

## Mughal Miniatures: Animal Paradise – Social Story

I am going to see Mughal Miniatures; it is an outdoor performance. It is 25 minutes long.

Sometimes a festival or outdoor event may be crowded. To get to the performance I may walk in front of other people, and other people may walk in front of me to get to the show. People might accidentally bump me while they walk by me.



I might be able to sit on the ground or on a chair to watch the show or I may have to stand up. I can choose where I want to watch the performance as long as there is enough space between me and the performance area. A steward will tell me if I am too close, and I can move further back.

During the show, I will sit or stand with my family. There may be people I don't know sitting or standing close to me. I will try and be quiet during the show.

The music starts and stops throughout the show, there are lots of rhythmic Indian drumbeats and sometimes it is loud. There may be things that make me nervous. If I get nervous during the show, I can: cover my eyes, wear ear defenders, hold my parent's hand, or play with my fidget.



[Too Loud!](#) By Nicki Dugan Pogue. Used under CC BY-SA

If I see something that I like or think is funny, I can clap my hands or laugh. Others sitting by me might clap, cheer or laugh at things too. If the clapping or cheering is too loud, I can: cover my ears or wear ear defenders.

The set is five big arches. They are painted with bright colours and patterns. There is a big empty space in front of the arches where the performers dance.



This is a dance show with loud music played through speakers. The performers don't speak or say any words, but I can tell what's happening in the story by following their movements.

There might be four, five or six performers. Each performer plays a main part, plus the part of a peacock and a gazelle at different points in the show.



One performer plays part of the first hunter; she is wearing a costume that looks like this:



One performer plays part of the second hunter; she is wearing a costume that looks like this:



One performer plays part of the princess; she is wearing a costume that looks like this:



One performer plays part of the main peacock; she is wearing a costume that looks like this:



One performer plays part of the main gazelle. In the first half of the show she wears a costume that looks like this:



In the second half of the show, she wears a costume that looks like this.



The show starts when the dancers walk onto the stage and each one stands in an arch and strikes a pose. They stay still so it looks like they are in a picture.

The music starts and one by one each dancer leaves their arch and dances together in a circle. The dance is happy and energetic and continues for a few minutes. It ends when two dancers are given colourful umbrellas.



The dancers with umbrellas are pretending to be princesses playing in the royal palace gardens. They pretend wind ropes to make a garden swing and pick flowers.





One dancer picks up her umbrella and looks at the sky, worried that it's going to rain. She leaves the stage. The other dancer pretends to dance in the rain.

Then two dancers come out pretending to be peacocks; they are wearing purple and blue scarves across their bodies. They dance with the princess but eventually nudge her off the stage.

Another dancer joins the stage, she is wearing a mask that looks like a peacock's head. Her blue skirt is held out wide to look like a peacock's tail. All the peacocks dance together, trying to compete to be more beautiful than the others.





One by one the peacocks leave the stage leaving only two peacocks dancing. Then two dancers come on to the stage pretending to be gazelles. They are wearing yellow scarves across their bodies.

The gazelles want to play with the peacocks but the peacocks don't want to and leave the stage. The gazelles look sad. More dancers join the stage pretending to be gazelles. They are wearing yellow scarves too.

A final dancer joins the stage, she is wearing a mask that looks like a gazelle head and a brown dress. The music is very percussive with an energetic beat.



The gazelle herd dances together until they hear a sound. They panic and start leaving the stage until only the dancer in the gazelle mask is left.

The gazelle looks scared and looks around for somewhere to hide. The gazelle hides in amongst the audience.



There are drumbeats. Two dancers appear on stage, they have long sticks and are pretending to be hunters. They look proud and fierce and are looking around for something to hunt. They compete with each other to be the best hunter.

The gazelle leaves its hiding place and sneaks around the stage. The gazelle and the hunters spot each other. The hunters each try to catch the gazelle individually, but the gazelle always outsmarts them.





Then the hunters decide to work together. The hunters catch the gazelle and pretend to stab it with their sticks. The gazelle falls to the ground and the hunters celebrate.

They lift up the gazelle. One pretends to skin it, pulling out some fabric from the costume, the other takes off the gazelle mask. They show them off to the audience.



Suddenly a chant starts and the gazelle twitches. It slowly stands up and looks angry and powerful.

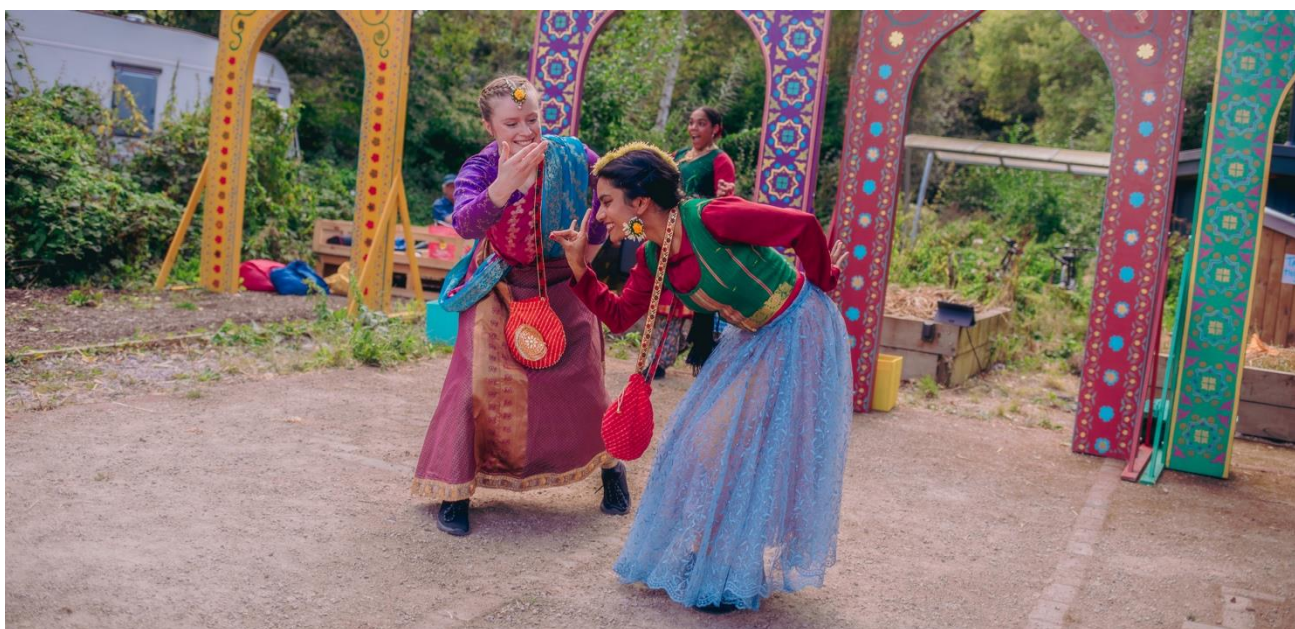
The gazelle reaches out to each of the hunters. They look spooked and hurriedly put down the cloth and mask. Suddenly the hunters start moving and jerking around. It looks like they can't control what their bodies are doing. The gazelle sends them back to their arches and they flop over.



The gazelle picks up the gazelle mask, lifts it high and walks off stage.



Two dancers come on stage. One is pretending to be a different gazelle, looking for its friend, and the other is the princess. At first the gazelle is scared of the princess but then the princess encourages the gazelle to come and be stroked by someone in the audience.



The other dancers are standing by the arches pretending to be gazelles and peacocks. When they see that the human is safe, they come out too.



Each one gets a chance to show off a dance move in the middle of the stage and the others copy it. Then they all dance together.



Some of the dancers ask audience members to come on to the stage to dance with them, some agree and dance on the stage for a short time.





The dancers then tell the audience members to go back to their seats. The dancers do a final dance together and throw confetti from small bags before returning to their arches and striking a pose.



This is the end of the show, and the audience will start clapping and cheering. If I want to, I can clap and cheer too.