



THE LITTLEST YAK

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Social Story

This social story will give you more detail about what to expect from the performance including information about our lighting, characters, and storyline.

What to expect at *The Littlest Yak*

At this family show you can expect a heartwarming tale about Gertie the yak. There will be songs, some are quieter, and some have slightly louder music. There will also be puppets including large yak heads and smaller yak puppets.

There is one scene where the performers will ask you to do some dance moves. You can do these sat down in your seat. You don't have to join in if you don't want to, but it is really fun.

What to expect at our Relaxed Performances

At our Relaxed Performances on Sunday 28 December and Saturday 03 January at 11am and 2pm, the house lights will remain on, and the sound volume will be lower too. The doors are kept open, and you can come and go as you like. There will also be a private chill out space next to the Box Office that you can visit if you need time away from the auditorium.

Please use this information pack to familiarise yourself with the characters in the show and what the actors look like. If you have any questions, you can email enquiries@LAsTheatre.com

The Littlest Yak: characters

Most of the characters in this show are Yaks. Yaks are animals that are like bigger cows with horns, shaggy hair and humped shoulders.

This is **Gertie**, she is a small yak puppet with white wool, a black face with wide eyes and a bright woolly hat with red, yellow and green patterns. She is a very excitable, energetic yak and is very brave.



This is **Gertie's Mummy**, whose name is **Fluffy Sue** she is very kind and caring. Gertie's Mummy has big white horns and a red and blue woolly hat with long ear covers.



This is **Barbara**, she is a bird and is friends with Gertie, she always looks out for her friend. She is a blackbird.

This is **Frank**, he is a snow marmot, he is friends with Barbara and Gertie. Snow Marmots are big squirrels that live in winter conditions.



This is **Bertie**, he is the smallest yak, even smaller than Gertie. Bertie has small horns and a yellow scarf.



There are seven other yaks. They all have different personalities but all live together as a group (as a herd). They have different accessories and types of hat, such as a red beret, woolly hats or glasses.



Sometimes, when the yaks are far away, they are smaller puppets.

This is **Gertie** when she is travelling up in the mountains.



This is Louise, Darcey and Emily, they are the yak handlers and will be telling you the story of the show. Emily has ginger hair in two plaits, she is Gertie's handler. Louise has brown hair, she wears it up and she is Gertie's Mummy's handler. Darcey has blonde hair and also wears it up, she is Bertie's handler and sings and plays the guitar and flute.



In this production of The Littlest Yak there is another performer called Alexandra. Alexandra plays the role of the Swing. This is a role that covers all the parts in the show, so if someone is ill then Alexandra will perform in that role. You might see Alexandra play the parts of Gertie, Mummy, or Bertie. This is what Alexandra looks like when she is in her Bertie costume.



The Littlest Yak: The story

This story is set in the Himalayas, a big mountain range. It is Winter and very cold. The story is all about a herd of yaks that live together. Gertie is the smallest yak of the herd. Gertie wants to grow up and is excited to get bigger.

Gertie's mummy tries to tell Gertie that she shouldn't rush to grow up and reminds her that every yak is unique and has their own special qualities different to everyone else. But Gertie still wants to be bigger and hopes to get her horns in the Spring when Winter is over. Gertie tries to get bigger by eating, running, reading and sleeping lots.

One day the yaks spot a small yak stuck up on a cliff side. Gertie is the only one who can get through the small gaps and narrow ledges to save the little yak. Gertie is very brave and climbs up to rescue the small yak called Bertie.

All the yaks celebrate Gertie when she comes back with Bertie. Gertie realises that being small isn't so bad after all and she is the perfect just the way she is.

Here's the story in more detail...



The show begins with an empty stage and you can see the set.



It is Winter and the yaks are cold.

In this opening scene Darcey will play the flute.

The yaks will also hop up from behind the hills.



We find out about the nine yaks of the herd, including Gertie and Mummy.



We meet Frank and Barbara. Barbara's talking is shown through the sound of a flute.



Gertie is hungry and the herd go for a walk to eat some grass. This is Gertie's first walk in the thick snow, and she finds it hard to keep up with the others. But her Mummy tells her she did a good job and brings her some grass to eat when Gertie couldn't get any herself.



The yaks go home. Gertie is excited about getting bigger one day. Mum puts Gertie to bed and tells her not to rush growing up because it's great being small too.



Gertie takes part in big yak boot camp, a routine she creates to try to grow bigger. The song with this routine is rocky and upbeat. This is the scene where you can join in with the dance if you want to.

There are four dance moves:

- Raising your hands (hooves) to your mouth like you're eating
- Moving your arms like you're running
- Turning the pages on a book like you're reading
- Putting your hands together, using them like a pillow like you're sleeping



Mummy tells Gertie to settle down, tidy up and go to bed. She tells her a bedtime story about the stars and her family members from the past, like her grandfather and great great grandmother.



Gertie falls asleep.



When Gertie wakes up the other yaks aren't there. Barbara gives Gertie a message to go and find them.



When Gertie finds them, the yaks are worried about a small yak that is stuck up on the edge of a cliff on the mountain.

Gertie is the only yak small enough to get through the small gaps and ledges to reach the little yak.

Gertie bravely climbs up the mountain and finds the little yak.



He is called Bertie and is very cold and sad that he is not grippy enough to get back down the mountain. Gertie tells Bertie that it is great being small too and helps him down from the mountain.

The yaks cheer 'Yak Yak Hooray!' to celebrate Gertie's bravery and the safety of Bertie.



Barbara brings Gertie some mulberries, this shows that Spring is coming. Gertie isn't sure she's ready to grow up and for the Spring to arrive now.



Gertie's Mummy tells her she will always love her and that she's happy Gertie realises that she is perfect just the way she is.



The yaks sing to celebrate the end of the show. They now are a herd of 10 yaks including little Bertie. You can clap along to the music if you would like to, but you don't have to.

Emily, Louise and Darcey then take a bow with the yaks, you can clap and cheer for them.

Thank you for watching!