

VISUAL STORY FOR *YAGA*

A Visual Story helps people prepare for coming to a show or decide if this show is right for them.

Here are the show times for *Yaga*:

Thurs. Oct 24 – 7:30PM (Pay-What-You-Will Preview)
Fri. Dec 15 – 7:30PM (Opening Night)
Sat. Oct 26 – 1:00PM (Open Experience)
Sat. Oct 26 – 7:30PM
Sun. Oct 27 – 1:00PM
Tues. Oct 29 – 7:30PM
Wed. Oct 30 – 7:30PM
Thurs. Oct 31 – 7:30PM
Fri. Nov 1 – 7:30PM
Sat. Nov 2 – 1:00PM (VocalEye Live Audio Description)
Sat. Nov 2 – 7:30PM

About Open Experience

Usually at the theatre, the audience is supposed to be quiet and sit still during the show. We know that this isn't possible for everyone – some people like to make noise, or need to move around and fidget to stay comfortable.

At the Open Experience show, audience members can relax and be their natural selves. You can move in and out of the theatre, laugh as loudly or quietly as you want, and fidget in your seat as much as you need. If you need to take a break from watching the show, you can go to the “chill-out zone” in the lobby on the 2nd floor. There will be comfortable seats and stim toys for you to use. A volunteer can help you go back to your seat when you are ready.

What information is in this Visual Story?

You can click on the things you want to know about:

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Schedule / Important Times

These times may be slightly different for every show.

The performance is about 2 hours and 25 minutes long, including a 20-minute intermission, approximately halfway through the show. You are welcome to leave the theatre and then return to your seat during the show.

Evening Shows

6:30 PM – Lobby doors open and you can pick up your tickets

7:00 PM – Theatre doors open and you can find your seat

7:30 PM – The performance starts

9:55 PM – The performance ends

Afternoon Shows

12:00 PM – Lobby doors open and you can pick up your tickets

12:30 PM – Theatre doors open and you can find your seat

1:00 PM – The performance starts

2:25 PM – The performance ends

Arriving at the theatre

When you arrive at the theatre, you will enter the main lobby through one of two doors. Volunteers will be at both doors and in the lobby. They will be happy to help you if you have any questions or do not feel sure about where you should go.

If you need to pick up your physical ticket from the Box Office, you will enter through the doorway marked "Theatre Entrance." The Box Office is through these doors. Box Office staff will be able to help you.

If you already have your ticket, then you will enter through the doorway near the concession.

This is the Box Office where you can pick up your physical tickets:



Before the show

You can enter the theatre to find your seat 30 minutes before the show begins. You are also welcome to hang out in the lobbies. There are comfortable seats in the lobby where you can sit. When it is time to go into the theatre, the lights in the lobby will flash on and off and someone will make an announcement.

You can also leave your coat, sweater or bags at the Coat Check, if you would like. Volunteers at the Coat Check will safely store your items during the show. When you drop something off, they will give you a token with a number on it. When you want to get your item back, you bring your token back to the volunteers at the Coat Check.

Our concession will be open. You can purchase snacks or drinks there if you would like to eat or drink something. You are welcome to bring your food and/or drink from the concession into the theatre.

Chill-out zone

There will be a chill-out zone at the Open Experience performance at 1:30 PM on October 26.

If you need to take a break from the show, you can leave the theatre at any time. The chill-out zone will be in the lobby on the 2nd floor, and it will look like this:

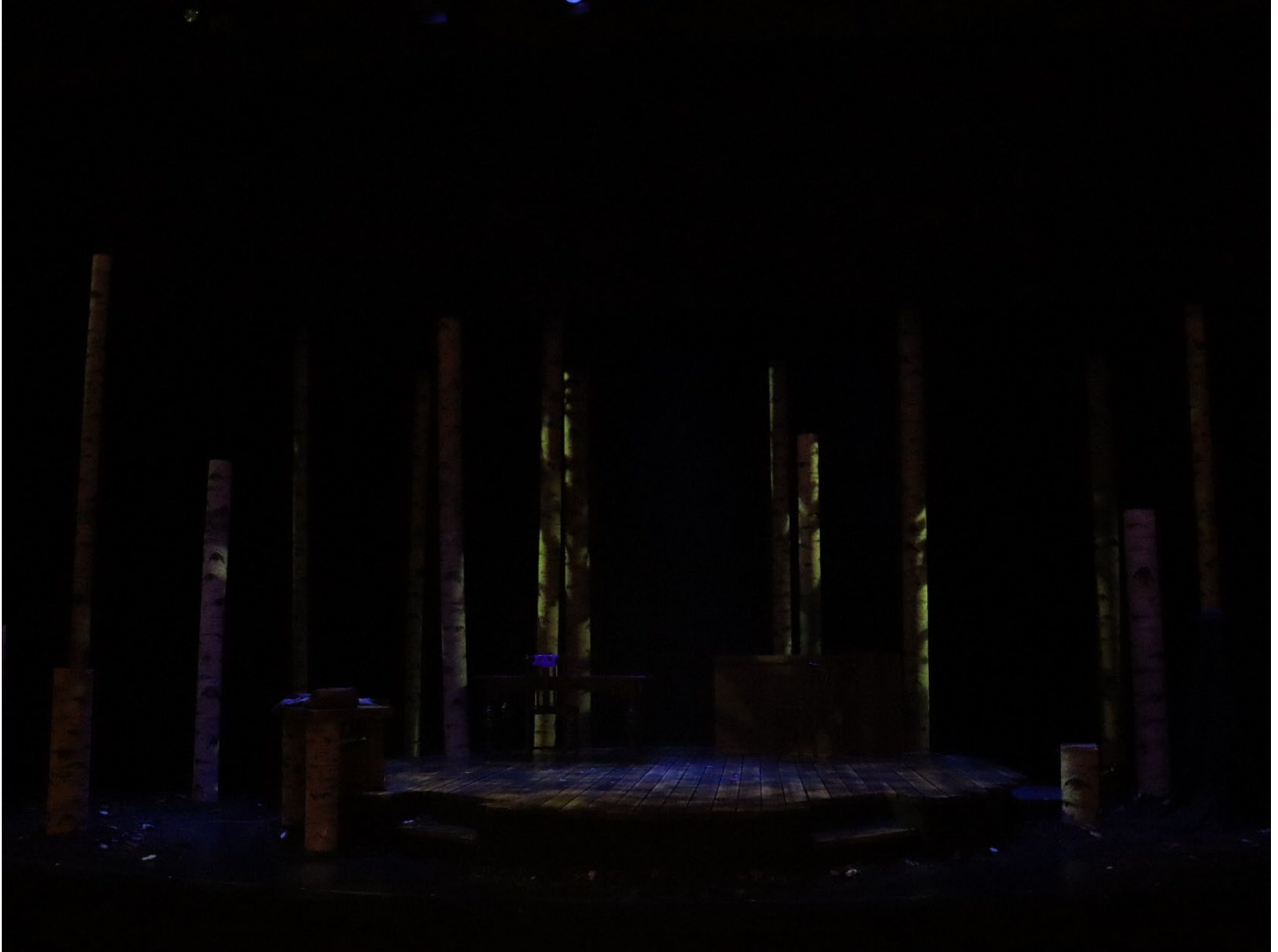


It will have comfortable seats, a yoga mat, fidget toys, colouring sheets, and a weighted blanket. When you are ready to go back to the theatre to watch the show, a volunteer can help you find your seat.

The Set

There is one main set on stage the whole time. It has a circular wooden floor on a platform, and is surrounded by tall tree trunks to make it look like a forest. During the play, different furniture will be used to make the set look like different places. Some of these places include a dorm room, a police station, a hospital room, a diner, a kitchen in a house, and a cabin in the woods.

Here is what the set will look like when you go into the theatre:



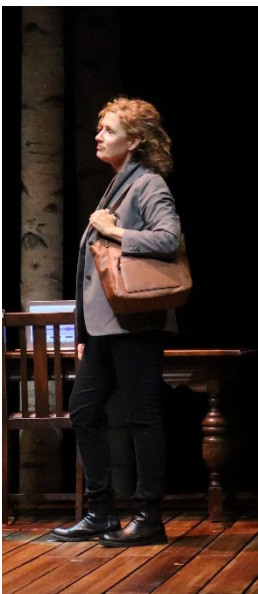
The Cast

There are three actors in the cast, and each of them plays multiple characters. Each actor has a “main costume” and then they put on small costume pieces like jackets or hats to show they are someone different. They will also change their body language and voice to help us understand they are playing different characters.

Here is a picture of Colleen Wheeler. Colleen plays six different characters: Yaga, Katherine Yazov, Geena, Elena, Janice, and Staff Sargent Sidle. This is what Colleen looks like normally:



Here are pictures of Colleen dressed as a few of her characters - Katherine, Geena, and Elena:



Here is a picture of Genevieve Fleming. Genevieve also plays six different characters: Detective Carson, Truly, Pam Riley, Lily, Anna, and Deputy Murphy. This is what Genevieve looks like normally:



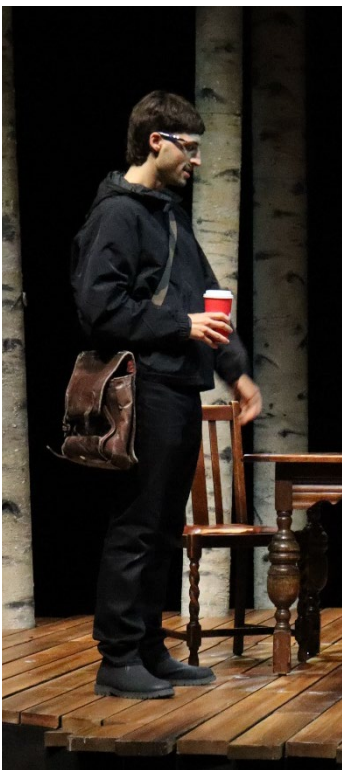
Here are pictures of Genevieve dressed as a few of her characters – Carson, Pam, and Lily:



Here is a picture of Aiden Correia. Aiden plays Charlie Rapp and Henry Kalles. This is what Aiden looks like normally:



Here are pictures of Aiden dressed as Rapp and Henry:



About the story

This is a show about the mysterious disappearance of a college boy named Henry, who people in the town believe was murdered. A police officer and a private detective work together to solve the mystery. Together they discover secrets about the people in the town, and begin to learn about an ancient magic that might have been part of why Henry disappeared. The play re-imagines the character of the Baba Yaga, a folk tale character who is an evil witch that lives alone in the forest.

Yaga is equal parts thriller, comedy, and nightmare fairy-tale, and the story is full of trickery and revenge. Keep reading the next few sections for more details about what happens during the play.

Things in the show that might be intense

These are some things in the show that might be intense.
On the following pages, we will explain more, or you can click on items on the list.

- [Lighting](#)
- [Talking directly to the audience](#)
 - [Sound effects](#)
 - [Fog & haze](#)
 - [Animal harm](#)
- [Mentions of violence/bodily harm](#)
 - [Kissing & physical touch](#)
 - [Mention of miscarriage](#)
- [Sexual coercion of a minor](#)
 - [Weapons](#)
 - [Intense emotions](#)
 - [Death](#)
 - [Fighting](#)
 - [Blood](#)

If something feels too intense, you are allowed to leave the theatre during the performance. A volunteer will help you return to your seat if or when you feel ready to return to the theatre to watch the show.

LIGHTING

The lighting changes a lot during the show to signal that the scene is changing or that something important is happening. Some of these changes might feel intense if you are not expecting them. In general, the lighting design of the show is very dark and you may not be able to see what's around you very well while watching.

Here are some pictures of what the lighting looks like at different times in the show:





TALKING DIRECTLY TO THE AUDIENCE

Throughout the play, some of the characters will do monologues, meaning they talk directly to the audience for a minute or two. They might speak like they're having a conversation with the audience, or ask questions like "Are you listening?" You don't have to respond when they do this.



SOUND EFFECTS

During the show, different sounds will be used to create different feelings for the audience. Some of these will be quiet and spooky, like whispering, chants, and atmospheric music, which are used to create a creepy or suspenseful feeling.

FOG & HAZE

Fog or haze are used during the show. Sometimes it's to create a "spooky" atmosphere, and sometimes it's done as part of the storytelling.

Here is an example of what it looks like when there is fog:



ANIMAL HARM

The audience will never see an animal being harmed on stage, but animal harm will be mentioned a few times. In the first scene of the play, Henry has invited Katherine to his dorm to see a lizard whose tail is re-growing. We don't see the lizard, but they talk about how Henry "accidentally" chopped off its tail. The lizard is mentioned again in the second act when Henry invites Lily to take a look at it.

Several characters mention harming chickens. When Charlie tells Geena that he's vegetarian, Geena says they kill their animals very humanely – by hitting them in the head with a sledgehammer. This is meant to be funny, but can be hard to hear if violence against animals makes you uncomfortable.

When telling Carson what she heard about Elena Yazov, Truly describes how Elena took a burning stick and shoved it down a chicken's throat. Harming chickens is mentioned again at the end of the play, during the scene at the Yazovs' cabin.

At the very end of the play, Katherine goes off stage to kill a chicken. A sound effect will play of a knife cutting something and a chicken squawking. Katherine comes back on stage holding what looks like a headless chicken. It is not real, but is supposed to look real. Here's what the chicken looks like:



MENTIONS OF VIOLENCE/BODILY HARM

Sometimes the characters talk about how, in the legends of the Baba Yaga, people say she kills naughty children and grind their bones into dust. There is a detailed description of this when Henry interviews Katherine for his podcast. Throughout the show, Charlie and Carson also talk about this as they try to guess what happened to Henry. We never see this kind of violence on stage, but the descriptions can be gory and might be hard to listen to.

KISSING & PHYSICAL TOUCH

There is a lot of flirting and talking about sex in this play. Most of the time we don't see the characters having sex – they just talk about it – but we hear in later scenes that the characters we saw flirting ended up having sex.

There are a few times we do see the characters kiss. At the end of the first act, Katherine invites Rapp over for dinner. They flirt and at the end of the scene they kiss:



Near the end of the play, Carson visits Rapp in his motel room to celebrate solving the mystery. Rapp leans in to kiss her, and she pushes him away at first, but then starts kissing him back. She ends up taking his shirt off and they kiss passionately. Here's a picture from that scene:



MENTION OF MISCARRIAGE

In the first act, Carson talks to Elena's neighbour, Truly, to ask her what she's heard about Elena. Truly tells Carson that about a rumour that Elena used naturopathy (natural medicine) to help a young girl in town end an unwanted pregnancy. We don't hear a detailed description of the miscarriage, but it is a difficult topic that might be hard for some people to hear mentioned.

SEXUAL COERCION OF A MINOR

There is a scene in the second act where Henry has invited Lily, the 15-year old who works at Sandeson's diner, to a college party. She has clearly been drinking and he tries to invite her to his dorm to look at his lizard. She tries to say no, but he convinces her to come inside. We don't see what happens next, but we later find out that they had sex and Lily got pregnant. Here's a picture from the beginning of that scene:



WEAPONS

In one of the final scenes, at the Yazov's cabin, Elena comes onstage carrying a big knife called a machete. She never uses it on anyone but she does threaten Henry with it. Here's a picture of her threatening him:



Carson carries a gun. We usually don't see it, but in one of the last scenes of the play, she brings it out and points it at Katherine, who is threatening to kill Charlie. When she goes to pull the trigger, nothing happens – it was empty. The gun is never successfully fired, so you don't need to worry about the noise, but it could be scary to see the gun come out on stage. Here's what it looks like:



INTENSE EMOTIONS

There is a lot of talk about violence and difficult themes in this play, and some of the characters have very big emotional reactions to the things that happen.

One intense scene of the play is at the very end, where Katherine and Anna have captured Charlie and are threatening to kill him. Charlie is very afraid and expresses this by shouting and begging for his life. At the end of this scene there is a lot of screaming from all three characters.



In the next scene, where he has been found and taken to the police station, he is clearly very distressed as he tries to tell the police what happened to him. We know that the things he is saying are true, but the police don't believe him, and this makes him get even more emotional.



DEATH

The play is all about the disappearance of a young man named Henry Kalles, who Rapp believes is dead. The characters talk about death a lot. Sometimes they are talking about death in myths and legends, and sometimes they are talking about death in real life. Sometimes they describe upsetting ways of dying, like being killed by a witch, burned, and having your bones ground into dust. We don't see anyone die on stage, but it could be uncomfortable for some people to hear so much talking about death.

FIGHTING

In one of the final scenes, Henry, Anna, and Elena get in a fight. They hit each other, Anna grabs Henry's arm and twists it behind his back, and they throw each other on the floor. This fight is fake and the actors have practiced it a lot to make sure no one actually gets hurt, but they try to make it look as real as they can. Here's what the scene looks like:



BLOOD

In one of the final scenes, Katherine takes the chicken she just killed and wipes some of its blood on Rapp and Anna during their magic ritual. The blood is fake, but is supposed to look real, and might make some people feel uncomfortable. Here's what it looks like when this happens:



How people react

When a scene ends, people might clap to show that they're enjoying the play. You can clap or cheer if you want to, but you don't have to. You can also laugh if you think something is funny.

There's a lot of action and mystery in this show, so people might gasp when something is surprising or unexpected. You can also do this if you like.

The end of the show

When the show ends, people will clap and cheer to show their appreciation for the performance. If they really like the performance, they might stand while they do this. This will go on for a few minutes, while each performer steps forward to take a bow. You can clap or cheer to show that you liked the play, but you don't have to. If the clapping is too loud, you can cover your ears or wear ear protection.

Everything That Happens in the Show

IMPORTANT NOTE: This section includes a detailed description of every thing that happens in the show. If you do not want to know every thing that happens in the show, then do not read this section.

At the beginning of the play, Yaga talks directly to the audience about the myths people say about her: that she is ugly, cruel, violent, lonely, and unlovable. She ends by telling the audience it's time to listen. The lights go out.

In the next scene, Henry has invited Katherine over to his dorm room. He wants to show her what he calls his "scientific discovery," but first they talk about other things. They quickly start flirting and talking about sex – what kind of sex they like, how much sex Katherine has had, etc. – until Henry starts to become nervous. Henry gets them a drink and shows her the "discovery": a lizard, who is re-growing its tail. He says it's his roommate's, and that he accidentally cut off its tail when it jumped on the cutting board in the kitchen one day while he was cooking. Katherine knows that this was a not-so-clever plan to get her to come to his room and have sex with him. They flirt some more and the scene ends. The audience is supposed to assume that Henry and Katherine have sex.

Charlie Rapp, a private investigator, meets with Detective Carson, who is in charge of Henry's missing person's case. Rapp brings Carson the wrong coffee, which starts a lighthearted conversation. Rapp has been hired by Henry's mother to find him and wants to work with Carson, but Carson doesn't want to work with him because he seems young and not experienced. Carson thinks Henry left town to go to Europe, but Rapp thinks the clues are too suspicious and believes Henry is dead.



Rapp visits Pam Riley, Henry's ex-girlfriend, while she is working out at the boxing gym. Pam is clearly mad at Henry and jokes that he is probably off in Europe with another girl. She says they dated for a short time and had an open relationship, meaning he was having sex with other people while they were dating. Pam says she didn't hurt him and tells Rapp to talk to the town "Witch" for more info.



Next we see Katherine give a university lecture. She talks to the audience directly, as if we are the students. The lecture is about how animals catch their prey in the wild. She explains how some spiders can hold a dead ant in a way that makes it look like they're wearing the ant's head, which helps them sneak up on other ants. Rapp comes in while she's talking, and Katherine glares at him. She then talks about how scary it would be if a person could disguise themselves like that—wearing their victim's head to blend in and catch others without being noticed. She emphasizes that there are dangerous creatures out there waiting to attack.

Rapp visits Katherine in her office and brings her coffee, but he gets her order wrong. They talk and joke about their ages and backgrounds. Katherine mentions she has a daughter. Rapp mentions Henry's disappearance. Rapp says he knows that Henry interviewed her for a podcast episode about the Baba Yaga, but that the episode is mysteriously missing online. Katherine gets upset when Rapp suggests there might have been a sexual relationship between her and Henry. The mood gets tense, and Katherine tells Rapp to leave so she can teach her class.

In the next scene Rapp talks to a woman named Truly, who lives in the same building as the "Witch" that Pam told him to talk to. She says the witch's name is Laney, and says she's in the hospital after falling in the tub. Truly explains that Laney is a naturopath (someone who uses plants and traditional ways of healing) who helps women with health issues, especially related to their periods. She shares a rumour about a young girl who got pregnant and didn't want the baby. This girl went to Laney for help, and Laney took her to a cabin in the woods to do some strange rituals involving a chicken. The

next day, the girl had a miscarriage. Rapp is a bit doubtful about the story, but Truly insists that the guy who got the woman pregnant mysteriously vanished afterward. The lights go out.

Yaga comes onstage, imitating all the people who ask her to use her magic to help them. She gives a monologue about how everyone wants a witch to solve their problems, but no one wants to thank them or get to know them.

Next, Rapp meets with Carson at a diner called Sandeson's. Their server is the owner of the diner, Geena, an intimidating woman who Carson says has a young daughter named Lily. Rapp shares what he learned from Pam and Katherine. Rapp also called the hospital and learned that the "witch" is really named Elena Yazov – the same last name as Katherine's – and invites Carson along with him to speak with her at the hospital. Carson doesn't want to at first, but eventually agrees.



The next scene is also at Sandeson's, but is a flashback to before Henry's disappearance. Henry meets Katherine for the first time to interview her for his podcast, which is all about connecting myths to stories of real-life serial killers. At first, Katherine is very logical and doesn't go along with Henry's ideas about the Baba Yaga being an evil, magical being. She defends the Baba Yaga and says she's not always bad in every story about her, but Henry clearly wants more interesting content for the podcast, and pushes her to talk less about science and more about the scary legends of the Baba Yaga. Lily comes in to take their orders, and is very awkward around Henry. Katherine says Lily probably thinks he's cute, and they have a flirty moment.

Yaga gives another monologue, about a man who came to her hut and took advantage of her by eating her food and sleeping in her bed. At the end she hints that she made the man disappear.

In the next scene we are at the hospital, where Rapp and Carson speak with Elena. She has a thick Ukrainian accent and is kind of strange. Elena is not very helpful at first and asks if Rapp and Carson brought her a gift, like flowers or vodka, which they didn't. As they talk, she mentions her daughter, Katherine. When asked about Henry, Elena spits and calls him a "bad dog." She says that her granddaughter turned the bad dog to dust for the chickens in the woods, and that she's waiting for someone named Ivan. The detectives are trying to understand her references to Baba Yaga, but Elena gets worked up and isn't making much sense.

Later, Rapp visits Carson in her office. He brings with him a truck driver named Janice, who tells Carson how she saw Henry the night after he disappeared. While Janice was driving, she saw Henry stumbling around the forest, naked. Janice leaves. Henry starts to connect what Janice said to what Elena has said, and is convinced Baba Yaga killed Henry in the forest. He keeps making guesses about what happened, but Carson tells him Elena is not trustworthy. Henry gets a text from Katherine inviting him over for dinner.



In the next scene, Rapp is at Katherine's for dinner. He quickly starts asking about Henry and where Katherine was on the night he disappeared. Katherine says she heard he visited Elena in hospital. Rapp starts talking about the rumours he's heard about Elena. Katherine defends Elena and tells Rapp to stay away from her. They continue to talk, going between tense conversation about the mystery and flirty banter. The scene ends and the audience is supposed to assume that they have sex, although we don't see it happen.

This is the end of Act One. The lights will come up and it will be intermission. This is a chance to stretch your legs, go to the bathroom, get a snack from the concession, or whatever you need to take a break from the show. The intermission will be about twenty minutes long.

At the beginning of Act Two, Yaga does another monologue while pouring shots of vodka. She questions why being childless is seen as a bad thing. Yaga points out that you never hear about a wicked witch who is also a mom. She suggests that men who tell these stories are scared of powerful witches having children because it means they would live on through their children.

The next scene is another flashback. Henry is sitting alone at a restaurant, and a woman named Anna who is also alone starts talking to him. He's waiting for his date, and Anna is waiting for her mom, and they realize that they're waiting for the same person – Katherine. Anna gets upset and starts playfully criticizing for liking to date young men. Anna jokes about how Katherine had a wild past and playfully criticizes her. The conversation gets flirty, and Henry asks if they can be friends.



In the next scene we are back in the present. Rapp and Carson meet at Sandeson's again, and Carson is excited because they found the cabin in the woods near where Henry was seen. There were clues all around the cabin that line up with what Elena and the legends of the Baba Yaga were saying, and Carson says the land is owned by Anna Yazov, Katherine's daughter. They start to make more guesses about what happened, suggesting that the Yazov women target young men, make them obsessed with the legend of Baba Yaga, and then kill them. The conversation gets flirty.

After this, Rapp visits Elena in hospital again. He brings her gifts and asks her more questions about Anna and Henry. She is still not making a lot of sense, but seems to be saying that Anna killed Henry because he did something bad to Lily. She also says that Anna is pregnant.

Now, there is another flashback. Henry and Lily are in Henry's dorm room. Lily is clearly drunk, and is trying to impress Henry. They talk about Henry's podcast. Henry asks Lily if she's a virgin. The mood gets very dark and she tries to leave, but he convinces her to stay. The scene ends, and the audience is supposed to assume Henry and Lily have sex after this.

Back in the present, Rapp goes back to Sandeson's to talk to Geena. He gets Geena to tell him about what happened with Lily and Henry. Geena says that Henry invited Lily to a college party, got her drunk, and got her pregnant. Geena says that she took Lily to the witch for help. Rapp asks if Geena hurt Henry, and Geena suggests that Rapp already knows what happened to Henry.

Rapp and Carson meet up in Carson's office to discuss. Carson excitedly says that the lab tests confirmed that Henry's remains were found around the Yazov's cabin, but Rapp gets mad. He's upset that Carson didn't tell him what happened with Henry and Lily. Rapp says what happened between Henry and Lily is clearly a motive for someone to murder him, and that Carson must have been refusing to investigate Henry's disappearance because she thinks he deserved it. Carson says she couldn't say anything because of legal issues. They continue to guess what happened, and decide they need to talk to Pam again, thinking she might secretly be Anna Yazov.

Yaga gives another monologue, this time about why there are always three witches, three Yagas. She talks about how they make sure there are always three by attracting a man to have sex with the youngest Yaga, when the oldest is about to die.

In the next scene, Carson interrogates Katherine in a private room at the police station. She hints that Rapp is watching from behind a one-way mirror. Katherine says she doesn't know what happened to Henry, but Carson gets Katherine to share what she knows about the connections between Henry's death, the Yazovs, and the Baba Yaga myth. Carson also pulls out a photo of Katherine that she found in Pam Riley's dorm room, and Katherine asks for a lawyer.

Next, we see another flashback. Henry and Anna meet up in a motel room. They have been planning to have sex together, but Anna says she doesn't like the motel and suggests they go to her family's cabin in the woods. Henry agrees.

Back in the present, Carson meets Rapp at his motel room. Pam has gone missing, but Rapp and Carson know she was the murderer, so Rapp is going to leave town now that the case has been solved. Rapp and Carson share a drink, and Rapp tells Carson about the myth of Ivan the bold, which Elena had told him about earlier. At the end of the scene, they kiss passionately. The audience is supposed to assume they have sex, although we don't see it on stage.

Yaga gives a monologue about the story of Ivan the bold. She tells us how in the story, Ivan is searching for a princess, but gets trapped by Baba Yaga. The only way for him to be saved is if he asks for the horns, and after he blows the horns, a phoenix comes and saves him.

Back at the motel, Rapp gets a call from Katherine. She has escaped from jail and is at the cabin in the woods, with Pam/Anna, and that Elena is dying. Rapp says he'll come find Katherine, and Katherine says not to bring Carson. Carson wants to come with him anyway, and they leave together.

The next scene is a flashback. Henry and Anna walk through the woods to the cabin. Henry is a bit nervous, but Anna kisses him and teases him.

Then we see Carson and Rapp walking through the woods to the cabin. Rapp is so tired and overwhelmed that he seems like he's going to faint.

Then, there's another flashback. Anna and Henry have arrived at the cabin, and Anna asks him to take his clothes off. Henry is so drunk he falls asleep, but then Elena appears holding a knife and a

sledgehammer. Elena and Anna talk so loudly that Henry wakes up, gets scared, and tries to escape. Anna tries to stop him and they get in a fight while she tries to stop him from escaping, but he gets away anyway.



Back in the present, Rapp wakes up in the cabin. He's wearing nothing except his underwear. Katherine comes in and pulls out a sledgehammer, then Carson arrives and points her gun at Katherine. The scene gets intense, as Rapp shouts at Carson to shoot Katherine, Carson shouts at Katherine to drop her weapon, and Katherine continues to intimidate both Carson and Rapp. Carson finally pulls the trigger, but nothing happens. She and Katherine laugh, and as they talk, we realize that Carson has secretly been Anna all along. Katherine leaves to try to catch a chicken for the ritual. Rapp tries to get Carson to untie him, but she refuses, and says he's her "Ivan" who will help her continue the cycle of Yagas by getting her pregnant.



Katherine comes back with a dead chicken and they begin the ritual. Rapp begs them to stop and asks for the horns. Katherine says that only works in fairy tales. They all scream as they complete the ritual, and the lights go out. We hear the blowing of horns, the sound of wings beating.

Anna gives a monologue about what she will say to her daughter, to continue the traditions of the Yagas. At the end of the monologue, Rapp appears, wrapped in a blanket and looking shocked.

In the final scene, Rapp has been found by two police officers. They ask him what happened, and he starts frantically talking about Henry's disappearance, and Carson, and the Yazovs. He starts to get emotional and rants about the Baba Yaga legends. The officers don't believe him and offer him a coffee. He takes it, looking defeated. The lights go out. This is the end of the play.