



How It Ended and artsdepot present

THE FIR TREE

Easy Read Visual Story



Supported using public funding by
**ARTS COUNCIL
ENGLAND**

WHAT TO EXPECT



WHAT IS IT?

The Fir Tree follows the story of a little tree who is desperate to grow up and be BIG like all the other trees.

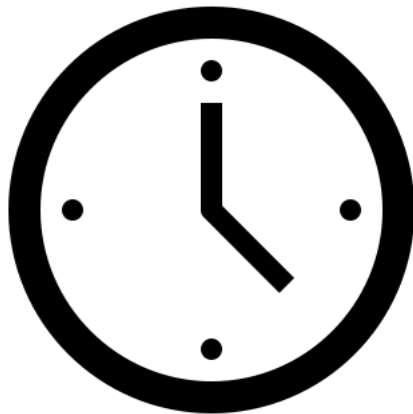
WHO IS IT FOR?

It is a show for family audiences.



THEMES

- Enjoying every moment
- Importance of stories
- The power of friendship
- The joy of nature
- The circle of life and death
- The magic of the festive season



LENGTH OF SHOW

60 minutes

There is no interval



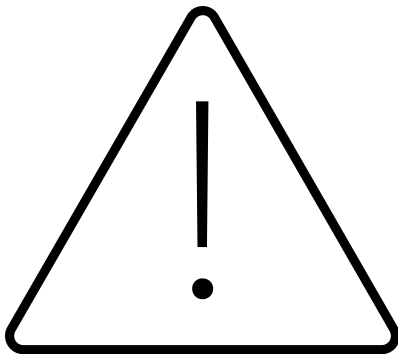
MUSIC AND SOUND

- As you enter there will be music playing from the speakers.
- Music will play throughout the show.
- There is lots of live music in the show, including violin, guitar, banjo and clarinet.
- You will also hear foley sound effects, created by the performers on stage using household items.



People may clap at various points.

You can join in if you want to or not.



CONTENT & TRIGGER WARNINGS

- At the beginning of the show, performers will walk through the auditorium and say hello.
- At the beginning of the play, the performers invite the audience to take a deep breath all together. This is optional, and you're welcome to take part if you'd like to.
- There is music and sound effects in every scene.
- Sometimes the performers can be a bit loud.
- Sometimes the Fir Tree is worried about the future, but it has lots of fun times too.
- Older Trees Douglas and Spruce are taken away from the forest, but they are happy to go on a new adventure.
- There is a moment where the Fir Tree is on a bonfire, this isn't a real fire, only stage lighting with haze and sound effects.
- The Fir Tree dies at the end of the play, but it is happy with the life it has lived and wants us to celebrate their life and enjoy the festive season!



All performances are Sensory Adapted, or sometimes known as Relaxed Performances.

You can:

- Wear headphones
- Talk to each other or make noises
- Come and go
- Move around

CAST



My name is Denzel.

I am one of the performers.

I play The Fir Tree.



My name is Samuel.

I am one of the performers.

I play lots of characters including Douglas, the Hare, Robin, Bethany and Quiz the mouse



My name is Loren

I am one of the performers.

I play lots of characters including Spruce, the Stork, Ada and the Rat.

SET



The set is made up of 3 wooden tables, which together, looks like a big circle.

Props, and puppets come out of baskets dotted around the space.

THE PERFORMANCE



PRE-SHOW

- You will hear festive music before the show starts.
- Denzel, Samuel & Loren walk through the auditorium and say hello.



SCENE 1 – PROLOGUE

- Samuel & Loren are getting ready for the performance, but Denzel is feeling a little nervous.
- Samuel & Loren suggest they take a deep breath all together. They ask the audience to do this too, if they'd like to. It makes Denzel feel much better.



SCENE 2 – THE LITTLE FIR TREE

- Samuel & Loren introduce the story of The Fir Tree – a character played and puppeteered by Denzel
- The Fir Tree lives in the forest, in a good spot with plenty of air. But the Fir Tree is desperate to grow up and be big like the other trees.



SCENE 3 – “BEING A TREE”

Older trees, Douglas and Spruce (played by Loren and Samuel) try to cheer up The Fir Tree up by singing the song “Being A Tree”



SCENE 4 – THE HARE

- In Springtime, a Hare (played by Samuel) wants to play with The Fir Tree. But The Fir Tree is focused on ‘growing’.
- The Hare jumps over the Fir Tree, but this only reminds the Fir Tree of how little it is, and it sings the song “I Wanna Be Big”



SCENE 5 – THE WOODCUTTER

In Autumn, a woodcutter can be heard in the forest and takes away some of the oldest and tallest trees away – included Douglas and Spruce who are excited to go off on an adventure.



SCENE 6 – THE SWALLOWS & THE STORK

● Winter turns to Spring, and the Fir Tree asks the Swallows where Douglas and Spruce have gone. The Swallows don't know anything, but the Stork tells the Fir Tree that Douglas and Spruce have become masts for ships, sailing the world!

● This leads The Fir Tree to wonder what he could grow up to be and sings "Life Is Breezy".



SCENE 7 – THE ROBIN

● At Christmas time, a Robin flies through the forest and tells the Fir Tree all about Christmas and how wonderful it is!

● The Fir Tree hopes that one day it'll be a Christmas tree and sings the song: "Crinch-mas".



SCENE 8 – A YEAR PASSES

● A year passes, and the Fir Tree grows taller and older.

● The Fir Tree is now the most magnificent tree in all the forest.



SCENE 9 – FINALLY TAKEN

The Fir Tree is driven out of the forest on a truck.



SCENE 10 – CHRISTMAS EVE

●The Fir Tree is now in a family’s living room and being decorated by children Bethany and Ada (played by Samuel & Loren)

●Once decorated, Bethany and Ada tell each other stories and sing the song “I’ve Got A Story”. The Fir Tree enjoys listening along.



SCENE 11 – CHRISTMAS DAY

It’s Christmas Day. Bethany and Ada celebrate. The Fir Tree looks on, as the day whizzes by very quickly!



SCENE 12 – THE ATTIC

●With Christmas over, The Fir Tree is taken up into the attic.

●The Fir Tree feels a bit lonely but then a mouse called Quiz comes to visit him and asks The Fir Tree to tell him a story.

●The Fir Tree sings “I’ve Got A Story”. The Fir Tree tells Quiz all about its life in the forest and all its friends. Enjoying the story, more mice come to the attic to listen. Then a rat arrives, and doesn’t enjoy the Fir Tree’s story as much, causing all the mice to leave. But the Fir Tree is happy with its story and feels content.



SCENE 13 – TAKEN FROM THE ATTIC

Time passes, and The Fir Tree (who is now an old tree) is taken out of the attic.



SCENE 14 – OUTDOORS AGAIN

●The Fir Tree is now outside in the garden and enjoys being outside again.

●The Fir Tree thinks about its life and how happy it was, it just didn't always realise it at the time. It sings "The End Is the Beginning".

●The Fir Tree is placed on a bonfire and thinks about the forest and the sun and the stars. Happy to be able to return to the forest, and happy to have lived.





SCENE 15 – EPILOGUE

● With the story now over, Denzel, Samuel and Loren take a deep breath.

● Denzel, Samuel and Loren celebrate the show, life and Christmas by singing: "Christmas Livin'"

● Audience members are welcome to move around and dance along if they'd like to.

FIND OUT MORE

| | |
|---|--|
|  | <p>.</p> <p>How It Ended teresa@howitended.co.uk</p> <p>Website: howitended.org Facebook: How It Ended Twitter / X: @how_it_ended Instagram: @how_it_ended</p> |
|  | <p>artsdepot Sogol.Afshar@artsdepot.co.uk</p> <p>Website: artsdepot.co.uk Facebook: artsdepot Twitter / X: @artsdepot Instagram: @artsdepot_ldn</p> |