



The Money Tree

By Robert Watson

Relaxed Guide - November 2023

**Roseneath
Theatre**



Image description: Simon, Shasta and Katie sit. Shasta is in the middle and has her arms out wide. Simon and Katie sit beside her looking out in wonder.

Introduction

Today you will be watching a play. It is not a movie. It is performed by actors right in front of you!

It has actors and props and a set.

What is a set? A set is the background behind the actors. It is also the furniture that the actors sit or stand on throughout the play. Sets help us to know where and when the play takes place. In this play the same set is used for every scene.

What are props? Props are anything that the actors hold that helps let us know where they are, about their personalities and location. Props help the actors to tell us the story of the play.

How to RELAX Your Viewing Experience

If you are watching the play from school there are lots of ways you can relax your environment to enjoy the play more. Below are some things you can do whether watching with a class:

- wear on comfy clothes
- grab your favourite pillow, blanket or stuffy!
- sit on a chair, walk around, dance to the music - do whatever feels right while watching
- vocalize - feel free to make sounds during the play - clap, laugh, sigh - whatever you need to do to share how you feel
- eat! grab a snack, eat lunch, have a drink
- doodle, fidget, stim, sing - just be you!
- check in with your teacher or EA for support

Meet the Actors and the Characters

The Money Tree has three actors.

Below are photos of the actors with some information on the characters they play.



This is a photo of
Cassandra Guthrie.

(she/her)

She plays Shasta. It is almost Shasta's birthday and she is planning a huge party!



This is a photo of Eliza
Martin.

(she/her)

She plays Katie, Mom and the Mysterious Traveller. Katie is Shasta's friend. She really wants to go to Shasta's party.



This is a photo of
Daniel Staseff.

(he/him)

He plays Simon and Dad. Simon loves magic! He even wears a cape and carries a magic wand.



*Image description: Shasta and Simon sit on a step. Shasta holds bread and Simon wears a chef's hat.
The Mysterious Stranger stands beside Simon.*

What is the play about?

Shasta is excited for her birthday next week! She spends her time dreaming of her party and all the amazing things that will be there. But when Shasta's Dad loses his job, their family can no longer afford the big party she was dreaming of. Shasta is worried that none of her friends will like her when they find out.

Simon lives next door to Shasta. He loves to play pretend and helps Shasta to see that friends should like you whether you have money or not. Shasta and Simon go on a magical adventure and become good friends.

The Money Tree Fact Sheet

[Read here to find out more about the play.](#)

The play you are going to watch is called The Money Tree. It was written by Robert Watson, directed by Andrew Lamb and presented by Roseneath Theatre.

The play lasts approximately 55 minutes (including the opening and closing slides).

When it is time for you to watch the play you can sit on the floor, sit in a chair, lie down with a pillow and blanket, stand up, make sounds - whatever makes the play most enjoyable for you.

Roseneath Theatre is grateful to create and perform work on Indigenous land, that is why we give a Land Acknowledgement before each of our performances.

There are three actors in the play. Two of the actors play more than one role. They change costumes to let us know which character they are playing.

Sometimes the play is loud, other times it is quiet - the volume depends on the emotions that the characters are feeling.

The three main characters are Shasta, Katie and Simon. Shasta and Katie each live with their mother and father. Simon lives with his mother.

At the beginning of the play, Simon, Shasta and Katie are at school. It is lunchtime.

When Simon waves his wand magical sounds are played. The sounds can sometimes seem loud. If they are too loud you can cover your ears or wear sound dampening headphones.

After Shasta and Katie leave Simon at lunch, the school bell rings and they all go into class.

Music is often played between the scenes to help show time passing.

Simon loves to play pretend. Do you like to play pretend?

Every time Simon plays pretend sounds are played. The sounds can sometimes seem loud. If they are too loud you can cover your ears or wear sound dampening headphones.

Katie says some mean things about Shasta when she finds out all the “fun things” that were supposed to be at the party aren’t going to be happening anymore. Katie doesn’t understand what has happened and calls Shasta a liar. But Shasta wasn’t lying and Katie isn’t really mean. It is just a misunderstanding.

Simon and Shasta play the Lava game. Have you every pretended that the floor or ground is lava?

Simon and Shasta go on a magical adventure and meet a Mysterious Traveller.

The Mysterious Traveller is looking for a seed. The seed to a magical Money Tree.

Simon warns Shasta not to be greedy. He is not being mean.

Shasta breaks one of the rules of the Money Tree - she takes money for lots of things, but does she really need those things?

Simon breaks the other rule by taking Katie to see the tree.

When Shasta starts talking about Katie and the other girls, she realizes that Simon is a good friend to her. He likes her whether her family has money or not.

Simon reads his Parent project to Shasta. It is about his Dad. He has never met his Dad.

Shasta and Simon realize that the Money Tree was never real.

Simon and Shasta meet Katie as they walk to school. Katie is mean to Simon, so Shasta sticks up for him.

Katie apologizes to Shasta and Simon for being mean and then leaves.

Simon asks Shasta if she meant what she said. He feels happy and proud that Shasta is his friend.

Shasta leaves.

Simon does one last magic trick.

When the play is over the screen will go red. On the screen will be the title of the play and information about who was involved in making it.



Image description: Shasta has a big smile. She holds many shopping bags and her eyes are closed.

**Thank you for watching
The Money Tree.
We hope you enjoyed the
play!**

For more information about
Roseneath Theatre's
accessibility programs email
Rachel Marks at
accessibility@roseneath.ca

Link to the Study Guide app

Want to learn more? Teachers, Parents and Caregivers can click on the link below for the study guide which is jam-packed with activities and information!

https://www.roseneath.ca/_files/ugd/0c720b_6c37260a204c49e48a612a64154b4b31.pdf

To book a performance please contact Alice Keane at education@roseneath.ca



Image description: Simon and the Mysterious Stranger stand opposite each other with their arms stretched towards the other person.

Credits

Cast:

Shasta

Simon/Dad

Katie/Mom/Mysterious Traveller

Cassandra Guthrie

Daniel Staseff

Eliza Martin

Creative Team:

Playwright

Director

Set & Costume Design

Sound Design

Stage Manager

Robert Watson

Andrew Lamb

Lindsay C. Walker

Rick Sacks

Joanne Rumstein-Ellis

Roseneath Team:

Andrew Lamb - Artistic Director

Annemieke Wade - Executive Director

Cassidy Sadler - Associate Producer

Meliz Posta - Associate Production Manager

Alice Keane - Booking and Family Programs Coordinator

Mark Clemens - Community Engagement Coordinator

Rachel Marks - Accessibility Coordinator

Khadija Stewart - Administrative Assistant