

BOYS DON'T DANCE

by Marc Brew Company

social story

the inspiring story of a boy who defied expectations



for ages 7-12 years



creatively embedded access



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about this social story

This social story tells you about Marc Brew Company's show Boys Don't Dance. This social story can be used to help prepare you before attending the show.

If you would like more information, please contact Hayley – Engagement Manger on engagement@marcbrew.com

**We are all excited to welcome you
to Boys Don't Dance!**

about Marc Brew Company

Marc Brew Company is an inclusive touring dance company. Since we started, our company has made lots of amazing shows. We bring together talented artists, with and without disabilities, to create fun and exciting performances for people of all ages. So far, over 30,000 people around the world have enjoyed what we do!

We want to be part of a positive change by creating space for everyone to experience dance in their own way.



The company is led by Marc Brew, a disabled choreographer and dancer.

He has been working all over the world for more than 28 years as a director, choreographer, dancer, teacher, and speaker.



about Boys Don't Dance

Boys Don't Dance is a dance theatre show by Marc Brew Company.

The show is inspired by Marc's life growing up in a rural village in Australia. As a boy, all he wanted to do was dance...but he was always told boys don't dance.

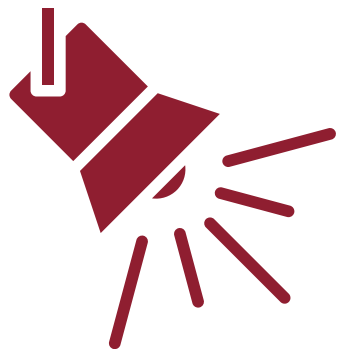
Later in life, Marc became disabled. Once again, he was told he shouldn't dance.

The show features dancing with two legs, dancing using a wheelchair, a BMX bike, lighting, music, visuals and animation.

Boys Don't Dance is a celebration that dance is for everyone!

what to expect

Boys Don't Dance is performed in a theatre. Before the show begins, there will be an Access Announcement. What will happen during the show will be explained and demonstrated. This includes:



Sometimes, the lighting gets a bit dark, or flickers and flashes.

These lighting states will be demonstrated during the Access Announcement.

There are no strobe lights used during the show.



Whenever words are used in the show, captions will appear on the wooden screen or on the TV.



The sound levels will change during the show from quiet to loud. During the Access Announcement, the loudest sound will play.

The music from the show is an 1980's playlist Marc liked to listen to when he was a child. Other music you will hear has been composed for the show, inspired by the 1980's.



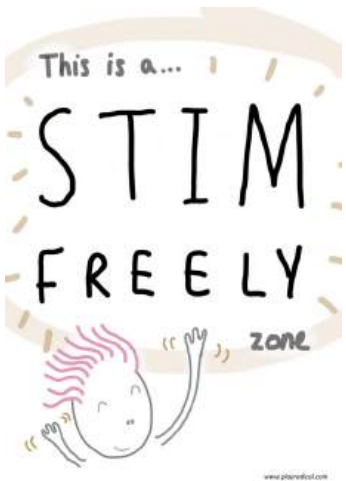
Sensory-Friendly

In the foyer, you will find a table with sensory elements that are linked to the show. You are welcome to interact with them before, during and after the show.

At the Sensory Access Table, there will also be sensory accompaniments available such as ear defenders, sunglasses and fidget toys.



Some scenes will feature filmed British Sign language and International Sign. This is performed by Petre, a Deaf performer.

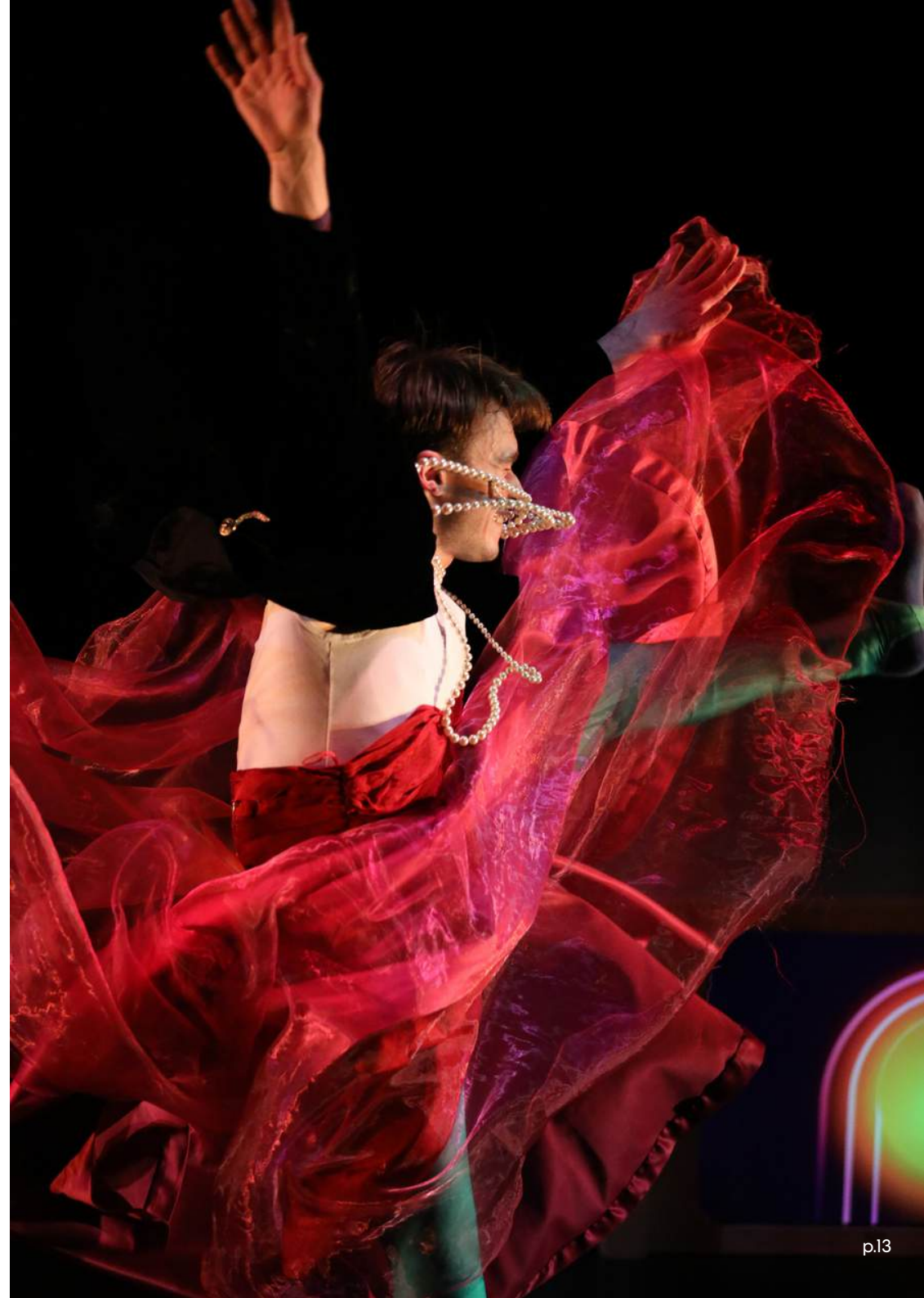


Max Alexander
www.playradical.com

During the performance, you are welcome to

- Stim
- Vocalise
- Move around
- Enter and leave as you need to
- Visit the quiet space

We kindly ask you do not enter the stage during the performance.



the performers



Ross

Ross is a dancer.

He plays The Boy.



Piotr

Piotr is a dancer.

He plays The Older Boy.

Ross & Piotr both play the same character. Ross is the younger version of The Boy and Piotr is the older version of The Boy.



The Crow

The Crow is an animation that sometimes appears during the show. The Crow is voiced by Marc Brew.



Petre

Petre is a Deaf performer.

He signs when there are words used in the show.

Petre is projected onto the screens. He will not come on stage.



Vicki

Vicki plays the voice of The Boy's mum. You will not see Vicki on stage; you will only hear her voice. Vicki is Marc's mum in real life!

the story

In this section, you will find out what will happen in each scene. If you don't want to find out, you can skip to the end of the story.

Anything that might be surprising in the show is - highlighted.

pre show access announcement

When you enter the theatre, it will look like this. Before the show begins, The Crow and Petre will appear on the screen.

The Crow and Petre will explain what is going to happen during the show. There will be a demonstration of the lighting and sound.



ballet barre

At first, we see The Older Boy dancing ballet in front of a mirror. The mirror then reveals The Boy who is standing behind the mirror. The dancers see each other through the mirror and travel around the space. This scene show us the younger and older versions of The Boy.

Later, there is a loud sound of a whirlwind – it can get quite loud. The Crow returns with a narration about The Boy's story.

dancing in the paddock

We are in rural Australia. Inflatable sheep appear from the front of the stage, suspended by thin wire. The Boy enters with a BMX bike and dances all around the stage.

He is practicing his favourite dance moves in a space where he feels safe.

The Boy then journeys home and watches TV. You will see adverts and music videos from the 1980's.



mixtape

The Boy listens to a cassette tape on a Walkman. He listens to his favourite songs and dances along.

A Walkman was a small portable music player that uses cassette tapes, little plastic boxes with magnetic tape inside. Popular in the 1980's, you could listen to your favourite songs through headphones wherever you went.

Whenever a car passes, The Boy freezes like a statue – he does not want anyone outside to see his dancing.

The Boy's Mum calls him home because his lunch is ready.

The Boy goes home to eat lunch and he watches TV. You will see different clips from TV shows from the 1980's.



dressing up

The Boy's Mum goes out and The Boy is home alone. He decides to go to his mum's bedroom and tries on her clothes. The Boy explores what clothes he likes and how to wear them.

The Boy goes outside wearing his mum's clothes. At first, he is nervous and the music sounds tense. He then becomes confident and dances around the stage with lots of joy.

On the screen, magpies appear and they begin to bully The Crow. On stage, we see The Boy alone but moving as if he is being attacked by others.

The Boy appears frightened. He crawls into the big pink skirt to hide. He starts to dance, expressing his sadness. At the end of the dance, The Boy finds his inner strength, and he no longer feels afraid.

The Boy collects his mum's clothes and journeys home. He puts the clothes away and watches TV.



BMX

The Boy enters with a BMX bike and he performs BMX tricks. The Older Boy enters. Together, they travel around the space.

Sometimes the dancers get close to the edge of the stage and the audience seated near the front.

We hear the sound of a crash and it gets quite loud for a moment. The Older Boy falls out of his chair and The Boy's bike crashes off stage.

The lighting gets dark and there is some haze used – this is not real smoke.

The Boy and The Older Boy dance together on the floor.



after the crash

The Older Boy is lying on stage. He checks if his body is okay after the crash. The Older Boy discovers his body is now different.

He explores how he can move with his new body. He starts to use a wheelchair.

The Older Boy discovers his inner strength and builds confidence. The music changes to loud 1980's rock music.

The whirlwind sound returns.



funky town

Some years have passed and The Older Boy is now in the city. He travels around the city, taking in all the sights before travelling to a theatre.

ballet barre

The Boy and The Older Boy dance ballet just like at the beginning of the show.

The music changes from classical piano music to upbeat contemporary music. The two dancers move together, sometimes connected to each other with balancing and lifting.

At the end of the show, The Crow and Petre return.

When this happens, the audience may start to clap their hands and make some noise. You are welcome to do this but you do not have to. The two dancers will bow to show thanks.



encore

After the applause, Ross and Piotr will dance one more time. The inflatable sheep will return.



the team

Lots of people helped to create Boys Don't Dance. Below is a list of the people and organisations that helped make the show happen:

Marc Brew - Concept and Direction

Marc Brew - Choreography in collaboration with performers

Ross Malloy, Piotr Iwanicki - Performers

Jay Whitehead - Trainee / Understudy Performer

Hayley Earlam / Jade Adamson - Rehearsal Director

Azariah Felton - Composer

Rachel O'Neill - Set and Costume Design

Jamie Wardrop - AV Design

Drew Taylor- Wilson - Dramaturg

Nia Wood - Production Manager and Lighting Design

Ruari Gordon - Stage and Technical Hand

Petre Dobre - Creative Translations

Yvonne Strain - BSL Collaborator

Neil Morrision - BMX Coach

Big House Events - Set Build

National Theatre of Scotland - Costumes and Props

Susan Hay - MBC Executive Producer

Pamela Walker - Imagine Producer

Fi Fraser - Imagine Production Manager

Marion Bourbouze - Imagine Marketing and Communications

Rebecca Doggett - Marketing

Joy Parkinson - PR

Melanie Wilson - Access Coordinator

Sofie Tait - Marketing and Admin Assistant



Boys Don't Dance by Marc Brew Company

Boys Don't Dance was commissioned by Imagine in partnership with Aberdeen Performing Arts with support from OneRen. Supported by the Scottish Government's Festivals Expo Fund, Culture and Business Scotland and Silcon Reef. Part of madeinscotlandshowcase.com

