

Grace

by Jody O'Neill

Audio Description Programme Notes

Welcome to the audio description introduction to **Grace** written by Jody O'Neill, presented by Graffiti Theatre and Once Off Productions. The play is Directed by Niall Cleary. The Set and Lighting Designer is Zia Bergin Holly, the Sound Designer is HK Ní Shioradáin and the Costume Designer is Valentina Gambardella,

The performance runs for about 60 minutes, and is designed for anyone aged 8 or older.

ABOUT THE SHOW

A new play for young people and families, *Grace* tells the story of a girl who has a relationship with her father where no words are needed. In fact, *Grace* doesn't use words to speak at all. When her father dies suddenly, *Grace* needs to find a new way to communicate.

This exciting new production explores the universal themes of grief and communication as *Grace* and her father invite you into the multisensory landscape of *Grace's* world.

All performances of *Grace* are relaxed performances, making them more accessible for people with sensory sensitivities.

Audio description is embedded into all the performances, making them more accessible to the low sighted or blind.

ABOUT THE SET

The play is set in a shed, the left and right walls of the shed are made out of old doors. There's a big old fashioned window frame at the back, sometimes capital letters are projected onto this window which *Grace* spells out words from, she uses a long handled paint brush to point to the letters. Under the

window are two long wooden work benches. There are all sorts of bits and pieces here like, little oil cans, a big old metal watering can, a couple of rolls of masking tape.

There's a bookshelf under the bench to our right with a few of Grace's books on it along with a thermos flask, a couple of mugs, a lamp. Underneath the work bench to our left is a blue bench seat with a step stool close by that has a small potted bay leaf tree on it. Nothing is wasted in this shed so there are shelves on the walls full of stuff. Old paint cans, tubs full of nails and screws, a half made bird house, a couple of plant pots.

Dad's overalls and tool belt hang off one of the doors.

Against the wall on the right side of the stage is an old wooden dresser, at the beginning of the show Grace sits tucked in behind the dresser looking through The Book of Grace which she made, it's a scrap book of her life. 'The Book of Grace' is a big book decorated on the front cover with a green leafed tree made from scraps of material and string. She rests this book on top of the cupboard of the dresser sometimes. There's a little wooden box close by that holds a chain, a couple of pairs of scissors and other bits and pieces.

Mum often sits on a kitchen chair to our right near the front of the stage. There's a white board leaning against the old glass door behind her, you may hear the sound of her writing on it when the audience are invited to ask questions or answer them, as she writes down what people have said. There's also a battered old brown suitcase close by.

In the middle of the front of the stage on the floor is a projector, that's a surprise for during the show.

To the front left of the shed lies a wooden pallet, Dad sometimes stands on it when he addresses the audience or when it's an ISL interpreted show an Irish Sign Language Interpreter stands here. At the beginning of the show a small wicker box perches on the pallet.

A string of lights hang across the ceiling of the shed, sometimes they change color violet, blue, pink, green, peach. Unlike the earthy colors on the floor. clay grey, forest green, brown. The floor looks like it's made of stone. There is a tree painted in the centre of the floor with the base of the trunk at

the back where the big window is. In the play the word schism is mentioned a few times, schism means a split or a crack. The floor is full of cracks.

ABOUT THE CHARACTERS AND COSTUMES

Grace played by Eleanor Walsh is a 12 year old girl played by a woman in her twenties. She wears grey and black leopard print leggings with a red over sized hoodie. On her feet she wears yellow socks, pale pink runners, with velcro straps and a silver star at the heel. Her long brown hair is loosely pulled back in a ponytail. as already mentioned Grace does not use words to speak, instead she uses her whole body to express how she's feeling. She gestures and sometimes repeats words or phrases that she enjoys the sound of. Grace stims to regulate large emotions like joy or anxiety, by flicking her fingers, bouncing, shaking, rocking, swaying.

Dad played by Bryan Burroughs has a grey beard, he wears brown trousers with an old green jumper. Underneath the jumper he wears an aubergine coloured checked shirt with white and yellow lines running through it, a yellow t-shirt peeks out from underneath. On his feet he wears tan colored suede comfy shoes.

Mum played by Grace Kiely spends most of her time separate from Grace and Dad. She sits quietly on a kitchen chair watching them having quite a bit of fun, sometimes she smiles watching them. Mum wears a yellow sweater, brown trousers and cream plimsolls. Her long brown hair pulled away from her face in a ponytail.

Keira O'Connell is the ISL Interpreter, she wears a long green shirt over black leggings. Keira has blonde hair and green eyes.

Mollie Savage-Lynch or Mo Harte read the audio description for the show from a book that looks a lot like 'The Book of Grace' they wear a burgundy tunic dress over a black top and black tights with black lace up boots.

The production is supported by the Arts Council, Baboró International Arts Festival for Children, Cork Opera House & The Abbey Theatre.

And that's the end of the introduction to **Grace**, prepared by me, Mo Harte, who also prepared the audio description for the show in collaboration with Jody O'Neill.

For updates about assisted performances, text **ACCESSARTS** to **51444** or head to **www.adiarts.ie** for more information.

Thank you. Go raibh maith agaibh.