

What to expect when at the Relaxed Performance of Holland:

When you come into the theatre, there will be pop music playing, and the set onstage will be exposed.

At 7:30, An actor will come on stage to introduce themselves and say hello along with Ksenia, who works in the office at MTC. Ksenia will also explain some of the events in the show that nobody is too surprised, and some sounds that you will hear during the show so that people can get used to the volume.

The play you will see is called *Holland*. It is the story of Carrie, who is the mother of a child named Daniel who lives with cerebral palsy. Carrie and her husband Paul want the best for their son and are trying to work with organizations to get him the tools and services they need. But they keep finding barriers. Carrie can't handle this any longer and decides to ambush their case worker (Alice) to insist on the care Daniel needs. Through the show, we see Carrie and Paul's relationship, Alice's personality evolution, and Carrie and Paul's friends both in real life and on Facebook and how they support each other. If you would like a detailed synopsis that tells you exactly what happens in each scene, you can find that in the Enrichment Guide: [https://royalmtc.ca/Education-Outreach/Resources/Study-Guides/2526-Guides/Holland-Guide-Jan-6-\(1\).aspx](https://royalmtc.ca/Education-Outreach/Resources/Study-Guides/2526-Guides/Holland-Guide-Jan-6-(1).aspx)

There are five actors in the play. Carrie, Paul, and Alice will change the clothes they wear during the play to show that it is a different day or event. Two actors play many characters – for example, they play multiple members of the Facebook group, a teacher, friends of the family, and police officers.

Carrie is the main character. Mother to Josh and Daniel, she works as a server and spends a lot of time organizing the family and filling out paperwork. She tries to remain calm but is hiding anxiety and panic.



Carrie is married to Paul, Josh and Daniel's father. Paul works on a building crew. He loves his family but is not always good at keeping calm when he is frustrated with their case worker, which can lead to more problems.



Alice is a caseworker for Children's Special Services, or CSS. She is rigid in her beliefs and rulings. Jim is her supervisor.



< Rudy is Paul and Carrie's friend. He has a fight with his girlfriend and stays with the family, helping with the boys. >



Rachel is Carrie's friend, and mom to Daniel's friend Lauren. >

Many characters only appear from the chest up, like you see in a profile picture on Facebook. When you see an actor on either side of the stage, with their face in a spotlight and in front of a dark blue backdrop, they are reading a post or comment from Facebook. Their name will be announced by an artificial voice. Two characters who are very active on Facebook are @MamaRant, who wears a Sea Bears toque, and Gladys McNabb, who wears a yellow cardigan. Here are pictures of them and some of the other Facebook group members:



When Carrie speaks to the Facebook group, the lights around her turn blue and she's also in a spotlight.



There are many settings in this play, indoors and outdoors. The walls and curtains around the stage are made of paper, to represent how all the paperwork the family has to do – homework, fundraising forms, medication requests, supply applications, registrations – is taking over their lives.

The play begins in Paul and Carrie's kitchen, represented by a chair.



This is the CSS office (Jim, Paul, Carrie, Alice).



This is the school principal's office (Carrie, Ms Watson).



This is the hockey arena, where the parents watch the game (Rachel, Carrie, Paul, Garry).



This is the living room of Paul and Carrie's home (Paul, Rudy and Paul, Carrie).



This is the den of Paul and Carrie's home, represented by a recliner.



This is Carrie's art studio. It is in the workshop of a building that Rudy owns. The artwork changes as time goes by.



This is Alice and Carrie in Carrie's van.



This is the hospital.



This is Alice's condo.



This is the police station.



This is a park.



About watching the relaxed performance

During the play, there will be bright lights and music on the stage. Sometimes the actors shout. You can close your eyes or cover your ears if anything becomes too bright or loud. You can also get some earplugs in the lobby if you need them.

The lights shining on the stage will change colour throughout the play. They will get brighter and darker. In a few moments, the lights will pulse, going from dark to bright in a quick time. There will always be some lights on in the audience, so you will always be able to see.

Please do your best not to have conversations - everyone else is doing their best too. But if you need to react to the show, that is totally okay! Other people might also make some noise as they react. Everyone is welcome to be themselves and enjoy the show.

If you need to, you can leave and go to the lobby to take a break. A volunteer can help you leave the theatre and come back in when you are ready. Please do your best to exit and re-enter carefully to be respectful of the people around you.

After about an hour and fifteen minutes, there will be an intermission. An intermission is a 20-minute break.

At intermission, you can stretch your legs and talk to your family and friends. You can also use the bathroom in the lobby if you need to.

You will know the play is starting again when you hear an announcement. You will go to back your seat. The lights will dim, everyone will make sure their phones are off and stop talking, and the play will begin again. The second piece of the play is about 55 minutes long.

When the play is over, the actors will come on stage as themselves again. Everyone will clap their hands. If the noise is too loud, it is okay to cover your ears.

Everyone will leave the theatre at the end of the play the same way they came in. You can wait in your seat until the crowd is gone if you want.

The play is a total of 2 hours 35 minutes long including the intermission break.

You can find more information about the MTC building and the general audience experience in the [Venue Guide](#).

Some things to know about this play:

There will be a lot of yelling between some of the actors. Sometimes they are passionately expressing their thoughts, and sometimes their character is angry with another character. It is only pretend.

There are many physical fights onstage. This is all pretend; these moments have been staged by a fight director whose job it is to make sure that everyone is safe and comfortable while making the fight and struggles look real. The actors practice their movements every night before the show begins.

Carrie also threatens to shoot people with a nail gun. She shoots it towards the ceiling and accidentally shoots Paul with it, and hurts him. There are no nails in the nail gun; the noise you hear is just it shooting air. The actor playing Paul is not hurt. It will look like he is bleeding, but this is just paint on his costume pants.

Characters refer to drinking alcohol several times, and are shown drinking from beer bottles. There is no real alcohol onstage.

If you want to learn more about the play, including a scene-by-scene synopsis, you can look at the [Enrichment Guide](#).

If you have questions, you can contact Ksenia, Royal MTC's Education and Enrichment Manager by email at kbrodamilian@royalmtc.ca or phone at 204 956 1340 extension 221.

Credits:

These are the people responsible for what you see in the photos in this booklet.

Photos by Dylan Hewlett.

Director: Suzie Martin

Set Designer: Ksenia Broda-Milian

Costume Designer: Daina Leitold

Lighting Designer: Anika Binding

Carrie: Jessy Ardern

Paul: Daniel Bogart

Rudy, and others: Toby Hughes

Alice: Jennifer Lyon

Rachel, and others: Jane Testar

To see the names and biographies of the full cast, musicians, and creative team, check out the Ovation program or visit <https://royalmtc.ca/Current-Plays/Holland.aspx#cast-crew>

This guide was created by Ksenia Broda-Milian.