

THE TRIAL OF JOSIE K

VISUAL STORY

This visual resource is for children and young adults visiting Stratford Youth Zone to see a performance of **The Trial**.

This visual story is intended to help prepare you for a new experience and help you to become familiar with the surroundings and the performance.

This performance is **fast-paced, surreal, and humorous** and contains **some scenes with music, sound effects, and lighting effects**. Towards the end of the play, there are scenes featuring characters in **distress** who discuss **difficult, emotional topics**.

THEMES

The performance contains themes of **friendship, rules, power, confusion, fear*, stress*, guilt*, family**, death**, forgiveness, and healing.**

SCENES TO NOTE

There are some sequences where characters feel **sad, upset or scared** but all of these elements are resolved by the end of the play.

***CHARACTER IN DISTRESS** In one scene, Josie K is so **angry** at the Bureaucrat, she **yells** at him, **rips** up some papers, **and jumps** on his desk. This moment diffuses quickly afterwards.

***CHARACTER IN DISTRESS** In one scene, shortly after, Josie is so **upset** and **confused** that she **cries out, bangs loudly on her locker** several times, and **throws her schoolbag** around. This does **not last long**, and her friend Becca helps make her feel better.

SURPRISING CHARACTER APPEARANCE: In one sequence, Josie is opening cupboards and finds the Bureaucrat behind several cupboards. This might be **scary**, because it is **unexpected**, and the music is a bit **creepy**.

****DISCUSSION OF FAMILY LOSS:** In one scene later on in the play, Josie reveals that her brother **died by drowning in a swimming pool**. She feels **sad** and **guilty**, because she thinks it was her **fault**. It was **not her fault**, and she comes to learn this by the end of the play.

****DISCUSSION OF FAMILY LOSS:** In another scene, shortly after, the Bureaucrat reveals that his Mother **died** in a **car accident** when he was younger. He feels **sad** and **guilty** because he **survived**. They discuss their **feelings of guilt**, and help each other feel better.

SOUND

Throughout the performance, you will hear some **sound effects**, like a **school bell**, **clock ticking** and **phone ringing**.

Don't worry, these sounds don't last long and you can cover your ears if you want to.

In some scenes, you will hear **music** as the actors move around onstage.

We have adjusted the **volume** on all sound effects to be **lower**.

LIGHTING

During the performance, the lighting will change between scenes. Sometimes it is **darker** onstage, and sometimes it is **brighter**. Sometimes there is only light on **one part of the stage**, and sometimes on the **whole stage**.

There are some **windows** and **clocks** on stage that **light up** throughout the show, sometimes **slowly** and sometimes **quickly**.

There are some **thin lights** above the stage that **light up** throughout the show, sometimes **slowly**, and sometimes **quickly**. They sometimes **change colour**.

The **house lights**, which are the lights in the audience seating area, will remain on at a **low level** throughout the performance.

There will be no moments in **complete blackout**.

AUDIENCE REACTIONS

During the show you might find something **funny**, you can **laugh** if you like.



During the show you might see or hear something that makes you feel **sad**. You can feel sad if you like, that's okay.



During the show, other audience members might **react** to what is happening onstage, by **laughing, shouting, screaming, clapping**, being **surprised**, or **speaking out loud**. These moments may be quite **loud**.

You can cover your ears if you want to.

During the show you might feel that you need to take some time out.

If you do, don't worry about it, **find the Usher** sitting in the wooden chair to the left of the audience, and let them know.

They will take you to the **chill out space** where you can relax and return to the show when you feel ready.

THE BUILDING

Welcome to the Stratford Youth Zone! This is the main entrance of the building.



This is a space for children and young people to come do fun activities.

This is what the building looks like from the outside.

When you enter, you will see a big space with lots of tables and chairs, and the first floor above.



To your right, you will see the Welcome Desk.



This is where you can buy tickets or collect tickets that you have already paid for.

There may be staff sitting behind the desk when you arrive. You can smile and wave at them if you like.

If you need to use the toilet, they are behind this wall.



If you go around the corner, you will see the yellow toilet doors.



When you enter the **theatre**, you will hear **pop music** playing all around the space.



You will see a **long room** with **two doors** and lots of **cupboards on the wall**. It has a **grey floor**, with different colour **squares**. This is the **stage**, where the actors stand and act.



The rest of the room is full of blue seats.



You can find your seat and make yourself comfortable. An usher can help you find your seat.

There are three **performers** in this show.



This actor plays Josie K.



This actor plays The Bureaucrat.



This actor plays Becca.

When the show is about to start, the music will get **softer** and you will hear **The Bureaucrat's voice** making an **announcement**.

It will ask you not to eat, go on your phone, or take photos or videos during the play.

The lights will get **darker onstage**.

You will hear **fun, pop music** and see a **bright light** through the door. The door opens, and Josie K comes through it, dancing. She is feeling **happy!**



She is getting ready for school in the morning. She eats some of her leftover birthday cake. Before she goes out the door, she looks for something in her bag. She found it—her dinosaur!

She opens the door to leave, but there is a man standing there. He is the Bureaucrat. He says he's from the Ministry of LT and D and H and R, Z, P, X and Y. He tells her that she has an appointment, but he can't tell her what it's about.



The stage gets **darker**, the **lights move up and down**, and Becca, Josie's best friend comes onstage riding a scooter.



They wonder what the appointment is about. They are at school and putting things away in their lockers. Becca thinks she might be getting an award! Josie doesn't think so.



You will hear a **loud school bell** and some **music**. You will see the **lights change**. This will happen in between every scene in the play, it's called a **transition**.

During some transitions, you might also see some furniture **move around the stage**, or a **new prop**.

Josie goes to the the Ministry for the first time.

Josie opens a door and sees **slowly flashing lights**, it's a party!
She opens another door and sees a **pink light**. She says sorry for opening the door.

In this transition, you will see some **blue lights** and the Bureaucrat comes onstage with a desk.

Josie is late for her first appointment, the Ministry was hard to find.



She does not know why she is at the Ministry.

The Bureaucrat explains the rules of the meetings. Some of the rules seem silly to Josie!

The Bureaucrat tells her that she is on trial. But Josie doesn't know what she's on trial for!

He says that there will be more appointments. She wonders if this is a dream, but the Bureaucrat tells her it is not.

At school, Becca thinks it is obviously a mistake—maybe they meant to ask another Josie with a different last name?

Josie didn't think of that idea! She is worried they think she did something that she didn't do.



Becca wonders if Josie has a doppelganger, which is someone that looks just like Josie but is a different person. Becca thinks maybe they are looking for her doppelganger!

In this transition, you will also hear some **beeps** and a **clock ticking**.

Josie is late for her next appointment.

She tells the Bureaucrat about Becca's ideas, and asks him if someone could have made a mistake putting her on trial. He tells her that the Ministry doesn't make mistakes.



Josie wants to know how long the trial will go on for.

The Bureaucrat doesn't know and can't tell her!

Becca and Josie are back at school, in the classroom.



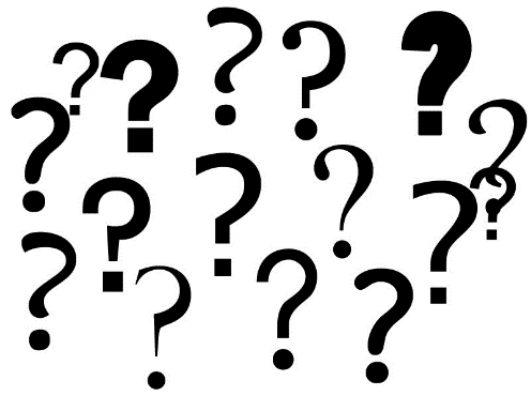
Becca thinks Josie should tell her Mum about the trial. Josie doesn't want to, she doesn't want to bother her Mum.

You will hear the **voice of the teacher** say Josie K's name **out loud**, because they are talking in class. The teacher **shushes** them.

Josie is late to the Ministry again, but this time only by three minutes.

The Bureaucrat asks her a lot of questions about her behaviour, and what she has done in the past.

She thinks some of the questions are silly because she hasn't done anything!



He asks if she has ever stolen from a corner shop. She looks a bit **nervous** and **guilty**. She says no, but it seems like she might not be telling the truth.

At school, Josie is talking to Becca. She wonders if she did do something, but totally forgot about it. Becca thinks that is not possible!

You will hear a **loud school bell**.

Josie looks in her bag for her dinosaur, and Becca waits with her while she looks. Josie worries it is not there, but she finds it!



In this transition, you will see a red phone fold down from one of the cupboards on the wall.

The Bureaucrat is on the phone. He says “Absolutely” a lot, and it’s a bit funny. You can **laugh** if you want to!



The Bureaucrat asks Josie to pour the tea that suddenly appears inside one of the cupboards on the wall.



She pours the tea, but there were bits in the tea that shouldn't be there. She tries to fix it, but it gets a bit messy.

Back at school, Becca says Josie should get a lawyer. Becca also says Josie should tell her Mum. Josie doesn't want to tell her Mum, she just wants to make it go away.

In this transition, you will also see the **clocks flashing**.

At the Ministry, the Bureacrat is eating a biscuit. Josie comes in early, and he is surprised!



Josie wonders if confessing will make a difference in her trial.

She confesses to something she did when she was six. She stole a tiddlywink toy from her teacher and tried to use it as money.

She felt **nervous** and **sick** until the end of primary school.

Don't worry, this is just a made up story, and she doesn't really feel **sick**.

The Bureaucrat thinks Josie is joking. That's not why she is on trial. Josie still doesn't understand while she's on trial.

During this transition, you will hear a **phone ringing**.

The **phone** is **ringing** at the Ministry, and Josie is alone in the room.

She wonders if she should answer it. After many rings, she decides to answer it.

Just then, the Bureaucrat comes in and tells her not to answer the phone!

She is **confused**, and doesn't understand the rules.



The Bureaucrat is suddenly wearing a bunny suit, but she doesn't understand why. He takes it off.



Time keeps passing, and she still has so many appointments at the Ministry!

This time, the Bureaucrat asks her to put cream and jam on a scone. She does it quickly, and it gets a bit messy.



He isn't going to eat it, and tells Josie she cannot eat it.

She decides to eat it anyway, and stuffs it in her mouth! This looks funny, you can **laugh** if you want to.

The stage gets **darker** and there is lamp with a **bright light shining** on Josie. The Bureaucrat asks her if she is a tree in a forest or a tree on a hill?



The lights suddenly get **brighter**, and the Bureaucrat asks Josie to throw a custard pie in his face.

Josie is very confused! She doesn't believe he wants her to do it, she thinks it's a test.

She lays on the ground and will not do it.

He keeps telling her to do it, so she throws the custard pie in his face! It's funny, you can **laugh** if you want to.



She says sorry and feels **bad**, then feels **frustrated** because he told her to do it.

Becca says she should get a lawyer again.

Back at the Minsitry, the Bureaucrat asks Josie to pick a record to play. You will hear **sad, violin music**.



The Bureacrat looks off into the distance, and looks **very sad**.
Josie joins him, and also looks **very sad**. You might **feel sad** with them too, that's okay.

She asks if she got it right, and the Bureacrat says no.

You will hear a **school bell**, they are back at school. Josie is looking in her bag for her dinosaur, but is worried she can't find it. Becca waits with her.

Josie gets annoyed, and doesn't want Becca to wait for her. They have a small **argument**. Don't worry, they're not really **fighting**, it's just pretend.

Josie finds her dinosaur!



The Bureaucrat sees Josie's dinosaur and takes it from her. She wants it back.

Josie gets **very upset** and **yells** at the Bureaucrat. She does not think he is her friend, Becca is her real friend. She misses spending time with Becca.

She is so **angry** at the Bureaucrat, she starts to take paper out of his desk and **throw things** around. She jumps on top of his desk and **yells** at him, trying to get the dinosaur back.



You might feel a bit **scared**, that's okay. Nobody gets hurt, and they stop fighting at the end of the scene.

Josie is feeling lots of **big, hard emotions** and the Bureaucrat gives her a number to call for help.

You will hear a **loud school bell**.

Becca asks Josie if she is okay. Josie is feeling very **sad, scared,** and **confused**. She is so **frustrated**, she starts to **cry** and **bang loudly** on her locker many times. She **throws** her bag around, and **hits** herself in the chest.



You might feel **scared** and **upset** for Josie, but don't worry, she is not really **upset**, she is just pretending. She feels better at the end of the play.

Becca sits down with Josie, she is a good friend.

Josie is late for her appointment, and is **mad** at the Bureaucrat because there was no number to call for help. They **argue** with each other. Don't worry, they are just pretending.

You will watch a longer transition with **fast-paced music** and **changing lights**. There will be some **beeps** and the music gets **louder**.

Josie **feels lost** in the Ministry. She is opening cupboards and doors. The Bureaucrat **pops out** of a cupboard, a locker, and a door.



It might be a bit **surprising** and **creepy**, but it will not last long. You can cover your eyes if you want to.

Josie and Becca are running away from the Bureaucrat and hide in their lockers. Don't worry, he will not catch them, and no one is in real danger.



Josie comes out of a cupboard on the floor, and sees her dinosaur fold down from the wall, but it disappears again when she tries to reach for it.

At school, Becca is sitting with other people at lunch, and Josie worries Becca doesn't want to spend time with her anymore.

Becca explains that Josie is not at school very much because of her appointments. Josie didn't realise she spent so much time at the Ministry.

At the Ministry, Josie tries to confess again. She confesses to many small things she did when she was younger.

The Bureaucrat is **frustrated**, none of these are the reason she is on trial!

She asks if it's the time she told her brother **she hated him**. She looks **nervous**, because she feels **guilty** about it. You might feel sad, but don't worry, it was a mistake, and she did not mean it.



You will hear a **loud school bell**.

Josie arrives at school, but it's the end of the day and school is over.

Josie is **worried** that Becca is no longer her friend, but Becca says of course she is! Josie is **so happy** to hear that Becca is still her best friend.

At the Ministry, the Bureaucrat is taking stuff off of shelves.

Someone else is taking over Josie's case, and she will have to come to more appointments.

THIS SCENE CONTAINS REFERENCE TO GUILT & FAMILY LOSS

Josie asks if she can tell him about her brother Danny. She looks **scared**.



She tells the Bureaucrat that her brother Danny **died** when he was seven.

Josie tells the Bureaucrat about the day Danny **died**. She wanted to go to the swimming pool and Danny wanted to go to the roller rink. They flipped a coin, and Josie won. When they went to the swimming pool, Danny **drowned**.

Josie starts to **cry**. You might feel **sad** for Josie and for Danny, it's okay to feel **sad**. Josie will feel better at the end of the play.

Josie wishes that she hadn't **argued** with him, and that he had won the coin toss, so they went to the roller disco instead of the swimming pool. She feels **guilty**, and thinks it's **her fault** that he **drowned**.

He was also obsessed with dinosaurs, and that's why she always needs to have a toy dinosaur in her bag.



Josie tells Becca that she thinks she's on trial because it's **her fault** Danny drowned.

Becca tells her it's **not her fault!**

THIS SCENE CONTAINS REFERENCE TO GUILT & FAMILY LOSS

When Josie goes back to the Ministry, the Bureaucrat is still there. He was **sorry** to hear about her brother.

Josie asks if that's why she is on trial. He tells her that is not the reason.

She wonders why she is on trial. The Bureaucrat doesn't know why Josie was on trial! Josie cannot believe it.

The Bureaucrat tells Josie that **Danny's death** was not her fault, and that Becca was right.



The Bureaucrat tells Josie that he understands how she **feels**.

His Mum **died** in a car accident when he was younger. She was giving him a lift to the train station, so he feels like it was **his fault**.

They both talk about feeling **guilty**, and how it's sometimes hard to feel **happy**.

Josie says she sometimes does feel **happy**, but then she remembers about Danny and feels **terrible** again.

The Bureaucrat is not happy with his job at the Ministry anymore.

He asks if he can play Josie a song. You will hear the **record** he puts on for Josie.



The song gets louder, and the Bureaucrat starts to **dance**. It's very **silly**, you can **laugh** if you want to!

Josie starts to **laugh** at his dancing.



You will hear the **phone ring** and the clocks will **flash quickly**.

Josie is back at school and tells Becca that the Bureaucrat didn't know what she was on trial for!

Josie knows she is innocent—the only thing she could be guilty of is being herself, and no one should feel guilty for that.

Suddenly, The Bureaucrat **pops out** of a cupboard. His shirt is ripped and you will see some **bloodstains**. Don't worry, he's not really hurt.

He hands her a present and says happy birthday—it's been one whole year since the trial started.



Josie opens the gift—it's her dinosaur!

She feels **relieved** because the trial is over.

Becca wishes her a happy birthday, and you will see a **confetti pop**.



The **lights** get **darker onstage** and **come back on** and the actors will all take a bow.

The audience will **clap**, and this will get a **bit loud**. You can **cover your ears** if you want to. You can **clap** with them if you want to!



You will hear **fun, party music** and the actors will dance offstage.

That's the end of the show. Thank you for coming to the Unicorn Theatre!