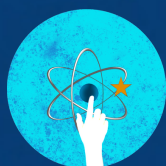


LOVE STAR

Librement inspiré du roman
d'Andri Snær Magnason

Support guide as an introduction to the play

Ressource for family and
for chaperone



Context

This is the preparatory pedagogical guide for the play *LoveStar* from Théâtre Incliné. In the summary you will find plenty of information concerning the show and considerations that can give you have a better understanding of the play, the themes addressed and the theatrical form. You will also find propositions of activities that can be carried with your child before the representation.

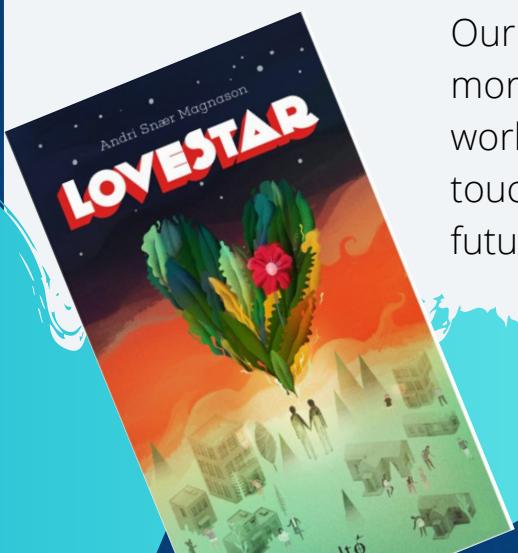
Don't forget, going to the theater is above all a moment of sharing between parents and children. After all, we are all equal before the play.

We hope this will give you the insights you need to enjoy your day out in the theater to the fullest!

LoveStar

Summary

Lovestar, a scientist fascinated by birds, overflows with ideas to improve the future of humanity. Inspired by the natural waves used by migrating birds to find their way around, she creates a wireless humanity. Everything is going well until her ideas are perverted by her greedy assistant Ragnar. In this dystopia two young lovers will fight against the absurdity of a system which has lost grip on all human values.



Our relationship to technology is getting more and more complicated and unlimited growth is creating a world our children are rejecting. The show *LoveStar* touches on those issues with humour and in a futuristic aesthetic the young can relate to.

This family show, without any word, is freely inspired from a novel written by the Icelandic author Andri Snær Magnason.

Themes

We have put forward two main themes: **technology** and the **environment**. Nevertheless, your attention might also be drawn to other themes during and after the representation.



Technology

Technology is one of the most central elements of *LoveStar*, firstly because the story is about a scientist working on the waves floating around us, but also because it reminds us how easily advanced technologies can be diverted from their original positive objective.

Technology hijacking is what nourishes *LoveStar* dystopic story.

The technical and digital innovations represented in *LoveStar* might appear farfetched, but the fiction is actually becoming real.

Just have a look at artificial intelligence, machine learning, supercomputers, augmented intelligence, data mining, and their extraordinary capacities.



Environment

The environment is composed of all the natural components of planet earth like the air, water, the atmosphere, plants, animals and all the phenomena and interactions that are going on between them, which is to say, everything that surrounds human activity.

The play *LoveStar* places a special focus on the topic of the environment in showing the harmful impact of human activities.



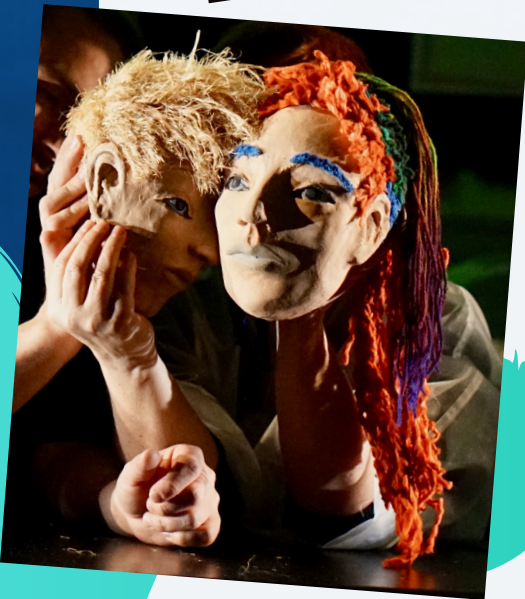
Hence, one of the underlying messages is the need to protect the environment, and to put in place measures to limit or stop the dramatic consequences of human activity on its environment before it is completely ruined. While this is at the heart of the fiction of *LoveStar*, it is also a very present social issue in the real world that needs to be tackled.

Theatrical form

Théâtre Incliné uses puppets, objects and video projections to create theatrical worlds. They use those tools in their adult shows as much as in the shows for younger audiences.

In *LoveStar*, the visual elements are even more significant since it is a show without words. All communication is done visually (video projection, miming, movements and expressions, puppets etc.) and with sound (music and noise effects). As the spectator puts together all these elements, he or she can make sense of the play.

Hence, each person will have a different, yet valid, appreciation of the play.



Activities as introduction to the play

Science-fiction, dystopia and technologies

Objective

Introducing the science-fiction genre and more specifically the concept of dystopia

Course of activity

Explain to your child that the extraordinary thing about the arts is the fact that one can dive into his or her own imaginary world, inventing things, getting inspired by what is around him/her, and transforming it. It is a space to question things, to make hypotheses and to place a new look on the world.

- Ask your child if he or she knows the word "fiction", how he or she can describe it.
- Then, do the same exercise but with the word "science-fiction".
- Ask your child if he or she can give you example of science-fiction from movies, books, tv shows, video games, etc.

Fiction

Fiction is a story based more often on imaginary facts than on real facts.

Science-fiction

It is a fiction based on scientific and technical progress achieved in the more or less distant future.

After spending some time looking for answers, explain that one of the most important elements of science fiction is technological development. We imagine a world where technologies are much more advanced than those of today.

Then, ask your child to find examples of technologies that could be found in an imaginary future and which would solve all current problems.

This would be called a utopia.

Next, adapt the exercise in relation to technologies which could be threatening for us in a future world. **This would be called a dystopia.**



Dystopia

A dystopia is a fictional narrative depicting an imaginary society organized in such a way that it prevents its members from attaining happiness.

Explain that the play *LoveStar* is adapted from a novel which creates a « dystopia » which means that we have imagined a future world in which some things are not positive.

You might give those examples - inspired by the novel: if a child is misbehaving his or her parents can rewind him or her to start over with a new version of him/her. When people die, their bodies are sent to the sky in an explosion that creates shooting stars. Finally, that the lives of people are all programmed in advance.

Read the summary of the play with your child.


Ask him or her to activate his imagination and invite him to build, in his head, the world in which the story is taking place, including the characters, the atmosphere, the music, etc.

Do it yourself as well.



Summary:

Lovestar, a scientist fascinated by birds, is dreaming of saving the world. Alongside her assistant Ragnar, she finds a way to get rid of the wave-emitting tools that are driving humans. Her concept is a huge success all over the planet. The company LOVESTAR is created and starts growing at an unreasonable pace. In this futuristic world, two young lovers will fight against the absurdity of a system which has lost grip on all human values.




Next, ask your child to explain or create his/her mental representation of the play.

You can do this orally by asking questions about the place, characters, sounds, music, etc.

Then explain how you yourself imagined the play.

Have fun together picking on the differences and, above all, mention that no one answer is better than the other.



According to time and resources available, you can offer your child the opportunity to draw his or her representation of the characters, settings, atmosphere, etc.

Activities as introduction to the play

Visual theatre without words

Objective

Introducing visual theater artform

Material

Provide blank paper and drawing material (pencil, eraser, markers, etc.).

Course of activity

Explain that the show *LoveStar* has no words and that the Théâtre Incliné company uses puppets, objects and projections to invent fictitious worlds.

Ask your child:

**if the show has no words,
how can it tell a story?**

We suggest that you watch [the teaser of the play *LoveStar*](#) to help brainstorm with your child.




Help your child find some answers, e.g. that the play uses visuals (projected video, acting, puppets, etc.) and sound (noises, screams, music) to convey a message.



Then ask him or her questions such as:

- **Can we understand anything if no word is said?**
- **How do those other elements communicate a message in the play?**
- **What is the purpose of the puppets?**
- **What is the purpose of the sound?**
- **What is the purpose of music?**
- **If actors don't speak, how do they communicate messages?**

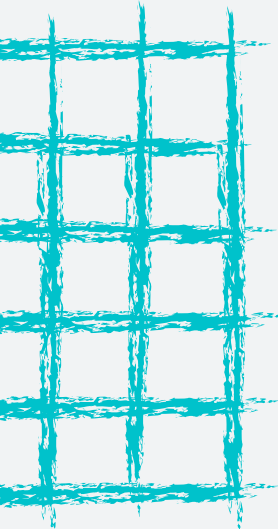
Assemble the answers and explain that it is possible to tell stories through other means than talking and using words.



it is important to remind everyone that in the theater, all answers are valid.

Each spectator can perceive and interpret things in a different way.





Then help your child think of examples of images that provide information without using text (e.g., traffic signs, symbols on digital cameras, etc.).

Explain that it is possible to use images, music and movement to tell a story.

Together, try to create a comic strip that has no text.

Take a blank piece of paper and divide it into boxes to show the different moments in your story.

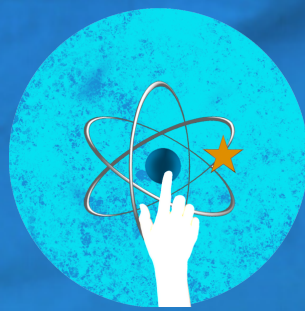
Before drawing, think ahead with your child about the story, characters, places, etc. and about how to represent them in pictures.



Variation

Instead of making a comic book, why not create your own puppets with everyday objects and make up a story without words?

You can create a character out of a sock or with cardboard from a cereal box, etc.



Going further

Inspired by the themes and aesthetics of the play *LoveStar*, the **LoveStarium** platform provides tools to prolong the theater experience but also to develop the students' creativity, critical thinking and eco-citizenship.

It is possible to bring the activity **Visual theater without words** to the next level if you mix it with the exercise of associating a profession to its description, available on the **Artist** section of the LoveStarium platform. This will not only give background on the history of theater-making but also emphasize the importance of collaboration when creating a theatre piece.

The **Artist** profile offers video clips where the various designers of the play describe their creative process and explain where they found their inspiration.

www.lovestarium.theatreincline.ca



Théâtre Incliné

Théâtre Incliné is a visual theater company from Quebec founded in 1991 by José Babin, artistic director, stage director and interpreter. The company's mandate is centered around researching new theatrical forms and creating pieces that are like visual poetry.

Each project is inspired by the territories José and her research companion, Alain Lavallée, encounter. L'incliné creates in contact of artists from different cultures through co-productions with Italy, France, Japan, and Scandinavia.

Its unique theatrical form, blending puppets, actors, videos and shadow theater reaches a wide variety of audiences. The shows are not only presented in the city of Laval where it is based, but also nationally and internationally (USA, Europe, Asia).

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