



Birds of a Feather by Robert Watson

Relaxed Guide for In-Class streaming - March 2021

**Roseneath
Theatre**



Introduction

Today you will be watching a recording of a play. It is not a movie. It does not have special effects, but it does have 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, but it is used in different ways to create all the places that the characters visit.

What are props? Props are anything that the actors hold - like Sarah's binoculars, or Violet's backpack. Props help the actor to tell us the story of the play. Sometimes the characters use the props to play make believe.

Meet the Actors and the Characters

Birds of a Feather has three characters who are played by two actors. That means that one actor plays two characters. Below are photos of each of the actors with some information on the characters they play.



This is Michaela Di Cesare (she/her).

She plays Sarah. Sarah is on vacation in Hawaii with her Grandmother (Grandma). Sarah and her Grandma like bird watching.



This is Bria McLaughlin (they/them).

They play Grandmother (Grandma) and Violet. Grandma lives with Sarah.

Violet lives in Hawaii with her two dads.



What is the play about?

Birds of a Feather tells the story of Sarah meeting Violet. It also helps us to learn about families.

In the beginning of the play Sarah is with her grandmother. We learn that Sarah, her mother and her grandmother all live together. They are a family. Sarah and Grandma are on vacation in Hawaii. They like to go bird watching.

While playing outside the hotel Sarah meets Violet. Violet lives in Hawaii with her two dads. They are a family. Violet loves to play make believe.

Sarah and Violet play together and learn about a bird called the Laysan Albatross. Violet helps Sarah to realize families come in all shapes and sizes - and that is awesome! And that no matter how many people are in your family, or who they are, they are all part of your special family.

Birds of a Feather Fact Sheet

The play you are about to watch is called Birds of a Feather. It was written by Robert Watson, directed by Andrew Lamb and presented by Roseneath Theatre.

The play lasts approximately 42 minutes and 35 seconds (including the opening and closing slides).

When it is time for you to watch the play you can sit in your seat (or wherever your teacher asks you to sit) and your teacher will begin the video.

At the beginning of the video are some slides. The slides look like a stage and have writing on them. The slides can be paused if you need longer to read them.

On the bottom right of the screen is a countdown timer. It tells you how long until the play begins.

Music will play while the slides are showing.

The slides last approximately one minute.

The third slide is a Land Acknowledgement. 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 - even virtual ones! This slide appears 15 seconds into the video.

The last slide before the play begins reads "Please take your seats, the show is about to begin..." - this is when you will know the play is about to start. Get ready!

Just before the play begins the screen will go green. On the green screen will be the title of the play and information about who was involved in making it.

When the play begins you will see the set. The set has a large projection screen in the centre. On the screen is a pineapple growing on a tree.

The play takes place in Hawaii.

When the projection screen on stage goes blue, the talking will begin.

The play has 3 characters - Sarah, her Grandmother (sometimes called Grandma) and Violet.

There are bird noises in the play. The bird noises don't always sound the way we expect them to.

When Violet first enters she makes "Meep, meep. Honk" sounds loudly. She is making the sound an albatross makes.

Violet has 2 dads.

Sarah has 1 mom and 1 grandmother.

During the play, Sarah and Violet play make believe. They pretend to be 2 Laysan Albatross.

When Violet and Sarah play make believe they wear white visors on their heads. When they talk about things outside of their make believe game they lift the visors and a light tinkling sound is played. This is how we know they aren't playing make believe at that moment.

When Violet steps up onto the set and begins to fly there are wind sounds and music begins to play.

The wind sounds begin again when Sarah steps up onto the set and begins to fly and hunt for squid with Violet.

When Sarah and Violet play together their voices get louder and higher pitched with excitement.

There are drum sounds when Sarah and Violet land.

The name of Violet's albatross is Kainoa. The name of Sarah's albatross is Makani.

When Violet begins the albatross dance music will play.

When Violet says "haul yourself over to my nest" there will be car sounds - including the sound of brakes and the beep of a car alarm.

Violet gets anxious when Sarah enters her nest and doesn't wipe her feet.

Violet relaxes when Sarah wipes her feet.

Violet likes things to look and be a certain way. Sarah doesn't care if things look or are a certain way. Violet and Sarah compromise so that they are both happy.

In the make believe game they are playing, Sarah and Violet are pretending to be Laysan Albatross that are taking care of an egg. The egg doesn't hatch. They are sad.

Sarah blames herself for the egg not hatching. Violet tells her that it isn't her fault. There was nothing they could do to make the egg hatch.

Sarah flies away in sadness.

Sarah realizes that her make believe albatross and Violet's make believe albatross are family. She flies back to Violet.

When Sarah flies back she makes "Meep, meep. Honk" sounds.

Sarah and Violet get another egg.

While they are waiting for the egg to hatch Sarah and Violet do the albatross dance again. Music will play.

When Sarah says that the egg is 66 days old there will be cracking sounds.

While Sarah and Violet wait for the egg to hatch their voices get loud and high pitched with excitement.

A baby bird comes out of the shell and chirps. The baby bird is really a toy - Sarah and Violet are still playing make believe.

Sarah realizes that she has left the hotel and needs to see her grandmother.

Sarah and Violet say goodbye.

Sarah rushes to get back to her grandmother.

Sarah is happy to see Grandma, hugs her and tells her about Violet.

As Grandma and Sarah leave the stage the sound of a Laysan Albatross can be heard. It is loud and high pitched.

At the end of the play the projection screen at the back of the set shows a photo of two Laysan Albatross with a chick. There are wind sounds.

As the wind sounds fade, music plays.

When the play is over the screen will go green. There will be writing on the green screen. The writing tells us everyone who was involved in making the play.





Some photos from the play.

Far Left - Sarah and Grandma

Above - Violet as Kainoa and Sarah as Makani holding a chick

Left - Violet as Kainoa and Sarah as Makani



Thank you for watching
Birds of a Feather.
We hope you enjoyed it!

For more information in
Roseneath Theatre's
accessibility programs email
Rachel Marks at
education@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!

app.roseneath.ca/show/birds-feather



Credits

Cast:

Sarah/Makani

Michaela Di Cesare

Grandma/Violet/Kainoa

Bria McLaughlin

Creative Team:

Playwright

Robert Watson

Director

Andrew Lamb

Sound Design

Verne Goode

Set/Projection Design

Beth Kates

Costume/Prop Design

Melanie McNeill

Stage Manager

Sandi Becker

Photographer

John Packman

Accessibility:

Accessibility Coordinator/Relaxed Guide

Rachel Marks

Audio Description

Kat Germain

Deaf Interpretation

Cassie-Hope Aubin

ASL Interpretation

Wanda Sinclair