



## Visual Story for

### The Myrtle Sisters in SAME SAME DIFFERENT

May 31st and June 1st 2025  
at 10.30am & 1.30pm  
at The Waterfront Theatre 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?

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This is the visual story for the show, [click here to see the visual guide for The Waterfront Theatre](#).

# Schedule / Important times

## Schedule for 10:30 am show

- **10 am** The introduction to the Relaxed Performance starts
- **10.15 am** The doors open and you can find your seat
- **10.30 am** The performance starts
- **11.20 am** The performance finishes  
Now you can ask questions
- **11.30 am** Everyone leaves the theater

## Schedule for 1:30 pm show

- **1.00 pm** The introduction to the Relaxed Performance starts
- **1.15 pm** The doors open and you can find your seat
- **1.30 pm** The performance starts
- **2.20 pm** The performance finishes  
Now you can ask questions
- **2.30 pm** Everyone leaves the theater

The front of house manager will tell you when it is time to go in. It will be a little different every time.

These times will be a little different for every performance.

The performance is about 50 minutes long and after the show you can ask questions for about 10 minutes.

# What to expect at the Relaxed Performance

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

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

BUT it is not okay 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 each day of the performance.

- If you want to leave the theatre at any time, there is a Chill-Out Zone
- It is in the lobby of the Waterfront Theatre
- A volunteer or usher can show you where it is
- It will have:
  - Comfortable seats, yoga mats, pillows
  - Fidget toys & colouring books
  - Noise-cancelling headphones
  - A TV so you can still watch the show
- You can go back into the theatre any time

# The Set

Note:

There will be an old-fashioned suitcase on each side of the stage. The three sisters will sing and dance and act in the centre of the stage.

This is what the stage will look like at the Vancouver International Kid's Fest! The rest of the photos in this VISUAL STORY DOCUMENT are from a school performance.

Sometimes the Myrtle Sisters play their show at a school!



Here is a picture of the stage.

## The Myrtle Sisters



Candy Roberts plays Shirl Myrtle  
She is the oldest and most serious sister.



Kat Single-Dain plays Gladys Myrtle  
She is the middle sister who has lots of ideas.



## The Myrtle Sisters



Nayana Fielkov plays Edna Myrtle.  
She is the youngest and silliest sister.



## 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 an example of the speech](#)

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

## About the Story

This is a story about how our differences make us stronger. Edna, Gladys and Shirl are sisters. Shirl wants everyone to dress the same, act the same and dance the same. The sisters play music and perform dances, and Gladys keeps surprising Shirl with new ideas for the show. Shirl doesn't like surprises and gets frustrated. Edna tries to be the same, but hides her blue hair under her hat. This also makes Shirl frustrated. The Myrtle Sisters break up!

Shirl learns from the audience that it is OK to be different. The sisters hear her say she is sorry and they come back on stage and decide to get back together.

The Myrtle Sisters have a jamboree with audience members coming up onto the stage to be dancers.



# 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.

- [Tap dancing](#)
- [A slow-motion fight](#)
- [Edna cries, spraying tears from her face like a water toy.](#)
- [Gladys brings up audience dancers](#)
- [Shirl gets stuck in her chair](#)
- [Lots of Audience members come dance on the stage at the end.](#)



# Tap Dancing

The Myrtle Sisters tap dance.

They have special shoes that have metal pieces on the bottom that make sounds when they hit the ground.

There are three sisters dancing. You can't see Gladys in this photo because she is behind Shirl.





## Slow Motion Fight

When Shirl gets fed up with Gladys and Edna's shenanigans, they have a silly fight that happens in pretend slow motion. The lights change a bit and a musical backing track begins to play. Gladys and Shirl play like they are fighting really slowly! They flip over and lift one another up while making funny faces.



## Edna cries, spraying tears from her face like a water toy.

After the Myrtle Sisters break up, Edna tries to do the show by herself. She sings: "Sister, Sister, there was one lonely lonely sister". Gladys comes out and asks if Edna would like a hug. Edna says "Yeah!" and then starts spraying water out of her eyes like a spraying water toy. Gladys gets all wet.

Edna says she would like to talk with someone from the audience. An audience member puts up their hand, stands up and goes to the stage. Edna gives the audience volunteer an umbrella and then cries and sprays water all over the umbrella. Edna sometimes pretends she is going to spray the audience but doesn't.



## Gladys brings up audience dancers.

After the Myrtle Sisters break up the band, Gladys tries to see if she can audition some new Myrtle Sisters. She asks the audience if anyone would like to try out. She brings up 2 or 3 audience volunteers and they play a game where they copy Gladys' dance moves. Each audience volunteer gets a chance to lead the onstage group with their own dance moves. Everyone who tries out gets picked to be a new Myrtle Sister and sits back down in the audience wearing a hat and a pair of glasses.





## Shirl gets stuck in her chair

Shirl misses her sisters. She says she needs to talk about it and asks the audience if she can talk with them about how she misses her sisters. She says, "Let me get my chair."

Music begins and Shirl tries many silly and different ways to open the chair. She can't figure it out and gets her leg stuck. She accidentally sits on the upside-down chair and falls down.

Lots of times audience members are laughing and loudly trying to tell Shirl how to do it properly. She finally asks an audience member to help her set up the chair.



## Lots of audience members dancing on the stage at the end!

The band gets back together! Gladys tells Shirl that there are new dancers in the Myrtle Sisters! Shirl says, "Let's have a jamboree!" Edna and Gladys bring audience members who want to dance up on to the stage to play the dance game, where people take turns leading all the dancers with their fun and funny dance moves. Gladys ends with a headstand. Everyone raises their arms and bows together.



# Sound

The Myrtle Sisters sing songs in three part harmony. This means each sister sings a different melody that fits together to make a pleasing chord. Shirl plays the baritone ukulele. The ukulele is amplified and each of the sisters wear a headset microphone.

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

- Gladys pulls out a trombone and surprises Shirl with it. She plays it loud, but not too loud!
- When Shirl is stuck in her chair, the audience sometimes gets really excited and loud!
- The audience often gets excited and yells their ideas to the Myrtle Sisters on the stage!

# Lights

Overall, the lighting is simple and will gently change to a different colour when the Myrtle Sisters are singing their songs.

- When the sisters pretend fight with slow motion movement, the lights change to a dreamy look.
- When the jamboree happens with the audience dancers at the end of the show, the lights will change colours in a fun and gentle way.

# Introduction

This will happen at 10am before the 10:30am show, and at 1:00pm at the 1:30pm show.

- The actors will introduce themselves
- We will show/let you listen to the most intense sounds
- We will tell you about/show you the most intense moments:
  - Tap dancing
  - Spray crying
  - The trombone
  - Slow motion fighting
  - Audience member dance volunteers



# Audience Participation

The Myrtle Sisters interact with the audience and sometimes folks volunteer to participate. Only if you want to!

- Edna cries and sprays water on a volunteer
- Gladys brings up dancers to audition.
- Shirl asks the audience questions such as: What if you like different clothing styles than your friends? Is that OK?
- There is a big dance party on the stage at the end of the show.



## How people react

- In this show people in the audience always laugh a lot because the Myrtle Sisters are so silly.
- The audience usually claps at the end of each song the Myrtle Sisters play.
- People react very differently every show because our show changes slightly every time.
- The audience laughs with surprise when Edna cries big spray tears out of her face.
- The audience usually shouts a lot at Shirl trying to tell her how to open her chair properly.
- Sometimes people get up to use the bathroom or take a break.
- Sometimes people move around.

### SPOILER ALERT :

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

## Visual Story: Everything that happens

At the beginning there will be a person giving a curtain speech. They will have lights on them. This person will say something like: Introducing.... The Myrtle Sisters. You will hear the ukulele and then all three sisters will run on stage and sing their first song called "Sister Kate". This song has tap dancing in it.

***Note: These photos are from a performance in a school. This show will be performed on the stage pictured in the first photo.***

After the first song, Shirl tries to get the sisters to introduce themselves but Edna and Gladys get it wrong. Edna thinks because Shirl says, "We talk the same" that she should try and copy everything Shirl Says. Gladys thinks because Shirl says, "We act the same," she should copy Shirls every move. Shirl gets frustrated and says, "ATTENTION!"

The girl then each sing, "same, same, same" in three part harmony and this pleases Shirl.





Shirl introduces the next song and Gladys says that she and Edna have been working on some new dance choreography as a surprise. Shirl Says she doesn't like surprises and says, "No, we will keep it the same way we have rehearsed." Behind her back, Gladys points to her and Edna and says, "OK, we will keep it the same way WE rehearsed."



They play an original song called "She's Gone Away" and then do a silly dance trick with a pair of white pants. The song ends with Edna taking off her hat. She has blue hair that springs out from underneath. This makes Shirl mad. Shirl says:  
"We are supposed to be the same!"

Gladys hands out kazoots to the sisters and Shirl introduces the next song. Shirl says, "Kazoo solo number one will be played by Edna Myrtle, and kazoo solo number two will be played by Gladys Myrtle."

There is tap dancing in this song. Edna does a lovely kazoo solo, but when it comes to Gladys' turn, she pulls out a trombone and it startles Shirl. Shirl stops playing and says, "That was supposed to be a kazoo solo!"



Gladys says, "Fine, we will do EVERYTHING the way SHIRL says." Gladys does not seem fine.

They play song number three, which is "Doing the Jive." In this song, Gladys and Edna do some silly dances, which are NOT the Jive. They do a flip!

They finally do the Jive and it ends with Gladys in the splits. Shirl gets mad and says, "That was NOT in the choreography." Gladys says, "But it was better!"



Edna says, "I have an idea! If I did the splits too, then it would be the same!"

Gladys tries to teach Edna how to do the splits. Edna tries her best but does the splits in her own unique way which does not look the same as Gladys.

Shirl is shaking her head getting more and more frustrated.



Shirl begins speaking in a really high voice like she is totally stressed out! She's says, "All I ask is that we do the show the same way we rehearsed it." Sometimes you can't understand what she is saying as she gets angrier and angrier in a very silly way.

The sisters think that this is a time to "act the same" so they start copying Shirl's mad faces. Shirl stops and says loudly, "What are you doing?!" Gladys and Edna say at the same time, "We are being the same!"



Shirl calms herself down by deep breathing and notices that Gladys and Edna are copying her. She looks happy and says, "OK, the next song we will play, PERFECTLY". She looks at her sisters like they better do it right!

They sing a song called "Sisters". The first verse is done perfectly. In the second verse they begin to make mistakes with the dance, like accidentally hitting Shirl in the face and bonking their heads together. "Ow!"



The dance they are doing with the song they are singing gets worse and worse. Gladys gets poked in the eye. At the end of the song Shirl's dress gets caught on Gladys and is accidentally torn off.

Shirl stands there shocked in her bloomers and blouse. She is livid! Gladys says, "But it's a good look, Shirl!"

Shirl in turn tears off Gladys' dress so that Gladys is in bloomers too. Edna looks at them, and tears off her own dress and says, "I was too hot".

Gladys and Shirl begin to have a silly fight in pretend slow-motion while a pre-recorded song plays. Edna watches her sisters' shenanigans and eats popcorn in slow motion. Gladys and Shirl do a bunch of acrobatic tricks while they are having their silly fight.



When they finish their fight, they say: "Myrtle Sisters forever? Myrtle Sisters for NEVER!" and then go off stage angrily.

Edna is left alone. She thinks maybe she can do the show by herself and tries to sing about one lonely sister and then begins to cry a little bit.

Gladys comes on stage to check on Edna and asks her if she would like a hug. Edna starts to cry A LOT! She squirts water out of her eyes and gets Gladys all wet!





Edna asks if there is someone in the audience who will talk with her. She and Gladys bring that person an umbrella and then Gladys cries on the umbrella that the audience member is holding.

Edna says she feels better and leaves the stage.

Gladys decides that since the Myrtle Sisters have broken up, she will audition new dancers to be Myrtle Sisters. She asks the audience who would like to come up and audition!



The audience members get to wear hats and glasses like the Myrtle Sisters and play a follow the leader dance game with Gladys.

It begins with Gladys leading with dance moves, and then everyone who wants to, also gets to lead with their own dance moves.

They all get hired to be Myrtle Sisters and are asked to keep their hats and glasses for something later!

Gladys is happy that she has found new Myrtle Sisters and leaves the stage.

Shirl comes back and says that she misses her sisters and that she hasn't had anyone to talk with since her sisters broke up 7 minutes ago.

She asks if she can talk with the audience for a minute and gets a chair to sit down. She can't figure out how to open the chair!



The audience shouts out their ideas of how Shirl can open the chair.

Finally, Shirl gives up and says: "The chair is broken!". The audience yells: "No it isn't!!"

Shirl asks if anyone thinks they can set up the chair?

Someone comes on stage and shows Shirl how to do it.



Shirl has a talk with the audience. She is worried that no one will like the Myrtle Sisters if they are not the same.

Shirl asks, "Is it ok if you want to dress differently than your friends?"  
Everyone shouts: "YES!"

Shirl asks, "But what if you like different foods than your friends? Is that ok?" Everyone shouts: "YES!"



Shirl says, "So what you are saying is that it is OK to be different?" Everyone shouts, "YES!"

Shirl says, "I guess I owe my sisters an apology."

Gladys and Edna hear this, and come on stage and say, "We've been waiting for you to say that for 50 years!"

Edna has a moment to talk in her silly way about how everyone can be different just like everybody else!

Shirl says, "I now know, that our differences make us stronger as a band!" Gladys says, "As a team!" Shirl says, "As a family!" Edna says, "Like breakfast cereal!" Gladys and Shirl look at Edna!

The Myrtle Sisters decide to get back together.



Gladys says, "Well, you should know Shirl, that I'm not going to wear the same old uniform that you always made us wear. I'm going to wear this!" She takes off her jacket to show a red dress with polka dots.

Shirl is surprised, because she is also wearing a red dress with polka dots! Edna says, what a coincidence, because I am wearing this! She takes off her jacket and has a totally different outfit than Shirl and Gladys!



Gladys says, "Shirl, you should also know that I hired some new dancers!  
Shirl says, "GREAT! Let's have a jamboree!"

Gladys invites the audition dancers on stage, and Edna finds more dancers to come up on stage for the Jamboree!

With many audience members on stage the Myrtle Sisters begin their last song!



The dancers play the follow the leader dance game. Edna begins by leading with her funny dance moves.

In between the singing versus the dancers who want to, can take turns leading the follow the leader dance game with their own fun dance moves.

The song ends with Gladys in a headstand!



Everyone on the stage puts their hands up and bows and then all of the dancers return to their seats in the audience.

The Myrtle Sister's sing in three part harmony: "SAME, SAME..... DIFFERENT!!!!" and then ask, "Myrtle Sisters Forever?" Everyone shouts, "Myrtle Sisters Forever!"

The Myrtles Sisters do a big BOW! Everyone claps and cheer!

The Myrtle Sisters then leave the stage while accidentally bumping into each other and being their usual silly selves!



Sometimes, if there is time, then the audience can ask the Myrtle Sisters questions about the show and about how they made the show. Often the audience wants to know if they are real sisters. The Myrtle Sisters say, "Yes, but we have different parents!"

We hope you enjoyed this Visual Story! See you at the show!

# Credits

This Visual Story was created by [Candy Roberts](#) 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, the members of their Youth Council on Relaxed Performances, 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 Vervecken and she will share the template: [anikasurtitles@gmail.com](mailto:anikasurtitles@gmail.com)

She also welcomes all feedback!