

# monkey baa

## Your visit to the theatre

social story

### Josephine Wants to Dance

Based on the book by Jackie French and Bruce Whatley

Written for the stage by Eva Di Cesare, Sandie Eldridge and Tim McGarry



Photo by Alex Vaughan

**What is a theatre?**

A theatre is a special place where people perform plays, musicals and shows. Today, we are going to see a show called Josephine Wants to Dance.

**What is Josephine Wants to Dance about?**

Josephine Wants to Dance is a story about a kangaroo named Josephine who loves to dance. It's a fun and exciting show with music, dancing, sets, lights and costumes.

**Getting ready to go**

Before we go, we will make sure we have everything we need. We might bring a small bag with a drink or snack for later, but we won't eat or drink in the theatre.

**When we arrive**

We will go into the building with our teacher or adult helper. There will be friendly people called ushers who will help us find our seats.

**Finding our seats**

We will walk quietly to our seats and sit down. We will wait patiently for the show to start.

**During the show**

The lights will dim and the show will begin. We will watch and listen quietly so everyone can enjoy the performance. If something is funny or exciting, we can laugh or clap.

**If we need help**

If we feel nervous or need help, we can tell our teacher. They will help us feel better and know what to do.

**After the show**

When the show is over, the actors will bow, and we can clap to show we liked it. We will leave the theatre with our group and talk about our favourite parts!

**Having fun**

Going to the theatre is a special experience. We will have fun watching Josephine Wants to Dance and being part of the audience!

# What will we see on stage?

## The stage

The stage is where the performers will act, sing and dance. It will have colourful sets, costumes and lights. Sometimes, the lights might get bright or dim.

## The performers

You will see actors playing characters from the story, like Josephine the kangaroo. They might move quickly or make big movements while dancing.

## The audience

Other people will be sitting in the theatre to watch the show. Some might clap their hands or react loudly.

## Special effects

There might be moments with bright lights, moving sets or props on stage. These are all part of the show.

## The theatre staff

You will see ushers or staff members in the theatre. They are there to help you if you need help.





# Who will we see on stage?

## Lily as Josephine

Lily will play the main character, Josephine, a kangaroo who loves to dance! In the show, you will see Lily hopping, dancing across the stage and singing.



## Callum as Joey and other characters

Callum will play Josephine's brother, Joey, who thinks kangaroos can't dance. Callum will also play a few other characters throughout the show, like a brolga, a ballet dancer and a costume designer. Callum isn't in the photos here, so he may look a little different when you see him on stage.



# Who will we see on stage?

## Nina as Big Annie and other characters

Nina will play Big Annie, who lives in Shaggy Gully and takes care of the local hall where the ballet will be performed. Nina will also play other characters, like a lyrebird and a ballet dancer.



Big Annie



## Hannah as the Ballet Director and other characters

Hannah as the ballet director and other characters  
Hannah will play the Ballet Director, speaking in a pretend Russian accent. She will also bring other characters to life, including a brolga and a lyrebird.

# Safe spaces

We make sure that all our spaces are safe for you. This means we check for things like broken equipment, slippery floors and other hazards. We also make sure that areas are clean and tidy, so you don't trip or get hurt. We create an atmosphere of respect and inclusion, where everyone feels valued.

# Friendly helpers

All the adults who work with us get special training to learn how to keep you safe and help if there's a problem. This includes knowing what to do in an emergency, how to talk to you respectfully, and how to spot if someone might be feeling unsafe.



# Good behaviour and speaking up

It is important that everyone is kind, respectful and they listen to each other. No bullying or mean behaviour is allowed. If something makes you feel uncomfortable or unsafe, tell a trusted adult. We'll listen and take your concerns seriously.

## Involving adults

We talk to your parents, carers or teachers to keep them informed about your safety. This means we tell them what you're doing and how we are keeping you safe. If we ever have concerns about your safety, we'll work together to help you.

If you feel overwhelmed by what you see or hear, it's okay to take a break. Let an adult know if you need help.

