

Australia's Windmill Theatre returning to Hong Kong with puppetry show "Grug and the Rainbow" (with photos)

The Leisure and Cultural Services Department has invited Australia's Windmill Theatre Company with Grug, a celebrated picture-book character, to return to Hong Kong after a hiatus of 10 years. The Company will perform the puppetry show "Grug and the Rainbow" as the finale of this year's "Cheers!" Series from February 28 to March 2 (Friday to Sunday), bringing a colourful and heart-warming adventure to toddlers and Grug fans of all ages.

Grug is a character from the much-loved picture books by Australian writer Ted Prior. Grug started out as the top of a burrawang tree that fell to the ground. He is fascinated by the world around him. In "Grug and the Rainbow", Grug is amazed by the vibrant colours of a rainbow after the rain stops, and wants to have a rainbow of his own. On his journey to gather the colours of a rainbow, Grug encounters a bowerbird and a crab, and sets off on trips to the beach, the city and the snowfields, where he experiences cycling, playing drums, house painting, skiing, and more. His friends Cara the carpet snake and Snoot the echidna join him to experience a series of surprises and fun happenings as he explores a world of colour.

With accessible storytelling, a simple yet delicate set and magical sound effects, "Grug and the Rainbow" is best suited for children aged 2 to 6. The actors skillfully manipulate the exquisite puppets, blending them with vivid and riveting voices, to bring the characters of the picture book to life. There are several audience participation bits throughout the performance, while the company ingeniously integrates daily objects and knowledge into the scenes, enabling young audiences to acquire knowledge through the theatre-going experience, unleashing their imagination and creativity.

Founded in Adelaide, Australia, in 2002, the Windmill Theatre Company has earned a global reputation as a leading producer of theatre for children, teenagers, and families. It was hailed by newspaper The Australian as "the best children's theatre company in the country". Over the years, the Company has presented 65 productions in over 3 000 performances in more than 300 cities and towns across 30 countries.

The performance schedule of "Cheers!" Series: "Grug and the Rainbow" by the Windmill Theatre Company (Australia) is as follows:

Performances in English with simple Cantonese interpretation:

February 28 (Friday), 5pm and 7.30pm

March 1 (Saturday), 11.30am

March 2 (Sunday), 2.30pm

Performances in English:

March 1 (Saturday), 2.30pm

March 2 (Sunday), 11.30am

The above-mentioned performances will be held at the Cultural Activities Hall of Sha Tin Town Hall. Each performance will run for about 35 minutes without intermission. An interactive session will be held after each performance. Tickets priced at \$280 (half-price tickets for full-time students and children aged 6 or below) are now available at URB TIX (www.urbtix.hk). For telephone bookings, please call 3166 1288. Children must be accompanied by a parent or an adult, and one ticket per person is required regardless of age (including young children). The "Cheers!" Series offers various discount schemes, such as package discounts and family package discounts. For programme enquiries and concessionary schemes, please call 2268 7323 or visit www.lcsd.gov.hk/CE/CulturalService/Programme/en/multi_arts/programs_1779.html

