

PRELIM INARY NOTES

4 LA BOITE
THEATRE COMPANY

shake&stir
theatreco

**ROALD
DAHL'S
REVOLTING
RHYMES
& DIRTY
BEASTS**

Adapted for the stage by
shake & stir theatre co



V1.0

LA BOITE AND SHAKE & STIR

WHO
WE ARE



ABOUT LA BOITE

Your Voices. Your Stories. Your Theatre.

La Boite holds a unique place in the hearts and minds of artists and audiences in Queensland. For more than 90 years, La Boite has represented the adventurous and alternative. There has always been a strong focus on the development of new work and artists, and today is no different.

The stories, ideas and voices of our city and country are many and varied and as such La Boite seeks to represent and engage in this beautiful and rich diversity; the diversity of form, ideas, ethnicity, gender – of identity.

Theatre has the capacity to embrace difference in so many ways. La Boite push the boundaries of form by collaborating with some extraordinary partners to stretch theatrical, physical and musical boundaries. La Boite plays with contemporary circus, visual theatre, opera and cabaret, classical text, the theatrical and extraordinary international talents. This varied menu aims to enliven and inspire our existing audiences and draw new audiences to share in the La Boite experience – the experience and magic of live performance in our unique Roundhouse Theatre.

ABOUT SHAKE & STIR

Established in 2006, shake & stir is one of Australia's leading contemporary theatre companies specialising in the creation of new work.

shake & stir produces an annual season of in-school and Mainstage productions and a suite of in-school master-classes and in-residencies for primary and secondary students.

shake & stir's past Mainstage productions have included: *Statespeare* (2012 Helpmann Award nomination – Best Children's Work), *Animal Farm* (2012 Matilda Awards – Best Independent Production, Best Direction), *1984*, *Out Damn Snot*, *Tequila Mockingbird* (2014 Matilda Awards – Best Mainstage Production, Gold Matilda Award), *Roald Dahl's Revolting Rhymes & Dirty Beasts* and *Wuthering Heights*.

In 2011, *Statespeare* (2012 Drover Award nomination – National Tour of the Year) embarked on a four-month national tour, visiting theatres in QLD, NSW, VIC, SA and TAS.

In 2013, *Animal Farm* (2014 Drover Award – National Tour of the Year) toured for five months throughout QLD, NSW, VIC, WA and NT.

In 2014 shake & stir's adaptation of George Orwell's *1984* toured theatres nationally before returning to QPAC for a sold out season.

In 2015 the company's production of *Roald Dahl's Revolting Rhymes & Dirty Beasts* will tour nationally and its newest adaptation – Bram Stoker's *Dracula* premieres at QPAC in August.

As a professional yet fearlessly independent theatre company shake & stir is proud of its QLD heritage and has co-produced with QPAC, Opera QLD, La Boite Theatre Company and Brisbane Powerhouse.

**LAUGH, SQUIRM,
DELIGHT, SMILE AND
THOROUGHLY ENJOY THE
SMORGASBORD OF DAHL'S
TERRIFIC AND TWISTED
TALES THAT HAVE BEEN
LOVINGLY ADAPTED FOR
THE STAGE.**

PLAY OVER — VIEW



SYNOPSIS

Think you know the stories of the Three Little Pigs, Cinderella, Little Red Riding Hood, Snow White, Goldilocks or Jack and the Beanstalk? Think again!

Roald Dahl's *Revolting Rhymes & Dirty Beasts* bursts off the page in a spectacular live show that takes the world's best-loved fairy tales and rearranges them with surprising and hilarious twists.

Frighteningly funny and seriously silly, *Revolting Rhymes & Dirty Beasts* is the perfect family entertainment for children five to 105. It will delight and disgust in equal measures.

Don't miss the return of this multi-Helpmann Award nominated production penned by the world's number one storyteller and from the team that brought you *George's Marvellous Medicine*.

CAST AND CREATIVES

DIRECTOR Ross Balbuziente

DESIGN Josh McIntosh

LIGHTING DESIGN Jason Glenwright

SOUND DESIGN Guy Webster

CAST INCLUDES Leon Cain, Judy Hainsworth, Nelle Lee

ILLUSTRATION Quentin Blake

ESTIMATED RUNNING TIME

55 minutes

RECOMENDED FOR

All Primary Students and Secondary Students
in Grades 9-12

TRAILER

Watch the *Revolting Rhymes & Dirty Beasts* trailer and discuss initial responses.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=97dBPaiKIT8>

SUBJECT MATTER

Cinderella, Jack and the Beanstalk, Snow White and the Seven Dwarves, Goldilocks and Three Bears, Little Red Riding Hood

PURPOSE

Entertain, Empathise, Celebrate

CONTEXT

Historical, Cultural

Intended Audience: think about how this impacts the work being appropriate for audiences 5+

FORM, STYLE & CURRICULUM LINKS

Drama: Children's Theatre, Theatricalising classic stories for contemporary audiences, Magical Realism, Storytelling, Collage Drama, Physical Theatre, Role and Character, Ensemble Theatre

English: Discuss – plot, character, setting and events, different types of texts – literature and theatre, explore language and how it's represented in different texts, Poetic Techniques, Song & lyrics, Different Media types, Fantasy

DIRECTORIAL VISION & CONCEPT NOTES WITH NAOMI RUSSELL, EDUCATION MANAGER AT SHAKE & STIR THEATRE CO

DRA —MATIC MEANING



ACTING

- Ensemble Theatre – “This is a perfect example of ensemble theatre, with all actors playing multiple roles.”
- Multiple Roles – “They show their skill and versatility by seamlessly switching from narrator to prince, to frog, to wolf, to grandma... you get the idea! Between 4 actors over 40 characters are displayed on stage!”
- Voice, movement, costume and props – “The changes in these characters are shown through voice & movement, as well as symbolic costume items and props.”

MOVEMENT

- “Movement is utilized in a variety of ways. The use of the revolving stage helps to punctuate changes in space and setting. For example: When the taxi driver takes Snow White around town, or when the Big Bad Wolf visits Grandma’s house.”
- Slow motion – “Is also used to create dramatic tension, with precision movement from the actors to convey a fight sequence. Highly choreographed sequences.”

COSTUME

- “Costumes in the show are vibrant, fun and bold. Each actor has a base costume, with elements added to portray individual characters they play.”

SETTING

- “As this is a collection of stories, the setting changes many times throughout the production. Again, the use of revolve helps to transition from one setting to another, as well as lighting, sound and clever manipulation of props from the revolve, rig and by the actors. Of course, the magic of story-telling and imagination is highly encouraged in the show as well.”

INTERTEXTUAL REFERENCES

- “Written in the early 1980s these are Roald Dahl’s spin on classic fairy-tales – so references to the stories we know are evident throughout. Each story has its own spin and surprise for the audience as the opening lines suggest ‘I guess you think you know this story. You don’t. The real one’s much more gory!’ There are references to other works as well – even Kanye West references Dahl in the song Dark Fantasy! The great thing about Roald Dahl is so many people have a connection to his work.”

KEY RESEARCH POINTS

THINGS TO PONDER



CONNECT WITH ROALD DAHL

Visit the Roald Dahl website, learn about Roald and even engage with teaching resources. www.roalddahl.com/create-and-learn/teach/teach-the-stories/revolting-rhymes-and-dirty-beasts

CONNECT WITH SHAKE & STIR

Read the shake & stir Teacher Resource Kit for script samples, classroom activities and worksheets available on the shake & stir website: www.shakeandstir.com.au/

STORIES

You might like to start by getting your students to create versions of these stories, or to do versions of these stories in a certain time frame. You could create a wall of information of everything that your students remember.

- Cinderella
- Jack and the Beanstalk
- Snow White and the Seven Dwarves
- Goldilocks and Three Bears
- Little Red Riding Hood

RELEVANCE

You might also like to have a discussion about why these stories are still relevant and enjoyable? What are their messages? What are we meant to learn from them?

CHARACTERS

You could have your students create character profiles, write monologues, or create scenes between characters in different stories. What if Jack met Cinderella or and Ugly Step Sisters met the Big Bad Wolf etc.

ACTOR ONE Ugly Step Sister, Jam Maker, Jack, King, Butcher, Dwarf, Baby Bear, Grandma, Wolf, Farmer Bland, Dentist, Roly Poly Bird

ACTOR TWO Cinders, Evil Queen, Dwarf, Goldilocks, Little Red, Little Pig, Mum, Boy, Nurse

ACTOR THREE Fairy Godmother, Ugly Step Sister, Mother, Snow White, Mum Bear, Wolf, Little Pig, Girl, Snail, Frenchman

ACTOR FOUR Prince, Giant, Huntsman, Snow White's legs, Dad Bear, Little Pig, Pig, Dad, Nurse, Toad, Frenchman

ROALD DAHL POEMS

You could use some of Roald Dahl's poems as pretexts to create other work.

- Classic Poetry Series Roald Dahl - poems
- Publication Date: 2004 Publisher:
Poemhunter.com - The World's Poetry
Archive: www.poemhunter.com/i/ebooks/pdf/roald_dahl_2004_9.pdf

REVOLTING RHYMES ANIMATED FILM

Revolting Rhymes is a 2016 British-German computer animated TV film based on the book of the same name written by Roald Dahl and illustrated by Quentin Blake.

Retelling and intertwining five of the six poems from the book, the two-part film was produced by Magic Light Pictures and is narrated by Dominic West. The films were created in Berlin (Magic Light Pictures Berlin) and Cape Town (Triggerfish Animation Studios). It aired on PBS in the United States.

Its first episode was nominated for the Academy Award for Best Animated Short Film at the 90th Academy Awards

- Teachers' Resource: Revolting Rhymes Early Years and Level 1 Created by Helen Appleyard Created 2017: www.dca.org.uk/assets/general/Revolting_Rhymes.pdf

KEY RESEARCH POINTS

THINGS TO PONDER



THEATRE FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

You might be using this to support the creation of a Theatre for Young People unit of work, and have your students create works suitable for students in Primary Schools. They could take fairy tales, or create their own stories, perhaps with important messages or themes.

- QCAA Unit of Work – Child’s Play
Some great learning experience suggestions when delivering a Theatre for young People Unit: www.qcaa.qld.edu.au/downloads/p_10/els_sa_childs_play_guide.docx

POINTS OF VIEW

You might like to have your students select another character from one of the stories and tell it from their perspective.

Explore Point of View in Fairy Tales by readwritethink published by International Literacy Association: www.readwritethink.org/parent-afterschool-resources/activities-projects/explore-point-view-fairy-30148.html?main-tab=2#tabs

FAN FICTION

You could look at Fan Fiction as another way of furthering well known stories. You could explore missing chapters, new scenes, new points of view, additional chapters etc. Plus there are A LOT of examples available.

FAN FICTION FOR LITERACY

www.sites.google.com/a/ualberta.ca/fanfiction-for-literacy/resources/classroom-activities

FRACTURED FAIRY TALES

You could use the many fractured fairy tales that exist as starting points for your students to create their own.

- Cinderella
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xnYcKHI8E4>
- Little Red Riding Hood
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RksxFR-uMal>
- Snow White
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=E4ikEBaMOBE>

JACK AND THE BEANSTALK: A TWIST | STORYBOOK, SHORT STORIES FOR KIDS, FAIRY TALES, NURSERY RHYMES BY PLAY KIDS

“Fe Fi Fo Fum”, this brand new Sketchy Tale from PlayKids is a magical world of fun! Giants always seem to get a bad reputation for being big and mean and for one friendly giant, who lives in a castle on top of a cloud, an accidental run-in with a giant beanstalk and a furious little boy named Jack only makes things worse. How will this classic tale end when it’s told from giant’s side of the story?

Sketchy Tales were written and created to give your kids the chance to develop a sense of empathy for everyone, despite other’s prejudices and tendencies to villainize what they don’t know or understand: www.youtube.com/watch?v=cDdO6CTM4_4

THE TRUE STORY OF THE THREE LITTLE PIGS READ ALOUD

“The True Story of the Three Little Pigs” by Jon Scieszka. Illustrations by Lane Smith. Read by martellorules: www.youtube.com/watch?v=m75aEhm-BYw

SESAME STREET: THE NEW 3 LITTLE PIGS STORY | KERMIT NEWS

The Big Bad Wolf decides to change the story of the classic fairytale The 3 Little Pigs! Tune in to see how this new version has Kermit blown away! www.youtube.com/watch?v=118l2OD57NA

FURTHER READING

CHECK
IT OUT



OTHER COMPANIES MAKING WORK FOR YOUNG AUDIENCES

You might like to get students to find images of other classic works that have been contemporised, or classic texts that have been theatricalised. Finding images of these works and discussing the production elements would be a great discussion. It might also be good to do some research overseas of some incredible companies making work for young audiences.

- Windmill Theatre Company
www.windmill.org.au
- Australian Theatre for Young People
www.atyp.com.au
- Out of the Box Festival
www.outoftheboxfestival.com.au
- Monkey Baa
www.monkeybaa.com.au
- Outback Theatre for Young People
www.outbacktheatre.com

ARTICLES

- Australia excels at theatre for young people by Jane Howard Fri 19 July, 2013
www.theguardian.com/culture/australia-culture-blog/2013/jul/19/australia-theatre-young-people-excels
- Why children's theatre matters by Lyn Gardner Wed 23 Oct, 2013
www.theguardian.com/stage/theatreblog/2013/oct/23/why-childrens-theatre-matters



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