

# Show Guide



Photos: Camille Rorive, Joan Ward, Amy Wood, Greg Wong

This guide will prepare you for the show **MOYA**.  
It will help you know what to expect at the New Victory Theater.

## A Sensory-Friendly Education Performance will offer the following:



### **A welcoming environment!**

NEW VICTORY audiences are invited to react to the performance any way that feels comfortable. You are invited to clap, use a fidget, chat with a neighbor, vocalize and safely move around the theater.

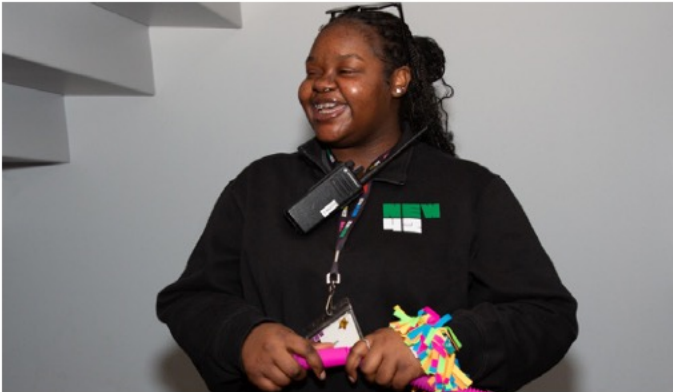
### **Lighting and sound adjustments**

**Sensory supports such as headphones, earplugs, fidgets and sunglasses**

### **Additional support from New Victory staff members**

Please let them know if you have any access needs.

### **Cozy Zone and sensory tools found in the lower lobby**



Photos: Alexis Buatti-Ramos







In the lower lobby you can find: water fountains, bathrooms, the Cozy Zone and our Accessibility Table.



## Cozy Zone



A quiet place to relax with fidget tools and bean bag chairs.

## Lower Lobby



A place where you can take a break with fidget tools and a live video feed of **MOYA**.

## Additional Staff



NEW VICTORY staff members will circulate throughout the theater during the performance. They will have fidgets and earplugs available and can help with other support needs.





**MOYA** is performed by a company of circus artists called Zip Zap Circus from Cape Town, South Africa.

Their performances are inspired by Nelson Mandela's dream of a Rainbow Nation, a metaphor for harmony amongst South African people.

Nelson Mandela (1918 – 2013) was a South African anti-apartheid revolutionary and political leader who became the country's first Black president. He advocated for peace, equality and justice, and dreamed of a Rainbow Nation—a country united in its diversity that champions harmony for all South Africans.



**TITLE:** *MOYA*

**RUN TIME:** 80 minutes, including a 10-minute Talk-Back.

If you need to take a break during the show, you can leave the theater and return. There may be some times when you have to wait a few minutes to re-enter because it is safer for the performers. The ushers will let you know when you can re-enter.

Following *MOYA* there will be a Talk-Back. During a Talk-Back, a few performers will answer two to four questions from the audience.

**ART FORMS:** Contemporary Circus, Juggling, Gumbo, Amapiano

**ONE SENTENCE SUMMARY:** Audiences will experience the big-hearted spirit of ubuntu\* with *MOYA*, a uniquely South African story, and come together for an invigorating circus extravaganza that shines with the vibrant humanity of South Africa.

\*Ubuntu: This word comes from southern African Nguni languages, including Zulu and Xhosa, and means “humanity to others.”



Everyone who performs circus acts has practiced for a very long time. Do not try the things that they do because it is not safe.



The performers are safe because they have spent a lot of time learning how to do their tricks. You may want to take lessons and learn how to do tricks, too.



Zip Zap Circus is a **modern—or contemporary—circus**. Modern circuses are sometimes performed on a proscenium stage instead of in a ring under a tent. Modern circuses often draw from theater, creating acts that develop characters and aesthetics.





Zip Zap Circus also utilizes **gumboot dancing**. Gumboot is a form of percussion and dance involving rhythmic stomps, claps and slaps.

The dance form was originally a secret method of communication between Black South Africans forced to work in gold mines in the late 1800s. The series of stomps and claps could relay messages for the miners even when it was not safe to speak.



Named after the rubber boots that miners wore, the dance has been passed on through generations and is now a celebration of Black South African culture.

With its fast footwork and body drumming, gumboot dancing has many parallels between stepping in African-American culture.

You will also hear **amapiano**, a genre of music originating from South Africa. Its bright, techno beats are a fusion of jazz, rhythm and blues, soul and house music that takes inspiration from the New York club dance scene and West African roots.



Amapiano was born out of kwaito, a genre of music that rose to popularity at the end of the Apartheid era of South Africa, and later gqom, which is an Afro house music genre that gained popularity in the 2010s.

Today, amapiano is a source of cultural pride and celebration among South Africans, and is rising in popularity on social media.



Moya is a Zulu word that means spirit, air, soul and wind. Moya refers to someone's life force or engine that keeps them going.

MOYA is set in a market in Cape Town, South Africa, and showcases a variety of incredible circus acts featuring nine dynamic performers. At the center of the action is Trompie, played by Jacobus Claassen. The role of Trompie and the world of MOYA is based on the life of Claassen who, at age 10, joined Zip Zap Circus.



To tell Claassen's story, the artists and acrobats perform circus acts like juggling, tumbling and dancing.



Sometimes there is one performer in an act, sometimes a pair and sometimes a group. You can tell that a new act is starting because the performers, lights, music and equipment change.

Learn more about the acts below!



Here are some of the acts that you will see. They may not be in this order:



### **Handstand**

A circus act in which a performer holds their body upside down using their hands and arms as support.



### **Single Trapeze**

A circus act in which a performer uses the forward-backward motion and momentum of a swinging trapeze bar to execute tricks.



### **Ball Juggling**

A circus act in which jugglers repeatedly throw and catch a variety of balls in various patterns in the air.



### **Hand to Hand**

A circus act where two or more acrobats use their hands to support and balance each other while performing tricks and stunts.



### **Gumboots**

A form of percussion and dance involving rhythmic stomps, claps and slaps.



### **Cyr Wheel**

A circus act in which an acrobat moves, dances and does tricks within a single large ring made of aluminum or steel.

An acrobat is a type of circus artist who performs gymnastic acts—or acrobatics—with ease and grace.

Here are some of the acts that you will see. They may not be in this order:



### **Jump Rope**

A circus act in which multiple performers jump rope using multiple ropes.



### **Straps**

A circus act in which aerialists use their hands and wrists to wrap around two narrow close-woven bands, called straps, to perform holds, twists and rolls.



### **Bounce Juggling**

A circus act in which jugglers repeatedly throw and catch a variety of balls in various patterns against a surface.



### **Silks**

A circus act in which an aerialist performs acrobatics while hanging from a length of fabric.

An aerialist is a type of circus artist who performs acrobatics with ease and grace high above the ground.



There are moments in *MOYA* that may make you feel scared or nervous. If you are feeling any of those emotions, we encourage you to:

Close or cover your eyes



Talk to Staff



Close or cover your ears



Use a fidget tool



Take a few breaths



Take a break in the lower lobby



**You may also feel excited and happy!**  
**If you are feeling any of those emotions, we encourage you to:**

**Laugh**



**Clap**



**Vocalize or chat with a neighbor**



**Move in a way that feels comfortable to you**





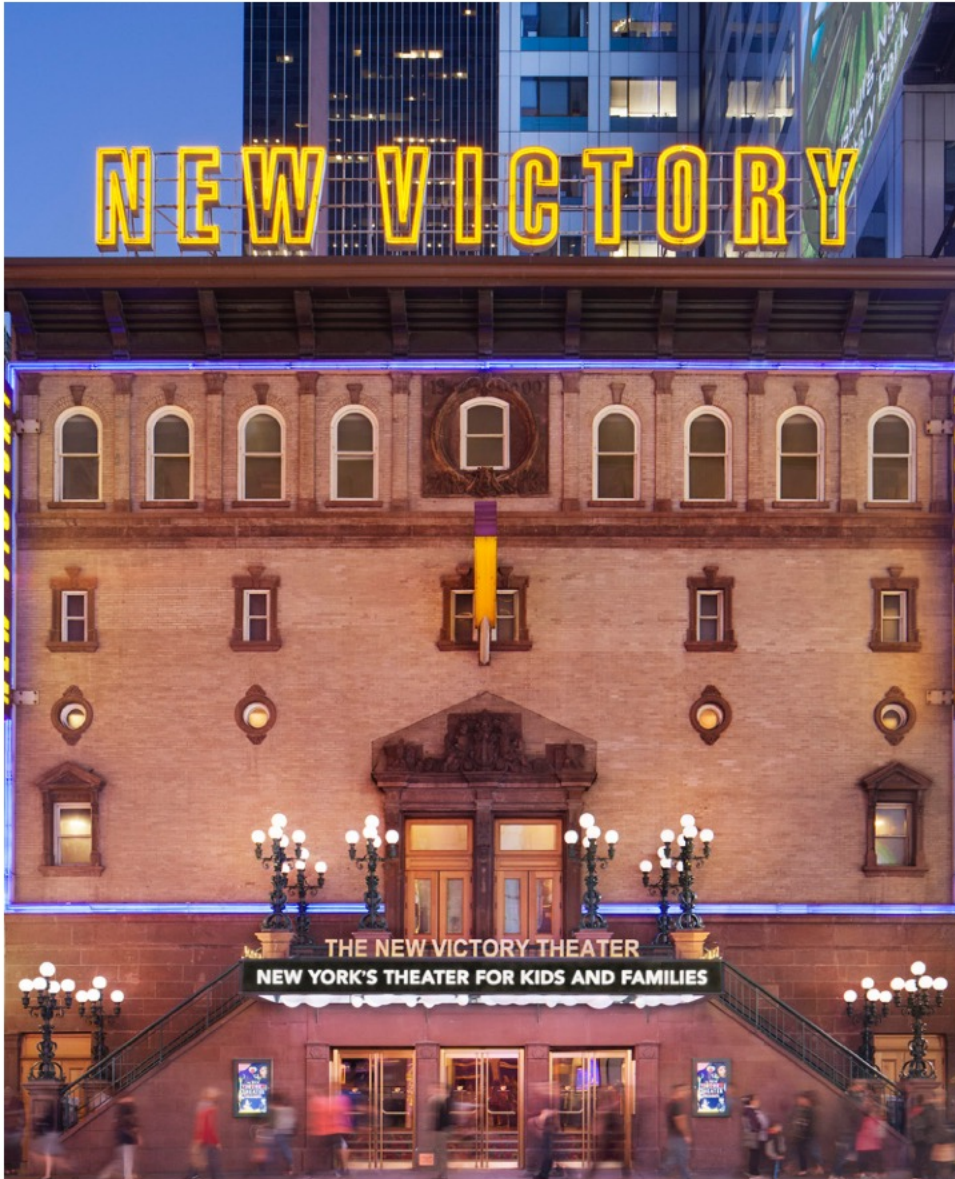


Photo: Mark LaRosa

We hope you enjoy **MOYA** at the New Victory Theater!

We look forward to welcoming you back next season for more **Sensory-Friendly** performances!



**THE NEW VICTORY THEATER**  
Show Guide

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