

The Riddle of Washpool Gully

Pre performance visual story

TERRAPIN

**THEATRE
ROYAL**





Hello

We are Terrapin Puppet Theatre and we have been bringing puppet performances to Tasmanian children in schools for over 40 years! Maybe you have seen a show of ours before, like *The Paper Escaper* or *Scaredy Cat*?

Very soon you will be seeing our show **The Riddle of Washpool Gully** at the **Theatre Royal**. We made this show with another company, *Dead Puppet Society*, who are based in Queensland.



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Our team

These are the people performing in the show.



Guy Hooper

plays **The Narrator**
& is a puppeteer



Melissa King

plays **Mum**
& is a puppeteer



Brett Rogers

plays **The Kid**
& is a puppeteer

Going to the theatre

You will travel to the theatre with your parent or guardian.



Image credit: Alastair Bett

Entering the Foyer

The main entrance to the Theatre is via a large foyer. There is a ramp to the left which leads to a lift, or you can walk up the stairs.

At the top of the stairs, is the Box Office.



Image credit Alastair Bett

The Box Office

At the Box Office, your parent or guardian will say hello to Theatre Royal staff.

If you need help at any time, you can ask the people who work at the Box Office.

They can help with lots of things, including First Aid or helping you find your parent or guardian if you get separated or lost.



Image credit: Alastair Bett

Studio Theatre

The Riddle of Washpool Gully is in the Studio Theatre. You will walk up the stairs or take the lift to Level 4.

There are Ushers, who work for the Theatre Royal and are dressed in black clothes. Their job is to help keep you safe and help you find your seat.

It's very important that you listen to any **directions they give you.**



Image credit Alastair Bett

During the Show

Wherever you are sitting for the performance, the show will start with an Acknowledgement of Country.

This will be a man's voice, speaking calmly, and the sound will be played through loudspeakers.

This lets us know that we need to pay attention and listen in.



Image credit Rosie Hastie



During the performance

You will sit in your chair. There will be lots of other children and families in the audience.

The play goes for 55 minutes

You might laugh at parts of the story - go ahead!

You might feel a bit worried or scared by something.

But don't worry - any bits you think are scary don't last very long and it all works out ok.

If you need a break, that's okay

If you need a break, an Usher can find a quiet break-out space for you to have some quiet time.

Tell your parent/guardian and they can help too.



Image credit: Cassie Sullivan

About the performance

The **Riddle of Washpool Gully** is a play with puppets, actors, a set that changes to become different places plus music and sound effects.



The Story

A story for a performance is written as a script by a playwright.

A director works with the performers and designers to turn the script into the performance you watch. This is called the rehearsals.

This story was written and directed by the same person, David Morton, who is the director of Dead Puppet Society.

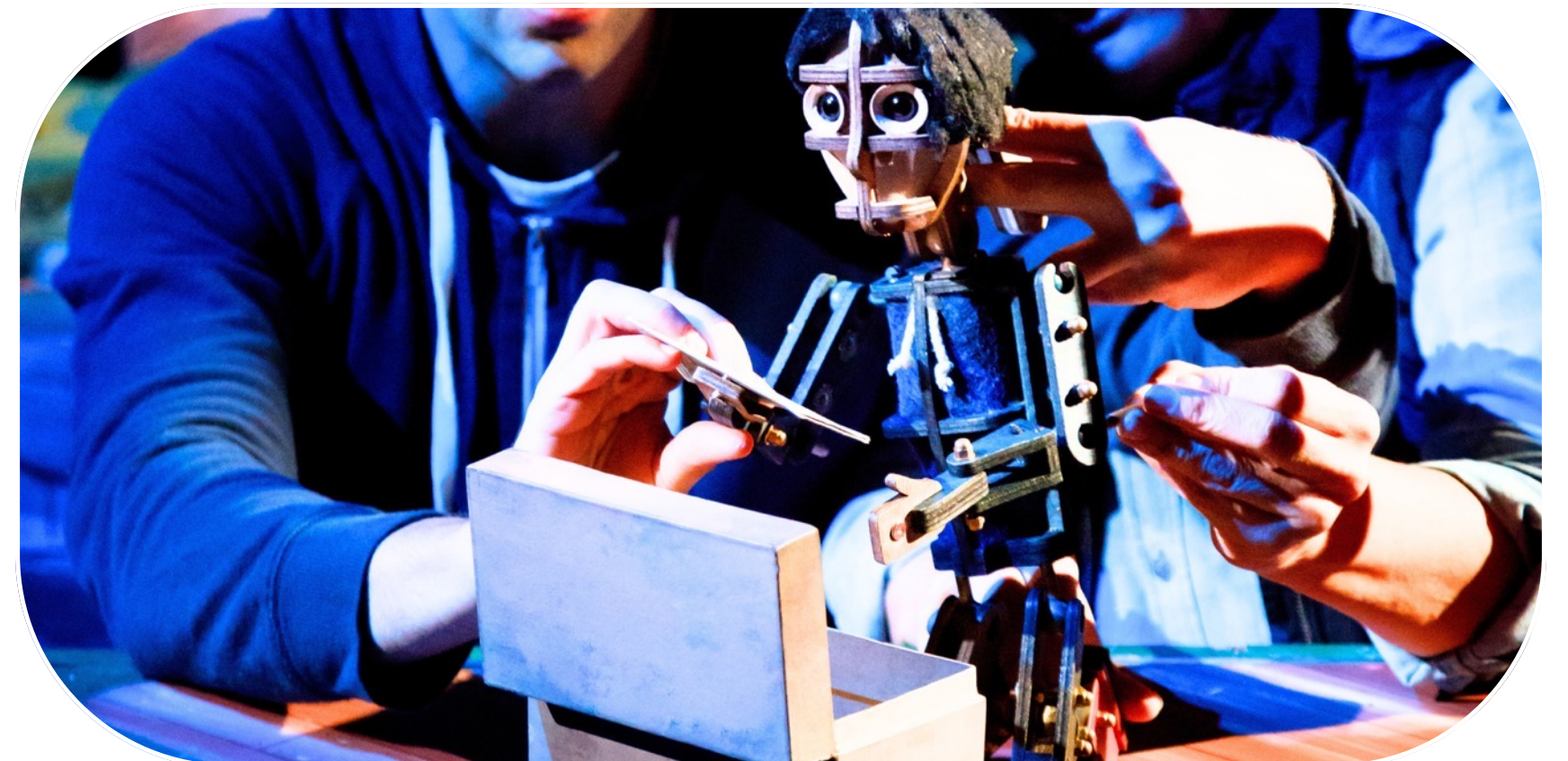


The Riddle of Washpool Gully

is a story about a kid who moves with their mum to a tiny forgotten town far away from the city.

The kid isn't happy but mum has a new job checking the area for anything important before a company gets permission to build a new mine.

But then the kid discovers a mystery and meets an incredible creature that changes everything.



What will you hear?

An artist called a Composer has created a soundscape full of original music and sound effects to help tell the story.

During the performance you will hear lots of sounds including wind, thunder, lightning and a train. And the music helps create the mood of the scene.

The performers also make sounds of the puppet characters like their breathing.





What will you see?

The set and the puppets for this show have been designed by the team at Dead Puppet Society.

The set has been built in a special way to make it easy for the actors to move things around and create the different places in the story quickly. It is a bit like a jigsaw puzzle crossed with a pop-up book or a magic box.



The puppets are controlled by the performers through rods and hand movements. This brings them to life.

Lets meet the characters





The Kid

The Kid is the main character of the story. In the performance the kid is played by a performer and a puppet.

The performer playing **the kid** wears a costume that matches the puppet.

The 'puppet kid' is always brought to life by the 'performer kid' but sometimes another performer will help if two puppeteers are needed.



Mum

Mum is an archaeologist who travels around a lot for her work and she take the boy with her.

The performer playing **mum** is Melissa King.

There is no 'puppet mum' but Melissa also helps to puppeteer the Kid and the Creature puppets.

Melissa also helps with some of the narration.



The Narrator

A narrator speaks directly to the audience and helps tell the story by sharing information about the characters and describing things the audience can't see.

The narrator in this story is played by performer Guy Hooper. There is no 'puppet narrator' but Guy sometimes helps bring the puppet characters to life.



The Creature

The Creature is a mysterious character in the story. They are portrayed by a puppet.

In the story the creature is often called a 'monster'. People use the word monster to describe things they don't understand and that scare them. Lots of times, when we get to know them, we realise that 'monsters' are not monsters at all.

The creature is brought to life by performers Melissa and Guy.



The Stage Manager

Stage managers make sure the set, props puppets and technical equipment are ready for the start of a performance.

Our stage manager is Liv Vermey and you will probably see her on a computer at the side of the audience where she will make all the sound effects and music play at the right time in the story.

Curtain Call

At the end of the play, all the performers and the puppets will take a bow. This is called a curtain call.

During the curtain call the audience will applaud and maybe even cheers. This is how the audience thanks the actors for their performance. You can clap and cheer too if you want to.



After the show

The ushers will let you know when it is time to leave the Theatre. You will leave the theatre with your parent or guardian.



Image credit: Alastair Bett