

Vamos Theatre, in a co-commission with London International Mime Festival and a co-production with New Wolsey Theatre, presents

VAMOS
THEATRE

BOY ON THE ROOF



VISUAL STORY GUIDE



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



m i m e london
international
mime
festival

THE STAGE

**Top 50 Shows
of the Year**

WELCOME!

This is a visual guide that introduces the characters and story of *Boy on the Roof*. It is for anyone who wants to know the story before coming and may be useful, in particular, to audience members on the autistic spectrum, or those with sensory or communication disorders or learning disabilities.

ABOUT VAMOS THEATRE

Boy on the Roof is presented by Vamos Theatre. Our actors wear masks that cover their faces. During the show, they change masks to become different characters. There are no words: instead, our actors use their bodies and movement to tell the story. There is music and sound to go along with the action.



ABOUT BOY ON THE ROOF

Boy on the Roof is the story of Liam, a teenager with ADHD (a condition which affects someone's ability to adjust their attention). Liam lives on Cooper St with his mum. His neighbour is a 91-year-old man called Albert. *Boy on the Roof* is about the friendship between Liam and Albert, and about what it's like to live with ADHD.

There is a soundtrack playing throughout the show. It is not at a loud level, but audience members who are sensitive to sound may wish to bring headphones.



CHILLED PERFORMANCES

All Vamos Theatre shows are chilled performances. What does this mean? It means we understand that paying attention doesn't look the same for everyone. For many people, sitting still and quiet and never leaving their seat can be uncomfortable, painful, or impossible. So, at a Vamos Theatre show, you are welcome to move and make noise, whatever helps you focus and enjoy the show. We also ask that everyone in our audience is respectful towards each other, the performers and all staff.



SCENE 1: (THIS IS A FILM)

We meet the people who live in Cooper St. We see how closely people live and how different their lives are. After the film, we meet teenager Liam, standing on the roof, which is his safe space.



SCENE 2:

Liam and his mum, Rosie, are watching TV. We see that there is both love and stress between them.



SCENE 3:

We meet Albert for the first time. Albert is 91 years old and lives alone. We learn that he is lonely and misses his wife, who has died. We also meet Albert's daughter, who visits to make sure he is ok.



SCENE 4: (THIS IS A FILM)

Liam is playing football in the street. He accidentally hits a pram with the ball which upsets the parents. Albert sees what happens and gets cross with Liam.



SCENE 5:

It's 8.15 on Monday morning; Liam's mum is trying to get Liam ready for school. The house is chaos. At the same time, Albert's house is quiet and still. He plays chess and listens to the radio.



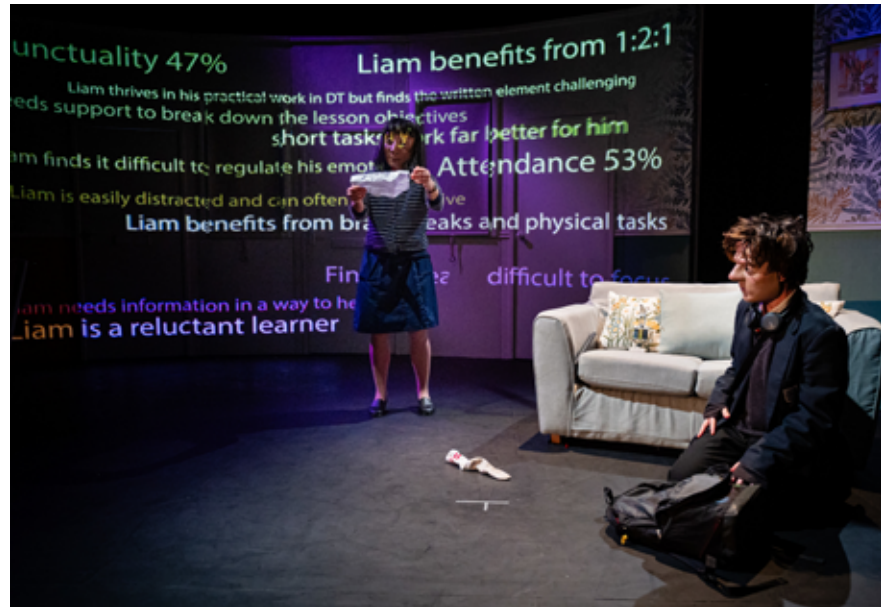
SCENE 6:

Liam accidentally hits Albert with his football and has to help him back home. Liam is fascinated by Albert's chess set and Albert offers to teach him to play. Liam accidentally leaves his homework at Albert's house.



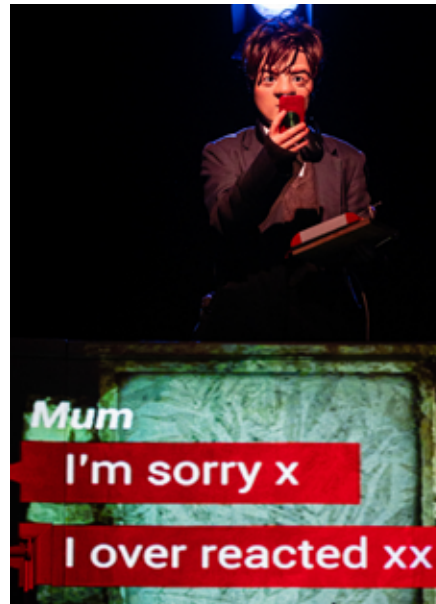
SCENE 7:

Liam hides his school report from his mum. When she sees it, she is very upset. Liam shows her the football trophy he's won, but she is too upset to look at it.



SCENE 8:

We return to Liam's safe space on the roof. He is doing something interesting with wires, but we don't know what yet.



SCENE 9:

Albert comes to Liam's house to return his homework. Albert shows him how to solve a problem that Liam was stuck with. Albert asks Liam to help him with his mobile phone and Liam shows him that it can take pictures and play music. Albert is delighted! Albert spots Liam's football trophy and congratulates him.



SCENE 10:

Liam and Albert's friendship is growing. They have fun together and enjoy each other's favourite things, from chess to virtual reality to old films. But Liam pushes things too far for Albert and eventually Albert asks Liam to leave.



SCENE 11:

Liam's school texts his mum to tell her he has been suspended. When Liam comes home, she confronts him. Liam feels misunderstood and storms out. His mum begins to research about ADHD on the internet.



SCENE 12:

Liam is really upset that he's fallen out with Albert. He tries to get to sleep but he cannot stop thinking. His ADHD means he can't switch off and he replays and repeats things over and over in his head. He is awake for hours.



SCENE 13:

Just as Liam finally gets to sleep, his alarm goes off. He is exhausted and upset. His mum tries to get him to relax, strokes his head and helps him to fall asleep. She has learned that he needs her to be calm, to listen and to comfort him.



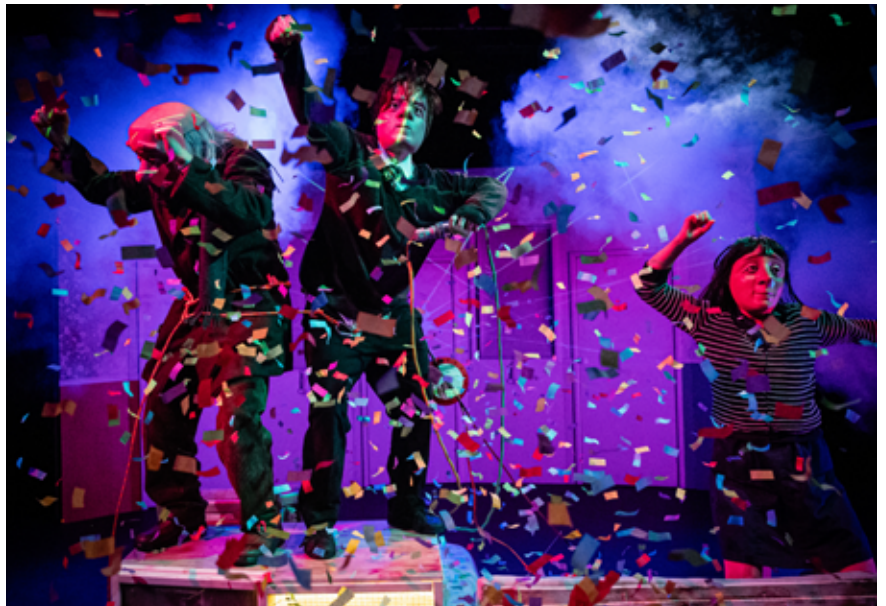
SCENE 14:

Albert is also upset about falling out with Liam. Seeing school kids coming home, he decides to go looking for Liam. The school kids are pointing up at the roof. Albert sees that Liam is up there and is worried about him, so decides to go up on the roof himself.



SCENE 15:

Liam is on the roof. Albert climbs up too and sees how beautiful it is up there. Liam's mum, Rosie, comes up after them; she is scared of height and finds it very hard. Albert and Liam make up. Liam finishes the wiring and connects a plug. At first, nothing happens, but on the second attempt, everything lights up and the roof top is transformed.



AT THE END OF THE SHOW:

At the end of the show our actors will join hands and bow. When this happens the audience might clap their hands. They may even whoop to show they have enjoyed themselves. You can join in with them if you like, but you don't have to.

THANK YOU FOR COMING

If you want to read more about Vamos Theatre and our shows, you can visit our website or visit us on Facebook, and Instagram.

Facebook: [VamosTheatre](#)

Instagram: [@vamos theatre](#)

Website: www.vamos theatre.co.uk

