

the barter players



Social Narrative for:

Rapunzel

Adapted by Catherine Bush
From the fairy tale by the Brothers Grimm

Barter's Smith Theatre
Summer 2023



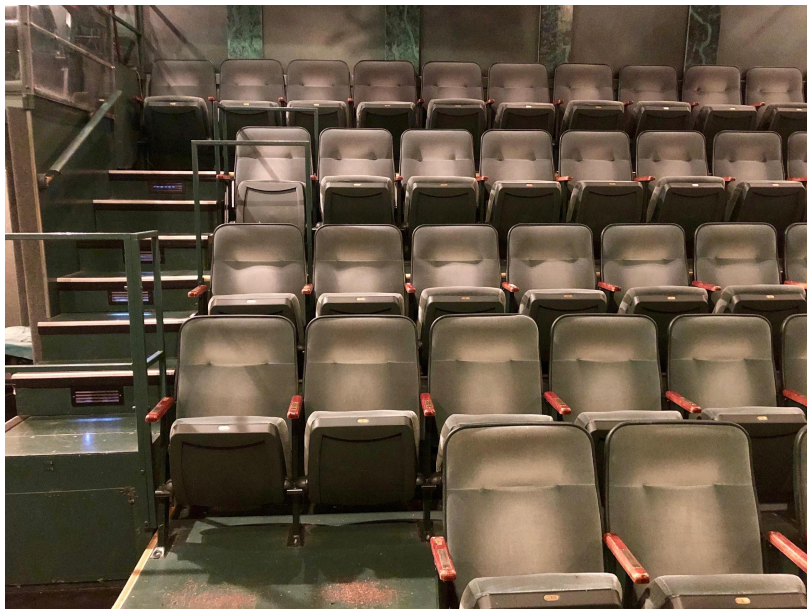
I'm going to see a play called *Rapunzel* at Barter's Smith Theatre! This play is about a young woman named Rapunzel who is forced to live in a remote tower alone and longs to be free.



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. 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 to talk about things we use in the play that help us tell the story, like props, costumes, lights, and sound.



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 white shirt 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 the lights will change again and I'll know the play is about to start.



At the beginning of the play, two storytellers named Ben and Jamie speak to the audience and inform them that they are going to watch the story of Rapunzel.



We then meet King Wilhelm and Queen Wilhemina. Wilhemina is pregnant and working in her garden. Wilhelm is upset that she is outside—he had ordered her to remain in her room to keep their unborn child safe. As punishment for disobeying his orders, Wilhelm cuts off Wilhemina's long hair and has her locked away in a tower. *Even though the characters fight, the actors are safe and it is all pretend.*



After their son, Prince Frederick is born, Wilhelm banishes Wilhemina to a faraway place, where she will never see her son again.



Five years pass. A carpenter named Peter and his wife, Maria, who are also expecting a child, buy a cottage in a small village on the outskirts of the kingdom. They are told that their next door neighbor is a witch.



Maria notices that a magical plant called rapunzel is growing in the witch's garden, and she asks Peter to take it. Peter is caught stealing the rapunzel by the witch, who is actually Wilhelmina. Wilhelmina threatens to have Peter thrown in prison for stealing, unless he agrees to give her his child. Peter gives Wilhelmina their child, and lies to Maria, telling her their baby died during birth.



Wilhelmina names the baby Rapunzel, and promises to love her and take care of her always.



Fifteen years pass, and Rapunzel has grown into a young woman with a beautiful singing voice and very long hair.



One day, a stranger hears Rapunzel singing and attempts to attack her. Rapunzel fights the stranger off by hitting him with a watering can. *Even though the characters fight, the actors are safe and it is all pretend.* Wilhemina fears for Rapunzel's safety, and locks her away in a remote tower. Wilhemina climbs up Rapunzel's hair when she visits.



Back at the castle, King Wilhelm has decided it is time for Prince Frederick to marry. Prince Frederick must choose one of the Duke of Ernsberger's daughters, but he is not in love with either of them.



Prince Frederick's squire, Eric, decides to help Frederick find a young maiden he truly loves for his wife.



While Prince Frederick searches for his true love, he meets a Friar that informs him that his mother Queen Wilhemina is still alive. King Wilhelm lied to Prince Frederick and claimed she died in childbirth. Frederick confronts his father about the lie, and decides to go find his mother.



Peter tells Maria that he lied about their daughter dying in childbirth. He cries and begs her forgiveness, which Maria grants. They decide to go find their daughter.



Meanwhile, Wilhemina visits Rapunzel to celebrate her 16th birthday. Rapunzel argues with her mother. She wants to be freed from the tower, but Wilhemina refuses.



Prince Frederick hears Rapunzel singing and climbs her hair to rescue her. Upon meeting, they fall in love.



All of a sudden, Eric is attacked by King Wilhelm's page. Prince Frederick must leave Rapunzel in order to rescue Eric, but he promises to return for her. He leaves, but Rapunzel realizes he left behind the Royal Sword, which he will need to rescue Eric. Rapunzel decides to cut off her hair and climb down it in order to help Prince Frederick.



Prince Frederick rescues Eric and returns to the tower to get Rapunzel. However, Rapunzel is gone, and he finds Wilhemina instead. Wilhemina accidentally pushes him out of the tower. He falls on a briar patch and is blinded by the thorns.



Rapunzel runs into Wilhemina, and tells her she is in love with Prince Frederick. Wilhemina realizes she injured her son, and tells Rapunzel to sing. She believes Frederick will follow the sound of her voice anywhere. The plan works, and Frederick and Rapunzel are reunited.



Wilhemina introduces Rapunzel to her real parents, Maria and Peter. Wilhemina gets to reunite with her son, Frederick. King Wilhelm appears and begs Wilhemina's forgiveness, which she grants.



Rapunzel and Frederick get married. One year later, Rapunzel gives birth to twins. Everyone celebrates with a dance.



The play is about 50 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, and I can clap too if I want. Then the lights will come all the way back up, and I can leave the theatre.

CHARACTERS IN *RAPUNZEL*

Here are the names and photos of the characters you'll see in *Rapunzel*!

RAPUNZEL



PRINCE FREDERICK



BEN & JAMIE



KING WILHELM



QUEEN WILHEMINA



PETER



MARIA



ERIC



CHARLENE & HELGA

