

Welcome to this introduction to **Perfect Show for Rachel**.

Step into Rachel's world in this experimental show as a learning disabled artist has the power to lead the creation of her very own 'Perfect Show'.

Rachel is a theatre-loving, enigmatic 31 year-old who loves Kylie Minogue, heckling from the front row and seeing people fall over. She is a learning disabled care-home resident, and sister to Flo, Zoo Co's Artistic Director.

Sitting on-stage with her custom-built tech desk, Rachel takes charge as the director of every unique performance in real-time. A touch of a button can trigger music, lighting, theatrical scenes or choreography, brought to life instantly by a company of performers.

Perfect Show for Rachel is one hour long with no interval. What happens in the show is up to Rachel, so some description will be improvised as the performance develops.

Perfect Show for Rachel takes place in a fantasy version of Rachel's living room - her favourite room. A rear wall about 6 metres wide is joined by a right and left wall set at wide angles to create a false-perspective view of the room, as if it is opening out to welcome us in. The room is open above to the lighting rig, and the floor is the bare black floor of the stage.

The walls are painted mottled blue and white, with base and top covered in bright, multi-coloured paint splat and speckle effect, with Rachel's name graffitied here and there as well. On the right and left walls, platforms run the length of the wall. These are about half a metre high, and a metre deep. They are each accessed by four steps on the front ends. On the left side, the platform holds a keyboard, guitar and Cajon (a kind of percussive box), along with chairs for the musicians. The platform on the right hand wall is clear apart from a pink standard lamp and a small armchair placed in the corner against the back wall.

The back wall has two tv screens set in alcoves on the left hand side. In the centre of the rear wall is a doorway with glass panel top half, and two more window panels on either side. Cast members sometimes get sent outside, and can peer in at us through the windows, watching the rest of the cast continue the performance.

On the right hand section of the rear wall is a set of shelves in an alcove. These shelves hold a variety of props and items that the cast might grab for scenes, such as bowling pin-shaped woolly hats, and an extra lamp. A cupboard door below the shelves conceals more storage for props.

The only other furniture is a couple of plastic chairs and two sturdy square tables which sometimes get stood on and used as portable mini platforms. These are all painted the same as the walls.

Near the front of the performance space, on the right hand side, is Rachel's special tech desk. This is a curving table rather like a spaceship captain's control desk. Painted with the same multicoloured effect as the rest of the set, the surface of the desk is covered with about 50 big push buttons. Each button has a sticker on it showing an image of a different scene or performer in the show. When Rachel pushes a button, it triggers a sound and video cue that tells the performers what scene Rachel would like them to perform. Rachel sits behind the desk throughout the show, along with a companion. This is often her mum Wendy but sometimes Flo, Lee or other performers join Rachel if Wendy is in a scene.

The scribes, who are creating the live captions, sit at a smaller desk near Rachel.

Live captions and videos are projected onto the walls throughout the show. The videos are a mix of home videos of Rachel's life, and the titles of the different scenes. One of the TV screens on the back wall shows Rachel live-streamed at her desk, so that the audience can enjoy Rachel's reactions.

The cast all perform multiple roles throughout, as well as being present as themselves. All the cast members integrate BSL at points in the show, with some cast members using BSL as their principle language throughout.

**Rachel O'Mahony** is the director of the show. Rachel is a petite, slim woman who is learning disabled. She is

white with dark brown hair which is usually tied up in two space buns either side of her head. Rachel wears mid-blue skinny jeans, a white top and a burgundy denim jacket with 'director' painted on the back, and lots of sequin hearts all over it. She sits behind her tech desk, and she is not afraid to interrupt the performance and have her say!

**Flo O'Mahony** is Rachel's sister, and artistic director of Zoo Co. Flo is slim built, petite and 30 years old. Flo is white and has shoulder length red hair with a slight wave to it. Flo has a round face, button nose and wears round gold-rimmed glasses. Flo is dressed in mid blue mom jeans, a white tank top and black braces which hoist the jeans up. As Rachel's sister, Flo performs in the show, but also helps Rachel communicate her vision to cast and audience members.

Alongside Flo, the main performers are to be announced and details will be added.

Perfect Show for Rachel is directed by Rachel O'Mahony for Zoo Co.

Flo O'Mahony is Zoo Co's Artistic Director

Lee Simpson is Lead Artist, Performer and Facilitator

Set and Costumes are designed by Stella Blackman

Rachel Sampley is the Lighting and Video Designer

Choreography is by Simeon Campbell