

Rising Sun Performance Company's Rites of Spring: A Pre-Show Informational Guide

You are reading a pre-show guide to Rising Sun Performance Company's Rites of Spring virtual theatre fest. Rites of Spring is a series of eight short plays, performed live on an online platform, all based on the theme of spring. This guide is meant to give you a preview of what to expect in the performance, both in terms of subject matter and technical effects.

We have done our best not to include spoilers, but the nature of a guide like means there may be material that reveals information about the plot or characters prematurely. Don't worry, this shouldn't affect your ability to enjoy the show!

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Getting into the show

When you bought your ticket online, you should have received an email with instructions on how to access the show. In most cases, this will be a link taking you directly to the YouTube URL that Rites of Spring will be streamed on.

To ensure you're in the right place, you should be on YouTube.com, and the graphic on the video player should look like this:



There is a chance the show might start a few minutes late.

Intro

There will be a brief introductory slide with a graphic that looks like this:



This will be closely followed by a land acknowledgment slide that looks like this:



Note regarding all shows & virtual theatre

Rites of Spring is performed by individual performers using Zoom, which is then streamed to YouTube. The nature of theatre performances via Zoom means that cameras switch frequently unless a certain user is “pinned” to be the focus, or a certain setting called “gallery view” is on, which makes all screens even at all times. The cameras tend to follow whoever is speaking or making the most noise, but not always, and sometimes it lags or goes to a random screen if it does not track the loudest one.

With any live theatre performance, there is always the chance that something unexpected could happen, and online theatre has the added hurdles of dependency on internet connections and software. In the event of technical difficulties, the Rising Sun team will do their very best to get the performances back on track, and get the rest of the show running smoothly. We thank our viewers in advance for their patience and understanding!

Transitions

Before each individual play, there will be a moving graphic with the Rites of Spring black and yellow background, a moving yellow border, moving yellow text in the center of the screen, and moving white text at the bottom indicating the director and playwright.

After each individual play, there will be another black graphic with a yellow border, and fast-moving white text indicating the show’s assigned prompt and prop.

Individual performances

The Rite-ing on the Wall

This show contains depictions of a panic attack and breakdown, and briefly depicts hyperventilation.

There will be a very visible graphic behind one of the actors that changes patterns during the performance.

Towards the end of the show, the screen will go entirely to white, then black, and the actors will continue speaking.

The Year of the Fall of May

This show contains a significant amount of the cameras switching as characters speak at loud volumes and talk over each other.

Chasing Juliet

Towards the end of this show, there is a scream and brief blackout.

Miracle Birds

This show contains many mentions of the COVID-19 pandemic, including not wearing masks.

Three characters sing as a group at one point.

The Audition

This play contains mentions of COVID, including masks and vaccinations.

At some point a video will play that moves through a series of costume changes somewhat quickly.

Eggs in One Basket

This show contains a few sound effects.

Some characters may get very close to their screen as they speak.

Spring Cleaning for Mrs. J

This show contains a loud, somewhat distorted sound cue that includes a scream.

One character may get very close to their screen as they speak.

Blue Manakins

Some characters may get very close to their screen as they speak.

Conclusion

There will be a brief video of a black background, yellow borders, a cascading effect on pink flowers, and gold text that says "Thank you". The slide will then scroll through the names and positions of the Rites of Spring production staff.