



The Pirate, the Princess and the Platypus

Relaxed Performance Pack

A Polka Theatre production

The Pirate, the Princess and the Platypus

Once upon a time, there was a pirate who wanted to be a princess, a princess who wanted to be a pirate and a platypus who was happy being exactly themselves!

Join us this summer for a brand new comic fairy-tale adventure for children and their grown-ups, about choosing your destiny, discovering your identity, and finding your friends. Let us take you to a magical musical world of pirate kings, queens, frogs, tall towers and shipwrecks; of French fancies and barrels of grog!

See our heroes strike out across the high seas, but be back to the palace in time for high tea!

From the incredibly silly minds behind the Olivier-nominated global hits *Potted Potter* and *Potted Panto*.

Creative Team

Co-Writers: Daniel Clarkson and Richard Hurst

Co- Directors: Daniel Clarkson and Richard Hurst

Designer: Jessica Curtis

Lighting Designer: Bethany Gupwell

Composer: Jane Watkins

Sound Designer: Sam Clarkson

Movement Director: Laura Dredger

We hope you enjoy the show!

The Location

When you get to Polka Theatre, this is what it looks like:



When you enter through the main entrance, to your left will be the Box Office and the Shop. Please feel free to browse the shop whilst you wait.

Box Office:



Shop:



When you enter through the main entrance, to your right will be the cafe. We serve hot and cold food, pastries, sweet treats, and hot and cold beverages.

Cafe:



Main Theatre: This is where the performance will take place. The seating is sold at 50% of its full capacity for the relaxed performance, therefore, the auditorium will not be full. House lights will remain on during the performance at 50% so the space will never be in complete darkness.



Chill-Out Space: This is located outside of the Main Theatre upstairs. You can leave the theatre at any time and come back in when you are ready.



If you would like to learn more about Polka, please visit our website:
<https://polkatheatre.com/your-visit/>

COVID SAFETY

We take the safety of our audiences, staff and volunteers seriously and we want you to have confidence when coming to a Polka show.

Following the recent Government announcement that all remaining Covid restrictions will be coming to an end, we will still be maintaining current measures to ensure the ongoing safety of our audiences and staff.

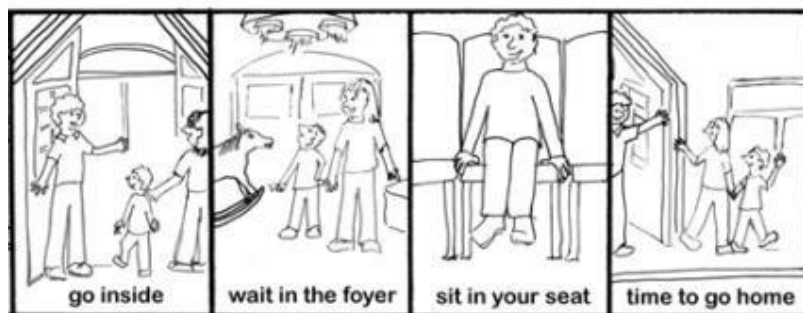
We ask theatergoers to play their part in taking responsibility for their own and for others.

We ask that audiences respect our Visitors Services team, who are working tirelessly to ensure that theatres are a welcoming place for all.

Rigorous testing regimes and backstage protocols continue to be in place for theatre staff and performers, to allow the show to go on and to preserve the livelihood of our workforce after such a challenging two years.

You can learn more about our current covid measures [here](#).

Picture information strip - this is what you will do when you go inside:



To prepare you for your visit to **Polka Theatre** we have put together a synopsis - this is to help you to understand the story that you are about to see and prepare you for what to expect during the performance. The performance will last approximately 70 minutes.

The Pirate, the Princess and the Platypus

This comical production consists of three actors. Two of the actors will play more than one role. The actors playing more than one role will change costume and characterisation to represent their change in character. Both actors will play the extra roles of *The Queen* and *The Dread Derek* at different points in the story.

The actors will also use props and puppets to create key moments in their story.

This is what the characters look like:

The Pirate



The Princess



The Platypus



The Dread Derek



The Queen



The King



Human King



This is the performance space and set as you first see it:



The show will take the audience to several different locations. The set is therefore designed to be adaptable so it can change in appearance for the given location.

There is a large curved wall which forms the very back of the set. The wall is very colourful and is decorated with different themes, which are specific to the different locations that the show will visit. There are large brown pillars either side of the wall, double doors, a colourful chest, central windows, a blue chest of draws and another singular door with a small porthole. The floor has a colourful design of a compass, which links in with the pirate theme of the show.

There is a moveable bed located on the upstage left-hand side of the stage (which appears on your right hand side when you are looking at the stage). The bed is often used as a way of transforming the set and changing the location. This will be done by adding extra features to the bed throughout the show.



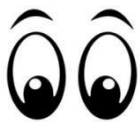
During the show, the actors might interact with you. This play has interactive moments, and you are welcome to respond to characters and laugh or smile.



During the show, you might see something that makes you feel sad or scared. You are allowed to feel sad or scared, that is ok.



If you see this symbol, it means there will be a loud or unexpected noise and you can put your fingers in your ears.



If you see this symbol, it means there will be visual projections, or something visual happening onstage that will aid with the storytelling.



If you see this symbol, it means you will hear music or there will be a song.



If you see this symbol, it means there will be a change in lighting and you can cover your eyes.



If you see this symbol, it means you will hear a sound effect coming from the speakers.

Prologue.

Platypus will come into the auditorium searching for food. She will interact with the audience and ask them if they have seen any worms. Platypus has a strong Australian accent because platypuses are native to Australia.

Scene 1. Introduction.

After interacting with the audience, Platypus walks on stage. She will continue to speak out to the audience and interact with them about worms and food. She introduces herself and some information about what type of mammal she is. She will then begin to tell us about the story we are about to see, the story about a pirate, a princess and a platypus.



Platypus reads the introduction to the story from a thick story book. At this time you will hear sound effects of babies, pirates and magical fairy dust coming through the speakers.



The characters will then perform the first song a Pirate, a Princess and a... Here is where we first meet the pirate and the princess.

Throughout the show it is a common theme that the pirate and the princess do not know what kind of animal Platypus is, and they can never understand what Platypus is saying.

After the song the story begins and Pirate is left on stage.



Scene 2. The Pirate.

Here we are properly introduced to Pirate. He is no ordinary pirate, he likes to sing, clean, sew and drink chamomile tea. All of which are things pirates should not do.



You will hear the sounds of seagulls coming from the speakers.



Pirate is peacefully cleaning his room and singing his cheerful cleaning song before his father *The Dread Derek* enters. They have a disagreement about what it takes to be a pirate, which results in *The Dread Derek* banishing his son from the Secret Pirate Lair until he can prove he is a true pirate.

The Dread Derek provides his son with some packed barbeque lunch, before sending him on his way. Here is where Platypus and Pirate meet for the first time.



Platypus discovers Pirate crying. She tries to comfort him and also attempts to eat his barbeque lunch. *At this time Pirate will fart in a very delicate manner.*

Pirate decides to prove himself to his father and goes on a mission to sail the high seas. He invites Platypus to join him, with the promise of all the barbeque she can eat.



Scene 3. The Princess.

Here we meet Princess. She is no ordinary princess. She likes dirt, grog, waving a cutlass and eating barbeque. All of which are things a princess should not enjoy.



Princess is recreating a dramatic pirate death scene in her bedroom with her two toys. Her mother, the Queen enters carrying a small handbag. As Princess is nearly 16, the Queen wishes to discuss her daughter's chosen happy ending. *When the queen enters you will hear a fanfare and the lights around the double doors will light up.*



The Queen then explains the story of her own happy ending, which was kissing a frog. *She produces a small frog wearing a small crown from her handbag, this is the king and the Princesses father.*



The Queen then reads all of the happy ending options from a book. Her daughter's fate is decided as the last option from the book, which is to be locked in the tallest room of the tallest tower and wait to be rescued.



Scene 4. The Rescue.



The scene is changed to the tower where the princess is being held. The lighting will be dimmer at this time. During this scene, the central windows are opened which will create the sound of wind.



Platypus appears through a window and plays the harmonica. She then explains how several days, months and even years have passed.

Pirate bursts through the central windows. He wears a fake beard as a disguise and waves his cutlass around in a menacing way. He attempts to break into the tower to kidnap the princess, however he falls and gets his foot stuck in the chest and drops his cutlass on the floor.





Pirate music will play each time Pirate enters through the window, and the cutlass will make a loud noise when it drops to the floor.


Princess helps him to escape from the chest and allows him to do his entrance again, so they can both act / respond as their characters should. Pirate then kidnaps Princess who is under the impression she is being rescued.





Scene 5. The Ship.

  The scene will change to the ship where the princess is being held captive. Lighting for the inside of the ship will remain dim.

Pirate continues his attempt to be menacing and tells Platypus to tie the princess up. It soon becomes clear to the princess that the pair are very inexperienced when it comes to being pirates.



 Platypus then provides the princess with some special food. It is not clear what this food is, so they all play charades to try and guess. It soon becomes clear that the food Platypus calls *special brown tart* is in fact worms. After taking a bite Princess screams and spits out the worm in horror. *Fancy restaurant music and lighting will begin when Platypus brings out the food.*


  Princess eventually catches Pirate out. She discovers that his beard was fake and that he is a fraud. Pirate and Princess then proceed to bicker and complain about their lives.

Meanwhile, Platypus tries to communicate that there is a storm approaching and also gets attacked by an octopus. Pirate and Princess continue to bicker until the storm reaches the ship. *When Platypus opens the port holes you will hear the sound of waves and a storm approaching.*



Scene 6. The Storm.

  The storm hits. *There will be lots of bellowing and shouting at this time. You will hear the sound of thunder coming from the speakers and there will be moments where the stage will flash in different areas to represent the lightening.*

 A blue sheet is rolled out across the stage and a mini prop ship is used to represent the ship during the storm. Eventually they all need to abandon ship and end up jumping in the sea. They meet a turtle and a fish before washing up on a desert island.



Scene 7. The Desert Island.



There will be a scene change to the desert island.

Pirate is feeling upset and like he is a failure. He finally reveals why he kidnapped the princess, which was to impress his father by doing something piratical. Princess tries to make him feel better.



Meanwhile Platypus is doing her own thing, collecting coconuts and eating bananas. She even manages to set up a picnic.




Princess encourages Pirate to fix the ship to impress his dad. Here they will sing *Cos that's what Pirates / Princesses do* whilst they fix the ship. Here we see Pirate excel at doing princess tasks and Princess excel at doing pirate tasks.



Once the ship is complete, they realise they have to go home and this makes them sad. The pair realise that they quite like one another and would like to be friends, which is something that would be frowned upon in the real world. As usual Platypus tries to communicate but they don't understand her.



Eventually the pair realise they should swap places. Princess could become a pirate and Pirate could become a princess. They could then live happily ever after in their preferred environment. And that's exactly what they do.



Scene 8. Pirate Princess.

 There will be a scene change to the palace.

Platypus continues to narrate the story and realises that the swap was the wrong plan. The story continues with Pirate living the princess' life in the princess' room.   You will hear the sound of a fanfare coming from the speakers as the Queen enters. The lights around the door will light up at this time.


  The Queen and the princess reunite after a long period of time. The Queen suggests that they perform *the special secret royal princess dance* to formally greet one another. To Pirate's surprise, this comes naturally to him.



Proud of her daughter for finally embracing the princess life, the Queen sends the princess (Pirate) back to the highest room of the tallest tower, to wait to be rescued.


During this scene, Platypus and King Frog realise they are able to communicate.



Scene 9. Princess Pirate.

 There will be a scene change to the secret pirate lair. During this scene there are moments where the pirates will speak and 'arghh' quite loud.

  Princess enters the secret pirate lair and announces that they have returned from voyage. At this time *The Dread Derek* will poke his head through one of the paintings and you will hear the sound of a toilet flushing. The doors will light up red when *The Dread Derek* enters.

 *The Dread Derek* tests his son the pirate (Princess), to measure if they are indeed a true pirate. *Suspenseful music* will play at this time.

To her surprise, Princess passes this test with ease. Happy that his son has returned a true pirate, The Dread Derek and Pirate (Princess) enjoy some barbeque and grog.



Scene 10. The Check-in. Part 1.



This scene will switch between locations.

Platypus travels across the sea to check-in with both the pirate and the princess, and their new lives. Pirate appears to be enjoying learning etiquette and eating roast swan, and Princess appears to be enjoying using her cutlass and eating barbeque. Platypus is enjoying eating lots of food.

Platypus explains that time has moved on for a few weeks.

At the next check-in, the princess (Pirate) is being forced to meet and marry a prince. Pirate does not wish to participate, but asks if they can invite the pirate (Princess) to the ball. The Queen is horrified by this request and ends up locking the princess in the tower.



You will hear the sound of a fanfare coming from the speakers as the Queen enters. The lights around the door will light up at this time.



Scene 10. The Check-in. Part 2.



During this scene there are moments where the pirates will speak and 'arghh' quite loud.



Platypus then checks-in with Princess, who appears to be getting fed up with eating barbeque and drinking grog every day. Princess accidentally reveals her identity by taking off her bandana. This makes The Dread Derek scream loudly, because princesses are not welcome in the secret pirate lair, EVER!

Princess realises that her kind are not welcome in the pirate world, and that the pirate and the princess's friendship is forbidden. She decides to leave and sends Platypus off to deliver a note to Pirate, to meet her at their desert island.



Scene 11. The Tower.



There will be a scene change to the tower.

Platypus finds Pirate where she left him, locked in the tower and chatting to the King frog. Platypus hands Pirate the note from the princess which poses a new problem - how to get out of the tower?



The King frog tries to communicate that he has a key but Pirate cannot understand him. Platypus kisses the frog, who then becomes a human (puppet) King. The King is then able to explain that he has the key and helps the pirate to escape. *As the frog transforms into the King, there will be a magical flash of light and smoke will appear.*

The Queen then arrives to take the King to the ball. Platypus kisses the King again and turns him back into a frog which is to stop the Queen from entering the room. Pirate and Platypus are then able to escape through the secret tunnel.



As the King transforms into the frog, there will be a magical flash of light and smoke will appear.



Scene 12. The Island.



There will be a scene change to the desert island.

Pirate and Princess are reunited on their desert island. They share their crazy stories and realise that being a pirate and a princess isn't as amazing as they initially thought.

Platypus comes up with a new plan for how everyone can be happy long term. They play charades again to communicate her plan which is: *you can be both!*



They proceed to sing the final number of the show *We can be both!*



The End.



The show has now finished. At the end of the show everyone will clap their hands which is to show the performers and the production team that they have enjoyed the show.

Thank you for coming - we hope you enjoyed the show!

Discover the new Polka Theatre.

Whether you're seeing a show or getting creative in a workshop, relaxing in the Café, or exploring our free-to-access indoor and outdoor play spaces, there's something for everyone at Polka.

Connect with us on social media [@polkatheatre](#)



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