is very surprised and annoyed when he finds out. Together, they face snowy owls, white wolves and grizzly bears in places very far away from any other people. They have to work together. And as they work together they learn to communicate how much they love each other as well.

The story is inspired by Co-creator Shizuka Kai's (who will be manipulating the Otosan puppet) and things that happened with her father who is a wildlife videographer.

The performers use human and animal puppets to tell the story. The actors manipulate the puppets to make them look like they are alive.

There will also be videos and pictures on the screen and music.

The puppets do not speak.
They do make sounds through breath.



Things in the story that might be intense

These are some things that happen or are talked about in the show that might be intense.

This does not include intense sound or lights, we will tell you about those next.

Here is the list, on the next pages we will explain more, or you can click on them.

- [Owl Diving](#)
- [Owl eating Lemming](#)
- [Lemmings running into the audience](#)
- [The Storm](#)
- [Breaking something & Ootosan being upset](#)
- [Bear Attack](#)

Owl Diving

When Shizu and Ootosan are out in the Arctic, Shizu finds a owl nest. The mama Owl puppet is protective and dives at Shizu and Ootosan to scare them away. The Owl dives two times, then flies around close to the audience. After that, it feels safe and lands and feeds it babies.



Owl eating Lemming

Once the owl lands, it feeds its babies a lemming (a small animal that looks a bit like a mouse). To do this, the owl rips the lemming into pieces. While the owl puppet is doing this on stage, the audience can see a real video of the owl doing this. There is no blood or gore.



Lemmings run into the audience

Later in the play, Shizu and Otsan find lemmings. Otsan stomps on their mound to get them to come out of their hole. The Lemming puppets are energetic and skittish and make squeaking noises, sometimes shrieking. They bounce over Shizu and Otsan and come into the first row of the audience, but don't touch anyone. Shizu helps one of the Lemmings calm down.



The Storm

Later in the play there is a storm. There is rain, thunder and some lightening. The storm starts out light then builds to be big storm as the tension in the play builds. At one point, Shizu is lost and sad, crying.



Breaking the Camera: Otosan gets upset

Otosan's camera gets broken when Shizu slips and falls, bumping it out of his hands. It falls in slow motion to the ground and cracks. Otosan is very upset and looks at Shizu sharply. She turns and runs away because she feels guilty.



Bear Attack

Otosan comes back to the campsite alone. It looks very messy. The tent rustles, and he thinks it is Shizu but it is actually a Bear. The Bear goes back into the tent and Shizu comes running. Otosan tries to tell her to stay away, but the Bear pops up between them. The Bear is curious, and goes toward Shizu to check her out. Otosan throws a shoe and a mug at the bear, the bear gets angry, stands up and runs to Otosan. The Bear knocks the tent and it goes flying. The Bear roars at Otosan, then bites his arm. Shizu finds the bear spray and sprays the Bear in the face to get her away from Otosan. The Bear's eyes hurt, and it runs away. Otosan's arm is hurt, but Shizu and Otosan are both okay.



More pictures on
the next page.

Bear Attack



Sound

There is sound and music but not talking.

Sometimes the music is soft and peaceful, sometimes it is rhythmic and energetic.

These are the moments or effects that will be most intense:

- Lightning
- Bear Roar and Bite
- Owl Screeching

At the relaxed performance these sounds will be a little less loud.

Lights

Overall the lighting is simple, it lights up the stage so it looks like daylight, it is more dimmed for some scenes that are in the evening everything looks light blue. The projection screen is also lit up for the whole play. When going from one scene to the next it sometimes is completely dark.

Sometimes it stays dark for up to 30 seconds because they are moving things around.

These are the most intense light effects:

- Darkness in between scenes
- Spotlights (see next page)
- Lightning: light flashes
- Storm: darkness

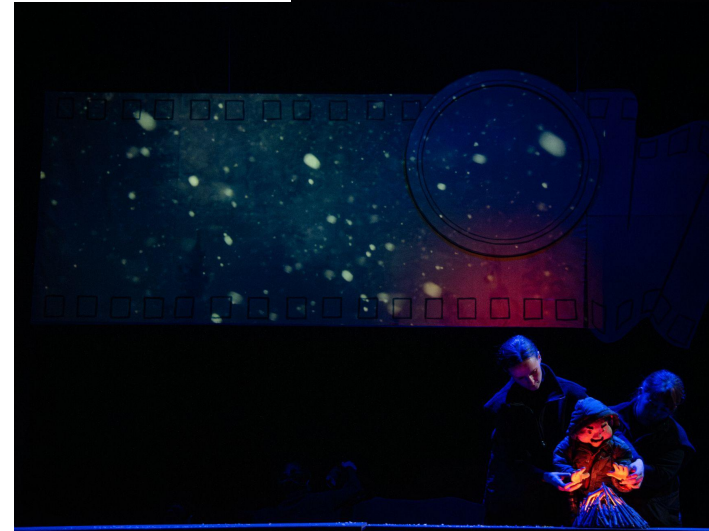
At the relaxed performance:

The lights will always stay on a little above the audience, it will never be all dark.

The lightning flashes will be less intense.

Example Spotlights

Sometimes it will feel a little darker
when there is a spotlight
on one person or two people.



Introduction at the relaxed performance

This will only happen on the day of the relaxed performance on June 1st at 10:30am

- The performers will introduce themselves
- We will show you the most intense moments with the lights
- We will show let you listen to the most intense sounds
- We will tell you about / show you the most intense moments

How people react

Examples:

In this show, the audience is generally quiet.
There are some funny moments, some exciting moments,
some serene moments, and some scary moments.

People react very differently every show because our show changes every night.
Sometimes people in the audience laugh.
Sometimes nobody laughs.
Sometimes people get up and leave.
Sometimes people say their thoughts out loud.

SPOILER ALERT :

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

Visual Story

At the beginning of the play there are 2 rolling tables set up with a living room scene. A title card that reads "Otosan" is projected on a screen hanging above the tables.

The lights go dark and music begins to play. Images of Vancouver from the 80s start to play as the puppeteers come onto the stage in the dark.

Shizu is sitting on the couch, coloring her cardboard wolf ears. The Dog watches her. Shizu and the Dog look out the window: they are waiting for Otosan to come home.

Otosan comes home with a lot of bags. The Dog is happy to see him. He pays more attention to the Dog than to Shizu. He looks at her and say hello. Shizu tries to help Otosan clean his camera but he doesn't want her to help. Shizu shows Otosan her backpack: she's ready to go with him. Otosan doesn't say anything.



Shizu decides to hide in Otosan's suitcase to go with him.



Otosan flies to the Arctic. He arrives and starts to set up camp. He discovers Shizu. He is surprised, upset and a little bit angry. But when she has to pee he has to let go of that and help her go to the bathroom.

The plane flies away, and Shizu and Ootosan are stuck together in the Arctic.



After a scary first night in the Arctic, Shizu has to follow Ootosan who is looking for white wolves. They find an owls nest. The mom Owl is upset they are close to her nest so dives at them.



Shizu and Ootosan duck to avoid getting hit by the owl. This happens a few times, then they move away from the nest.



The owl lands and the starts to feed the owl babies a lemming.



Then, Otosan and Shizu ride an ATV.
They get stuck in the mud.
They find a herd of Caribou and film them.
Then their stomachs grumble because they are hungry.



Otosan and Shizu eat Cup Noodles and look at the colorful northern lights. Shizu finds the big dipper in the sky.

Otosan and Shizu sleep well that night.



The next day Otosan and Shizu are looking for the white wolves again.

They find a lemming hole, and Otosan stomps on the mound to get them to come out. The lemmings run around frantically.



Then Shizu picks up one lemming and helps it calm down. Otosan sees how well she gets on with the animal. They hear a real wolf howl.



Shizu and Otsan search for the wolf they heard.



There is a lot of wind.



At the top of a mound they howl for the wolf. Otosan howls but the wolf doesn't respond. When Shizu howls the wolf does respond. She keeps howling and then the wolf comes out.



They are both excited, and Otosan films the wolves.



In her excitement, Shizu bumps Ootosan's camera out of his hand. It flies through the air, falls on the ground and breaks.



Ootosan is very upset. Shizu is shocked and feels terrible, so she runs away. Ootosan chases after her.

Shizu is lost and sad. She sits on the ground and cries on the ground.



Otosan arrives back at the campsite to find a bear in the tent. He tries to stop Shizu from coming near it, but it pops up between them.

The bear is curious about Shizu and sniffs her to check her out. The bear gets very close. Ootosan throws a shoe and then a cup at the bear to distract it away from Shizu. The bear gets mad and charges at Ootosan.



The bear bites Ootosan's arm and flings him around.

Shizu finds bear spray and sprays the bear's face. The bear's eyes hurt and it runs away. Shizu has saved her Dad's life.



Shizu is okay, but Otosan's arm is injured and painful. They travel back home.



At home, Otosan's arm is in a sling. Shizu and Otosan watch a TV show that uses the footage they shot together in the arctic. They see all the animals they filmed together. Otosan scares Shizu when the grizzly bear is on screen. She scares him back.



Otosan has to leave on another adventure. This time, he asks Shizu to carry the camera for him. He is very happy. This is the end of the play.

They actors bow with their puppets. The End



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 Intrepid Theatre, Vancouver Writers Fest, the Gateway Theatre, PuSh Festival and Jake Anthony.

Want to create a visual story for your show, event or venue?
Email Anika Vervecken and she will share the template: anikasurtitles@gmail.com

She also welcomes all feedback!