

2024 National School Tour Program





Director's Note

In the lead up to touring our first musical, *Girl Inside*, in 2020, I was nervous about the format that we had created. A series of serendipitous events brought me to write a brand-new story and develop a fully-fledged production that had been pre-booked for a week of school shows. I was so sure that what we were putting together was something special – that was until the time came for our first performance.

There is no audience member more honest than a child, a fact I was acutely aware of as I sat behind the sound desk while our debut production played out to a whole crowd of them. Were the themes too complex? Was it interesting enough? Was it worth all the effort? The hour-long show came to an end, the kids filed out class by class, and we began packing up to move on to our next school. Even after our first performance I was still filled with doubt that what we had delivered was not up to scratch, until a teacher came up to me and handed me a sticky note with a quote from one of her students that read:

**“It’s showing everyone that
you’ve always got one person in
your life to give you confidence.”**

- Bailee, Year 1, 6 years old

Looking back on it, this is the most important moment of the company's journey so far. It was a moment that set the expectations of what turned out to be a successful tour. It was a moment that assured me the future of this company will always be bright so long as we strive to deliver beautiful new stories that connect with kids of all ages, stories that remain in their hearts long after the cast have taken their bows.

Although we are still in our infancy, I am proud of how far this company has come. And as we debut our third original musical, *Book Nooks*, I am excited to see where these stories will take us next.

Benji Riggs
Artistic Director



*The
Wommolly.*



School Tour Program 2024

SEASON OF FRIENDSHIP

The Boy with the Golden Fox

Join Ewing and the mythical Golden Fox on their heartfelt journey home, complete with original musical numbers and a sweeping orchestral score. This hour-long adventure of unlikely friendship is set to delight.

SEASON OF CURIOSITY

I Wonder...

When Phoebe meets her estranged uncle Linus, they discover a shared love for scientific exploration. Throughout the performance they carry out grand and explosive experiments, and create a bond that will last a lifetime. *Linked to the Australian Curriculum: Science Version 9.0. Curriculum links for Foundation to Year 6 can be provided upon request.*

SEASON OF DISCOVERY

Annabella

When Annabella, a lonely and anxious young girl, faced Jupiter, a wise and ancient dragon, she never expected it would lead to a grand adventure among the stars. They set off in search for Jupiter's lost son, meeting peculiar creatures and running into challenges. Only at her lowest moment, Annabella finally realises the strength she always wanted was inside of her all along.

SEASON OF CONNECTION

Book Nooks - a Christmas Musical

11-year-old Jack Barker doesn't want to celebrate Christmas without his grandpa. That is until he discovers the small village of Grunkles, the tiny makers of Christmas sweets, inside the forgotten books of his grandpa's old bookshelf. As he grows closer to the amiable creatures, Jack remembers his joy and reconnects with his family.



SEASON OF FRIENDSHIP

THE BOY WITH THE GOLDEN FOX

THEMES / LEARNINGS

Friendship

Love

Hope

Compassion

DATES

SA

19th - 23rd February

VIC

20th - 24th May

27th - 31st May

WA

19th - 23rd August

26th - 30th August

DURATION

53 minutes

TIMES

10am & 2pm

When Ewing's dad told him the story of the mythical Golden Fox, he never thought he would be saved by one when becoming lost in the snowy woods during his first hunting expedition. On the journey back to Ewing's father – with the treacherous Wommolly hot on their tale – Ewing witnesses the magic of the woods, meets the many peculiar creatures who call it home, and learns what it means to be a part of something larger than himself.

With orchestral music and a heartfelt story, it will not only delight but will leave you hopeful for what might come next.

The musical adventure of *The Boy with the Golden Fox* was first performed in 2022 at the Parks Theatre and was the first public season for The Flying Elephant Company. The show had a sold out second season in 2023.

“This is a wonderful local product with wider significance and appeal. Its intended audience – the 3-12 year olds – were enchanted”

- David Smith, *The Theatre Association of South Australia*



I Wonder....

THEMES / LEARNINGS

Curiosity

Teamwork

Problem
solving

DATES

SA

6th - 10th May

	1	2	3	4	5				
6	7	8	9	10	11	12			
13	14	15	16	17	18	19			
20	21	22	23	24	25	26			
27	28	29	30	31					

DURATION
50 minutes

TIMES
N/A

Linked to the Australian Curriculum: Science Version 9.0. Curriculum links for Foundation to Year 6 can be provided upon request.

When Phoebe's house is flooded during a storm, her parents take her to stay with her distant great-uncle Linus in his rickety 200-year-old house. With its many rooms and creaky floorboards, Phoebe just wants to be back home. That is until she discovers what's hidden away in her great-uncle's basement... a grand laboratory. Unable to sleep and after years of no contact, Linus and Phoebe bond over a nights worth of invigorating experiments, during which a sharp curiosity for science is awoken inside of her. When morning comes and the storm clouds are replaced with a yellow sunrise, Linus is reminded why he chose to become a scientist all those years ago.

Simon Blacket holds a Bachelor of Science (Honours) degree, with Majors in Chemistry and Mathematics, for which he was awarded the Honours Alumni University Medal. In 2019, he started Silly Science with Simon with the goal of making science fun and exciting for kids. His YouTube videos have over 500,000 views, and his live shows have been performed to captive audiences at the Capri Theatre.

This show was developed in collaboration with and stars Simon Blacket, from Silly Science with Simon.



ANNABELLA

THEMES / LEARNINGS

Discovery

Self-esteem

Anxiety

DATES

SA

29th July - 2nd August

VIC

9th - 13th September

16th - 20th September

WA

22nd - 26th April

DURATION
60 minutes

TIMES
10am & 2pm

The village where Annabella had grown up played a big part in her battle with anxiety and her struggle to find acceptance. When she joins Jupiter, a wise and ancient dragon, in the search for his missing son, Annabella's dream of becoming 'more' comes within reach. She quickly finds herself on strange planets where new challenges force her to make a stand for herself. Yet it is only at her lowest moment where Annabella realises that the strength she had always desired was inside her all along, proving to herself that she is enough just as she is.

Formerly known as "Girl Inside", *Annabella* was first toured to South Australian primary schools in 2020 and served as the company's first original production. While *Annabella* tackles some sophisticated themes, it is a show in which both lower and upper primary students will find something to enjoy and connect with.

**"It's showing everyone that
you've always got one person in
your life to give you confidence"**

- Bailee, Year 1, 6 years old



BOOK NOOKS

a Christmas Musical

THEMES / LEARNINGS

Family connection

Loss

Giving

Joy

DATES

SA

2nd - 6th December

1
2 3 4 5 6 7 8
9 10 11 12 13 14 15
16 17 18 19 20 21 22
23 24 25 26 27 28 29
30 31

Every year on Christmas Eve, 11-year-old Jack Barker and his grandpa delivered candy canes and other sweets to the houses in their town, but this Christmas will be the first since Grandpa passed away. As the Barker's move into the newly inherited family home – the traditional gathering place for Christmas – Jack refuses to join the celebrations, believing that doing so would be leaving his grandpa behind.

However, one night after an argument with his parents Jack finds himself in the village of Grunkles – the miniature makers of Christmas sweets – who have made their homes within the forgotten encyclopedias and history books that sit on the top shelves of his grandpa's bookcase. The Grunkles had found refuge with Jack's grandpa after escaping a great reckoning in their homeland. But now Grandpa is no longer around, they have no way of getting all the Christmas sweets out to the children of the town. Although reluctant at first, Jack grows close to the amiable creatures and carries on the tradition of delivering the Grunkles' sweets to every house in town. All the while Jack learns how to cope with his loss, he rediscovers his joy for Christmas, and reconnects with his family.

DURATION
60 minutes

TIMES
10am & 2pm



What makes our shows special?

Our stories are written to not only impact the minds of kids but touch their hearts, leaving them with precious memories that will last beyond the 60-minute runtime. They are special because each one is a completely original local product, from head to toe. We use sweeping orchestral backing tracks to build atmosphere and give students a sense of the cinematic, while giving them moments to laugh, connect and reflect.

At the centre of each musical is a young child, usually around 12 years old.

This is so students can more readily engage with the character's journey and see themselves in their shoes. This is helped by the mix of adult and youth performers, allowing students to look up to kids who are closer to their age.





The Company

The Flying Elephant Company began touring original musicals to schools in 2020, with *Girl Inside*. Before this however, the company went under a different name, Spark of Inspiration, and toured juke-box musicals to SA primary schools. Over the years, the company has performed shows to over 30,000 students, and the shift towards new and original work by South Australian artist Benji Riggs brings an exciting new chapter for the company.



Our mission is to create character driven stories that explore rich and complex themes, that **teaches kids to dream fearlessly**, that there is wonder to be found in the most unlikely of places.

We want to empower relationships within families and friendships, showing that there is good to be found in a strong community where personal growth and connection is prioritised.

While The Flying Elephant Company is venturing out into public seasons, including the world premiere of *The Boy with the Golden Fox* in 2022 and its second sold out season in 2023, we're proud to continue offering a diverse range of original theatre to South Australian schools.

FAQ's

Pricing

Tickets are priced at \$6.60 (SA) and \$7.70 (VIC/WA) (GST included) per student in attendance. An alternative price for all our shows of \$6.60 (GST included) is available for schools with an Educational Disadvantage Index of 1-3.

A minimum cost of \$1,200 (+GST) is applied to all schools.

Performance Times

While our standard booking times are 10am & 2pm, separate morning times are available for schools who would like to book more than one performance time in the same day.

These times are 9:30am* & 11am.

Bookings

If you would like to make a booking for one or more of our seasons, please get in touch. We are happy to answer any questions you might have and work with you to find a time and date that works for your school calendar.

Safety & Checks

We take the care and safety of our audiences seriously. A total of 5 performers tour with each of our shows, with 2-4 crew members. All cast and crew who tour with The Flying Elephant Company are required to provide current Working With Children Checks, which will be passed on to schools in the lead up to a booking. When making a booking please let us know of any other conditions you would like us to satisfy for company members coming on site. The Flying Elephant Company carries Public Liability Insurance for \$10,000,000.

**Early on site access will be required.*

Contact

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