

VICTORIAN
OPERA

THE MAGIC PUDDING

THE OPERA

VISUAL STORY



Victorian Opera respectfully acknowledges the people of the Eastern Kulin Nation, the Traditional Owners of the unceded land upon which we work and create.

We recognise Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as the custodians of the lands and waterways across the Australian continent and their continuous connection in Caring for Country.

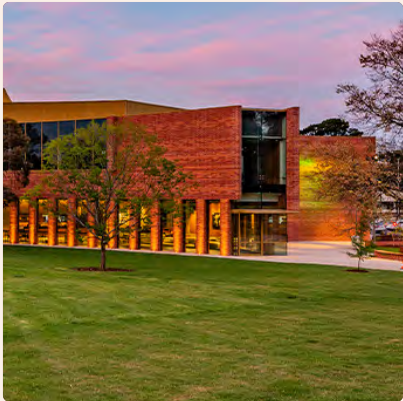
We reflect on our shared responsibilities to honour and respect this land and its stories, and pay our respects to Elders past and present.

WELCOME

This visual story is designed to give away some of the secrets of our production so you can really concentrate on enjoying your time at the theatre.

THE THEATRE

The Magic Pudding: The Opera will be performed at three theatres in Victoria; The Round (Nunawading), Darebin Arts Centre and Bunjil Theatre (Narre Warren).



The Round (Nunawading)



Darebin Arts Centre



Bunjil Theatre (Narre Warren)

THEATRE GUIDELINES

For the enjoyment of everyone in the audience, there is no photography or mobile devices allowed in the theatre. You can use devices in the breakout spaces in the foyer. If you need a device for communication, just let one of the ushers know before the show starts.

When you attend a Relaxed Performance, you are welcome to move around the auditorium, sing along, and show your support for the performers by cheering when they stop singing.

If you need to take a break from the production, head out to the breakout spaces in the foyer with one of the adults you came to see the production with. When you're ready, head back in to continue watching the production.

RELAXED PERFORMANCE

Victorian Opera wants to provide performances that allow all to enjoy the wonder of opera and theatre in a way that respects individual needs. This Relaxed Performance is designed to welcome people who require awareness of their sensory sensitivities, so that they can enjoy theatre with the important people in their lives.

CONTACT

This visual story has been prepared by Victorian Opera. If you would like any additional information please contact us during business hours on:

Phone (03) 9012 6659, or

email: education@victorianopera.com.au

THE PRODUCTION

AGE RECOMMENDATION

Victorian Opera recommends this production to people between 8 to 80 years of age. Please review warnings and read through this resource before committing to purchasing tickets.

WITH THANKS

This Relaxed Performance has been made possible through the generous support of the Marian and E.H. Flack Trust, the



WARNINGS AND OTHER THINGS TO KNOW

This production is an opera, which means the performers are all singers who can sing quite loudly. There is also a small orchestra. If the performance becomes too loud for you, feel free to cover your ears or put on some headphones.

There will also be moments during the performance where Bill Barnacle and Sam Sawnoff will be in the spotlight performing a funny little dance. During these moments, all the other lights will go black making the rest of the stage and auditorium quite dark. You can close your eyes if it's too scary, but it won't last long.

In this production the Puddin' Thieves, Patrick the Possum and Watkin Wombat, make multiple attempts to steal Albert the Pudding, from Bill Barnacle, Sam Sawnoff and Bunyip Bluegum. Throughout the performance, they get into four different fist fights with Bill and Sam. While it looks like Possum and Wombat are hurt, they're only pretending. These scenes have been carefully choreographed to make the fight look real all the while making sure the performers involved don't get hurt.

Wombat and Possum start a fire to cause a distraction and get away with Albert the Pudding. You'll start to see lots of smoke

float onto the stage and a red glow will appear making it look like there is a fire offstage. Don't worry, there isn't really a fire, only the illusion of one, which is created using haze and a clever lighting design. Everyone is safe.

In their last attempt, Wombat and Possum pull a bag over Bill, Sam and Bunyip, so they can kidnap Albert the Pudding for themselves. They won't be stuck in the bag for long as Benjamin Brandysnap comes along and saves them, pulling the bag off them.

In the court room in Tooraloo, Bunyip Bluegum will announce that Albert the Pudding has been poisoned and the Judge, who has eaten seven slices, will start to panic, knocking the Puddin' Thieves over their heads with a bottle of port. He also hits the Constable with his bottle, causing the Constable to faint. Don't worry though, the Judge is not really hitting the performers, they're just acting and they're not really hurt. Also, Albert hasn't really been poisoned, it's just a trick devised by Bunyip to help win the case.

BEFORE THE PRODUCTION

When you arrive to The Round in Nunawading, there will be lots of other people coming to see the same show. You will enter the curved brick building by walking from either the bus drop-off zone at the front door, or from the carpark which is across the road.

You will then enter the foyer of The Round. This is a big open space and it will be busy, so stay close to your group. Feel free to wear your headphones as it will also be noisy. If you need to go to the bathroom, there are toilets in the foyer as well. Just ask your teacher or the adult that you're attending the show with.

You'll also find people wearing black. These people are called ushers and their job is to help you find your seat in the theatre and answer your questions. Some of these people will also work for Victorian Opera, you will see Victorian Opera printed on their name tags.

The doors to the theatre will open 30 minutes before the show starts to allow you and your group plenty of time to get settled. The show is general admission, which means there is no allocated seating and the ushers will help you and your group to the best available seats.

DURING THE PRODUCTION

The Magic Pudding: The Opera goes for approximately 60 minutes without a break.

If you need to have a rest during the show, feel free to head out to the quiet area in the foyer with an adult from your group. There won't be many people in the foyer during the performance so it will be quiet.

We are happy for you to get up and move to the music and even sing along, just be careful not to block the view of people behind you trying to watch the show while they sit down.



AFTER THE PRODUCTION

At the end of the opera, clapping and cheering is a great way to say thank you to the performers and everyone who has worked on the show. We would love for you to join in by saying thank you in this way. The performers will also come and take a bow, make some extra noise for the performers you liked best. If you think they did a really good job, you can stand up and clap - this is called a standing ovation.

If it gets too noisy you are allowed to cover your ears. Don't worry, the clapping won't last long.



Photo credit: Katherine Norman

BEFORE THE PRODUCTION

When you arrive to Bunjil Theatre in Narre Warren, there will be lots of other people coming to see the same show. You will enter the big, curvy building by walking from either the bus drop-off zone in front of the Plaza outside the building, or from the carpark which is across the road.

Bunjil Place is an arts and entertainment precinct that includes an outdoor community Plaza, Theatre, multipurpose Studio, Function Centre, Library and Gallery. You'll be watching *The Magic Pudding: The Opera* in the Theatre.

The foyer at Bunjil Place is a big open space, with big glass windows and an enormous timber grid shell. It will be busy and noisy, so stay close to your group and feel free to wear your headphones. If you need to go to the bathroom, there are toilets in the foyer as well. Just ask your teacher.

You'll also find people wearing black and blue and white chequered shirts. These people are called ushers and their job is to help you find your seat in the theatre and answer your questions. Some of these people will also work for Victorian Opera, you will see Victorian Opera on their name tags.

The doors to the theatre will open 30 minutes before the show starts to allow you and your group plenty of time to get settled. The show is general admission, which means there is no allocated seating and the ushers will help you and your group to the best available seats.

DURING THE PRODUCTION

The Magic Pudding: The Opera goes for approximately 60 minutes without a break.

If you need to have a rest during the show, feel free to head out to the foyer with an adult from your group to make use of the quiet/sensory space. There won't be many people in the foyer during the performance so it will be quiet.

We are happy for you to get up and move to the music and even sing along, just be careful not to block the view of people behind you trying to watch the show while they sit down.



AFTER THE PRODUCTION

At the end of the opera, clapping and cheering is a great way to say thank you to the performers and everyone who has worked on the show. We would love for you to join in by saying thank you in this way. The performers will also come and take a bow, make some extra noise for the performers you liked best. If you think they did a really good job, you can stand up and clap - this is called a standing ovation.

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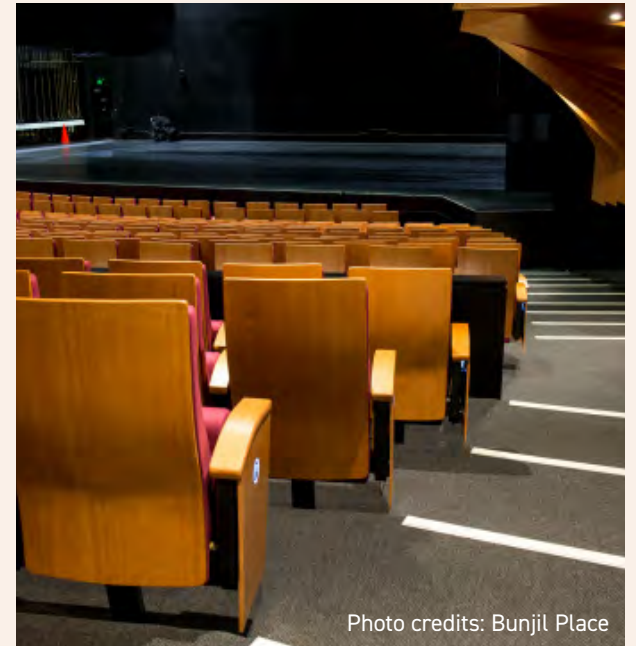


Photo credits: Bunjil Place

THE CAST

The characters in *The Magic Pudding: The Opera* are listed below as well as pictures of the performers playing the different roles.



RACHEL JOYCE
Narrator



BAILEY MONTGOMERIE
Bunyip Bluegum



DOUGLAS KELLY
Bill Barnacle



JOSHUA MORTON-GALEA
Sam Sawnoff



EAMON DOOLEY
Albert the Pudding



ALESSIA PINTABONA
Judge / Hedgehog

THE CAST



MIA KOUTSOUMIDIS
Watkin Wombat



PHOEBE TAIT
Patrick the Possum



BRITTNEY NORTHCOTT
Benjimen Brandysnap



EMMA MUELLER
Rooster

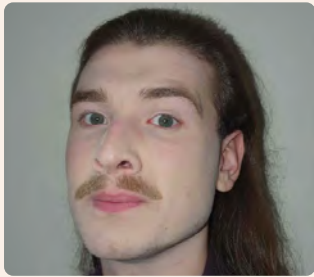


MATTHEW O'LEARY
Constable

THE CHORUS

In addition to the main cast listed above, there are other performers that appear on stage who perform as part of the Chorus. The Chorus is a group of singers that helps tell the story and helps to create the emotions and moods experienced by the main characters.

The members of the Chorus for *The Magic Pudding: The Opera* are:



MARTYN ARENDS



LILY FLYNN



EMILIA GRAY



LEYLAND JONES



ZOE LANCASTER



SUNNY LI



KATE PENGELLY



PHOEBE TAIT



BRITTENY NORTHCOTT



EMMA MUELLER



MATTHEW O'LEARY

COVERS

Covers are very important. If someone is sick and cannot perform, we have other performers in the cast that can cover those roles which means the show can go on.



ALESSIA PINTABONA
Narrator



LEYLAND JONES
Albert the Pudding



SUNNY LI
Albert the Pudding



ZOE LANCASTER
Judge



LILY FLYNN
Hedgehog



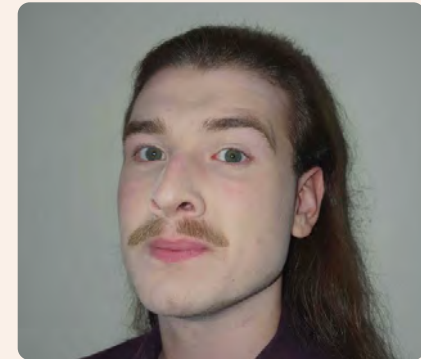
KATE PENGELLY
Watkin Wombat



EMILIA GRAY
Patrick the Possum



LILY FLYNN
Rooster



MARTYN ARENDS
Constable

THE ORCHESTRA

When you take your seat, you might be able to see the musicians in the pit, which is the space in front of the stage before the seats start. You may also hear them playing their instruments as they get ready for the show to start.

Just before the show starts, the musicians will adjust their instruments so that they are all playing in tune, which means at the same pitch. You will then hear the Acknowledgement of Country.

The person who leads the orchestra is the conductor. They will come to the front of the area where the musicians are, and we will clap. The Conductor of *The Magic Pudding: The Opera* is Phoebe Briggs. When the orchestra is ready, Phoebe will raise a short white stick called a baton and the orchestra will start to play the musical interlude.



THE STORY

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. After their meal, as Bill sings of how they met Albert, Watkin Wombat and Possum (The Puddin' Thieves) appear to try and steal the Pudding for themselves. Sam punches Possum and knocks Wombat to the ground. The Puddin' Thieves scurry off without stealing the pudding.



Albert sings of how terrible his life is, stuck as a pudding in a pot. Bill and Sam ask Bunyip to join them as Puddin' Owners which he happily accepts and they settle in for the night.



Wombat and Possum have started a fire to create a huge distraction. They enter dressed as firemen to put out the fire. While everyone is distracted, Wombat makes off with Albert. Sam, Bill and Bunyip are devastated that Albert has been taken and determined to save him, they set off in search of the Puddin' Thieves.



Along the way they encounter Henderson Hedgehog who is quite hard of hearing and of no use at all. They also come across a Rooster who says that he did see a Possum earlier that day and that he headed in the direction of Watkin Wombat's summer residence.



Bill, Sam and Bunyip arrive at Watkin Wombat's Summer Residence where Bunyip disguises himself as a door-to-door salesman, selling Pootles' Patent Pudding Enlarger. He instructs the others to hide out of sight and when he gives the signal, tells them to come out and engage in a fist fight. Wombat and Possum fall for the trick, and the Puddin' Owners are able to snatch Albert back.



The following morning Wombat and Possum make another attempt at stealing the Pudding by tricking Bill, Sam and Bunyip to look into a big bag which they then use to cover and trap them. With the Puddin' Owners stuck, they run off with Albert.



Bill, Sam and Bunyip struggle to escape and are rescued by a dog called Benjimen Brandysnap. They begin to conjure up a plan to get their pudding back and Bunyip suggests an Official Grand Procession to lure the Puddin' Thieves back to them. As the procession begins, Wombat and Possum emerge but Wombat has pudding under his hat. Bunyip tricks Wombat into removing his hat by inviting everyone to sing a verse of 'God Save the King'. Wombat reluctantly takes off their hat and with the pudding exposed, Bill and Wombat get into a fight. The pudding falls off Wombat's head and reunites with Bill, Sam, Bunyip and Benjamin Brandysnap. Wombat and Possum run away.



As a gang of four, Bill, Sam, Bunyip and Benjimen arrive at Tooraloo. Wombat and Possum, appear again, disguised as respectable townfolk. They accuse the Puddin' Owners of stealing their pudding and make a big commotion causing the police to arrive. Albert insults the Constable and pinches him, and the policeman has no option but to arrest Albert on the grounds of Puddin' Assault.



In the Tooraloo court, Wombat and Possum are in the dock accused of Puddin' stealing and Bill acts as the prosecuting lawyer with Benjimen Brandysnap and Sam Sawnoff as witnesses. Albert objects to their evidence and tries to start a fight. Bunyip pretends that Albert has been poisoned, and the Judge - who has eaten seven slices - has been poisoned seven times. Needless to say, there is chaos in the courtroom! The Puddin' Thieves run away, and the Puddin' Owners have Albert back for good.



Bill, Sam, Bunyip, Benjimen and Albert decide to stop their wandering and settle in a tree out of reach from Puddin' Thieves and the police. They build a tree house and all live happily together.





CREATIVE
VICTORIA



Department
of Education



William Angliss
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