

A Facility For Living Education Packet



Developed by
Luis Galvez



About the Play

A Facility for Living is a comedy written by actor/ playwright Katie Forgette and premiered at Seattle's ACT Theatre in 2013.

The play is set at SPA Facility #273 in the “not-so-distant future.”

Play Synopsis:

“Joe Taylor, a retired actor, moves into a prison-turned-elder-care facility shortly after the demise of Medicare and the election of Dick Cheney to President. There he discovers a community of loveable, irascible inmates hell-bent on bucking the dehumanizing system in which they have landed. Together, this band of aging misfits rediscovers purpose and dignity in the face of a system mightily stacked against them. A delightful comedy with bite from Katie Forgette, that dares to confront the issue of aging in America.”

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Major themes of the play include:

- Aging
 - Religion
 - Politics
 - Community
 - Healthcare
 - Theatre
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Terms to Know Before You Go

Medicare:

Medicare is a program run by the US government that helps older adults, usually above 65 years old, pay for their healthcare. The program is paid for by payroll taxes, a portion of your paycheck that you have to pay to the government. This program is repealed in the play.

Dick Cheney:

Dick Cheney served as Vice President of the US under George Bush from 2001 to 2009. His Vice Presidency was highly controversial because of his assertive response to the 9/11 terrorist attacks. He is 82 years old today. In the play, Dick Cheney is resurrected from the dead, and serves as US President.



HIPAA:

The Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act is a law that makes sure patients' medical information is kept private. This law is repealed in the play.

Spoon River Anthology

Spoon River Anthology, written by Edgar Lee Masters, is a collection of short poems that narrate the lives of residents who passed away in Spoon River, a fictional small town in Illinois. Published in 1915, the play uses the poems to reflect the stories of the residents.



A Few Reminders

Phones Away!

Please be sure to silence your phone and any other devices. Texting can be distracting to those around you and those on stage. Taking photos, videos, or audio recordings may also violate copyright law.

Intermission

Remain seated throughout the duration of the play. There will be a 15 minute intermission between acts, which would be a great time to check your phone, go to the bathroom, grab some snacks, or talk about the play.

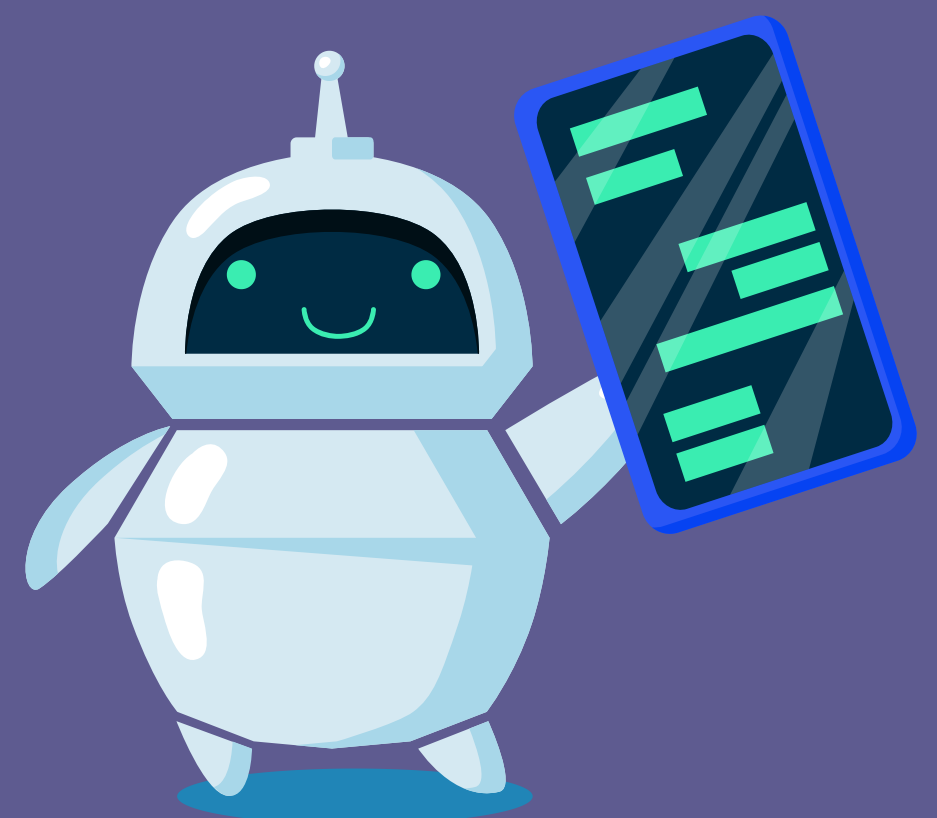
Get Engaged

Actors feed off of the energy that comes from the audience, so don't be afraid to clap and laugh (or cry, if you must). Just remember to be mindful of your neighbors. Talking throughout the show, even at a whisper, can be distracting to the people around you. At the end of the show, let the actors know you enjoyed their work by giving them a round of applause.

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Timeliness is KEY

It is very important to arrive before the show's start time (7:30pm for preview and evening shows, 2:00pm for Sunday matinees). Consider arriving earlier to beat the lines and snag good parking. Doors open thirty minutes before curtain.



Theatrical References

Throughout the play, the residents of SPA Facility #273 read, talk about, and perform scenes from several well-known plays. Here is a full list of all of the plays that Forgette gives a nod to in the show:

Much Ado About Nothing

- William Shakespeare



Major Barbara

- George Bernard Shaw

The Tragedy of Hamlet, Prince of Denmark

- William Shakespeare



The Importance of Being Earnest

- Oscar Wilde



Pygmalion

- George Bernard Shaw

Spoon River Anthology

- Edgar Lee Masters
- Stage adaptation by Charles Aidman



About the Production

A Facility for Living is being produced by
Reno Little Theater at:

147 E. Pueblo St. Reno, NV

Directed by Moira Bengochea, rehearsals for the show began in early August. The show runs from September 22 to October 15, with a preview on Wednesday, September 20 and a post-show talkback with the audience on Sunday, October 1.

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The play is the first of five in RLT's 89th Season.

For more information about the production and Reno Little Theater, visit renolittletheater.org

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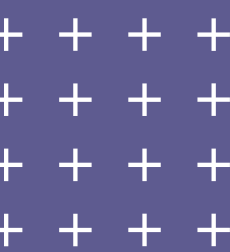


References and Further Reading

National New Play Exchange. “Katie Forgette.”
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[medicare.gov/about-us/how-is-medicare-funded](https://www.medicare.gov/about-us/how-is-medicare-funded)

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U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.
“Your Rights Under HIPAA” August 31, 2023.
[hhs.gov/hipaa/for-individuals/guidance-materials-for-consumers](https://www.hhs.gov/hipaa/for-individuals/guidance-materials-for-consumers)

