



RATBURGER

Visual Story

cdpKids

www.cdp.com.au

About the Production

VENUE

Ratburger 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+. 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 contains a significant amount of theatrical smoke/haze during one scene, and age-appropriate cartoon violence.

There are times during the play where characters will experience bullying, and other times when they might appear to be injured or in danger.

Some characters will express strong emotions, including anger.

It's important to remember that the actors are pretending, and they have carefully rehearsed these moments to stay safe.

There are some sounds that may trigger sound sensitivity, including moments of loud volume incidental music and sound effects.

During the climactic scene, there are some high-pitched/unexpected screaming style sound effects, as well as some repetitive/unexpected mechanical style sound effects.

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.

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

Ratburger 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 *Ratburger* 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 some brick walls, a dumpster and a garage door covered in graffiti, and a screen with a projection of a rat.

It will be a little dark on the stage at the start, but it will get brighter when the show begins.



Many parts of the set can move around, and open and close. During the show, the set will change to look like a few different places in the story.

The Play

This play is called *Ratburger*.

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

It is about a girl named Zoe, who lives with her dad and stepmother.



She befriends a dancing rat named Dapper, and sets out to stop the burger shop owner Burt from turning rats into burgers.

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

When you see the show, the actors that you see playing the characters might be different than the pictures below, but they will be wearing the same costumes.



Some actors will play more than one character from scene to scene.

So that they look different, they will change the way they move and talk, and change their costume.

The actor who plays Tina also plays Sheila, and the actor who plays Dad also plays Mr Grave.

There is also **Dapper** the Dancing Rat, who you will meet a few times in the play. Dapper is a **puppet**, and is operated by an actor.



In one scene near the end of the play, a human-sized Dapper will dance on the stage.

One of the actors will be wearing a rat costume to play Dapper.



The Characters



Dad

Zoe



Sheila



Albie



Mr Grave



Tina



Burt

The Story

Zoe is the main character. She lives with her Dad, and also a stepmother named Sheila, who is very lazy and doesn't like Zoe.

When the show starts, Zoe is dreaming about performing in a circus with her pet hamster Gingernut.



The lights will be a little dark and there will be some loud circus music and sounds playing, until Zoe wakes up.

When Zoe wakes up and finds that her pet hamster has died, she is very upset. Sheila comes into Zoe's room and is very mean to her.



After Sheila leaves the room, Zoe's Dad comes in and comforts Zoe.



Zoe lives next door to Tina, the school bully. Tina does mean things to Zoe on her way to school.



Zoe is glad to see her friend Albie on her way to school.



She tells Albie about her pet hamster, and Albie comforts her. They will catch up again later at school.

Zoe notices a rat on the street and offers it some food.

When Zoe's phone rings, she is amazed to see the rat starts to dance to the beat!



Zoe takes the rat with her to school in her pocket, and later decides to name the rat Dapper.

Tina starts to bully Zoe again in the school toilets, but Zoe is able to escape when Dapper bites Tina on the finger.



Tina yells and there will be some loud crash bang noises.

Zoe's teacher Mr Grave gives a scary lesson on The Black Death, a disease from the past with gross symptoms spread by rats.



It will be dark for a moment while Mr Grave's voice booms loudly from off the stage. You can cover your ears if it is too loud.

Zoe gets suspended from school for bringing a rat into class, and her friend Albie goes outside with her.



Burt has his Burger Van parked on the school grounds and he is acting very suspiciously. He serves Albie a gross looking burger.

Zoe returns home and finds that Burt is sniffing around her room, disguised as a pest control man.



Burt takes Dapper and is going to make him into a burger. Zoe tries to stop him, but she is grounded by Sheila who is charmed by Burt.

Zoe digs a tunnel out of her bedroom and is surprised to find Tina crying in her room on the other side.



Tina is sad because she lives with her dad who is mean to her, like Zoe's stepmother. She decides to help Zoe escape.

Zoe confronts Burt at his factory to try and save Dapper.



Burt has a pulveriser machine that makes burgers.

It makes mechanical noises and has smoke effects. When it is working there are fake screams.

In the final fight Burt and Sheila will fall into the machine. It is all fake. No rats or humans are hurt.



There will be a happy ending for Zoe, her Dad and her pet rat Dapper.



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

Ratburger

A play by Maryam Master, based on the bestselling book by David Walliams

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2024 Australian Cast (pictured): Jade Fuda, Nicholas Hiatt, Mason Maenzanise, Billie Palin &
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