

The Barter Players®

Classic theatre for kids of all ages



Social Narrative for:

The Legend of Sleepy Hollow

Adapted from Washington Irving

By Catherine Bush

Barter's Smith Theatre

Fall 2019



I'm going to see a play called *The Legend of Sleepy Hollow* at Barter's Smith Theatre! This play is about Ichabod Crane, the new young schoolmaster in the haunted town of Sleepy Hollow. Ichabod brings change to Sleepy Hollow that upsets many townspeople. As Ichabod changes the lives of the townspeople, he also encounters the supernatural. *Even though some moments may seem scary, I won't need to worry because I am safe, and it is all pretend.*



Seeing a play is like seeing a movie. The play will be performed by people right in front of me on stage. They are called actors, and the people they are playing are called characters.



Once arriving at the theatre, I will go into the lobby where I will get my tickets. If I am early, I can wait in the lobby or lounge where there will be coloring sheets and toys. There will also be concessions available for purchase. Other people will also be waiting for the show to begin.



Next, I'll enter the theatre and choose a seat for the show. I'll sit in a seat and wait for the show to start. Other people will be doing the same thing. We will all wait together for the performance to begin.



Just before the performance begins, some of the actors will come out into the audience and talk to some of the audience waiting. I might get a chance to talk to one of the actors before the show.



If at any point during the show I have a question or want to leave, I will ask for help quietly. There will be ushers who can help me, too. An usher is someone in a tan vest who works at the theatre.



If anything ever gets too loud I can put on my ear protection or cover my ears with my hands.



I'll know the performance is about to begin when the lights dim around me and someone on stage makes an announcement. After the announcement there will be music and I'll know the play is about to start.



The play starts in the forest of Sleepy Hollow. Many spirits sing about the hauntings in Sleepy Hollow. Ichabod Crane then enters the forest and is frightened by the spirits.



Mrs. Van Ripper, the innkeeper, appears and leads Ichabod to her house where he will stay. Ichabod shares that he is completely fascinated by the supernatural. Mrs. Van Ripper tells him about two ghosts that haunt Sleepy Hollow: the first is a soldier named Major Andre who was hanged during the war, the second is the Headless Horseman who haunts the road at night.



Next Ichabod goes to the school to teach. He meets students Maria, Peter, Brom, and Johanna. Johanna tells Ichabod how much she would like the solo in the upcoming musical concert.



One of the older students, the beautiful Katrina Van Tassel, arrives late to class. Katrina invites Ichabod to dinner, despite the objections from Brom. Brom is in love with Katrina and does not want her dining with Ichabod. Ichabod and Brom argue, and Ichabod attempts to hit Brom with a tree branch. Brom stops him. *Even though the characters fight, the actors are safe and it is all pretend.*



School ends, and Katrina and Ichabod walk through the graveyard and talk about the various hauntings in Sleepy Hollow. Brom eavesdrops and learns about Ichabod's fear of ghosts and begins formulating a plan to frighten Ichabod.



Katrina and Ichabod arrive at the elegant Van Tassel home. Ichabod is immediately questioned by Baltus, Katrina's father. Baltus does not like Ichabod because he does not farm or have a horse. Baltus thinks Brom is a better match for Katrina. On the other hand, Mrs. Van Tassel, Katrina's mother, adores Ichabod because he appreciates music. Mrs. Van Tassel offers to throw a party on All Hallows' Eve in exchange for Ichabod giving Katrina singing lessons. Ichabod agrees.



As Ichabod walks home, the spirits of Sleepy Hollow begin to encircle him. Ichabod tries to remain calm, but the spirits successfully frighten him.



The next day at school, Ichabod asks Katrina to sing in the choir. Katrina's sings very badly. However, because Ichabod wants Katrina to like him, he awards her the solo. This makes Johanna very upset. Ichabod dismisses the rest of the class, and he begins to give Katrina voice lessons. One month passes, and Katrina's voice does not improve.



Once more, as Ichabod walks home at night, the spirits of Sleepy Hollow chase him. He runs away and arrives safely back at Mrs. Van Ripper's house. Ichabod devours all of the food Mrs. Van Ripper prepares, leaving none for her. Mrs. Van Ripper confronts Ichabod about his greedy behavior. She insists that he must leave if he continues to eat all of her food. Ichabod knows that Mrs. Van Ripper would not be able to survive without the money she is paid to house him, so he threatens her. He also tells her that he will be taking her horse, Gunpowder, to the All Hallow's Eve party the next night.



At the All Hallow's Eve party, everyone dances. Johanna confronts Ichabod about getting the solo back from Katrina, and Ichabod tells her she can't have it back. Maria confronts Brom about their relationship and how she wants to be with him, but Brom insists that his heart belongs to Katrina. However, Katrina thinks Brom is flirting with Maria and is furious. She asks Ichabod to be her partner for life, and he accepts. Maria and Brom leave the party together.



Katrina and Ichabod are left alone, and Ichabod asks her to marry him. Katrina refuses him, revealing that she has been in love with Brom all along, and was using Ichabod to make Brom jealous. Ichabod is angry, and Katrina makes him leave her house.



Once again, the spirits haunt Ichabod as he rides Gunpowder the horse home. Ichabod keeps hearing the sound of horse hooves following him. When he turns around, he discovers the ghost of the Headless Horseman chasing him on horseback. They begin to race each other, but Ichabod loses control and falls off Gunpowder.



As Ichabod struggles to get back on his feet, four different Headless Horseman figures surround him and sing. Ichabod narrowly escapes them. One by one, the Headless Horseman figures remove their cloaks, revealing they are people from the town who decided to scare Ichabod. Mrs. Van Ripper claims he took her food. Johanna claims he took her solo. Baltus claims he wanted his farm. Brom claims he wanted his girl. They celebrate their victory over Ichabod, until they hear a haunting voice coming from behind them.



The real Headless Horseman walks toward them, and the humans quickly escape. Ichabod then runs into the Headless Horseman. The spirits reappear and watch the Headless Horseman chase Ichabod deeper into the forest.



The play is about 40 minutes long. If at any point during the show I think something is funny I can laugh. If I ever think the actors did a good job I can clap. I'll know the play is over because people around me will start clapping their hands I can clap too if I want. Then the lights will come all the way back up.



Following the performance, I can leave the theatre or I can go into the lounge where some of the actors will be waiting. I can take pictures with them, ask them questions, and let them know how much I enjoyed the show!