



Crying Out Loud presents

These Books Are Made For Walking

Bikes & Rabbits

Visual Story

A visual resource for children and adults to help
prepare you for seeing the show

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About the show

In a deserted old-fashioned library a curious tale unfolds before your eyes. Join the librarian as he discovers the mysteries of the books he cares for so carefully. Follow his playful journey, and revel at his encounters with stories and characters along the way. Books are reconstructed to become headdresses and slippers, paper planes fly through the air, books are consumed, and piled high to become a precarious landscape. The characters struggle to find equilibrium and what they mean to each other.

These Books Are Made For Walking is a delightfully inventive piece of physical theatre created by Bikes and Rabbits, who mix circus skills, live sound and theatre to create daring and highly original work. It is 50 minutes long and is suitable for all people aged 6 and above.

Detailed Synopsis

Once upon a time there is a peculiar library with a meticulous librarian. He feeds on the books he finds, on their smell, their noise and also on whatever he can find inside: stories, heroes, and extraordinary adventures.

One day, the last book he puts on the shelf seems to make more noise than the others. When he looks inside, he realises the book is empty. It is simply full of blank pages.

The noises from the books have woken up something that starts moving on the top shelf.

Some books start to fall from the shelf, eventually revealing a Samurai.

The Japanese warrior stands up on top of the shelves, takes off his armour and reveals that underneath, actually, there is a woman. Is she a character in a book? Is she all the characters from every book you have ever read?

Little by little, she discovers the real world around her and in her wanderings the whole library starts to tilt. The librarian tries to catch the books as they fall.

At this moment arrives a musician in a kilt, playing a guitar. Seeing the woman he becomes entranced and climbs up the library shelves to join her. He wants to become her friend. He thinks he's in love with her.

The librarian feels left out. He is frustrated. He endeavors to make the woman and the musician fall to the ground by any means possible. He finds some garden shears and uses them to break the library shelves apart and pinch the musician, in order to separate him from the woman. Defeated, he ends up playing the guitar with the shears (in a most unusual fashion).

The woman doesn't seem interested in either of the two men. However her and the musician become partners in a dangerous balancing game on the ladders with all of the musical instruments. This only comes to an end when the librarian finds a rope to enable the woman to get down safely to the floor.

She leaves for another adventure, followed by the librarian and the musician.

The Characters



Alice: The character from the books



Fabrice: The Librarian



Patrice: The Musician

The Visual Story

The purpose of this visual story is to guide you through the performance of *These Books Are Made For Walking*. It will alert you to scene changes, key plot developments and sound and lighting effects.

Special alerts are written in blue ink.



When you enter the theatre space, you will see three ladders on the stage. They are covered with books. This is the library.

The show opens with the librarian tidying up the shelves.

Alert: music - repetitive beat



Alert-books start falling from the shelves.

A mysterious character emerges from a puff of smoke. It is a Samurai warrior.

Alert-theatrical smoke on stage



Patrice climbs up the ladder on to the shelf and plays guitar with Alice, the woman from the books. Fabrice is left out and wants to get her attention.

Alert-guitar music



Fabrice tries lots of different inventive ways to separate Patrice and Alice. Fabrice comes on to the stage with a pair of garden shears. He attempts to cut the tape holding the ladders together.

He invites a member of the audience on to the stage to help move the ladders.

Alert: don't worry this looks difficult but is fun.



Fabrice prods Patrice and Alice with the shears to encourage them to come down.

Alert: Fabrice does not hurt them. He is pretending.

Both refuse to come down from the bookshelf.

Alert: Alice takes a pretend paper gun from inside a book and points it at Fabrice in a playful way.



Alice and Patrice play see-saw on the ladder, at the same time as playing music and singing together. Alice makes music with a lamp. Patrice uses his electric guitar and makes strange musical sounds.

Alert: this is fun but a bit weird and noisy



Fabrice steals the synthesizer that Patrice is using to make sounds with his guitar. Fabrice plays with the controls and makes very noisy and strange sounds.

This makes Patrice cross. He manages to snatch the synthesizer from Fabrice and he ties it on to the ladder so that Fabrice cannot steal it again. Fabrice leaves the stage

Alert: this is fun but a bit weird and noisy



Fabrice returns with the shears attached to a broom handle. The broom handle is balanced on his chin. He very cleverly manages to play the electric guitar that Patrice is holding, with the garden shears balancing on his chin.

Alert: this is a circus trick. Don't try this at home!



Alice dresses up as a ballerina and balances on the ladder. She does a little dance movement.

Fabrice starts to prepare the stage for the final scene and moves the ladders into a new position.



Fabrice invites a member of the audience on to the stage to help. The audience member sits on a pile of books for the rest of the show.



Alice dances and balances on the rope. Patrice sings. The play comes to an end.

The performers leave the stage. This is the end of the show. They return to the stage to take a bow. The audience will clap their hands if they have enjoyed the show. You can clap your hands if you have enjoyed the show.

The End

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