

# Claire Della and the Moon

By Madness of Two

At DreamBIG Children's Festival 2023



Note for Teachers: A general 'Coming to DreamBIG' social story can be found at: [\[LINK\]](#), which includes information about entering the theatre space and general theatre etiquette.

I am coming to see a show at the DreamBIG Children’s Festival. The show is called *Claire Della and the Moon*.

The show is taking place at the Goodwood Theatre and Studios. I can enter the building by using the stairs out the front of the building, or using the ramp on the side of the building.



The ramp around the side of the building



My class will wait in the foyer until it is time for the show. There might be lots of people waiting for the show, and the foyer can get crowded and loud from people talking.





When it is time for the show, the front of house staff will take my class into the theatre.

Everyone in the theatre has their own seat. Once I am sitting down, I may have to wait a few minutes for everyone else to sit down before the show can start.



Once I am in my seat, the theatre will get dark. This tells all of us in the audience to be quiet. There may be an announcement before the actors come on stage, and the performance begins.

In the show, there are two actors – Ellen and Jamie. When they are not in costume, they look like this:



When they are performing in *Claire Della and the Moon*, they pretend to be different people. Ellen plays the role of Claire Della. Jamie plays lots of other characters, like Claire Della's brother, and also the Narrator.



Ellen and Jamie also use puppets and costumes to pretend there are other people in the show with them. In this picture, Ellen is pretending that this coat and hat are a separate person.



In this picture, Jamie and Ellen are pretending that all the tiny puppets are people talking to Claire Della.





Claire Della and the Moon is a story about a girl called Claire Della, who finds her life too noisy and distracting. This can make her angry. It can make her feel sad and overwhelmed. So she decides to build a rocket to the moon. Claire thinks the moon will be peaceful and quiet. This is a picture of Claire Della's rocket:



However, Claire finds being on the moon by herself lonely. Luckily, she meets a dog called Laika. Laika is a puppet.



Laika's story is quite sad – Laika was not cared for by her human owners very well. However, Laika and Claire Della become good friends and help each other build a rocket to take them back to earth, and to Claire Della's life.

The story of *Claire Della and the Moon* might make me feel sad or overwhelmed at times. I should try to remember that it is pretend, and that the story will have a happy ending.



Part of the show will be performed to music. Part of the show might have low lighting, or flashing lights.



If the music or the lights make me feel uncomfortable, I can put on headphones or earplugs, or close my eyes until I feel better. If I feel too uncomfortable, I can leave the theatre quietly and safely.

A front of house staff member will help me exit. They will have a torch to help me see if it is dark.

When the show is finished, the stage lights might go dark. Then the actors will come on stage and take a bow. I can clap to say thank you to the actors.



It is then time for my class to leave the theatre. I will follow the instructions of the front of house staff member, who will lead me back to the foyer and out of the theatre, ready for the rest of my day!