

ARCO

By Western Australian Youth Theatre Company

At DreamBIG Children's Festival 2023



I am going to see a show at the DreamBIG Children's Festival. The show is called ARCO.

Before the show, the audience and I will wait in the foyer until it is time to go in.

The foyer looks like this.



When it is time for the show, the front of house staff will take the audience to the performance space. We will be going backstage, through corridors that have lots of photos on the walls.



The show is taking place in the Drama Centre Rehearsal Room at the Adelaide Festival Centre. It's not like a normal theatre I might see other shows in. It is a big room dressed up to look like a theatre with lights and curtains.

Here's what the Drama Centre Rehearsal Room looks like when it is empty.



When I see the show, the seats will be full of children like me, excited to see the show! It might be quite loud before the show starts. When the show is about to start, the lights will go down.

There will be a tall, bearded man called 'James', who is the Artistic Director of WAYTCo, and co-creator of the show, who will introduce the star of the show to everyone. Otherwise, in the show, there is one performer on stage the whole time. His name is Adam.

This is James



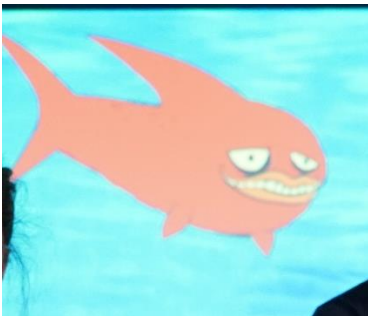
This is Adam



Adam is also the person who wrote ARCO, and the story is about him and his life.

ARCO stands for Autism, Rejection, Community, Optimism. If I don't understand any of those words, I can ask my parent or guardian to explain them to me.

Even though Adam is telling the story of ARCO by himself, he will introduce some of his imaginary friends, including a fish called Finbar who is a cartoon that I will see on a screen behind Adam.



Some bits of ARCO might make me feel a bit sad or upset. If I feel overwhelmed, I can ask my parent or guardian, or a front of house staff member to leave the room for a bit or for the rest of the show.

There will be a part of the show when the audience will be given a piece of paper and Adam will give us instructions. I will be asked to make the paper into a paper plane and then Adam will tell us to throw them.



This part of the show might get loud. If I want to wear something on my ears to protect from the sound I can do that. I can cover my ears at any point during the show if I want to.

When Adam is finished telling his story, he will take a bow and say thank you to the audience. I can clap to say thank you to Adam for sharing his story with me and my classmates.



After a moment, Adam will come out on stage again for a question and answer session. During this session, I can raise my hand if I have a question I'd like to ask Adam about the show or what it was like making it. I need to wait until Adam notices my raised hand and invites me to speak before asking my question. I don't have to ask a question if I don't want to. I can just listen during this final bit of the show.

Then it is time to leave the space. I will follow instructions from a front of house staff member who will lead me back through the corridors into the foyer and ready for the rest of my day!