

VICTORIAN OPERA

THE MAGIC PUDDING

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THE MAGIC PUDDING: THE OPERA

BASED ON THE BOOK BY NORMAN LINDSAY

15 - 30 MAY

The Round, Darebin Arts Centre, Bunjil Place

CREDITS

Composer: **Calvin Bowman**

Librettist: **Anna Goldsworthy**

Conductor: **Phoebe Briggs**

Original Director: **Cameron Menzies**

Remount Director: **Elizabeth Hill-Cooper**

Original Set & Costume Designer: **Chloe Greaves**

Revival Costume Designer: **Mel Serjeant**

Original Lighting Designer: **Peter Darby**

Lighting Designer: **Robert Brown**

CAST

Narrator: **Rachael Joyce**

Bunyip Bluegum: **Bailey Montgomerie**

Bill Barnacle: **Douglas Kelly**

Sam Sawnoff: **Joshua Morton-Galea**

Albert the Pudding: **Eamon Dooley**

Judge / Hedgehog: **Alessia Pintabona**

Watkin Wombat: **Mia Koutsoumidis**

Patrick the Possum: **Phoebe Tait**

Benjimen Brandysnap: **Brittney Northcott**

Rooster: **Emma Mueller**

Constable: **Matthew O'Leary**

ENSEMBLE: Martyn Arends, Lily Flynn, Emilia Gray, Leyland Jones, Zoe Lancaster, Sunny Li, Kate Pengelly

ORCHESTRA: Victorian Opera Chamber Orchestra

PRODUCTION PATRON: We extend our sincere thanks and appreciation to Jane Hemstrich AO

Presented in association with Melbourne Conservatorium of Music, The University of Melbourne

SLICE ONE

Mr Bunyip Bluegum, a koala, follows the scent of pudding until he comes across Bill Barnacle the sailor, Sam Sawnoff the penguin and Albert the 'cut-an'-come-again' Pudding. Albert is a Magic Pudding, as the more pudding you eat the more you get. He is however, a very grumpy fellow. Bill and Sam invite Bunyip to join them for a lunch of Pudding. Watkin Wombat and Possum (The Puddin' Thieves) appear and attempt to steal Albert. Sam and Bill fend them off. The Puddin' Thieves scurry off empty-handed.

SLICE TWO

Wombat and Possum have started a fire to cause a distraction. They enter dressed as firemen to put out the fire. While everyone is distracted, Wombat makes off with Albert. The Puddin' Owners set off in search of the thieves. Along the way, they encounter Hedgehog and Rooster. Bill, Sam and Bunyip arrive at Watkin Wombat's Summer Residence where Bunyip pretends to be a door-to-door salesman. Wombat and Possum fall for the trick and the Puddin' Owners are able to snatch Albert back.

SLICE THREE

The following morning Wombat and Possum once again trick the Puddin' Owners and run off with Albert. Bill, Sam and Bunyip struggle to escape from a trap and are rescued by a dog called Benjimen Brandysnap. Bunyip plans an Official Grand Procession to lure the Puddin' Thieves. Wombat has Albert hidden under his hat. Bunyip tricks him into removing his hat by singing 'God Save the King'. Bill and Wombat get into a fight, and the pudding falls off Wombat's head. The Puddin' Thieves have been thwarted.

SLICE FOUR

Bill, Sam, Bunyip and Benjimen arrive at Tooraloo. Wombat and Possum, disguised as townsfolk, accuse the Puddin' Owners of stealing their pudding. After a commotion, the police arrive. Albert insults the policeman and pinches him. The policeman arrests Albert on the grounds of Puddin' Assault. In court, Wombat and Possum are accused of Puddin' stealing, Bill acts as the prosecuting lawyer with Benjimen and Sam as witnesses. Bunyip pretends that Albert has been poisoned, and the Judge – who has eaten seven slices – has been poisoned seven times. There is chaos in the courtroom. The Puddin' Thieves run away and the Puddin' Owners have Albert back. Bill, Sam, Bunyip, Benjimen and Albert all live happily together.

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COLOURING IN SHEET

