

Autism Friendly Theatre Performances at The Ark



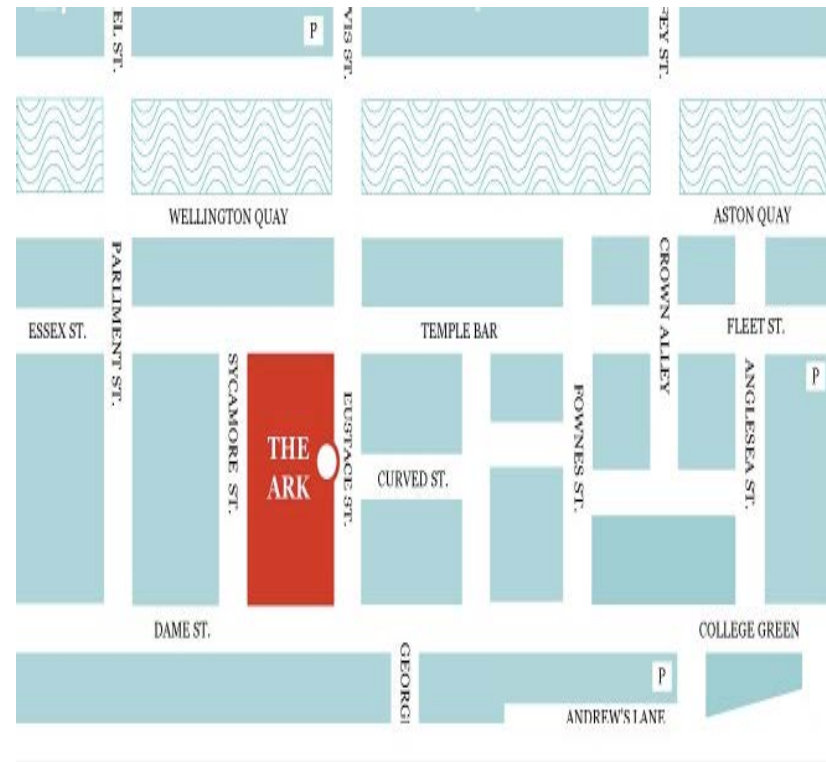
Information pack for 'BEES!' on Tue 16 Feb 2016 @ 2pm
At The Ark, Temple Bar
See ark.ie

Your Visit

This pack will help you prepare for your visit to the Ark.

You will see and experience many new and interesting things. We have put together some pictures to help you understand where you are going and what you will see, as well as a brief synopsis of the play so you know what to expect during the performance.

We hope you have great time at The Ark. Here is a map to help you find us.



Here are the things you will see on the day

This building is called The Ark



We go here to see the play

The Main Door

We go through this to get inside.



The Reception



This is where we collect our tickets

Duffy works behind the desk.



She will give us our tickets.

The Basement



This is where we wait for the show. Other children will be waiting here also.

Toilets



We can find the toilets in the basement through the red doors

**The boys' toilets are on
the right**





**The girls' toilets are on
the left**





When we are in the theatre there is a toilet nearby

The Door to the Theatre



We go through this door when it is time for the play.

Where will you sit?



We all sit on the benches in the theatre

If you want a break at anytime we can go back to the relaxation space in the basement.



BEES! is the name of the play we are going to see.

It is a musical with fun and songs, and absolutely no boring stuff!

Oh and you'll learn lots of facts about bees along the way.

What is a musical?

- It is a theatre show that combines songs, spoken words, acting, and dancing.
- Each character will sing songs and dance as well as talk to each other and the audience.

About the Show

There are 4 actors in this play.

Jack Cawley plays Jack, the Bee-Keeper.
He also plays the music in the show.



Mary-Lou McCarthy plays Mel.
She is a Honey Bee.
She also plays a flower called Bailey.



Sean Duggan plays Luke.
He is a bumble bee.
He also plays a flower called Jules.



Marie Ruane plays Marsha.
She is a Solitary Bee.
She also plays a flower called Frances.



Here are pictures of things we will see during the show



This is the smoke machine that Jack uses to calm the bees. There may be a smell from the smoke but it is harmless.



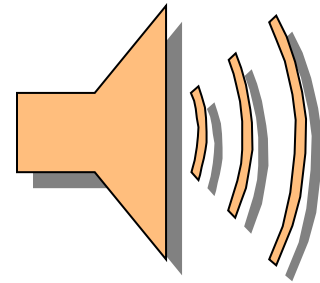
Hexagonal Cushions that will be moved about by the actors.

The rest of the set is made up of six wooden screens with hexagonal shapes cut out. Each piece can move and they also fit together.

The lights in the theatre will dim during the play so it will be a little bit darker but you will always be able to see your way out.



During the play you will hear lots of different songs and music and sound effects. This symbol will show you when they will happen.



During the songs Mel, Marsha and Luke will sing using little microphones that are attached to the side of their faces. This is so we can hear the singing clearly.

As the show begins the theatre is quite dark but it will gradually get brighter.

Jack the Beekeeper walks out on stage. He is wearing a Bee Keepers Outfit with a big helmet on, we may not be able to see his face.

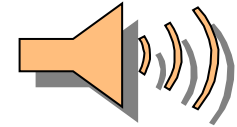
He is carrying a little smoke machine, it isn't harmful, and it helps to calm bees so they don't sting him. The smoke may have a smell.

There will be buzzing sounds which will get louder when Jack opens up the bee hive. It suddenly is quiet, his bee hive is empty. He asks the audience if they have seen his bees.

Jack has a music area on the stage behind the screens where he spends most of his time throughout the show, playing his guitar and singing along with the songs. He sometimes comes about from behind the screens to join in with the songs.

Something starts to move inside the hive, we cannot see what it is yet.

Mel, the honey bee, is being born. She wriggles out of her cell and shouts Ta-Dah!

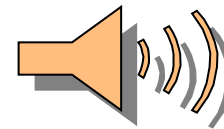


She cannot find the other Bees, her colony. They should be in the hive. She sees the audience and says Hello. Mel can make a buzzing sound, she asks the audience if they can make a buzzing sound too.

Mel eats some sticky gunk from the hive. She doesn't know it is honey.

Luke, the Bumble Bee, comes onto the stage and bumbles around.

Luke sings a song about being a bumble bee. There are backing singers behind the screens accompanying Luke in his song.

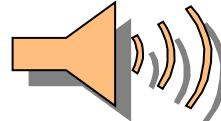


He gets stuck in a spider's web.

Mel, on an imaginary tricycle, finds Luke and helps him get free.

Mel doesn't know her name yet, she asks someone in the audience what their name is and pretends it is her name too.

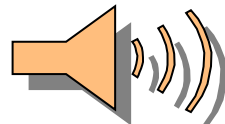
Luke smells her and discovers she is a girl bee, and decides her name is Mel.

Luke teaches Mel how to fly. They sing the *Buzz Buzz Song*. 

There will be pictures projected on to the screens that show the countryside below.

Luke tells Mel he will help her find her colony, her family of bees.

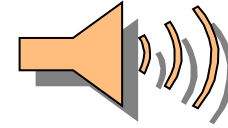
Next we meet Marsha, the Solitary Bee, she is listening to music on her headphones. She talks to the audience.

We see Luke and Mel flying again, Luke isn't very good at landings so they both crash onto the ground. 

They meet Marsha.

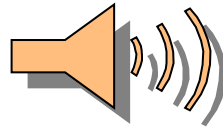
Marsha sings a song about solitary bees.

Jack comes out from behind the screens playing his guitar.



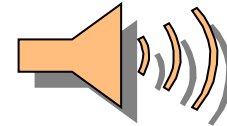
They decide to help each other find food.

They sing the *Buzz Buzz Song*.



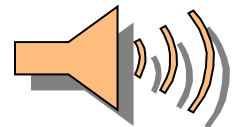
Luke, Marsha and Mel start to fly together.

We hear the sound of thunder followed by sound of rain.



Marsha teaches Mel and Luke all about Bee Danger.

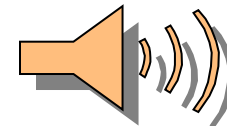
Marsha speaks into a microphone so her voice is louder and echoey.



Pictures will flash on the screens as Marsha talks about the different dangers.

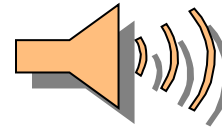
Jack comes out from behind the screens playing his guitar.

We hear some loud sounds during Bee Danger.



Flashing images of living creatures that eat Bees appear on the screens.

Mel is getting scared by all the Bee Dangers.
She screams after seagulls.



There is a blackout here. A blackout is when it goes dark suddenly so we know that time has passed or it is the end of a scene.

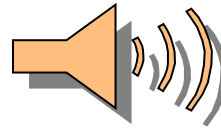
Jack is eating an apple, wondering where all his bees have gone. He asks the audience have they seen his bees.

Now we meet three flowers, Jules, Bailey and Frances, they have American accents. They are loud and are talking over each other. They are played by the same three actors who play Marsha, Luke and Mel. They will have flower costumes on and sing a song with microphones on stands like they are in a band.

They are calling out to the Bees. They want them to come and have some nectar which will help to pollinate the flowers.

Jack is researching about Bees, what he finds out comes up on the screens.

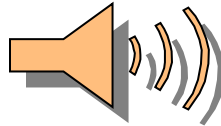
The flowers sing a song about “*Entomophily*”
You can listen to the song [here](#)



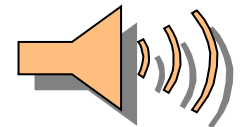
Jack explains how pollination happens. Images will appear on the screens as he talks through the steps of pollination.

Marsha, Luke and Mel reappear

They sing the *Yum Yuck* song.

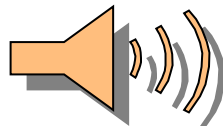


Marsha asks “*Who likes hamburgers?*”. We hear a bass drum sound.



Their song about food has made them all very hungry. We can hear the sounds of their tummy’s rumbling. These sounds are made by Jack playing the drums

We hear a mobile phone ringing.



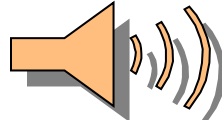
Luke realises the phone ringing is in his pocket. There is a Queen Bee flying nearby so Luke says goodbye to Mel and Marsha and goes to find the Queen.

Mel asks Marsha about the “huge” (she means the outside but doesn’t know it’s called that).

Marsha explains to Mel that Luke isn’t coming back. Mel gets upset because Luke isn’t coming back. She kicks some cushions.

They find a jam jar but they don’t know what it is. There isn’t really a jam jar we have to imagine there is one.


Mel gets in to eat the jam at the bottom. Marsha looks in her notebook to find out what it is.

We hear the sound of muffled boys, getting closer and closer. 

Marsha tries to help Mel out but gets pulled in and stuck in the jam too.

They scream for help. 

There are a number of blackouts here as Marsha gets stuck in the jam jar too. Blackouts are when it goes dark suddenly so we know that time has passed or it is the end of a scene.

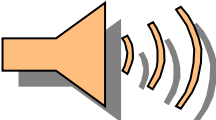
Luke reappears looking sad. He sings a sad little song. 

Mel and Marsha see him and shout for his help.

Luke tries to break the glass by running into it. It doesn't work.

He remembers the only way to break the glass is to make a high sound. He asks the audience to help him by making a high buzzing sound.



The glass breaks. 

They break free and hide until the threat of boys is gone.

It will get a little bit dark in the theatre because it is night time in the play.

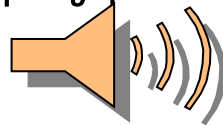
Luke and Marsha make little beds for themselves. Mel asks Jack (who is behind the screens) who owns the “*huge*” (she means outside). He tells her that no one owns it so it belongs to everyone.

We will see a half moon in the sky.

Marsha and Luke go to sleep but Mel can see something. She sees glowing lights and gets up to investigate. She thinks they are fairies and asks for their help finding her bees. Marsha and Luke help to make the glowing lights by using hand mirrors to reflect light onto the screens.

Mel sees flashes of colour on the screens. They are flowers. We can hear the voices of the flowers we met earlier, Bailey, Jules and Frances.

She wakes Luke and Marsha up by pretending there is a Varroa Mite attack. They get a fright and scream.




They are very excited she has found flowers.

Marsha realises they are fireflies not fairies. The fireflies make the shape of an arrow and point to a golden glow in the distance. There won't be real fireflies, we will see lights on the screens.

We hear a buzzing sound. 

They follow the fireflies. The golden glow gets brighter and the buzzing sound gets louder. 

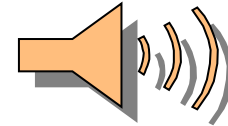
They have found Mel's colony, her family of bees.
Mel says good bye to Luke and Marsha. Mel disappears inside the hive. Luke and Marsha exit through the audience doors.

Mel sings a song about being home. 

Marsha and Luke reappear as worker bees inside the hive with Mel, placing cushions as a pathway for her while she sings her song.

Mel, Marsha and Luke hand out crocus bulbs to everyone in the audience to plant at home or at school.

Mel, Marsha and Luke do the *Waggle Dance*, while Jack using the microphone raps along, explaining how the Waggle Dance works.



Mel, Marsha and Luke each sing a line from their songs in a ‘medley’ at the end. A medley is a song composed from parts of existing songs, usually three, played one after another, sometimes overlapping.

The show finishes.

Clapping



People clap at the end of a play.
It shows the performers that we enjoyed the play.
After the clapping we can leave the theatre and go home.

We hope you enjoy your time at The Ark.

The people that made the show

The people that made the show are from two different groups:

One group is called WillFredd Theatre and they come from Ireland.

The other group is called The Ark – It's not just a building, The Ark makes theatre and other performances as well.



Special thanks to the Theatre Development Fund's Autism Theatre Initiative for serving as an advisor