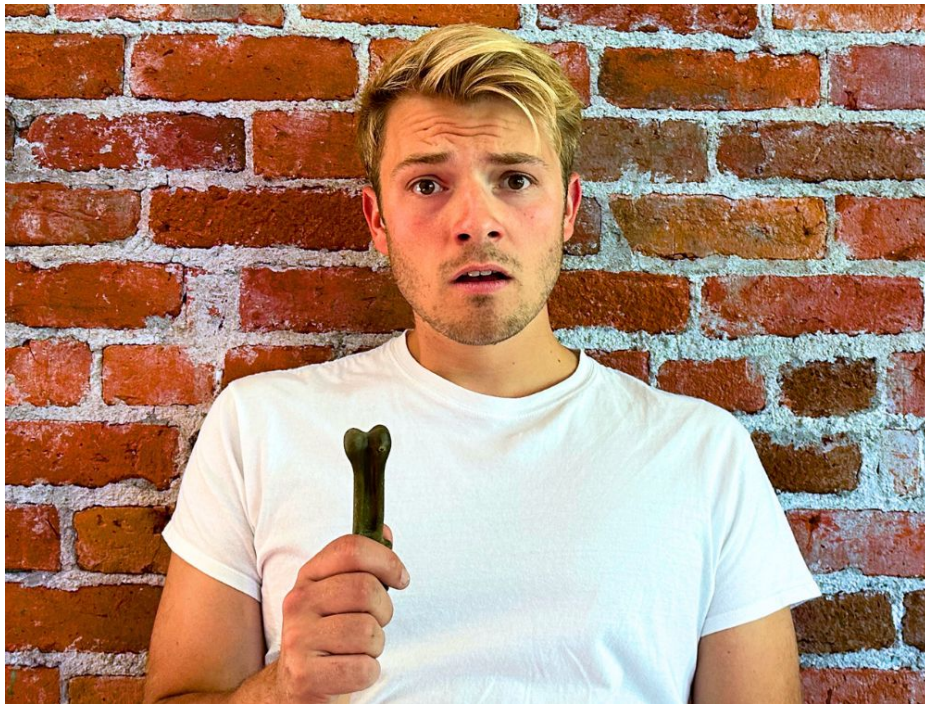


# Visual Story for

## **BAD DOG**



August 29, 8:30 PM

August 31, 7PM

Sept 1, 5:30PM

Sept 2, 6:15PM

Sept 3, 1PM

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

**VICTORIA**  
**FRINGE**  
**FESTIVAL**

# About BAD DOG

## Performance time

- The performance will aim to start at **the agreed showtime (see page 1)**
- The performance is approximately 52 minutes long.
- It will finish around 55 minutes after showtime.

## What to expect

- The lights above you will be dark/always stay on/may be a bit dark sometimes [description of house lights]
- It is ok to move
- It is ok to make noise
- It is ok to react
- It is not ok to take pictures, text, or make phone calls
- A front of house manager will make an announcement when the show is about to start.
- At the end, the playwright (Lindsey) will come out and give a short thank you speech.

## Here are pictures of all the performers



Dawson Rutledge plays The Dog



Jessica Burdge plays The Owner.



Lynnéa Chan plays The Neighbor.



Darian Ngai plays The Cat.

## Here are some other people you may see:

NOTE: These people work behind the scenes, so you might not see them.



Taylor Guidotti  
Stage Manager



Lindsey Schneider  
Director/Playwright

# About the Story

This is a short synopsis of the show. The full show summary is on the last section of this document.

Bad Dog is the story of a pandemic puppy, adopted March 2020. The Owner adopts The Dog from the United States, and brings him home to Vancouver Island. He quickly realizes that his introverted, stay-at-home artist Owner is **not** who he imagined would be his adventure companion! He takes a strong dislike to The Owner, and hatches a plan: To become such a Bad Dog that The Owner decides to take him back to the shelter. However, The Owner's love for him is stronger than he realized, and his plans are often thwarted! When The Dog tries to embarrass The Owner in front of their crush, The Neighbor, it doesn't work, and The Neighbor and The Cat come into his life, challenging his views on love, friendship, and expectations. This play is a comedy, which means it's funny! However, there are more serious moments:

- When The Dog or The Cat talks, they may speak directly to the audience members and make eye contact with them. You do not have to do or say anything. If you really want to avoid this, try to sit in the second, third, or fourth rows.
- This play is a comedy, with lots of silly moments. You and other audience members may laugh a lot. It could get loud—it's okay to cover your ears.
- When The Owner talks about her old dog who passed away, this might make you sad. That is okay.
- When the actor playing The Dog "sexy dances" with the actor playing The Cat, it might be embarrassing to watch, or it might make you laugh! It's okay to cover your eyes.
- When The Dog pretends to poop, this might be funny or embarrassing!
- When The Dog attacks The Neighbor, this might be scary, because he will throw her to the ground, and she will grab him by the shirt collar (don't worry, no one gets hurt!). It's okay to react or be scared.

# Loud Sounds and Bright Lights

- When The Dog comes up with his plan, there are thunder noises and lightning lights (close to the beginning).
- There is **no strobe**. There are two short, bright flashes of lightning.
- These flashes are separated from some talking: *light flash, **The Dog talks**, another light flash*.
- During the thunder and lightning part, there will be two loud thunder noises. The noises will go like this: *thunder noise, **The Dog talks**, another thunder noise*.

These are the times that you may find intense:

- When The Dog comes up with his plan: thunder and lightning.
- When The Dog and the actor playing The Cat dance on-stage: loud music.

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.

# BAD DOG Visual Story

## SPOILER ALERT :

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

As the show starts, the lights above the audience go dark.

A front of house manager comes out, and makes a speech.

Then, the stage lights go dark.

We hear The Dog's voice. The stage goes from darkness to partially lit. He is standing above the stage on a modular set made of blocks. There is a couch with a padded back, and he stands on it, with his leg up on two stacked blocks. He tells us that he has to bite The Neighbor.

Then he rewinds the story to the beginning.

He starts the story in March 2020, when The Owner adopts him.

The Owner pops up from behind the blocks and says they're going to get a dog.

The Owner places multiple phone calls, asking shelters for a dog.

The Dog paces around her, watching her get rejected.

There are the sounds of phones ringing and calls being placed.

Then finally, a worker answers and The Owner is approved.

The Owner leaves for Washington, and their phone (Siri) tells them where to go. They go the wrong way at first.

The Dog shares his dreams for his future: he's excited to leave for Canada and adventure in the wilderness. As he dreams out loud, The Cat comes onstage. He looks around, then decides to sneak up on The Dog. He leaps forward and startles The Dog.

Then, The Cat comes downstage to wave at the audience.

The Dog sends them away so they can continue the story.



# BAD DOG Visual Story

## SPOILER ALERT :

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

The Owner enters. They are now at their apartment. The blocks from before are now a couch.

The Owner shows The Dog around their new home. Then, The Owner tries to pet The Dog.

The Dog, terrified, runs away and hides behind the couch.

The Owner, undeterred, leans on the blocks and looks at The Dog with love.

The Dog talks to the audience. The Owner freezes. He moves the blocks that The Owner is leaning on, and steps up on the set again.

The Owner comes back to life. They argue, and The Owner boops his nose, plays with his hands, and grabs his head. The Dog says, "Uh-oh."

The Dog comes downstage and explains his concerns to the audience. He walks down the aisle as he talks to us.

While he talks, The Cat wanders back onstage, and lays down on the stacked blocks, as if they were a cat tower. He plays with the cat post.

The Dog spots The Cat and yells. He runs offstage to find The Owner to fix things, but The Owner only leads him offstage.

The Cat stretches and talks to the audience. The Cat moves the set pieces around, and turns one block over. Then, he sits in it like it's a box.

The Cat shows us his world: The Neighbor enters. She talks on the phone and flops down on the couch blocks. The Cat tries to startle her. Then The Cat tries to snuggle with her, but she pushes him away, because she realizes she will be late. The Cat walks over the furniture while The Neighbor moves it into a new position. The Cat jumps down to say goodbye, but The Neighbor rushes away.

The Neighbor runs offstage, and The Cat goes to sleep on the couch.

The Dog enters, followed by The Owner. The Owner sits him down on one of the blocks, and tries to put a birthday hat on him. He rips it off.

The Cat wakes up, and sees his costume through the window. The Dog runs away, closer to the audience.

The Owner follows him, taking pictures on their phone.

The Dog gets angry, but The Owner hugs him and says they love him. The Dog breaks away, and The Owner follows him offstage.

# BAD DOG Visual Story

## SPOILER ALERT :

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

The Cat, who has stayed onstage, turns to the audience and tells us there is more to the story. The Neighbor comes on and helps them move the furniture into the set-up for the bedroom.

While they move things, The Owner enters and paces close to the audience.

Then, The Owner sits down on the “bed” and writes a social media post about their family dog who passed away. This part is sad.

The Cat listens, and notices what a good owner they are.

Then, The Neighbor enters, and hugs The Cat.

Then she sits down to take off her shoes. The Cat follows them around the stage, and then offstage. The Neighbor takes off the cat post with her.

The Owner is still onstage. Dog comes in while The Owner is frozen, and gets annoyed.

He talks to the audience, and tells them about “one night” where things got worse at home.

The Owner comes back to life. They offer The Dog a treat. The Dog comes over to sit by them. The Owner puts a hand on The Dog’s shoulder, and he jumps away.

The Owner offers another treat, and The Dog sits down on the dog bed, which is on the floor. Then, The Dog rests his head on The Owner’s knees. The Owner starts to draw them with their sketchbook.

The Dog falls asleep. The Owner freezes.

The Dog wakes up and speaks to the audience. He grabs the bag of dog treats and throws them against one of the blocks. It makes a loud noise.

He has a sinister idea. There is a loud noise of thunder cracking. The lights go brighter.

The Cat yowls from offstage. There is another loud thunder noise.

The Dog thinks of their plan. They decide to act like such a Bad Dog that The Owner takes them back to the shelter. “New home, new owner.” They throw the dog bed offstage, and then sit down next to The Owner, who is frozen.

The Owner unfreezes, and gets up. She holds up a pair of destroyed shoes, and talks to The Dog about them. The Dog yells after her when she exits.

The Owner re-enters with a box. They dump out the box to reveal tons of dog toys. This surprises The Dog, but they play catch and throw the toys around the stage. The Owner tosses the toy to The Dog as they leave. They exit through the aisle by the audience.

# BAD DOG Visual Story

## SPOILER ALERT :

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

The Owner and The Dog re-enter. They are on a walk. The Dog sees one of the blocks is in the wrong place, and moves it. The Dog sees The Neighbor running, and yells at her, startling her. This part will be loud. He tries to approach her but The Owner holds him back.

The Neighbor and The Owner talk for a while. Then The Neighbor jogs off to continue her run.

The Dog yells after her. The Owner comforts him. He sits down on one of the blocks and won't move. The Owner tugs on his arm and eventually, drags him to standing, and they exit.

The Dog and The Owner walk around the back of the stage, and it's another day.

The actor who plays The Cat enters, and puts on a fuzzy jacket. They act as The Other Dog.

The Dog speaks to the audience, and tells us that he "only has so many actors".

The actor who plays The Neighbor enters in a long coat. She is playing The Other Dog Owner.

The Other Dog Owner and The Owner talk upstage, away from the audience.

The Other Dog and The Dog circle each other.

The Other Dog Owner notices The Dog, and circles him. She insults his pedigree, and goes over to her Dog.

The Dog steps towards her angrily, and The Owner tries to stop him.

The Other Dog Owner shows off The Other Dog. She claps, and The Other Dog hops onto a block like it's a pedestal. She circles them and shows them off.

The Owner brought up The Dog's past, which upsets him. He talks to the audience about how rude this is. Then he gets another "bad dog" idea.

The Dog approaches The Other Dog, who sits down on the pedestal block. They ask The Other Dog if they wouldn't mind "initializing a false mating ritual" (ie dance) so that The Dog can "get out of his...abusive home." The Other Dog falls for this lie, and agrees to pretend to mate so that The Dog can get sent back to the shelter.

Loud club music starts to play. The lights change. Dog holds out his hand to dance, but The Other Dog starts a sexy dance routine that surprises him. The Other Dog twirls into his arms, touches his chest, and drops it low. Then The Other Dog shows him a dance move, and they do it together. It is goofy and they don't touch. The Owner and The Other Dog Owner, who have been chatting upstage, yell and come downstage. The fake dance worked and they are horrified. They separate the two dogs.

The Owner apologizes, and pushes The Dog away from The Other Dog.

The Other Dog Owner grabs The Other Dog by the elbow, and takes them away. They exit through the aisle close to the audience.

# BAD DOG Visual Story

## SPOILER ALERT :

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

The Dog yells that he will never forget them. The Owner sits down, embarrassed. The Dog gloats. Then The Owner thinks, pulls out their phone, and dials the vet. The Dog says, “What are you calling the vet for?”

The lights change, and The Dog falls to the ground. He says he’s been neutered. He is wearing a hospital bracelet.

The Owner comes onstage and gives him lots of attention. He rolls around on the floor and accuses her of mistreatment.

The Dog struggles to stand. He tries to tear off the bracelet with his hands and teeth.

The Cat enters, and talks to The Neighbor, who is offstage. They ask if they can hang out with The Dog and their Owner.

The Dog and The Owner are out on a walk. The Dog hops up on a block, and jumps. There is a loud splashing noise, and The Owner shrieks.

He has jumped into a puddle, soaking her. He brags, but then The Owner starts crying.

He is shocked. The Owner sits down and continues to cry.

The Neighbor enters, with The Cat behind them.

The Neighbor and The Owner start to talk.

The Dog goes over to say hello to The Cat, but they wave him away.

The Owner notices The Cat behind The Neighbor.

The Cat prances across the stage.

The Dog interrupts their conversation and asks to leave.

The Neighbor and The Cat exit. The Owner comes downstage, then exits after them.

The Dog talks to the audience. The Cat reenters, without being seen.

The Dog sits down, deep in thought. While he talks, The Cat sits close to him.

The Dog gets startled by The Cat.

The Dog exits, and The Cat talks to the audience about their old owner. This part may be sad.

# BAD DOG Visual Story

## SPOILER ALERT :

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

The Dog enters, and The Cat and The Dog take turns talking to the audience.

The Cat and The Dog move the blocks into a long line, like a hallway.

The Neighbor enters on one half on the stage, and gets ready for their run.

The Owner enters, on the other half of the stage.

The Cat exits.

The Dog, The Owner, and The Neighbor move out of their areas and meet each other in the “hallway.”

The Owner and The Neighbor talk about the holidays.

The Dog asks for some “Tchaikovsky” , and classical ballet music plays.

The Dog does some ballet-style warmups, using The Owner’s shoulder as a ballet barre.

The Dog moves over to The Neighbor, and as the music swells, does a squat and “poops” (does not actually, but pretends!) on The Neighbor’s shoes. This part may be shocking!

The Owner yells, “No!”

The Neighbor pulls The Dog away from The Neighbor.

The Owner yells, “Bad Dog”

The Dog yells, “SAY IT AGAIN!” This part will be loud.

The Owner cleans off The Neighbor’s shoes.

The Neighbor runs off, and The Dog gloats to The Owner.

The Cat changes the stage furniture into a café table and two chairs.

The Dog grabs these from them and slams them down on the stage. This may be loud.

The Dog crawls under the table.

The Owner and The Neighbor flirt and chat. The Owner draws The Dog.

The Neighbor leaves the table and answers a phone call.

The Owner swoons over The Neighbor, and The Dog pretends to throw up.

The Owner and The Neighbor flirt. The Cat twirls onstage just as The Neighbor and The Owner hold hands.

The Dog hates that.

# BAD DOG Visual Story

## SPOILER ALERT :

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

The Owner and The Neighbor spin, dance, flirt, and generally act romantic.

The Dog leaves the stage angrily.

They sit down on the couch in The Neighbor's apartment.

The Owner asks where The Cat is, and The Cat hides behind their furniture.

The Dog and The Cat go for a walk together.

They talk about some more serious topics, including how The Cat's owner isn't as affectionate as he wished.

Some of this is funny, but some is serious.

After their walk, The Cat curls up for a nap.

The Owner draws The Dog, who is sitting for a portrait in a big, stupid hat.

The Dog is very unhappy, and makes a joke referring to euthanasia.

The Neighbor says he isn't looking well.

The Owner asks The Neighbor if they would take The Dog out on a run the next day.

The Dog paces the stage. He has realized his next step.

The Owner leaves for work. They hug The Dog.

At The Neighbor's apartment, The Cat follows her around.

The Neighbor and The Dog leave for their run.

The lights change, and The Dog says we're all caught up on the story—we have reached the spot where the story started in the beginning.

The Dog says he has to bite The Neighbor. The lights change back.

The actor playing The Dog catches up to the actor playing The Neighbor. He grabs her and throws her to the ground. This part may be scary or startling. She screams. He runs up to her as if to cause more damage, but stops, and turns to run away. She runs after him, and grabs him by the shirt collar. The Neighbor yells at him. They argue. The Dog looks to leave, but changes his mind, and sits down in front of The Neighbor.

The Neighbor tells The Dog they're not done talking about the issue, and they run back to The Owner's apartment.

# BAD DOG Visual Story

## SPOILER ALERT :

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

Back at The Owner's apartment, The Dog talks about being in love with The Neighbor.

The Cat enters, and questions him.

The Owner and The Neighbor enter. The Neighbor tells them about the accident. Her arm is wrapped in her running jacket. She shows The Owner where The Dog hurt her. Then, The Neighbor exits.

The Cat sees this, and argues with The Dog. The Cat exits.

The Owner approaches The Dog.

The Owner tells The Dog that they failed him as an owner.

The Dog is distraught.

The Neighbor re-enters, and The Owner leaves The Dog to drive her to the clinic.

The sound of a door closing.

Time passes, and The Dog tries to talk to The Cat, who won't listen to their excuses.

The lights get darker, and all the actors walk around The Dog, who is lying on the bed.

Time continues to pass, as the actors repeat these lines to The Dog, who does not move.

The lights change again. The Dog continues to lie on the stage, but the other actors disperse.

At The Neighbor's apartment, The Cat hides away, The Neighbor gets a phone call, and The Owner waits in the living room.

The Dog talks to the audience.

The Cat re-emerges. The Owner searches their backpack for a treat.

The Owner and The Cat get to know each other.

As The Neighbor re-enters after her phone call, The Cat and The Owner exit together.

The Dog remarks that he's made a huge mistake.

The Neighbor leaves to go see The Dog.

At The Owner's apartment, The Neighbor goes to talk to The Dog.

She sits by him, and tells him she got the job in Tofino.

The Dog believes he's being left behind, until The Neighbor clarifies that everyone, including him, is moving too.

# BAD DOG Visual Story

## SPOILER ALERT :

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

The Dog is so excited he hugs The Neighbor and twirls her around.

The Owner enters.

The Dog and The Neighbor exit.

The Owner watches them leave, then starts to clean up the apartment as they prepare to move.

The Dog re-enters.

The Dog and The Owner sit on the blocks and connect.

The Dog approaches The Owner, who puts a hand on his shoulder.

The Dog talks to the audience as The Cat grabs one of the costumes from before and enters.

The Cat models for The Owner. The Owner sketches The Cat.

The Owner makes a phone call, and The Neighbor supports them.

The Dog and The Cat play fight onstage.

The Dog talks to the audience, as the lights change to reflect their move out of the city to the forests of Tofino.

The Cat, The Neighbor, and The Owner climb over the furniture and walk through the aisle as they hike and explore.

The Neighbor runs through the aisle. The Owner times her at the finish line.

The Dog speaks to the audience.

The Cat leaps offstage as if to kill a bird. There is a screeching noise.

The Owner and The Neighbor run offstage.

The Dog comes downstage and ends his story. The lights change to highlight him.

The lights go completely dark, and the play is over.

The audience will clap, yell, cheer, or whistle!

The actors come out and take a bow.

The director enters, and thanks the audience for coming.

The lights above the audience come back on, and the event is over!