

Mr Stink – Live on Stage

Visual Story

cdpKids

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About the Production

VENUE

Mr Stink will be performed in a theatre.

The show is touring around Australia and will be visiting many theatres across the country.

What does your theatre look like? Families with children with sensory needs are encouraged to check their venue website, and/or plan an orientation visit to see the theatre before the show.

Please check with your venue for additional info.

DURATION

The play runs for approximately 60 minutes, with no interval.

AGE RECOMMENDATION

Recommended for ages 6-12. Families are encouraged to review warnings to assess the appropriateness of the content.

ACCESSIBILITY

If you have any questions about physical access, specific seating or theatre facilities, please contact the venue directly for more information.

CONTENT AND SENSORY WARNINGS

This production may contain haze effects throughout the show.

If you are attending a Relaxed Performance, there will be a few small changes to sensory elements in the play, such as reducing bright light and loud sound. Some moments with moving lights and sudden noises may still be surprising.

There are times during the play where characters might appear to get angry, upset or sad. It's important to remember that the actors are just pretending, and they have carefully rehearsed these scenes.

At one moment, a character in the play will tell a scary story that they have written, and it might feel a little scary to you as well. That's ok – just remember that nobody is in any danger, and the moment will pass quickly.

THEATRE GUIDELINES

Photography, video recording and mobile devices are usually not permitted at the theatre.

However, if you need to use an assistive device (ie. an iPad) to assist with communication, please let the ushers know.

Using a device in the foyer or quiet areas is always ok.

If you need to take a break, **that's ok!**

You can leave the auditorium and find a place to sit in the foyer if you'd like. You can return to the auditorium whenever you are ready.

You can also cover your ears with your hands or put on some headphones if it is too loud.

Going to the Theatre

Mr Stink is being performed at theatres across Australia.

Do you know what theatre you're going to?



Every theatre is a little different. Before your visit, you can find more information about your theatre and how to get there on the theatre's website.

When you enter the building, you will see other people at the theatre who are going to see shows. Some of them might be there to see **Mr Stink** just like you!

It might be busy when you arrive. You may wish to allow some extra time before the show, or wear a pair of headphones if it's noisy.

You might already have your ticket with you, or you may need to collect it from the Box Office. There might be a queue of people also waiting to collect their tickets.

You will also see people who work at theatre wearing uniforms. They are called ushers. They can help you with directions or answer any questions you may have about the performance.



The doors to the theatre auditorium will open a few minutes before the start of the show. You can go inside early if you like. Before going inside, you might like to use the bathroom.

You will need to show your ticket to the usher when you go inside. They will help you find your seats.

During The Show

The play will last approximately 60 minutes.

When the show starts, it will be time to be quiet so that you can hear everything.



The lights will turn down in the audience, but the stage will stay bright so that you can see everything.

There is no interval, but if you need to take a break during the show you can leave your seat and go out into the foyer. You can return to the theatre to watch the rest of the show whenever you are ready.

If you are attending a Relaxed Performance, it will be ok to move around and make noises during the show as you need to.

After The Show

When the show is finished, people will clap to say thank you to the performers. Some might even cheer!

You can join in if you like. If it's too loud, you can cover your ears with your hands.



The Set

When you go into the theatre you will see the set on the stage.

There will be a painted backdrop with trees on it, a park bench and some piles of furniture.

When the show is about to start, the lights will go out. It will be completely dark on stage for a moment, but it will get brighter when the show begins.



The scenes in the play are set in a few different places.

During the show, some parts of the set will move around and the painted backdrop will change to look like a house, a shop, a shed, and even a TV studio.

The Play

This play is called ***Mr Stink***.

The story comes from a book with the same name, by author David Walliams.

It is about a schoolgirl named Chloe who becomes friends with a homeless man called Mr Stink.



When Mr Stink needs a place to stay, Chloe hides him in the garden shed without telling her family.

She tries to make sure that nobody finds out her secret – but Chloe isn't the only one with a secret to hide...

5 actors play different characters to tell the story in the play.

The 2 actors who play Chloe and Mr Stink do not play any other characters in the play, but the other 3 actors play several different characters.

The actors wear different costumes, and use different voices and mannerisms to play different characters.

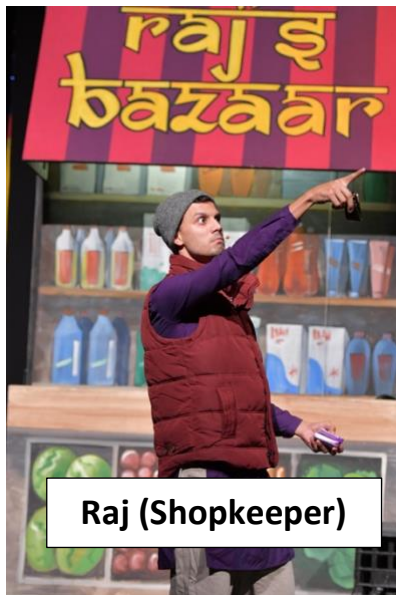
Mr Stink also has a pet dog named Duchess that you will meet during the play. Duchess is a **puppet**.



The Characters



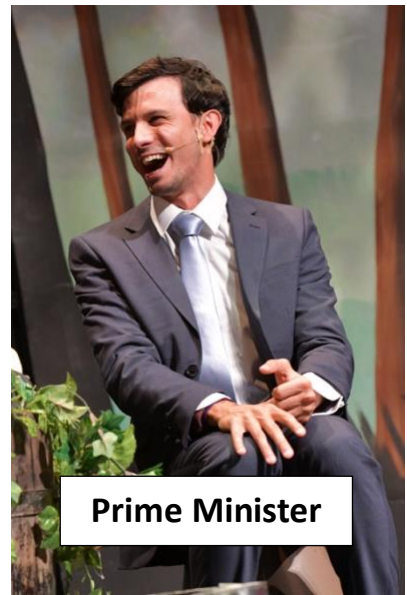
Chloe goes to school with Tiffany and Alice. They say rude things to her, but don't worry – the actors are just pretending to be mean.



Raj (Shopkeeper)



Reporter



Prime Minister

One actor is playing 3 different characters – Mr Crumb, Raj and the Prime Minister!

Another actor is also playing 3 different characters – Annabelle, Tiffany and the Reporter.

The actor who plays the character of Mrs Crumb also plays Alice.

All the actors are working very hard pretending to be the different people in the story.

The Story

When the lights start to dim, that means it's time for the show to begin! You will hear some music start to play.

It won't be dark for very long.

A spotlight will turn on and you will see **Chloe** in her school uniform.

She is lying on the floor writing a story in her book.



Chloe hears the sound of girls laughing and stops writing in her book.

It is **Tiffany** and **Alice** who are laughing at her. They go to the same school as Chloe but they are not her friends – they are bullies.

You will hear them laughing before you see them appear.

Tiffany and Alice say mean things to Chloe and push her around.

They show Chloe a photo of her that they posted on Instagram and she is embarrassed.

It's ok – remember that the actors are all pretending and nobody is actually upset.



Tiffany and Alice leave.

Chloe starts to walk away and smells something really bad.

More lights turn on and reveal a painted backdrop of some trees.

There is a man wearing a coat, sleeping on a park bench. He has some bags next to him.

A dog named **Duchess** is inside one of the bags. She gives Chloe a friendly bark, and Chloe pets her.

Duchess is a puppet.



The man is woken up by Duchess barking and Chloe apologises for waking him.

The man says his name is **Mr Stink**.

Chloe tries to talk to him but she is a little awkward. She asks him some questions and is trying very hard not to appear rude.

He doesn't seem very interested in talking at first and wants to go back to his nap.

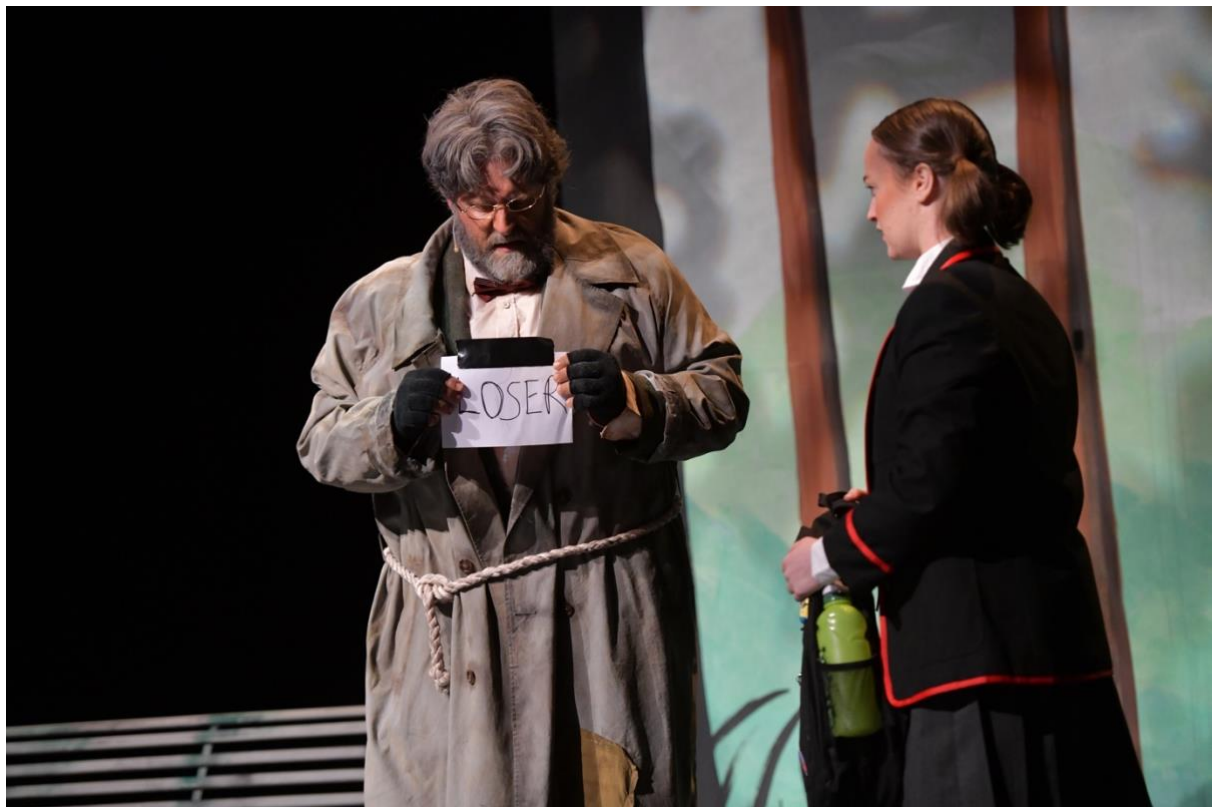


Mr Stink notices that Chloe has a mean sign stuck on her back.

Chloe tells him about how they bully her at school. He tells her not to let them get her down.

She offers to bring him some food next time from the supermarket and promises she'll see him again tomorrow.

Mr Stink is moved by her kindness.



The lights on stage start to dim and some more music plays.

When the lights get brighter, you will see a painted backdrop that looks like the inside of a house. We are about to meet Chloe's family.

Chloe's mum is **Mrs Crumb**, a politician who is standing for Parliament in the upcoming election.

Mrs Crumb starts talking to a framed picture of the Prime Minister on the wall.

She is a big fan of the Prime Minister and is playing out a pretend conversation with him.



Chloe's dad **Mr Crumb** is wearing a kitchen apron and he has made bangers and mash for dinner.

Mrs Crumb is embarrassed because the dinner is not fancy, and she is rude to him.

Chloe's sister **Annabelle** comes to the dinner table. The two of them argue loudly for a little bit. It is ok to cover your ears if it's too loud.

Mrs Crumb walks around the room and practices talking about her political policies.

Chloe does not agree with any of them and is upset that she is expected to support her mother on her campaign.



When Mrs Crumb tells Chloe to go and do her maths homework, she sees the vampire story that Chloe has been writing in her book.

Mrs Crumb does not think much of Chloe's stories and she rips the pages up.

Chloe is upset and tries to piece the pages back together, but she gives up and leaves.



The lights on stage dim again and some more music plays. There is now a different painted backdrop of a shopfront, with 'Raj's Bazaar' painted on the front.

Raj the shopkeep walks in singing a song to himself and dancing around the shop.

He will ask the audience if they want to buy a few different things. You can call out to Raj if you want to, but you don't have to.



Chloe visits the shop and asks Raj for advice.

Her mum would not approve of her secretly becoming friends with Mr Stink, and Chloe is worried she is doing something wrong.

To avoid giving herself away, she pretends that she is asking for advice for a friend.

Raj tells Chloe he thinks her 'friend' has a very kind heart.



The lights dim, you will hear a few sounds of the city like a car horn. Mr Stink is sitting on the park bench and Chloe brings him and Duchess some leftover sausages.

Chloe tells Mr Stink that she is upset with her mum for tearing up her story.

Tiffany walks past and sees Chloe and Mr Stink together. When she starts to make fun of them, Mr Stink gets up and tells Tiffany off for being a bully.

He lets out a long, loud belch in Tiffany's face. She gets upset and she runs away.



You will hear Chloe's phone ringtone, and her mum's voice coming through the phone, before Chloe leaves and the lights dim.

Mrs Crumb and Chloe are back at home. It is a different part of the house than before and you will see a painted backdrop with a staircase.

Mrs Crumb is going into town to campaign for the election. Chloe doesn't want to go but she has to come with her.

Chloe looks for her hat in the closet under the stairs, and she is surprised to find her dad is hiding inside.

Her dad is also keeping a secret from her mum – he has lost his job and is embarrassed to tell her.

It is dark and cramped under the stairs, but they are not in any danger.



The lights dim and music plays in the background as Chloe and Mrs Crumb leave the house. You will hear Mrs Crumb repeating her election campaign slogan.

Raj is singing in his shop when Chloe and Mrs Crumb come to visit him. Mrs Crumb asks Raj if he will vote for her.

Raj thinks she is talking about voting for her on the X-Factor TV show. He shows them his Bollywood dance audition and plays some music while dancing.



Mrs Crumb goes on to tell Raj about her political policies.

One of the policies she mentions is her plan to ban homeless people from the streets. Chloe and Raj object.

Chloe realises she has to save Mr Stink. Raj tries to sell her something but she runs to the park while he is still talking.

Raj goes back behind his shop counter and falls over – but he is just pretending to fall over as a joke for the audience.



The lights dim and some music plays.

Chloe finds Mr Stink in the park, and invites him to come and stay in her family's shed. She keeps it a secret from her family.

Mr Stink asks Chloe to tell him her vampire story. She can still remember most of what she wrote, and tells the story to him.



The lights go dark and some spooky vampire music plays while she tells the story.

It is ok if it feels a little scary to you – just remember that it is all make-believe and Chloe is using her imagination. The moment will be over quickly.

Mr Stink enjoys hearing her story, but Chloe has to leave before she finishes telling it.

Mrs Crumb tells Chloe that a news reporter is coming to do an interview. The reporter arrives at their house and everyone introduces themselves.

Suddenly, Mr Stink walks in!

Everyone is surprised by the unexpected guest and Chloe has to explain who he is.

Mrs Crumb starts to get mad when Chloe says that Mr Stink is currently living in their shed.



The reporter thinks that it was Mrs Crumb's idea to let him stay in her house and praises her 'kindness'. Mrs Crumb pretends that this is true and decides to go along with it to benefit her election campaign.



The news story about Mrs Crumb and Mr Stink goes viral! You will hear some music and some TV studio chatter as the set changes to a painted backdrop of a television set.

Mr Stink and Mrs Crumb are on TV for a live-on-air interview. Mrs Crumb makes up a story about inviting Mr Stink to stay with them.

Mr Stink confronts her for lying and the reporter starts to question her. Mrs Crumb gets very mad and yells some mean things about Mr Stink.

It is ok to cover your ears if this is too loud. Remember this is all acting and nobody is actually upset.



The TV audience boos her and her hair **collapses!** You can boo her as well if you want to, but you don't have to.



Mrs Crumb is upset and tells Mr Stink how she feels. You will hear her phone ring with a musical ringtone phone starts to ring.

The Prime Minister is on the phone. He is on his way to visit them! They head back to the house, and the lights dim and some music plays.

Mr Stink has a bath in the rainwater tank outside their house, to prepare for the Prime Minister's visit. Chloe helps give the dog Duchess a wash and asks Mr Stink to tell her the story of his life.



The **Prime Minister** is arriving in his helicopter. You will hear some helicopter noises.

He walks in and joins Mrs Crumb, Mr Stink and Chloe. Mr Stink is still sitting in his bath.

The Prime Minister fires Mrs Crumb and wants to offer Mr Stink her job. He says that this will make voters think that he cares about helping homeless people.

Chloe is upset when she realises that the Prime Minister doesn't actually care and is just like Mrs Crumb. The Prime Minister says some rude things and Mr Stink farts at him!

The Prime Minister walks away angrily.



The lights dim and the song 'Silent Night' starts to play. It is Christmas and Mrs Crumb and Annabelle are in the house.

Mrs Crumb wants to make amends with Chloe, and she replaces the framed picture of the Prime Minister with a picture of Chloe instead.

Mrs Crumb finds Mr Crumb hiding behind a Christmas tree and is startled.

He apologises for hiding his secret of losing his job, and Mrs Crumb apologises for how she has been acting for the last few months.

Chloe says she is leaving home.

Mrs Crumb apologises to her. Mr Stink enters the room and encourages Chloe to forgive her mother.

They hug. Everything is going to be ok.



Everyone invites Mr Stink to stay for dinner.

He tries to leave without anyone noticing, but Chloe catches him and begs him to stay. The curtains draw behind them, and the lights dim.

It is night outside and they look out at the stars. Mr Stink gifts Chloe a stationery set from Raj's shop, for her to write her stories in it.

They say their goodbyes and Mr Stink walks away in the night with Duchess.



Chloe begins writing her story again.

The End

At the end of the performance, the actors will come to the front of the stage and take a bow, and say thank you to the backstage crew who helped them tell this story.

You can say thank you too, by clapping in a round of applause.



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

MR STINK

A play by Maryam Master

Based on the book by David Walliams

2023 Australian Tour Credits

Director: Jonathan Biggins

Associate Director: Kenneth Moraleda

Set Design: James Browne

Costume Design: Lucy Scott

Sound Design: Daryl Wallis

Lighting Design: Nicholas Higgins

Choreographer/Puppetry: Shondelle Pratt

Cast: Petronella van Tienen, Paul Grabovac, Erin Bruce, Asher-Griffith Jones & Zoe Jensen

Crew: Imogen Millhouse (Company Stage Manager), Jayden Henderson (Technical Stage Manager) and Leon Dark (Touring Mechanist)

Image Credits

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