

Erth's Prehistoric Aquarium

Erth's Prehistoric Aquarium is a companion piece to the globally popular show Erth's Dinosaur Zoo.

The show incorporates spectacular puppetry, magical lighting and a beautiful soundtrack which features a mix of classical music and immersive soundscapes

"Aquarium" takes its audience on a journey to the bottom of a prehistoric ocean and back again, experiencing ancient and incredible creatures along the way.

The show starts as the audience enters the theatre and down stage is a large viewing window that looks into the tank. (this is a projection onto a scrim that covers the front of the stage)

A metal door, to the right of the viewing window, opens and 6 children in diving helmets accompanied by one of the show's hosts (a marine biologist called Catherine), come through the door and are ushered to 6 seats that have been reserved for them down in the front of the audience.

A second host comes through the door behind them (the aquariums director called Drew) who introduces himself to the audience. He is very enthusiastic and announces the grand opening of Erth's Prehistoric Aquarium, while getting some of his facts slightly wrong and is corrected by Catherine who is clearly the smart one of the two.

Drew is a wealthy benefactor who has funded the creation of the Aquarium and is very excited and proceeds to take the audience on a quick explanation about how life on earth began in the oceans and the history of the planet billions of year ago. During this time, an animated sequence of events of the planet appears in the viewing window of the tank, but with some humor Drew gets a lot of his science muddled up and Catherine must step in quickly and restart the presentation, correcting Drew's mistakes. At the end the presentation the tanks viewing window become transparent again.

They discuss the earliest creatures on the fossil record and how they crawled about on the floor of the ocean realizing that the audience can't see them and Drew's solution is to take a child from the audience and accompany them into the tank (pretending to hold their breath and swim in the tank) while Catherine talks about the creatures, Drew scoops them up from the floor of the tank and allows them to crawl all the child volunteer so that the audience can see them.

They exit the tank and the child returns to their seat.

Catherine and Drew discuss other creatures as they appear swimming about in the tank, ancient fish, prehistoric predators, early amphibians. Drew is always excited and gets his facts wrong while Catherine is always patient with him correcting him when needed, their relationship is very much based on the classic comedy routine of the straight man/funny man, like dean martin and jerry Lewis.

Eventually it is realised that Drew has put all the creatures into the same tank, which could be very dangerous and that 3 baby plesiosaurs are at great risk because they are in the tank alone having been separated from their mother.

Catherine at this stage must call upon her interns (the 6 children we saw at the start of the show) and takes them into the tank to round up all the creatures and make everything right.

After they enter the tank Drew pushes a few buttons and clearly pushes something that he is not supposed to push causing the tank to start cracking. Alarms start to sound and lights flash as the tank continues to crack and then it smashes.

We hear a loud crash and then there is a black out.

Everything is dark but we can see Catherine and the children walking about in the dark with the lights in their helmets turned on. She talks about being at the bottom of the ocean and the incredible creatures that live there. A large angler fish swims onto the stage and Catherine and the children

investigate it, before it swims over their heads and then out over the heads of the front rows of the audience.

As it swims away back up stage, glowing bioluminescent jelly fish appear and swim and dart around the stage, it is very beautiful and Catherine encourages her children to reach out their hands and help make the bioluminescent jelly fish swim.

She encourages them to swim them to the front of the stage and they pass them into the audience and the audience then pass them over their heads “crowd surfing” them to the back of the audience.

As this is happening more jelly fish swim onto stage and the light on stage begins to fade up and we can see Catherine and the children fully. The children are handed these jelly fish and they swim them up to the surface as the light on stage becomes even brighter and more colorful.

At this stage, the baby plesiosaurs they have gone in to rescue appear and Catherine and the children discuss them and then “swim “with them mimicking their movement.

Drew appears. He has found a large predator, the largest creature we have seen so far. The baby plesiosaurs flee, leaving Catherine and the children on stage with the predator. There is clearly a problem and Catherine and the children try various techniques to scare the predator away, while one of the baby plesiosaurs returns to help.

Nothing is working but Catherine and the children conclude that if they find the baby plesiosaurs mother she could help. They go looking for her, leaving the baby and predator on stage playing out a dangerous game of cat and mouse. Just as it seems that the baby might get caught Catherine and the children return with the mother, she is huge and a battle takes place between her and the predator.

Of course she wins, after a spectacular fight.

The predator escapes leaving Catherine, the children and the mother plesiosaur on stage.

“where are the babies??”

after some searching the babies appear and are reunited with their mother.

At this point the stage is filled with bubbles and the children frolic in the bubbles with the babies.

Catherine concludes that as the tank is broken there isn't any need in fixing it. Allowing the creatures to be free and that it is better than keeping them captive. she announces to the children that they should keep swimming with the plesiosaurs and go on another adventure.

Lights fade down as curtain closes

The end