

VISUAL STORY

Donnie and Me and the CBC

Written and Performed by Chris Earle

Directed and Dramaturged by Shari Hollett

Presented by Public Energy Performing Arts

Market Hall Performing Arts Centre, Peterborough

April 15–16, 2026 | Relaxed Performance



Photo: Chris Earle sits leaning forward onto a table. In front of him is vintage radio and a screen displaying a photo of his mom, Donnie (photographed by John Scully)

WHAT IS A RELAXED PERFORMANCE?

This is a Relaxed Performance. That means the theatre is a welcoming, low-pressure space. You are free to move, make noise, and come and go as you need to. Lighting and sound cues will be subdued.

If you need to step away from the show for a minute there will be a calm space right beside the bar in the lobby. Please make yourself comfortable in this space.

Staff and volunteers are here to help you. You can ask anyone wearing a Public Energy badge for assistance.

HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE

This Visual Story will walk you through what to expect before, during, and after the performance. Reading it in advance can help you feel more comfortable and prepared.

You can read the whole guide, or just the parts that are most helpful to you.

For details about the venue, Market Hall Performing Arts Centre please consult the Venue Guide on Public Energy website.

SENSORY MATERIALS

Sensory materials are available for anyone who would like to use them. They will be located at the entrance and in the calm space.

These include:

- Noise canceling headphones
- Fidget toys
- Sunglasses and hats to block light
- Weighted blankets

Please return these items after the show so they can be cleaned and used again.

ABOUT THE SHOW

Donnie and Me and the CBC is a solo show. One actor, Chris Earle, tells a story about his mother and growing up in 1970s Montreal.

It is a funny and touching show about family, love, and the music and radio programmes they listened to together.

The show is approximately 60 minutes long. There is no intermission.

What you will see on stage



This is Chris Earle. He wrote the show and he is the only person on stage. He sits on a chair to your right on stage and leaves it and returns to it throughout the show. Chris will sometimes look at you and talk to you. You do not need to answer or respond.

WHAT TO EXPECT DURING THE SHOW

Sound and Light

The stage will have warm lighting. The audience lights will be kept low. There will be no strobe or flash lighting.

There will be recordings of CBC radio shows that Chris Earle speaks over and at one point the brief loud playing of the Canadian national anthem.

During the Show

You are welcome to:

- Laugh as much as you like!
- Move around or change position
- Make noise (hum, stim, or talk quietly)
- Leave and come back
- Use your phone at low brightness (with sound off)

Content Notices

This show includes: humour, some mild language, references to family conflict and grief, and nostalgic themes.

AFTER THE SHOW

When the show ends, the lights will come up in the audience.

You can clap if you would like to. Clapping is a way of saying thank you to the performer. Other people will clap too, so it may be loud.

You can leave whenever you are ready. There is no rush.

QUESTIONS OR CONCERNS

If you have questions before the show, you can contact Public Energy:

- Phone: (705) 745-1788
- Email: admin@publicenergy.ca
- Website: publicenergy.ca/relaxed-performances

We hope you enjoy the show!