

Visual Story for the Relaxed Performance of This is the Point



March 28-30 @7:30pm, March 31 @2pm

About This is the Point

Performance time

- The performance will aim to start at **7:30pm** on March 28, 29 & 30. There is also a performance at 2pm on March 31.
- The performance is approximately 1 hour and 20 minutes.

What to expect

- The lights above you will always stay on, it may be a bit dark sometimes, but **never all dark**
- It is ok to move
- It is ok to make noise

- It is ok to react
- The lights in the lobby will flash on and off a few times **5 minutes** before the show starts
- This is a reminder that the show is about to start.

Chill-Out Zone

- If you want to leave the Theatre at any time, you can go to the lobby any time.
- An usher can help you go there.
- You can go back into the theatre any time.

The Set and the Performers

Here is a picture of the set with all the performers

Note:
Three
performers
appear live.
There are
also
characters
that appear
through video
images



Here are pictures of all the performers



Tony Diamanti plays Tony



Liz MacDougall plays Liz



Dan Watson plays Dan



Dan Watson plays Sunflower

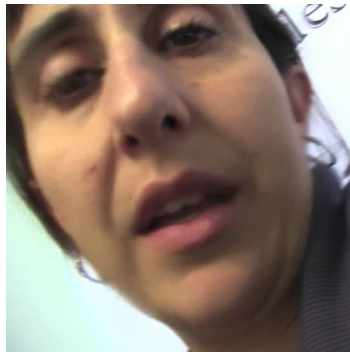




Dan Watson plays Christina



Dan Watson plays Randy



Christina Serra plays Christina (on video)



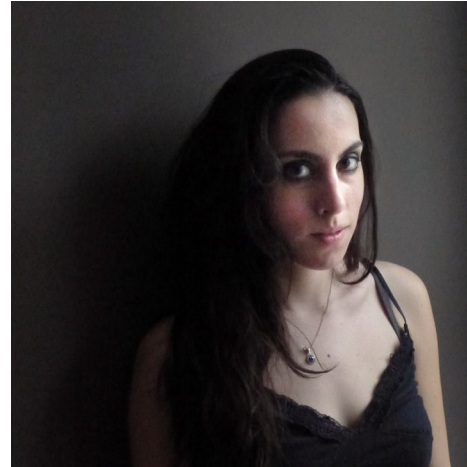
Bruno Serra plays Bruno (on video)

Here are pictures of the Stage Managers.

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



Pip Bradford
Stage Manager



Melissa Joakim
Projection Designer

Here are pictures of the ASL Translators & Audio Describer.

NOTE: You will only see these people if you are attending the performance on March 30 at 7:30pm.



Jordan Campbell
Audio Description



Scott Garrant
ASL Translator



Richard Manilla
ASL Translator

About the Story

This play is made up of a short scenes taken from the lives of the actors who are telling the stories. The scenes explore many different themes including love, friendship, parenthood, communication and sexuality, and how disability informs and shapes the experiences of the story tellers.

Tony and Liz are a real life couple. Both have Cerebral Palsy. Cerebral Palsy is caused by damage to the brain that interrupts signals to the muscles in the body. It can take many forms. Tony uses a wheelchair and a letter board to communicate. He wears a pointer on his head which he uses to spell out words which the reader speaks back to him.

Dan is married to Christina (who appears in the play through video). They have three children (Bruno, Ralph & Simone who also appear in the play through video). Their oldest son Bruno has Cerebral Palsy, and uses his eyes to communicate. He has a book or computer which presents him with different options of things to say, and he indicates his choices with his eyes.

There is a lot of dialogue about sex. In one scene, Tony's first sexual experience is recreated. In another, Tony & Liz lay in a bed together and give each other massages.

One scene contains violence. It tells the story of an abusive personal care attendant, and Tony is slapped during the scene.

Loud Sounds and bright lights

- There will be no flashing lights or fireworks
- The lights have been adjusted to not be too intense
- The sound has been adjusted to not be too loud

However, these are the times that you may still find intense:

- Scene 3: Tony's first sexual experience with Sunflower (about 20 minutes into the play)
- Scene 9: Scene involving Tony's ex attendant Randy who physically assaults Tony (about 60 minutes into the play)

Maybe you will like the play, and maybe not, that is ok.
It's alright to feel happy or sad 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.

This is the Point Visual Story

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

Introduction:

The cast is onstage when the house opens. DAN does his preset. TONY and LIZ chill out. There is music playing. Dan gives Hershey's kisses to the audience.

The music will lower and the three actors will introduce themselves and explain how they communicate and the relaxed aspects of the play. Once they are done, music will play again, and they will move to their positions for Scene 1.

Scene 1:

Dan sits on the couch. The setting is his living room. A video camera is beside him and projects his image live on to a screen. Dan will introduce his family, and begin to explain how Bruno communicates and the challenges they are encountering when learning how to use an eye gaze system. At a point, Dan will turn to the camera and say "Isn't that right buddy?". At that point, the camera captures the perspective of Bruno, and Dan then reenacts a typical morning in their house getting Bruno ready for school. Liz takes on the role of Ralph, and Christina makes an appearance through video. Tony takes on the role of Bruno's bus driver. The scene ends with Dan putting the camera on the back of Tony's chair, and Bruno is taken to school. There is then a montage of different videos

of Bruno from when he was younger.

Scene 2:

Dan and Tony are on stage. Liz sits on the couch. The setting is Tony's apartment. The live camera is now focused on Tony's letter board and the image is projected on the screen behind them. Dan and Tony speak to the audience and explain how Tony's method of communication works and why he prefers his board over a computer. At a particular moment, the computer screen on stage beside them illuminates, and begins to speak directly to Tony. The two of them begin to argue about their relationship as if they were romantic partners. At the end of the scene, Tony breaks up with the computer. Music plays, and they all begin to dance.

Scene 3:

The setting is Tony's apartment from when he was 22 years old. There is a party happening outside Tony's room. He is alone in his room. Dan appears wearing a blond wig and a dress. He is playing the character of Sunflower. She introduces herself and starts to look around Tony's room and ask him questions. She gives him a drink of rum and coke, and then proposes that they do LSD together. She forces the LSD in Tony's mouth. As Tony starts to get high, she proceeds to undress and sexually assault Tony in his chair. After the assault, Dan takes off the wig and asks Tony about the experience. Tony says it was rape.

Scene 4:

The setting is now Tony & Liz's current apartment. Tony & Liz are there. Liz says she could use a drink, and starts to make a vodka martini. As she makes the martini, she tells the audience about things that Tony and her like including going to concerts, drinking and having sex. She tells a story about the time they went to a fetish club, and how she tried to attract

someone there called the Spanking Fairy. All her efforts were in vain because it turns out that the Spanking Fairy and not interested in her. But that night, she went home with Tony and they spanked each other instead.

Scene 5:

Dan stands on stage alone. He speaks to his cell phone telling it to text Christina Serra (his wife). The text messages are then projected on to the screen. They discuss how the children are doing, and Dan says how much he misses her being in the show. He tells her he is about to do her scene.

When they are done the conversation, Dan moves into a kitchen setting. He puts an apron on, and shoves a pillow up his shirt to make himself look pregnant. He explains that when the show was first made, Christina was in it, and at the time was 8 months pregnant. Because she needed to eat all the time, she created a scene in the play where she could make herself a snack. Dan acts out the scene of making a made of Nutella, Pickles, Kale & Chips while speaking Christina's text. He tells the story of Bruno's birth, the difficulties in experiencing negative comments and perceptions about Bruno from others, and how much she loves Bruno. At the end of the story, Dan takes off the apron and explains that Christina doesn't want to do the play any more because she felt like the message of this scene was that "She loves her son despite his disabilities" and that it reinforces a negative perception of disability. Dan takes a bite of the sandwich. It tastes disgusting.

Scene 6:

Music from the Godfather starts playing. Tony enters the stage. The setting is his apartment, but the lighting makes it look like it is in a film noir movie. Tony is pretending he is the Godfather. Dan sits beside him, and asks his advice on how to raise Bruno. Tony makes Dan play out this Godfather fantasy, and offers his advice. At the end they have a drink. The Godfather music comes back on as the two part.

Scene 7:

Dan stands alone on stage. He starts to tell the audience about his trips to the park with Bruno. The setting becomes the park. Dan talks about the accessible swing that Bruno loves to use, and how the other kids in the playground want to use the swing when he is on it. While Dan is pushing Bruno, he has to deal with the questions from the kids like “What’s wrong with him?”. Dan gets angry and wants to yell at them all. And then explains how it all changes when his wife Christina, and other children Ralph & Simone arrive. The other kids change their behaviour when they see how Ralph & Simone interact with Bruno, and Dan realizes that his children are the best teachers about how to relate to someone who is different. A montage of videos is played that show Bruno interacting with Ralph & Simone.

Scene 8:

Liz enters the stage alone. The setting is her apartment. She starts to tell the audience about her struggles with mental health and how she has an impulse to self-harm. She talks about how therapy has not been helpful, but how having good friends has helped her, as well as taking boxing classes. Dan comes on stage with boxing gloves and helps Liz put them on. They then practice boxing, with Dan acting like a trainer. They laugh and run off stage.

Scene 9:

Tony enters. The setting is his apartment when he was 35. Ominous music plays. Dan enters playing a character named Randy. Tony has recently fired Randy from his position as personal attendant. Randy is angry because he doesn’t have any money. He accuses Tony of being a bad friend, and starts to physically assault Tony and wreck his apartment. Randy spits on Tony and exits. Liz enters. She asks the stage manager to cut the music. Then she talks to the audience culminating in her saying “We are all equally different”

Scene 10:

Tony is on stage alone. The setting is the theatre we are in. The video camera is set up to show Tony's letter board. He speaks directly to the audience who are asked to read the board off the screen. Tony tells the audience that he has a daughter who would be grown up now. He tells them his favorite memory from when she was a child. They were alone together watching the Jungle Book and eating chocolates. At the end of his story, a scene from The Jungle Book is projected on to the screen.

Scene 11:

The setting is Tony's bedroom. Dan helps Tony get into bed, and then leaves him. Tony lies there while text is projected on to the screen. The text is written by Tony and talks about his sexual urges and how he feels people see him as asexual. At the end of the text, Liz enters in her pyjamas. She gets into bed with Tony and starts to rub his chest. She helps him take off his shirt, and begins to give him a massage. As she makes her way down towards his penis, Dan interrupts, tells them it's the end of the show, and proposes they all have a drink. They sit down together on the bed and propose a toast to the audience. They say "Salute", drink and then take a bow while music plays.

The End