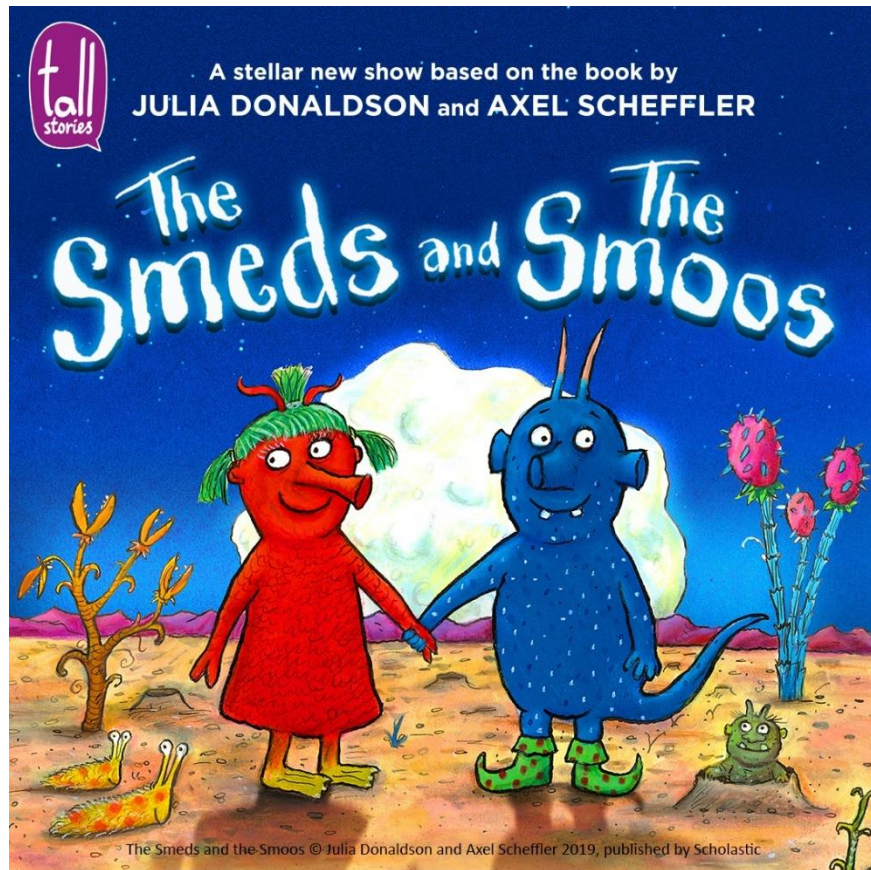


The Smeds and The Smoos



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Hello!

We are looking forward to welcoming you to the **Relaxed Performance** of **The Smeds and The Smoos**. We hope you are excited to see the show!

This pack is designed to give you a bit more information about the performance ahead of your visit.

What is a Relaxed Performance?

Relaxed Performances are open to everyone but are especially tailored to support audiences with additional needs who may benefit from a more relaxed performance environment. This may include children, young people and adults with neurodivergence, such as autism, learning difficulties and other sensory or communication needs.

Throughout the performance the lights will remain on, and whilst the theatre doors will be closed, audience members will be free to come and go from the theatre if they need a break from the performance. There is also a relaxed attitude to noise during the show, and the sound and lighting will be adapted to more comfortable levels.

Contact Us – Tall Stories

If you have any questions about the show itself and would like to find out more, please get in contact with Tall Stories via info@tallstories.org.uk or 02083480080 (we're not always in but we'll always pick up if we're in the office!) and we're happy to help.

If you have any feedback about the show please get in touch, we'd love to hear from you.

We hope you enjoy the intergalactic adventures of The Smeds and The Smoos!

About the Play

How long does the play last?

The running time for **The Smeds and The Smoos** is **55 minutes with no interval**.

What is the play about?

The Smeds and The Smoos is based on the book of the same name by **Julia Donaldson** and **Axel Scheffler**. You might have read this at home.

If you are new to the book, it tells the story of two families of aliens called **Smeds** and **Smoos** who live in a far-off planet and cannot be friends. So, when young Smed **Janet** and young Smoo **Bill** fall in love and zoom off into space together, their families follow them on

an adventure to bring them home. **If you would like to find out more about the story before your visit, please see pages 6 – 7.**

The actors in **The Smeds and The Smoos** use different costumes and puppets to play the different aliens in the story, as well as making lots of different alien noises!

What age-range is the show for?

The performance is recommended for children aged 3+ and their grown-ups.

Announcements

There may be an announcement just before the show asking for mobile phones to be switched off and advising that photography or filming of any kind is not permitted.

What to expect...

- The show can be quite loud in places, with different sound effects, music and songs throughout. However, the volume will be reduced during the relaxed performance.
- You are welcome to sing along and join in with the songs if you would like to – other audience members may also be quite loud during these parts!
- There are other moments during the show when the actors will talk directly to the audience, or ask questions like “Has anyone seen **Janet**?” You can reply or not, it’s up to you - no one will be made to feel embarrassed.
- Throughout the performance we will keep the main lights on in the auditorium but there will be different lighting changes during the show, and especially during songs.

Spoiler Alert!

When the families are visiting **Lurglestrop**, **The Lurgles** ask **Grandfather Smed** and **Grandmother Smoo** to water the roses on the planet – including the roses in the audience! At this moment, **Grandfather Smed** and **Grandmother Smoo** will use a plant mister and a water pistol to spray water over the audience. It will only be a few light drops and will only last a few seconds, but the audience may shout and whoop as the water lands on them.

Meet the Characters

There are four actors in the show, two male and two female.

All of the actors act, sing, and dance during the show, and help to tell the story as narrators as well as playing their characters.

Bill is played by an actor called **Rob Penny**.



← This is **Rob**.



As **Bill**, **Rob** wears a grey long-sleeved t-shirt with a blue gilet that has light blue buttons stuck to it, it also has a blue tail attached.

He wears grey camouflage trousers with lime green convers trainers. He wears a navy blue beanie with pink antennae.



Rob also plays **Jeffrey**, a red **Smed** who helps find Janet and Bill.

Jeffrey wears a grey long-sleeved t-shirt with a red gilet that has orange netting on the shoulders.

He wears grey camouflage trousers with lime green converse trainers.

He wears a light green cap headpiece with red horns.

Janet is played by an actor called **Felicia Akin-Tayo**



← This is **Felicia**.



Felicia plays the red **Smed Janet** in the show. When playing Janet, Felicia wears a grey long sleeved t-shirt with an orange vest over the top, grey tracksuit bottoms, with orange skirt over the top and yellow trainers.

She wears a green headpiece with red horns.



Felicia also plays **Betty**, a blue **Smoo** who helps find Janet and Bill.

When playing Betty, Felicia wears a grey long sleeved t-shirt with a navy blue gilet that has a tail, grey trousers and bright yellow trainers.

Betty also wears a navy blue beret with pink antennae.

Grandfather Smed is played by an actor called **Thomas Capper**.



← This is **Tom**.



Tom plays **Grandfather Smed** in the show. When playing **Grandfather Smed**, Tom wears an orange long sleeved t-shirt with grey trousers and an orange apron over the top with yellow shoes.

He wears a grey and white headpiece with red horns.

Grandmother Smoo is played by an actor called **Andrea Sadler**.



← This is **Andrea**.



Andrea wears a grey long-sleeved t-shirt with a navy blue tailcoat that has a blue tail. She wears grey trousers with green shoes and a blue headpiece that has blue and pink antennae.

The Smeds and The Smoos - The Story

Spoiler Alert!

Below is a summary of the story which means we tell you what will happen. This might be helpful to know before you come to the theatre, but if you want the story to be a surprise then we suggest you don't read these pages. Please don't share these with other people as they might want the surprise too.

The Smeds and The Smoos opens with dramatic synth music and a space Caterpillar leaping from one side of the stage to the other.

Four narrators start talking about space, but they are interrupted by the sound of a baby crying. The narrators try to calm the crying baby and do so by telling the story of **The Smeds and The Smoos**.

The **narrators** introduce the red **Smed Janet**, who lives by a loobular lake, and **Smoo Bill**, who lives on a humplety hill. **Grandfather Smed** then jumps out with a loud 'Honk!' and they begin to sing a song called ♪ **We are the Smeds/Smoos**. **Grandmother Smoo** then jumps out to join the song with **Bill**, giving a loud 'Aak!' as she appears.

The Smeds and the Smoos are aliens who do not get along. As they put **Janet** and **Bill** to bed, **Grandfather Smed** and **Grandmother Smoo** warn them to never, ever play with each other.

The next morning, **Janet**, **Grandfather Smed** and **Jeffrey** are splashing about in their lake when **Janet** realises she's bored of this watery play, and sneaks away to the **Wurpular Wood**.

Meanwhile, **Bill**, **Grandmother Smoo** and **Betty** are jumping about on the humplety hill. **Bill** also realises he is bored of being at home, and sneaks away like **Janet**!

Whilst walking through the **Wurpular Wood**, **Janet** and **Bill** meet. They know they are not meant to play together, but they have a brilliant time exploring the tall trockles, smelling the glompoms and playing hide and seek. As **Janet** finds **Bill**, they accidentally bump antennae and giggle.

They continue to play and laugh together, before singing a duet called ♪ **Smed and Smoo**.

As they nibble on the juicy and jellyful fruit of the Jerberrycoot, they are disturbed by **Grandfather Smed** angrily shaking his fist and **Grandmother Smoo**, reminding them they should never play with one another.

Years go by on their far-off planet, but **Janet** and **Bill** continue to sneak away to sing and play in the **Wurpular Woods** whenever they can. As they grow up, they decide to get married - but their grandparents do not approve.

That night, **Janet** writes a note to **Bill** and they come together to borrow the Smeds' red rocket, and blast off into space!

When the families wake the next morning, they realise **Janet** and **Bill** have disappeared and that the Smeds' red rocket is missing. **Grandfather Smed**, **Grandmother Smoo**, **Jeffrey** and **Betty** climb into the Smoos' blue rocket and start their adventure into space to find **Janet** and **Bill**.

The first place they visit is a dry dusty planet called **Vumjum**. The aliens who live there - **The Vums** – are green and have long arms that they wave in the air. Two **Vums** appear from behind rocks and do the following twice through:

- **Bow to the sun twice**
- **Bow to each other**
- **Tickle each other**
- **Do a Mexican wave**
- **Hug each other**

The second time through, **Grandmother Smoo** and **Grandfather Smed** get in between **The Vums** to ask if they have seen their **Janet** and **Bill**, but they have no news.

The second planet they visit is **Lurglestrop**, a planet covered in colourful roses and watered by beasts that are called **The Lurgles**. One of **The Lurgles** sniffs the roses and signals **Grandfather Smed** and **Grandmother Smoo** to water the rocks, the flowers, and the audience! After their watering is done, **Grandfather Smed** and **Grandmother Smoo** ask if they have seen **Janet** and **Bill**, but the **Lurgle** gets confused and hides behind the hill.

The third planet they visit is **Grimbletosh**, which is coated in grime. After singing and jumping with the visitors (♪ **Grimbletosh**), **The Grimbles** mumble in their own words and jump into **The Smoos'** rocket! The grandparents encourage them out of the rocket and put them to bed before leaving the planet.

Next, they head to planet **Glurch** where they find nothing but slime! A bright green alien, appears from the crater as he lures **Grandfather Smed** and **Grandmother Smoo** into his trap of slime. **Betty** manages to pull **Grandfather Smed** and **Grandmother Smoo** out but then gets herself stuck. **Betty** joins in with the final high note, which makes the green alien retreat into his crater and loosen his slime.

As they continue on their adventure, **The Smoos** wake one day to find they've run out of tea, so **The Smeds** offer to share their bright pink milk. **Grandfather Smed** also mentions his hair needs a trim, so **Grandmother Smoo** kindly cuts it for him.

Afterwards, they fly to **Klaboo**, where **The Klabs** walk on stilts. Then, they land on **Scloop**, where **The Scloopies** wear kilts!

They continue their search all year long, but they can't find **Janet** or **Bill**. So, they turn and fly home to their planet where they see the pair walking in the woods together.

The blue rocket touches down and they run into the wood, embracing the runaway **Smed** and **Smoo**. **Janet** and **Bill** had got lost and flown home again, only to find the other **Smeds** and **Smoots** had left them behind. They all celebrate and hug.

Janet asks if **Grandfather Smed** and **Grandmother Smoo** would like to meet the pair's baby. **Janet** and **Bill** show the grandparents their purple **Smoo-Smed** baby, with its yellow feet and small green tuft of hair. Everyone hugs and sings their celebratory party song 🎵 *Joy, Jam and Jumping*.

As **Janet** and **Bill** take the **Smoo-Smed** to the cot pod and put him to sleep, everyone sings 🎵 *Lullaby*.

They tiptoe off stage so as not to wake the snoozing baby, but it lets out a loud wail! The lights are dimmed, and the show comes to an end.

The Set

When you enter the auditorium, the stage will look like the model below. The stage is the area where the actors perform the show, and the set is the name for the scenery, landscaping and objects used on the stage during the performance.



In the Theatre...

Before the show and during the interval, there may be some announcements in the Foyer telling you how long it is until the show begins, and other useful information about your visit. These will be at a quieter level during the Relaxed Performance.

It may also be noisy in the Foyer as other audience members will be arriving to see the show. You might like to cover your ears or wear a pair of ear defenders during this time.

When you enter the auditorium, the lights will be on and it may be noisy as the audience will be excited to see the show. You might like to cover your ears or wear your ear defenders to soften the noise and bring a toy to play with before the performance starts.

When the show is about to start, the lights in the Studio will be dimmed but it will never go completely dark.

Everyone will try to be as quiet as they can so they can listen to the story and music, but you are welcome to interact with the performance if you would like to!

When the show has finished, the cast will come back onto the stage and bow. The audience will clap to show the cast they enjoyed the performance. You can also clap if you would like to!

At the end of the show, the lights will get brighter.

Production Photographs of Previous Production

