

# Rendezvous in Bratislava

## What to expect: social story information for audiences

At the beginning of the show you will be welcomed by Miriam in Slovak, with English translations provided by another cast member. Miriam will explain what the show is and introduce herself and her grandfather, Laco.

Throughout the show, different moments in Laco's life are explained or performed, and moments from European history from the twentieth century are shared with the audience. The band play songs, jokes are told and there are images projected onto the screen which show different moments from history, family photographs or pictures of the cabarets Laco wrote. At some points recordings of music or interviews are also played. There's also a little bit of dancing.

Sometimes Miriam or the musicians will speak or sing in Slovak, and when this happens a translation in English will appear on the screen or Miriam will translate herself.

The show is approximately 100 minutes long. There isn't an interval but part way through the show we will do a party scene, and during this the audience will be invited to come up on to the stage to join the party and have a drink of Prosecco if you would like. There is also some audience interaction in the first half of the show, where we invite three audience members to tell a joke which was placed on their table before they came in. Only people who want to tell a joke will do this, we won't make anyone.

The lighting is usually natural but sometimes the lights get darker and there will be a spotlight on one part of the stage. There are no flashing lights in the show.

Most of the music is played live on a piano, violin, flute and clarinet - we also use an accordion, a drum and we sing. The live music is not amplified so it is not too loud. Some of the songs are pre-recorded and play over loudspeakers; we have set the levels on these so that they are not too loud. People sing or speak into a microphone which will be louder than normal speech.

About an hour into the show, we perform a song which we will introduce as being about the Prague Spring. In this song, we use a keyboard to trigger sound effects, including some sound effects of gunshots, which are sudden and quite loud. There is also a scene which begins with telling jokes, and builds up using instruments such as a drum, a whistle and a horn, which are quite loud. Other than this, there are no sudden loud noises in the show.

We hope to see you there!