

FIT

THEATRE



BRING BACK CHAINMAIL

CAN IMAGINATION HEAL THE DEEPEST WOUNDS?



EASY READ SOCIAL STORY

FOUND IN TRANSLATION THEATRE



Supported using public funding by
**ARTS COUNCIL
ENGLAND**



HARLOW PLAYHOUSE
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MERCURY



Beneficiary of the Mercury Creatives Programme 2020-2021

What is the play about?



Bring Back Chainmail is a story about James.



James' Mum, Laura, died and this makes James feel very sad.

The play is about how James' Dad and best friend help him with his feelings.

James makes up a pretend world so that he doesn't feel so sad.



James pretends he is a medieval knight, called "Sir James of House Allington".

James' pretend world is set in a medieval castle! James pretends his bedroom is a royal court.



James has a best friend called Sophie.

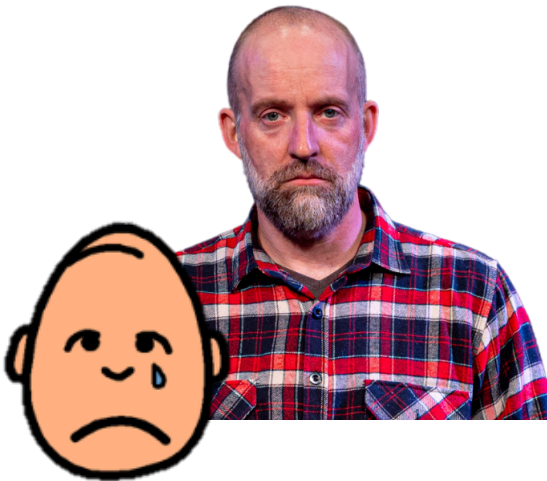
Sophie understands that James is sad.

Sophie understands that the pretend world helps him to feel better.



Sophie pretends to be “Bard”.

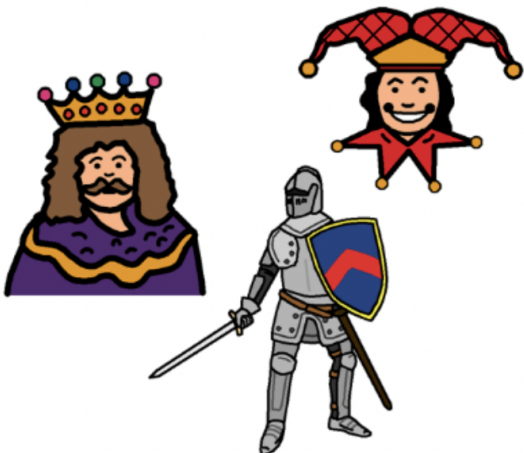
Bard is a jester. A jester is someone who jokes, sings and dances and tells stories in a royal court...but Bard can't speak - she lost her tongue in battle!



James' Dad is called Dave.

Dave doesn't understand James' pretend world and he feels sad when James talks about “Queen Laura”.

Dave does not want to pretend that Laura is still alive.



Sophie helps Dave to understand James' pretend medieval world!

Who is in the play?



James

James is a boy about 14 years old.

James likes to pretend he lives in a medieval world.

He calls himself “Sir James of House Allington” when he is pretending to be a medieval knight!

James feels sad sometimes.

James feels sad because his Mum died.

James misses his mum.

James pretends that his Mum is not dead. He pretends that his Mum is “Queen Laura” and that she has gone away to visit another kingdom.

Sophie / Bard

Sophie is James' best friend.

James calls Sophie "Bard" when he is pretending to be a medieval knight!

Sophie joins in with James' pretend world.

Sophie pretends to be a medieval jester who can't speak.

Sophie visits James to help look after him because his dad, Dave, doesn't always understand the pretend medieval world.





Dave

Dave is James' dad.

James calls Dave "King Dave" when he is pretending to be a medieval knight!

Dave finds it very tricky to join in with James' pretend medieval world!

Dave wants James to stop playing pretend.

Dave feels sad sometimes.

Dave feels sad because his wife died.

Laura

Laura is James' Mum.

Laura is Dave's wife.

Laura was very poorly and she died. James remembers Laura's voice. He can hear her voice in his head.

You will hear Laura, but you will not see Laura.



What to expect...



The play will last about 70 minutes and will not have an interval.

If you need to take a break from watching the play, you can leave the room and can come back when you are ready.

Someone who works at the theatre will help you.

The play is made to be more 'relaxed' than some plays.

This means there will be a little bit of light over where you are sitting, so you do not have to worry about the dark.

The lights on the stage will sometimes change from being bright to being dark. This is okay.

They will not flash or be pointed at you in the audience.

There will be some music and sound effects.

The sounds will not be very loud, but if you want to wear ear plugs or ear defenders to make it more comfortable, that is okay.

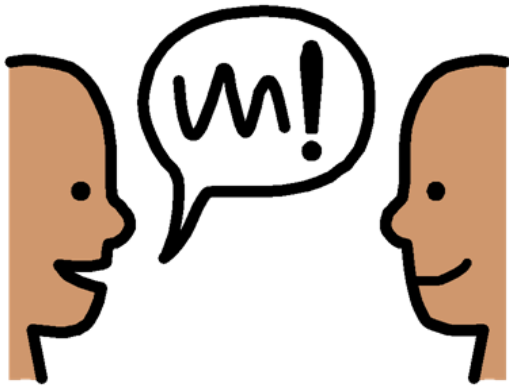
The set on the stage will change to show you different rooms in Dave and James' house.

James' bedroom looks similar to this!



Dave and James' family kitchen looks similar to this!





Sir James and Bard will talk or interact with you on stage.

You can talk back to them!

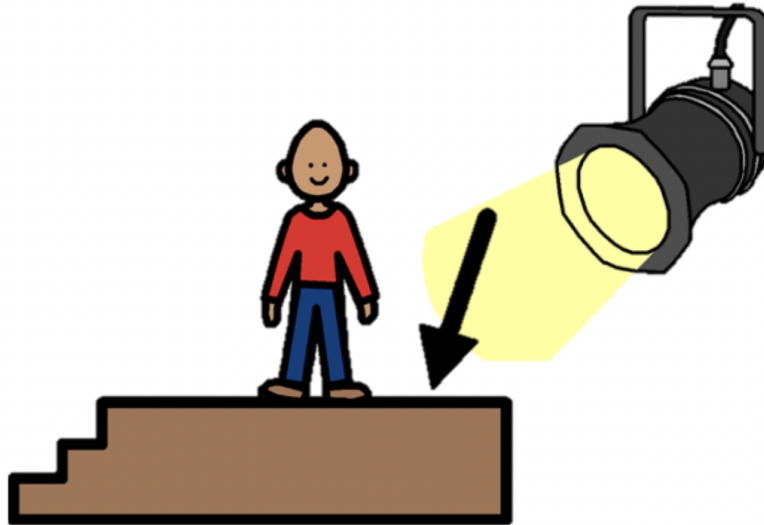
King Dave might ask if you want to play a game with him, Bard and Sir James on stage!



If you want to play, you can volunteer by raising your hand. If King Dave chooses you, you can follow him onto the stage.

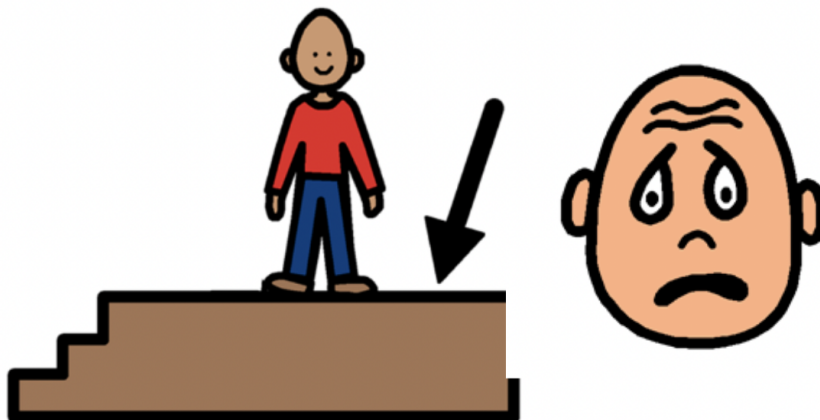
If you do not want to play, you can say “no thank you” and stay in your seat.

If you do go on stage to play the game, you might feel different...



The stage will be very bright and warm. This is okay.

The stage will feel different because the special stage lights are very strong.



You might feel nervous on stage. This is okay.

Sir James and King Dave will help you.

If you do go on stage to play the game, please be careful!

King Dave and Sir James will show you how to play.



To keep safe you must not throw, swing or point things at the audience.



When the game is finished people might clap to say “well done” before you need to go back to your seat!

When the play is finishing the actors will bow and people might clap to say “well done”. You can clap too.

After the play is finished, it will be time to leave the theatre.