



The Smeds and the Smoos © Julia Donaldson and Axel Scheffler 2010, published by Scholastic

The Smeds and the Smoos

Visual Story

cdpKids

www.cdp.com.au

About the Production

VENUE

The Smeds and the Smoos 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 55 minutes, with no interval.

AGE RECOMMENDATION

Recommended for ages 3+. 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

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 upset, sad or in danger. It's important to remember that the actors are only pretending – everyone is ok.

The performers have carefully rehearsed the show many times and know how to make sure they are safe and that no one is hurt.

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

The Smeds and the Smoos 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 *The Smeds and the Smoos* 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 55 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 an alien landscape with rocks, plants and small bushes. At the back of the stage there is a screen that will light up in different colours as the show goes on.



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

The Play

This play is called *The Smeds and the Smoos*.

The story comes from a book with the same name, by author Julia Donaldson and illustrator Axel Scheffler.

The play is about two rival groups of aliens that live on a faraway planet – the Smeds (who are red) and the Smoos (who are blue).



Janet (a young Smed) and Bill (a young Smoo) become friends, even though their families do not approve.

When Janet and Bill fall in love and zoom off into space together, the Smed and Smoo elders have to team up to bring them back home. They learn that they have a lot more in common than they thought.

The characters travel to different planets and meet lots of other aliens and creatures along the way.

The Characters

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



There are many alien creatures to meet in space. There are **small** things, **big** things, and **cute** things.

Sometimes, the actors in the show will have a few other roles to play and they will be pretend to be other aliens and creatures:

Vums – green aliens with very long arms.

The actors will wear special costumes to become the Vums.



A **Lurgle** – a very large, yellow alien with long legs. The Lurgle is a puppet that is controlled and voiced by the actors.



Grimbles – small brown aliens that love to party. They are puppets that are moved around and voiced by the actors.



Jabbarotti – a large, green slime creature which lives in a crater and sings. It is a puppet.



A **space Caterpillar** that Bill and Janet are friends with will appear a few times in the play. It is a puppet.

The Story

On a faraway planet, a space Caterpillar wakes up and leaps onto a tree to nibble on some leaves. Dramatic synth music will be playing.

The actors will come onto the stage and read a bedtime story to a child in a cot (who isn't visible to the audience yet).



There will be a sound of a child crying, but the moment will pass quickly. It is just pretend and nobody is actually upset.

The actors will continue to tell their story about Smeds and Smoos, and it start to come to life on stage.

The Smeds are red. They love to play and splash about in lakes, and sleep in beds.



Janet is a young Smed and she lives with Grandfather Smed.

The Smoos are blue. They love to bounce around, jump on hills and sleep in holes.



Bill is a young Smoo and he lives with Grandmother Smoo.

Smeds and the Smoos live on the same planet. They do not like each other very much because of their differences.



They sing a song and introduce themselves to the audience. The actors playing the Smeds and Smoos pretend to argue with each other.

Bill and Janet have been taught by their families that Smeds and Smoos should never ever play together.

But Bill and Janet do not agree.



They both go exploring in the Wurpular Wood and they bump into each other. They play together in the Wood and become friends.

Bill and Janet fall in love and want to get married, but their grandparents do not approve.



They decide to run away together in the middle of the night. They fly off into space in the Smeds red rocket.

The rocket will make a high-pitched noise as it takes off. It is ok to cover your ears with your hands if it is too loud.

Grandfather Smed and Grandmother Smoo realise that Janet and Bill are missing! They are worried and they want to fly off and find them.

The Smeds don't have their rocket anymore because Bill and Janet took it when they ran away.



The Smeds and Smoos will have to fly in the same rocket together – and they are not happy about it!

They jump into the Smoos' blue rocket and fly off to search the nearby planets. The set will transform into pieces of the rocket.

Grandmother Smoo and Grandfather Smed are joined in the rocket by Jeffrey (a Smed) and Betty (a Smoo).



They go to planet Vumjum and meet the Vums, who have long arms that they wave in the air.

They don't find Bill or Janet so they go back into their rocket.

They go to Planet Lurglestop, where they meet a Lurgle.

Parts of the set will become its head, limbs and tail! Two actors will be puppeteering the Lurgle.



Grandmother Smoo and Grandfather Smed help the friendly Lurgle by watering some flowers.

They might even spray the audience with their water pistols!

The Lurgle has not seen Janet or Bill anywhere. Grandmother Smoo and Grandfather Smed go back to their rocket.

They visit Planet Grimbletosh, where they meet several Grimbles.
Some of the rocks in the set will become the Grimble puppets.



Grimbles love to party! Grandfather Smed and Grandmother Smoo join their party and everyone sings a song and dances together.

Grandmother Smoo will invite everyone in the audience to sing along with them.

The Smeds and Smoos go to Planet Glurch next, where they meet a slime creature called Jabbarotti.

Jabbarotti sings like an opera singer to lure Grandmother Smoo and Grandfather Smed into its crater.



They get stuck in some slime, and Betty the Smoo has to save them.

The actors will pretend to be scared while they're stuck in the slime. It's ok, they are only pretending and they are not in any danger.

The Smeds and Smoos visit a few other planets. They hear sounds of the Klabs walking on stilts, and Scoopies playing can-can music.



They still can't find Bill and Janet and they are upset. They sing a sad song together.

They decide to search one more planet – Earth – and they say hello to everyone in the audience! You can say hello back if you'd like.

After a year of travelling from planet to planet without finding Bill and Janet, Grandfather Smed and Grandmother Smoo decide to head home.



To their surprise and delight, they find Bill and Janet are waiting at home for them!

Grandmother Smoo and Grandfather Smed meet Janet and Bill's little baby, who is purple from head to toe.

Everyone hugs – the Smeds and the Smoos have learned to become friends through their adventure.

They all celebrate together with a big song and dance.



You can sing and bounce along too if you like.

The End

The actors will sing a final lullaby together at the end of the show.

They 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

CDP presents Tall Stories' production of THE SMEDS AND THE SMOOS

Adapted from the picture book by Julia Donaldson and Axel Scheffler

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