

The Bench by Teater Refleksion

Visual Story



“The Bench” is a moving and humorous story about an ordinary day in a bench’s life. Everywhere in cities, parks and gardens it stands, like an open invitation. Sometimes the bench’s visitors merely brush each other, at other times it evolves.

In the case of “The bench” an elderly lady does everything she can to keep life at bay – from what she considers as her bench. But the hectic surroundings will not let her be old and grouchy alone. Because the boy is skateboarding, the dog is sniffing and scuttling around, the birds are chirping, and a friendly, elderly gentleman wants to read his newspaper. And this is a nuisance, the old lady thinks!

“The Bench” is a wordless black box table top puppet theatre performance for 2 puppeteers.

Possible triggers

The show takes place in a dark space, so though the stage and audience seating are lit, it feels comparatively dark.

The Bench is a puppet theatre performance.
Here you see how the boy, the old lady and the old man – puppets how they look
and work underneath their clothing.



This is what the set looks like



None of the puppets and object can move except if the puppeteers moves them.
But the puppeteers are so good at it, you might not notice them doing it...
The two puppeteers are wearing all black clothes, including black gloves.



While you find your seats the puppeteers will be standing in front the stage to greet you.

Once you are seated the two puppeteers will go behind the table, turn down the house lights, and the show will begin.

You will see these puppets:

- *The old lady*
- *The old man*
- *The boy*
- *The dog*
- *Some birds*
- *Skateboards*

Firstly, you meet the old lady and as she is trying to chase the birds away, we know that she is a bit grumpy.



The Old man, the boy, the dog enters one at a time and the old lady tried to get them to leave – but she does not always succeed.



The boy with the skateboard has his own ways, and the dog is cheeky indeed.



The old lady now so desperately wants it to be orderly around the park bench, that she throws away their stuff in order to get them to leave. Including the skateboard and the boy is very sad.



That night the old lady has a nightmare where she is chased by skateboards.

The next morning she knows something has change...

When the show is over, the house lights will go back on and the puppeteers will bow.

Perhaps the audience claps, you are welcome to do that also. You are also welcome to come closer to look at the puppets once the performance is over.

I hope you will enjoy the performance