

WALKING THE TIGHTROPE

Get ready to
watch!

A social story to help families prepare for a virtual theatrical experience

WHEELLOCK
FAMILY
THEATRE

BOSTON
UNIVERSITY

Part One

What is a Recorded
Performance?

I am going to watch the recorded performance of *Walking the Tightrope*!



I can watch the play using the link that was sent to the email I used to register for the performance!



This play is going to be streamed, which means it has already been performed and recorded so I can watch it from home!



Part Two

Getting Ready to Watch

I can watch the performance on a device (computer, phone, tablet, TV) from the comfort of my home.



I can setup my space however I want.



I can watch with someone in my household or with a favorite toy.



I can laugh and clap throughout the performance, just like I can in the theatre...



Or at the circus!



Because I'm watching from home, I can eat my favorite snack.



Part Three

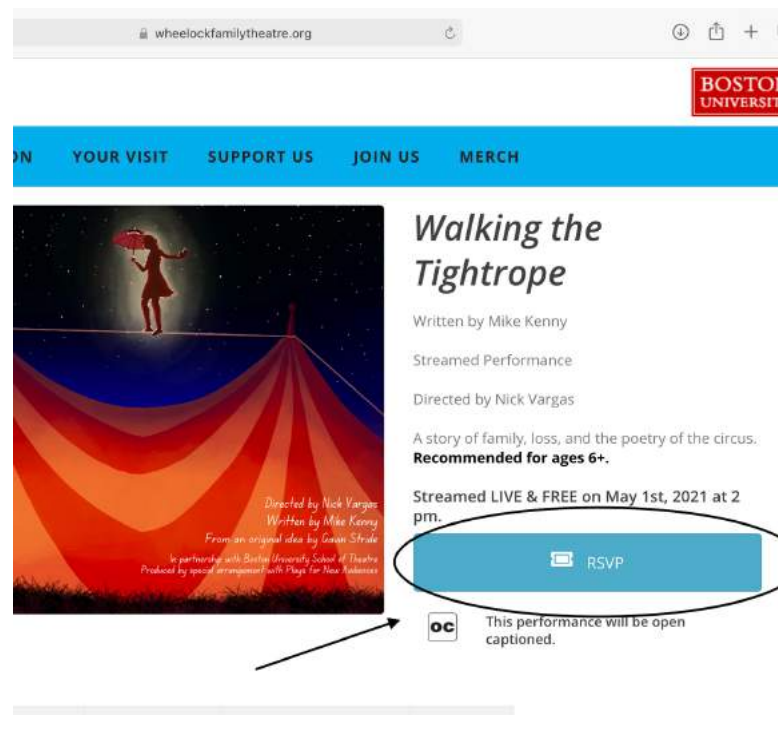
How to Watch

The performance will be shared on
Vimeo!

To receive the link an adult in my
household can register for FREE on
Wheelock Family Theatre's website.

[CLICK HERE TO GO TO THE WEBSITE](https://www.wheelockfamilytheatre.org)

On the day of the show, **Saturday,
May 1st**, I can click on the link that
was emailed to me and wait for the
show to start!



Thank you for reserving a spot for Walking the Tightrope
This event will stream live on Saturday May 1st at 2pm

This production is recommended for Ages 6+ May 1st

A show link will be emailed out before the production
Pre-Show Information:

- This production is LIVE and will only be broadcasted
- Click the link above at 1:45 pm to best prepare for sh
- Questions about streaming? Reach out to Jenna at [V](#)
- Open captioning will be provided for this production.

The performance is schedule to start
at **2:00pm.**

However, I know it may not start
exactly on time.



While I wait I can eat a snack...



...talk to someone in my household...



...go to the bathroom...



...learn more about the show..



About the Play

A story of family, loss, and the poetry of the circus. At the end of every summer, Esme goes to visit her grandmother, Nanna Queenie. But this summer, Nanna Queenie is missing. Unable to express that Nanna Queenie has joined the circus, Grammy's story unravels, however, when the truth is revealed.



e. Click on a name to learn more!

...and the actors on the
Wheelock Family Theatre website.

[CLICK HERE TO GO TO THE WEBSITE](#)



I can control how loud or quiet the sound is by turning up the volume on my device. ..



...or by adjusting the volume on the video directly. Dragging the volume left makes it softer. Dragging it right makes it louder.



I can test the volume on my device before the show by playing a favorite song or video.



This performance will be opened
captioned.



The captions will be on automatically
once the show begins!

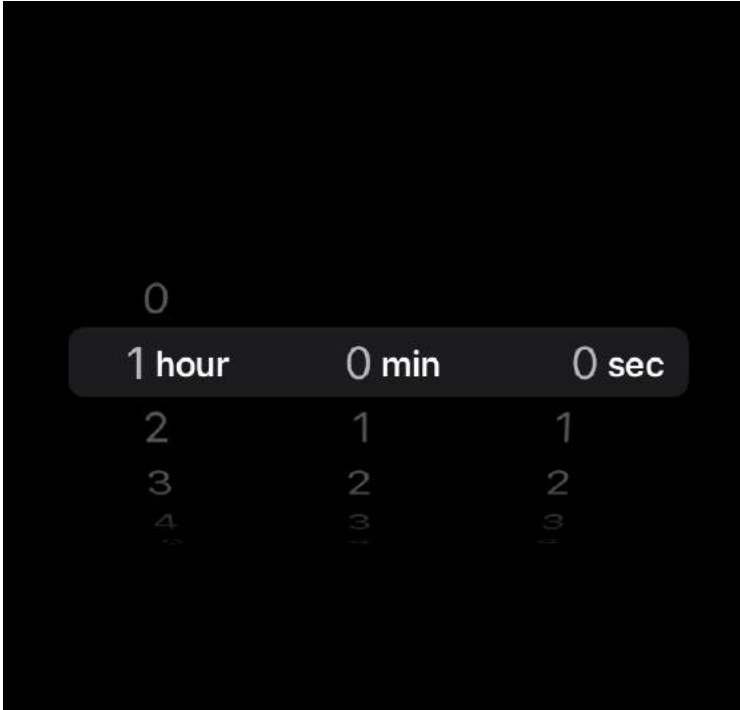


I will not be able to turn the captions off
during the performance.



Once the show starts, the performance will last about **1 hour**

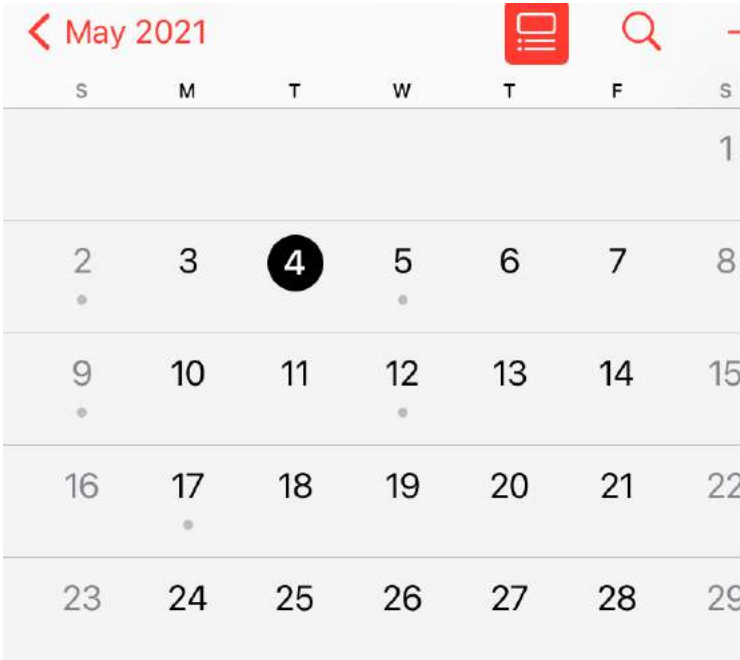
There will be no intermission.



If I need to take a break it is okay to leave and come back



However, the recording will only be available to watch until **Tuesday, May 4th at 2:00pm.**



With a virtual show there are things I
may not be able to control, like my
internet speed.



If I feel upset or sad I can...



..take a breath...



...take a break and do something else,
like read a book or draw...



...talk to a member of my household or
play with my favorite toy.



When I'm ready, I can continue to watch
the show!



Part Four

Watching the Play

I will be watching from home, but the actors are performing in a theatre.



They are performing on a **set**.
A **set** is built on a stage and is the world that the show takes place in.



This set has all kinds of fun things...



Like little sets for puppets that pop up from the ground!



This set is made up of drawings done by Esme.



Do they look like the pictures you have drawn?



Shadow puppets are used to tell parts of the story.



Shadow puppets are pieces of paper that are lit up from behind. The light causes a shadow to form, which is what I am seeing!



There are lots of sounds in the play...



Like the music that the actors dance to!



There are also bright, colorful lights!



These lights may swirl and flash at times.



One example of this is in the dance sequence where Esme and Grammy dance in the living room.



Esme also uses an old video camera to make her home videos during her stay with Grammy.



The movement of the camera may be startling, hurt my eyes, make me dizzy, or be disorienting.



The hand held video camera is used frequently throughout the show.



If i get overwhelmed, I know I can take a break.



I can take a breath.



When I'm ready, I can continue to watch the show.



There will be puppets doing circus tricks, like walking the tightrope!



But I know they are just puppets and that everyone is safe.



This play deals with the death of a grandparent.



I may know someone who has died.



I may get upset, but I know it is always okay to talk to someone in my household about my feelings.



If I feel upset or confused...



...I can take a break...



...I can take a deep breath...



...I can talk to a member of my household or hold my favorite toy.



When I'm ready, I can continue to watch the show.



This show was filmed with safety as a top priority.



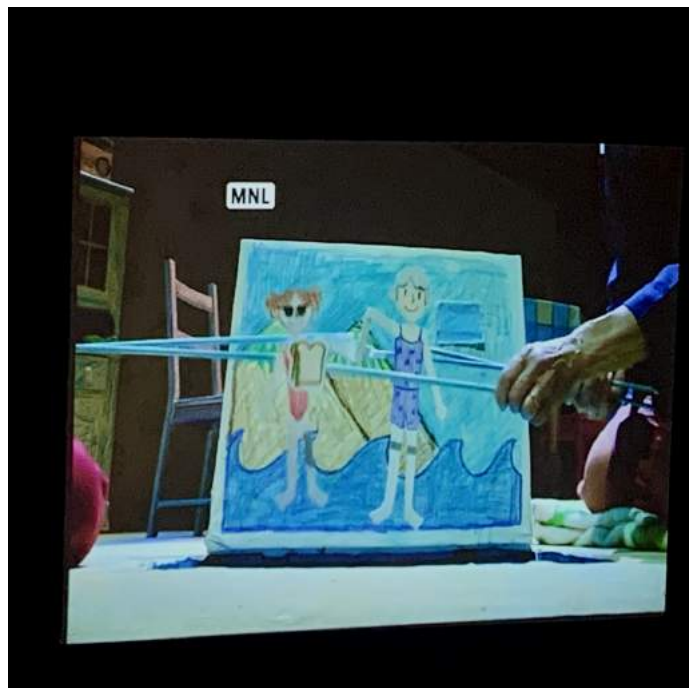
All members of the team are regularly tested for COVID-19, are masked, and are appropriately distanced.



The show is being filmed in front of a very small audience that are socially distanced.



And even though the actors cannot hug, their puppets can!



Part Four

What happens in
the play?

Walking the Tightrope is about a young girl named Esme going to visit her Grammie Sofie and Nanna Queenie at their cottage by the sea. Esme has two grandmas!



When Esme arrives, she notices something isn't right...



Esme looks all around the kitchen and sees everything in its place.



She looks in the garden and sees the chickens and flowers are still there.



She looks in the living room and can't find anything different there either!



She realizes Nanna is what's missing.



Grammie tells her that Nanna has gone to a nicer place, so Esme asks if they can go too...



But Grammy says no, because it is, "Too late and too far."



When Esme goes to bed, she asks Grammy to tell her a story.



Grammy tells her Nanna Queenie has gone to join the circus!



The next day, Grammy and Esme go to the beach.



When Esme gets home, she looks around to see if Nanna has come back, but she still can't find her.



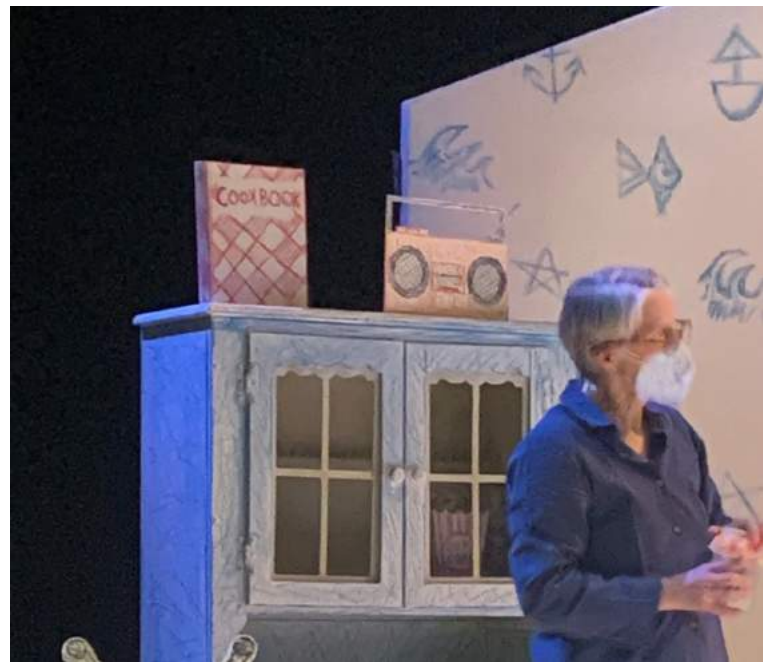
Esme wonders who will make her bread and butter pudding if Nanna isn't there.



So Grammy and Esme make it together!



Esme gets worried when she realizes Nanna Queenie has left her belongings, like her cookbook!



Grammy Sofie explains she does not need them anymore, because Nanna has memorized all the recipes so she can cook for the clowns.



Before she goes to sleep, Esme asks Grammy what Nanna does at the circus, and Grammy tells her she is a tightrope walker.



The next day, Grammy and Esme go to the amusement park.



But when they get home, Esme sees that everything was the same.



That night, Grammy tells Esme the story of how she met Nanna and that Nanna always dreamed of being a tightrope walker.



Esme tells Grammy that she misses Nanna, and asks Grammy if Nanna has forgotten her.



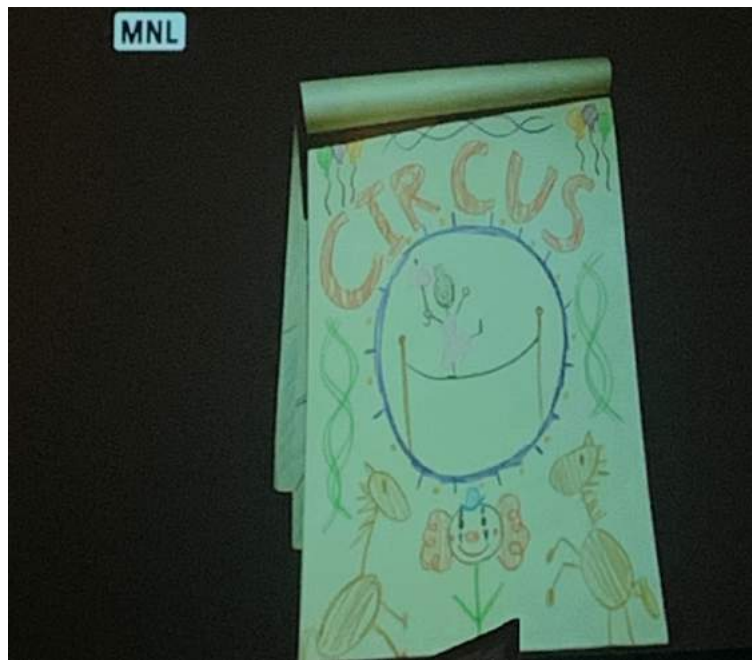
Grammy tells Esme that Nanna hasn't forgotten her and that she had to go to the circus.



The next day, Esme doesn't want to do anything, but she and Grammy go to the beach anyway.



There, they see a poster for the circus!



Esme wants to go, but Grammy isn't too sure, but they decide to go anyway!



They watch all kinds of fun acts!



And they see the lady walk the tightrope!



But Esme notices it is not Nanna Queenie.



When they get back home, Esme asks Grammy if Nanna Queenie has died.



Grammy tells her that she has.



Esme realizes that some things will change, and some things will stay the same as she grows up.



With her trip to Grammy's over, they say goodbye until next year back at the train station.



Esme reflects on her trip to Grammy's and how this year, she got to go to the circus.



Part Five

After the Show!

When the show is over, I can clap for the actors at home!



TEAM ABOUT THE PLAY RESOURCES BEHIND THE SCENES PRESS

Click on a name to learn more!

After the show, there will be a talkback with the actors where they talk about working on the show!



Elaine Vaan Hogue
Grammy Sofie



Valyn Lyric Turner
Esme

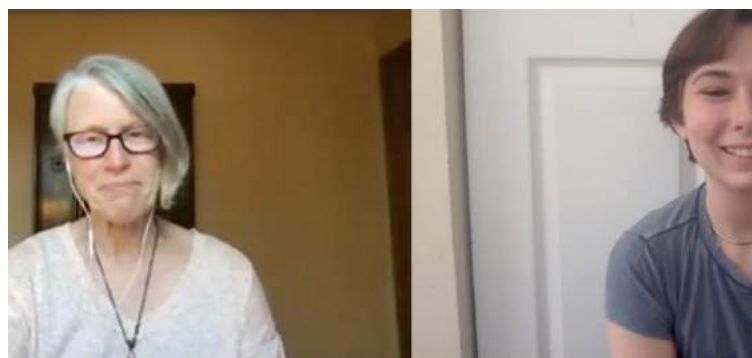
I will not be able to ask questions during the talkback, but I can email WFTTix@BU.Edu if I have any that I want answered.



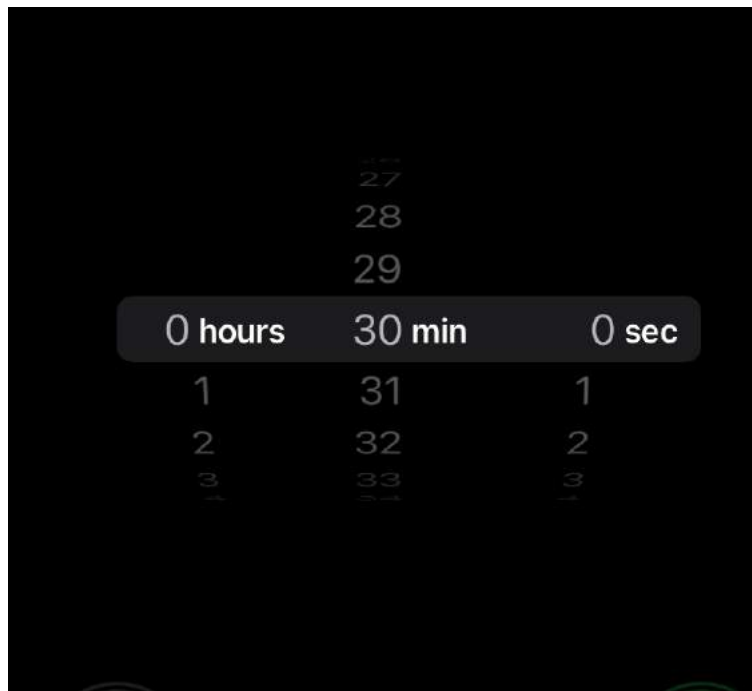
The talkback will immediatley follow the credits of the show.



It was recorded over zoom prior totoday's performance.



The talkback will last approximately 30 minutes, but I know it is okay if I cannot stay the whole time.



After the talkback the show will be over...



Watching theater is very exciting!

I hope I will have a great time when I watch *Walking the Tightrope*!



For more information about access and inclusion at Wheelock Family Theatre at Boston University please contact Jeri Hammond, Director of Education, Outreach, and Community Engagement, at JeriH@bu.edu or 617-353-1459.

