

SURVIVAL ON A STRANGE PLANET

Education Information Pack

Performing Styles:

Circus, Puppetry, Physical Theatre, Visual Theatre, Magical Realism, Political Theatre

Themes:

Representation of women in media, Societal stereotypes, Perspective, Identity, Belonging, Empathy, Imagination, Non-verbal communication

Design features:

Found audio from pop culture re-contextualised in a new narrative, lighting as a strong part of theatre design, non-verbal show without a traditional spoken script

Suitability:

Years 9 - 12

Content warnings:

Contains strobe-like effects and haze. Implied violence and slapstick violence. Occasional strong language.

Synopsis:

Following an unplanned crash landing into an earthling's apartment, a stranded and incompetent interstellar traveller must carefully plan their first steps into the outside world. Their only points of reference for what awaits them is a radio and a collection of sci-fi movies. The stranded alien first understands the human world and how it treats women through consuming problematic media. In a misguided attempt to "rescue" a woman from inside the television, the alien learns that women are more complicated than some stories portray them to be.

Survival on a Strange Planet explores how the stories we tell shape our views of the world around us through multidisciplinary physical arts and audio design utilising snippets of popular movies, music, television, newscasts and podcasts.



Discussion Questions

- Did you recognise any of the audio snippets played by the Alien on the radio? Why do you think the artist chose these audio snippets? (NB: Audio files and transcripts can be provided for classroom use on request.)
- Are people of different genders portrayed differently in movies, television, music and other media? What are some common ways that women are portrayed in fictional stories? What are some common ways men are portrayed in fictional stories?
- Did you recognise any of the audio snippets that played when the Alien inserts the VHS tape into the television? How did the audio snippets involving the Woman differ at the end of the show compared to the first time we see her?
- All of the audio that is played when the characters interact with the radio or the television is audio that already existed, pulled from movies, television, music, and podcasts. Why do you think the artist did this instead of creating and recording their own written work?
- Circus as a genre is newly being integrated into other forms of theatre. What do you feel circus brought to this production?
- The artist utilised lighting, puppetry and movement as conventions of Visual Theatre in this work: how did this impact you as an audience? Did you feel you had a greater understanding of or interest in the dramatic meaning because of the use of lighting, puppetry and movement?
- The intention behind this work is to be thought-provoking regarding issues that face us as a society. What sort of questions or thoughts did you leave with?



Workshops/Extras

Survival on a Strange Planet has multiple options for additional workshops/extra points of interaction with the work. These workshops are suitable for Grades 9 - 12.

Option A: Post Show Discussion

A post show discussion facilitated by show Director Darcie Rae Boatswain. To be held in venue post show, featuring preplanned discussion points about the development of the show with the cast as well an opportunity for Q&A with students. Teachers can submit talking points prior to the discussion.

Option B: Workshop In Venue

Survival on a Strange Planet performers can run workshops in puppetry, physical theatre, or circus in the venue following a matinee performance. Schools can have the option to book a package including show tickets and workshop, in negotiation with the presenting venue.

Option C: Workshop In Schools

Survival on a Strange Planet performers can run workshops in puppetry, physical theatre, or circus at school following class attendance of the show.

Indicative pricing for a 1.5 hour workshop in schools:

Up to 20 students: \$200

Up to 35 students: \$300

Please note that this price is for the workshop only and does not include tickets to the event.

