

Visual Story for
Tree



Tues Aug 30 – 7:45pm

Wed Aug 31 – 6:00pm

Thu Sep 1 – 8:00pm

Sat Sep 3 – 8:00pm

Sun Sep 4 – 4:45pm

Download the venue visual story [on our website](#)

VICTORIA
FRINGE
FESTIVAL

About “Tree”

Performance time

- The performance will aim to start at the following times on these days:

Tues Aug 30 – 7:45pm

Wed Aug 31 – 6:00pm

Thu Sep 1 – 8:00pm

Sat Sep 3 – 8:00pm

Sun Sep 4 – 4:45pm

- The performance is approximately 1 hour.

What to expect

- The lights above you may be a bit dark sometimes
- It is ok to move
- It is ok to make noise
- It is ok to react
- It is ok to take pictures
- It is not ok to make phone calls
- A front of house manager will make an announcement when the show is about to start

The Set and the Performers

Here is a picture of the set
(with all the performers)



Here are pictures of all the performers



Natasha Mercado plays Tree.

Natasha is a woman with brown and blonde hair, starting calmly at the viewer. In the next photo, Natasha plays the character of TREE, wearing a brown tree trunk costume with green leaves surrounding her head and arms.

Check back soon for updated photos!

Here are some people who work behind the scenes

NOTE: These people work behind the scenes, so you might not see them. Their photos will be updated closer to the show!



[Name]
Tech Operator



[Name]
ASL Interpreter

About the Story

Tree enters wearing a human mask. They reveal that they're actually a tree. This is the first big laugh of the show. There will probably be lots of laughter at different parts of the show. They call the audience "the forest" and name different sections of the audience- babbling brook, baby birds, squirrels and poisonous mushrooms. This is the first audience participation part. The audience will follow Tree as they show them what movement to do. Tree says that they want to be human. They think that the forest can be humans with them if they play a game show together called, "Would You Rather?". Tree will ask someone in the audience to answer the questions.

The first game show answer makes the forest into a wedding where Tree is a beautiful bride. The audience will participate as different parts of the wedding.

The second game show answer makes the forest into a comedy club where Tree is a Stand Up comedian who does terribly. The audience will participate as people watching the bad performance.

The third game show answer makes Tree into a primitive living instructor who brings one person on stage with them from the forest. The audience will participate as coyotes and trees.

When Tree transforms back, the game show is over. And Tree reveals that there has been a stump on stage the entire time! They reveal a notepad to make a wanted poster of the human who killed Tree. Tree turns around and there is marker all over their face in the shape of the wanted poster. Tree will ask different audience members if they look like the poster.

Tree reveals that they are actually a human- more specifically, a single mother who took her son camping. She describes how she murdered the tree. She takes over her shirt to reveal a shirt underneath it that says, "#1 Mom". The show concludes in a dance similar to "the confusing dance of life".

Loud Sounds and Bright Lights

- There will be game show music that might be a little loud
- There will be a dramatic sound played when the stump is revealed

These are the times that you may find intense:

- When the crowd is booing the Stand Up
- When the Stand Up is touching his stick penis
- When the coyotes are yipping
- When #1 Mom is describing how she killed Tree
- In the end, when Tree is cut down for the last time and dies

Maybe you will like the play, and maybe not, that is ok. It's alright to feel happy or sad or scared or angry after seeing a show.

At the end of the play, people will clap. That is a way to say thank you to the people who made the show. It is also a way to say you like the show.

It's ok to cover your ears if that is too loud. You can also wave your hands instead of clapping.

“Tree” Visual Story

SPOILER ALERT :

The visual story tells you everything that happens in the show.

At the beginning, the stage has two trees made out of fabric.

Music starts: *Un Poco Loco* by Bud Powell

Tree comes onto stage wearing a human mask.

The music has a voice over explaining the human things that Tree is trying to do.

Tree tries to put on high heels in order to do some “self care”. They can’t do it.

The music stops and Tree takes over the mask to reveal they’re actually a Tree.



“Tree” Visual Story (cont.)

Tree names different parts of the audience as a babbling brook, a nest of baby birds, squirrels and poisonous mushrooms. As they introduce these parts, Tree shows them a movement to do in order to symbolize that piece. Babbling brook waves their arms, the baby birds sing tweet tweet, the squirrels eat nuts and the poisonous mushrooms act “chill”.

Tree asks the forest if they can show them their favorite object in the world– a music box. It reminds Tree about how humans make beautiful things and are ultimately, all connected.

Tree reveals that they want to be a human and that the forest do it too. Tree thinks this is possible if everyone plays a game show together.

Game show music plays.

Tree introduces the game, “Would You Rather?” where the forest is given two things to decide between. The correct answer is the more human sounding answer.

The first answer is that you would rather “be the most beautiful and important person in the room filled with everyone who loves you”. Tree transforms into a beautiful bride. Tree names the audience different parts again– the family section and asks them to cry, the flower girls and gives them “flowers” to throw (that are actually little sticks in Tree’s satchel), the bridesmaids who Tree yells at like a birdezilla for looking “too hot”, and the band. The band plays music as the bride walks down the aisle. The bride kisses her husband Tree (one of the fabric ones on stage) and she pretends to have “sex” with the tree. She transforms back into the game show.



“Tree” Visual Story (cont.)

Tree introduces the second round of the game show. The second answer is that you would rather “be hated by an entire room of people all at once”. Tree “transforms”, pulls out a stick and pretends it’s a broom. They say that they work at a cafe and are closing up shop. Tree pretends to be a man who asks someone out on a date in the audience. They invite this person to their stand up show. He lives in Los Angeles so he sends the address and it’s very far away. Tree tries to park at different places asking audience members if they can park there– Tree tries to get the audience members to say, “No”. Finally, Tree has to valet and asks an audience member how much is it. Tree transforms into the host of the show and introduces the man to do stand up. He makes awkward jokes. Tree breaks character and says we are entering the three stages of disappointment– denial, passive resistance and active resistance. Tree gets the audience to first be very polite to the man doing stand up, then slightly ignore him and finally, heckle/boo the stand up. The stand up gets angry and pulls his “penis” out (the stick he was using as a microphone). Tree explains how the patriarchy has hurt the man and this is what it’s made him do because he doesn’t know how else to act. The stand up says, “I thought you were different” and Tree transforms back into the game show.



“Tree” Visual Story (cont.)

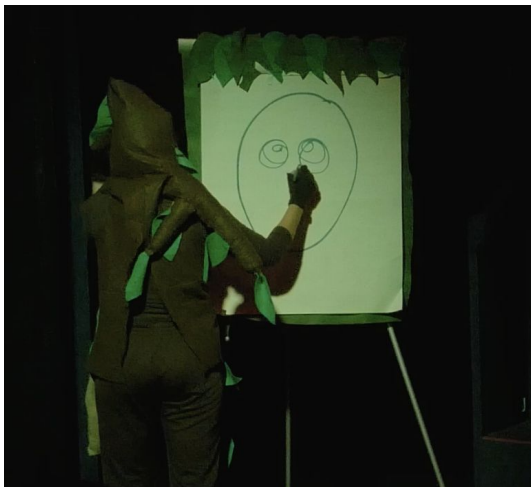
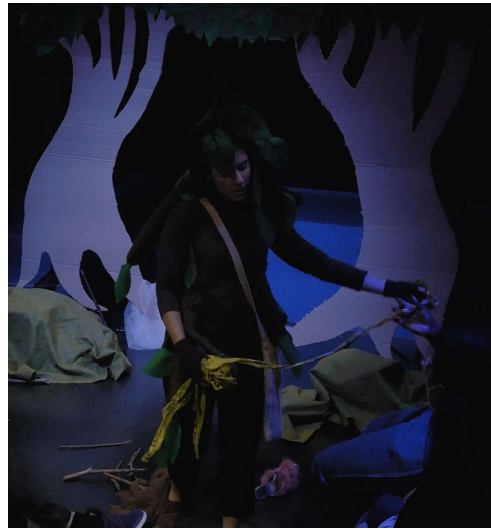
Tree introduces the third and final round of the game show. The third answer is that you would rather “be completely spiritually and physically responsible for someone else’s life”. Tree “transforms” into a primitive living instructor, outdoorsy man. He checks his mouse trap and mimes eating the mouse. He puts on his patagonia backpack, drinks a nalgene and eats some almonds all by playing with sticks. Tree says there’s coyotes out in the forest and the audience yips as coyotes. Tree says there’s one person who’s saying, “Help! I’ve fallen and I can’t get up!” and whoever yells that, is asked to come up on stage. Tree shows this person how to make a fire. Then, they ask if they ever talk with trees and ask the forest to say some things to the person about how they can connect better with nature. Tree says the coyotes come back and asks the person on stage with them if they want to kill the coyotes or let the coyotes kill them. No matter what the answer is, Tree decides to kill the coyotes to save them. This happens by Tree pretending to shoot and stab the coyotes with sticks. They never touch the audience. Afterwards, Tree says there’s coyote meat and pretends to pick it up from the audience. Tree asks the person on stage with them to build a fire so they can cook the coyote meat. Once they finish the fire, Tree says they have taught them all they can and asks the person to “go back to their camp” and leave the stage.



“Tree” Visual Story (cont.)

When they come back, Tree acts like it's the game show again but there isn't a prize. Tree explains the prize was getting to pretend to be human together. It's awkward. Tree gets some yellow police tape and starts giving it to the front of the audience saying that it would be a shame if something happened in the forest while no one was paying attention. And that luckily someone was paying attention to when a fellow tree was cut down. A dramatic sound is played. Tree picks up a piece of fabric that's been on stage the entire time and reveals a stump made of felt underneath.

Tree says they weren't here to play games, they were here investigating a murder. They pull a notepad from behind stage and say that the forest should make a wanted poster to catch the human who did this. As Tree is getting suggestions of what the person looked like, Tree is drawing on their face. They ask the forest to scream and say, “That's the person who killed Tree!” if they ever see this human. Tree turns around and reveals the markings made on their face that are the same color as the picture drawn on the notepad. Everyone yells, “That's the human who killed tree!”



“Tree” Visual Story (cont.)

Tree asks different parts of the forest if they look like the poster and each person says yes. Tree says they couldn't have done that while taking off parts of their Tree costume. Once all the costume parts are off, Tree says that they're actually a human and that they tricked the forest AGAIN.

And not only are they human, they're also a single mother with one son. And her son loves camping. She asks the forest if they want to hear how she murdered the tree. She then goes on to say that her son had a long weekend and wanted to go camping. So they went out and found a babbling brook but got all wet and then ran under some trees and birds started pooping on them and then ran to some other trees and squirrels started attacking them and then found one mushroom where she warned her son not to eat it because it will make him high. She said it was raining really hard so she told her son to find a tree to make shelter. She mimes smacking trees to find the perfect one. They found the perfect tree and she pulls out her axe to cut it down. She switches into the Tree character and screams. She switches back to the mother and says, “Shut up! This is my long weekend!” She cuts down the tree and tells her son to use every part. This part is kind of sad and scary. She makes a campfire and shelter with the tree parts. She said she told her son stories around the campfire. When he got scared, she got his favorite music box and played it for him. The mother plays it. She then says the next morning they went home and that the stump symbolizes a great weekend with her kid. And that if cutting down a tree means her son gets to keep loving nature, that she hopes he cuts down a million trees. She then takes off her shirt to reveal a shirt underneath that says “#1 MOM”. She asks the audience what they think. She then turns around to reveal the back says “LIAR”. She asks the audience what they think. She says, “Does this remind you of the confusing dance of life?”



“Tree” Visual Story (cont.)

Music plays: *Everywhere* by Michelle Branch

The Single Mother picks up different props from the bride, stand up and outdoorsy man. She dances with them and asks the audience questions like, “Am I pretty? Am I safe? Am I smart? Am I funny? Do you love me?”

The music stops. The Single Mother says that this is the time with Tree dies. And puts the Tree costume back on. They ask that the forest cheer them on because it’s what Tree would have wanted. Tree wanted to be alive and celebrate life. And if Tree has to die, that means they were alive.

The music *Everywhere* by Michelle Branch plays again. Tree slowly falls over while the audience cheers them on. Tree keeps encouraging them to cheer louder or say different things. They lights go down.

The end.

