



# THE GRUMPIEST BOY IN THE WORLD

Reimagining the potential  
of opera and musical  
theatre, for everyone.

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**Below you can find answers to the questions that didn't get answered during the livestream questions.**

## **Workshop 1 – Creating the World of The Grumpiest Boy in the World**

### **Question from Monty**

Is this an original play?

Thanks for the question Monty. This is an original opera based on the book by the same name. Victorian Opera asked Finnegan Kruckemeyer (the author of the book) and Joseph Twist (who wrote the music for Bluey) to work together to right a brand-new opera. It was first performed in 2015 by our Youth Opera Program, 8 years ago and this is the second time we have staged the production – from the Education Team at Victorian Opera

### **Question from Anonymous**

How long does it take to create an opera from start to finish?

This is a great question and there is no set answer for this. Sometimes it can take years and sometimes months. To write an opera, we would generally allow about 1 year so that it can be workshopped and tested and rewritten in parts if needed. Then once we have a libretto and music, it takes around another year to schedule, design cast and get the opera ready. Our performers will then spend 4 – 5 weeks rehearsing before performing to an audience – from the Education Team at Victorian Opera

### **Question from Jack**

What is one of your favourite costumes, and why?

I love the costume for Dot, the hairy girl. I find it really exciting that we can show her characteristic of difference as is in the script (that she's covered in hair) but that she also has her own very fun and individual fashion style – from Jodi Hope Costume Designer

### **Question from Tilly**

What's your favourite colour for the play lights?

For this Opera I like when the lights help to make the colours in the set even brighter. Blue lights on the mountains and red and yellow lights on Grump Town are my favourites – from Louisa Fitzgerald Set Designer



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## Question from Daylesford Dharma School

What made you think of the idea of this play?

We felt this this opera/play was a great choice for the schools we are wanting to see it. It's about a young person who wants to work out what is extraordinary about them. It has lots of roles for all our great performers to play and we designed it to be colourful and fun – from Elizabeth Hill-Cooper, Director of this opera and CEO of Victorian Opera

## Question from Tilly

Do you like drawing in your free time?

Yes, I've always enjoyed drawing and painting. I like to experiment with different materials, like ink, coloured markers or collage and I'll recently been learning to draw on my computer tablet – from Jodi Hope Costume Designer

Yes, I've always loved art and drawing and painting and enjoy doing this in my free time as well as for my job! – Louisa Fitzgerald Set Designer

## Question from Heather

What types of material do you make the costumes out of?

We've used a whole variety of fabrics and trims to create our colourful characters. For the Hairy Girls leg warmers and hairy cuffs we cut up wigs to match her hair and the large sleepy bird feet were created with foam – from Jodi Hope Costume Designer

## Workshop 3 – Directing a Scene

### Question from Skye

How long does it take to prepare the opera for performance?

Our Education Opera is in rehearsals for 5 weeks and our performers come together every weekday from 10.00am to 5.00 pm to rehearse their parts with each other. However, it is important to note that they have already learnt their lines and their songs before coming into rehearsals, because they are given their parts once they have been cast which is generally 6 months before the show. Add in all the planning and designing and it adds up to around 12 months to put an opera together.



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## Workshop 4 – The Orchestra and being in the Theatre.

### Question from Jack

Did you have to test the costumes to see if they work, are suitable for wearing on stage, as in, they don't break, fall off, or make actors slip?

We certainly do, part of the design process is to consider how the performer needs to move and not impact their singing. The performers are then measured-up before the costumes are made. The Performers then try them on and will wear the costume in rehearsal if we think it may cause an issue so we can test it and then have several dress rehearsals.

### Question from Tom

What did you perform before this?

Last year we performed the Selfish Giant.

### Question from Lucy

Why did you choose to perform "The Grumpiest Boy in the World?"

Our Artistic Director had been told to read the book and he loved it, so he approached Finnegan Kruckemeyer to adapt the story for an opera and asked Joseph Twist to write the music.

### Question from Holly

How long did it take to make the set?

It took 1 day to construct the set in the theatre. However, the actual construction of the set in the workshop started 2 months ago.

### Question from Hannah

What do you do if you make a mistake on stage?

We practice a lot so hopefully mistakes are not made. However, in the rare occasion that they do happen, it is a great opportunity for other performers to improvise around the story and support each other to get the show back on track.