MR. POPPER'S PENGUINS

Adapted from the Novel by Richard & Florence Atwater

Visual Story Document

This resource pack is designed for visitors to Relaxed and BSL interpreted performances of Mr. Popper's Penguins by Pins & Needles



About

Mr. Popper's Penguins is a stage musical created by Pins & Needles with songs by Luke Bateman & Richy Hughes. It uses 4 actors playing different characters to tell the story

- There will also be lots of Penguins! They are Puppets controlled by the actors.

- When you arrive at the theatre, there will be a circular floor on the stage with a ladder covered by a dust sheet.

- At the back of the stage is an image of 'Stillwater' - the town where Mr. & Mrs. Popper live. It is framed on 3 sides with red ladders.

We ask that the audience do not come on to the stage please.

Characters

Mr. Popper is Played by Rich Holt





Mrs. Poppers is played by Monica Nash



Captain Cook is played by Benedict Chambers



Greta and Admiral Drake is played by Susie Barrett



Understudy is Abey

Did you know?
An Understudy is someone who learns the lines of all the characters so they can play them if the other actors can't

The Story

The show begins with Admiral Drake, a famous explorer, making a radio broadcast live from the South Pole.

We then visit the town of Stillwater where Mr. Popper, the local housepainter, tells us of his dreams of exploring the world and visiting the South Pole.

It's Wednesday and Mr. Popper is getting ready to hear Admiral Drakes live broadcast on the radio. Admiral Drake addresses Mr. Popper personally and tells him to look for a surprise!



The doorbell rings and a huge box arrives. Inside the box is a penguin! Mr. Popper is very excited, Mrs. Popper less so. They call the Penguin ‘Captain Cook’ after the great explorer.

After causing chaos in the Popper’s living room and around Stillwater, Captain Cook appears to have fallen ill.

Mr. Popper sends an S.O.S. around the world asking for famous explorers for help. The Poppers are sent another big box. Inside this is another Penguin! It turns out Captain Cook was just lonely, and the arrival of another Penguin, whom the Poppers name Greta, brings him back to full health.



Captain Cook and Greta fall in love and in turn Greta lays 8 eggs. Soon the Popper's house is full of 10 penguins! Feeding so many penguins is very expensive and the Poppers are running out of money.

Mr. Popper takes the penguins to work thinking they could help him paint and decorate faster. The penguins weren't very helpful but amongst the chaos Mrs. Popper notices they look like they could perform some entertaining tricks!





The Poppers arrive at the local theatre to audition their penguin troupe for Mr. Greenbaum - a famous theatre promoter. He ignores them but suddenly his big act for the evening cancels and he takes a chance and puts them straight on stage.

They are a huge hit! Admiral Drake is in town and has heard about the amazing performing penguins. Admiral Drake comes to visit Mr. Popper and congratulates him, but he also says that really the penguins should go back to their natural environment in the South Pole.

Mr. Popper understands but is sad that he has to part with Captain Cook. However, Admiral Drake asks Mr. Popper to join him on the adventure with the penguins. Mr. Popper says he'd love to, but he ought to stay home with Mrs. Popper but then discovers…. She's already on the ship, excited to go! So, Mr. and Mrs. Popper, Admiral Drake, and all the penguins, set sail for the South Pole.



Credits

CREATIVE TEAM FOR MR POPPER'S PENGUINS

Based on the book by Richard & Florence Atwater
Adapted for the stage by Pins and Needles Productions.
Directed by Emma Earle
Music by Luke Bateman
Lyrics by Richy Hughes
Designer Zoe Squire
Puppet Designer and original puppet direction by Nick Barnes
Associate Puppetry Director Yvonne Stone
Lighting Designer Rig Mountjoy
Associate Director Luke Bateman
Original sound design by Jason Barnes
Company Stage Manager Adam Roberston
Produced by Pins and Needles
Originally commissioned by Kenny Wax Family Entertainment

(Photos By Dan Norman)

Venue

Waterside Arts is a welcoming and fully accessible venue. Our wonderfully friendly team is here to help with any questions you may have!

Here is the main entrance to the venue

at Waterside Plaza, Sale!



This is the Robert Bolt Theatre,

Where you will be sitting and enjoying the show!

