

BAM



Bill Conroy

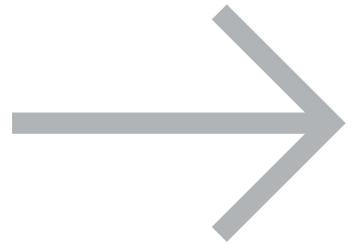
*Image Description:* Juniper and dad are on stage standing side by side, one singing and the other smiling. There are papers and robot parts scattered around the stage with a large robot behind them.

## Robot Song

Created by Jolyon James

# Social Narrative

Soon, I will go to the theater to see the play  
*Robot Song*. Here's what will happen.



# Times to Know

Each performance may begin a little differently. Sometimes, to help audiences settle comfortably in the theater, the show may start about 5 minutes late.

The theater doors open 15—30 minutes before the show. Before the doors open, I can wait in the lobby.

The performance is about 60 minutes long. After the show, there will be a post-show conversation where I can ask the artists questions.



*Image Description:* The BAM Fisher building, located in the middle of Ashland Place. The building is brick and has 6 floors with arched windows and lit signage saying "BAM Fisher."

I will enter through the center two glass doors.

BAM ushers will greet me when I enter. I can ask them any questions I need about how to find things in the building. Seats are general admission, so I can sit wherever I feel most comfortable.



*Image Description:* Two men smile behind the black BAM Fisher ticket counter with computers, a POS terminal, and a "TICKETS" sign.

I will pick up my tickets at the box office.

# If I Need a Break

Everyone experiences theater in different ways. During the show, I can take care of my body in ways that help me feel comfortable.

Sometimes I may need to leave the theater for a short break. That is okay.

## **If I need a break, I can:**

- Walk to the lobby
- Visit the Break Area
- Move my body or rest
- Return to the show when I feel ready

A BAM usher can help me if I need assistance.

I can enjoy the show in my own way. I can fidget, dance, move, vocalize, sit, talk, or do whatever helps me be comfortable.

If the sound feels too loud for my ears, I can cover them with my hands or wear sound-dampening headphones.

If I do not have headphones, I may be able to borrow some from BAM, while supplies last.

If the lights feel too bright, I can wear sunglasses or cover my eyes. If I do not have sunglasses, I can ask an usher if any are available to borrow.

At the end of the play, I can show the actors I enjoyed the show by clapping or expressing myself in another way that feels good for me.



*Image Description:* A figure in darkness and smoke shines multiple bright lights directly toward the audience, creating a glowing, dramatic effect.

## Some moments to know about in the play

- Some moments in this play may be louder, brighter, or more surprising than other shows.
- The show begins with loud guitar music and singing. At the start, the stage is dark, and a person wearing lights slowly walks through haze as the music gets louder. This is Juniper wearing a robot costume.
- Juniper becomes overwhelmed by the noise and shouts, “Shut up!” When she does this, the sound stops and the lights turn on.
- During the show there may also be:
  - Flashing lights
  - Haze (theater fog) on stage
  - A bright light that shines toward the audience
- Juniper talks about being bullied at school.
- Juniper and her Dad read a letter written by her classmates. The letter includes hurtful words saying Juniper is like a robot and should not have been born.
- There is a pretend play battle where characters act like they are fighting.
- There is also a silly song about poo.
- Juniper and Dad sometimes talk directly to the audience and invite people to join in.
- Juniper also tells the audience that she is creating the theater show we are watching.

The story of *Robot Song* was inspired by a real letter sent to a child, but the rest of the story is fictional.



*Image Description:* On the left, a woman with long hair plays a keyboard. On the right, another woman with pigtails sits on top of a large dumpster.

## What is the play about?

Eleven-year-old Juniper May receives a letter signed by her whole class saying that she is “the most hated person in the school.”

Juniper feels deeply hurt and stops going to school. She and her family struggle to understand what happened and how to move forward.

Through music, imagination, and the help of a giant singing robot, Juniper begins to explore new ways of understanding herself and the letter.

# Topics in the show

## **Bullying**

- The play talks about bullying at school.
- Juniper and Dad read a letter written and signed by her classmates. The letter is mean and hurtful, and it makes Juniper feel very upset.
- The letter is based on a real letter sent to a child, but the rest of the story is fictional.

## **Hurting Someone Else**

- Juniper becomes very upset after classmates break the VHS tapes she brought to school.
- In her anger, she pushes another student named Susan.
- Later we learn that Susan is wearing a bright pink arm cast, which suggests her arm was broken when she fell.
- This moment is described in the story, but it is not shown on stage.

## **Talking With the Audience**

- Juniper and Dad sometimes talk directly to the audience.
- Juniper may invite the audience to:
  - Sing along
  - Stand up and stretch
  - Take a breath together
- At one point she asks for one volunteer to shout “poo!” If I do not want to volunteer, that is completely okay.

## **Poo Song**

In one scene, Dad finds something under a container on the carpet. It turns out to be a pretend poo made from paper. Juniper and Dad sing a funny song called “Poo Song.”

## **Play Battle**

In one scene, Juniper and Dad have a pretend battle. Dad dresses as a robot while Juniper pretends to fly a pterodactyl. Lights, music, and haze make the moment feel dramatic and exciting, but it is all pretend.

# Sound, Lights, and Audience Reactions

## Sound

- The actors use microphones so the audience can hear them clearly.
- There are six songs performed live during the show.
- The loudest moment happens at the very beginning, when the music becomes louder and more intense.
- If the sound feels too loud, I can cover my ears or use headphones.

## Lights

- Most of the lighting is simple and helps the audience see the stage.
- At the beginning of the show:
  - The stage starts dark
  - A few flashing lights appear for about 8 seconds
  - Then the lights come on
- Sometimes lights may shine toward the audience.
- If the lights feel too bright, I can cover my eyes or wear sunglasses.
- Even when the stage is dark, I will be safe. Nothing will come out of the dark or touch the audience.

## Audience Reactions

- People in the audience may react in different ways.
- Some people may:
  - Laugh
  - Sing along
  - Stretch with Juniper
  - Feel sad during emotional moments

It is okay to have many different feelings during the play. I may feel happy, excited, thoughtful, or sad at different times. If I need a break, I can go to the lobby or the Break Area and return when I feel ready.

# Short Synopsis of the Show

Here is a simple overview of what happens in *Robot Song*.

- The show begins in darkness. Dad prepares for the show and welcomes the audience.
- Juniper appears dressed as a robot. Loud music and lights start, but Juniper becomes overwhelmed and shouts, “Shut up!” The sound stops and the lights come on.
- Juniper decides to tell her story. She talks about the mean letter she received at school and shares parts of her life with the audience.
- Juniper and Dad sing songs and invite the audience to participate, including stretching, singing, and the silly “Poo Song.”
- Juniper meets a robot character named Battletac, who helps her think about the letter in a new way.
- The show ends with a joyful final song about friendship, understanding, and love.

## Thank you for watching *Robot Song*. We hope you enjoy the show!



*Image Description:* A large dumpster on stage is decorated with a creature's face and the slogan “REUSE REDUCE RECYCLE.” A young girl interacts with a giant smartphone prop showing a robot graphic. The stage includes a small robot toy, a toy wagon, and screens in the background.