

Are we there yet?

A journey around Australia



A play by Finegan Kruckemeyer
Based on the book by Alison Lester

Upcoming Accessible Programs

Throughout the year Arts Centre Melbourne presents a captivating program of inclusive experiences – accessible for everyone – by some of the best Australian and international companies.

Arts Centre Melbourne presents programs and performances that are accessible, including Relaxed Performances and events that are Auslan Interpreted, Audio Described, Tactile Tours, Highly Visual and Wheelchair accessible. An Assistive Hearing system is available in our venues and Companion Card holders are eligible for a complimentary companion ticket.

Check our website for details on upcoming [Relaxed Performances](#) and [access services](#).

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Welcome To Arts Centre Melbourne

Arts Centre Melbourne acknowledges the traditional owners of the land on which we stand, the Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung people, and pays respect to their Elders, past and present.

Relaxed Performance

Arts Centre Melbourne is committed to providing performances that allow everyone to experience the wonder of theatre. This Relaxed Performance is especially designed to welcome visitors with disability or sensory sensitivities, their friends and families to the theatre.

The atmosphere is 'relaxed', with some house lights remaining on during the performance. A quiet space will be available in the foyer if a break is needed. Enthusiasm is embraced and it's okay to move during the performance.

The visual story has been developed in collaboration with CDP Kids.

Contact

If you would like any additional information in the lead up to your visit, please contact Arts Centre Melbourne on 1300 182 183 during business hours.

The Production

Venue

This production of ***Are We There Yet?*** will be performed at the Playhouse Theatre, which is inside Arts Centre Melbourne and located on Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung Country.

Length

The play is approximately 55 minutes with no interval.

Age Recommendation

Suitable for ages 3+. Families are encouraged to review warnings and talk to staff in order to assess appropriateness of content.

Content and Sensory Warnings

- For the Relaxed Performance, we will make small changes to some sensory elements, such as reducing bright light and loud sound. There are still moments in the play with moving lights and sudden noises and these may be surprising. If it gets too loud you can cover your ears with your hands or put on some headphones.
- There are times during the play where characters might appear to be injured or in danger. It's important to remember that the actors are pretending to be hurt and have carefully rehearsed these moments to stay safe.
- Sometimes the characters in the play make up stories to frighten each other, and it might feel a little scary.
- This production contains haze effects throughout the show. If the haze becomes overwhelming, you are more than welcome to leave the auditorium to take a break.

to you as well. That's okay – just remember the actors are pretending to be afraid and the moment will pass quickly.

Theatre Guidelines

- Photography and mobile devices are not permitted during the performance, however if you need to use a device (i.e. iPad) to assist with communication, please inform the ushers. It's always fine to use a device in the foyer or quiet areas.
- During the Relaxed Performance, a relaxed attitude is taken to movement, noise and eating/drinking in the auditorium (this is okay).
- If you need to take a break during the show, you are welcome to come out into the foyer area. A quiet space will be available, with low lighting and comfortable seating. You can return

to the theatre when you are ready – trained staff are available to assist as required.

- To ensure COVID safety, sensory items will only be available upon request. We encourage audiences to bring their own items that will help you feel comfortable in the theatre, such as headphones and fidget toys.
- Face masks are recommended indoors.

Photography

Photographs of **Are We There Yet?** by Heidrun Lohr.

The Theatre

Are We There Yet? is being performed at Arts Centre Melbourne. The building has a spire on the top.





The Building

You might go into the building through the car park on Sturt Street, or through the doors at the St Kilda Road entrance. When you get to the building you will see other people who are also going to see shows. Some of them might be seeing ***Are We There Yet?*** like you.

You will also see people wearing black uniforms. They are called ushers. They can help you with directions or answer any questions you may have about the performance.



Find Your Way

There are three theatres inside Arts Centre Melbourne. Today you are going to the **Playhouse Theatre**.

You might need to walk down some stairs or use the elevator to get to the Playhouse. The friendly ushers will help you find your way.

The place might be quite busy when you arrive, so you may wish to allow yourself extra time or wear headphones if it's noisy.

Before going inside the Playhouse Theatre, you may like to use the bathroom. Accessible toilets are available on all levels, so please feel free to ask for directions.



Seating

The doors to the theatre will open about **30 minutes** before the start of the show. You can go into the theatre and find a seat early if you want to.

Before you go into the theatre, you will need to show your ticket to the usher. Your ticket will let you know that seating is **General Admission**. This means that you can choose which seat you would like to watch the show from. If you prefer, an usher can recommend seats and take you to them.



During the Play

The play will go for about 55 minutes. There is no interval but if you need to take a break during the show you can leave your seat and come out to the foyer area. You can do this whenever you need to.

There will be a **Quiet Area** in the foyer that has comfortable beanbags and nice lighting where you can relax if you want to.

You can return to the theatre and watch the rest of the show whenever you feel ready.



After the Show

When the show is finished, people will clap to say thank you. Some might even cheer! You can join in if you like, or if it's too loud you can cover your ears.





The Play

This play is called
Are We There Yet?

The story comes from a book with the same name, by author and illustrator Alison Lester.

It is about three siblings named **Billy, Grace and Luke**, who go on a family trip around Australia.

We meet them as adults at the start of the play, and they tell us the story of the adventure they went on many years ago when they were children.

They travel in a pink campervan and see lots of different places across Australia.



The Set

When you go into the theatre you will see the set on the stage.

There will be a large campervan in the middle of the stage. This is the campervan that the characters in the show travel across Australia in.

It will be a little dark on the stage at the start, but it will get brighter when the show begins.



The Characters

3 actors play different characters to tell the story in the play. Each actor plays both the adult and child version of their character.

In one scene, the actor who plays Luke also plays their cousin, **Jamie**.

There are also two quokkas named **Cheryl** and **Denise** that you will meet a few times in the play.

They are **puppets** that are worn and voiced by the actors.



This is Billy, Luke and Grace.



This is **Jamie**. He is played by the same actor who plays Luke.



The Story

We meet Grace, Luke and Billy as adults. They are talking about the adventure they went on as kids, in their parents' camper van.

Their mum and dad have given the camper van to them, and they are deciding what to do with it.

Grace starts to tell us the story of their family trip around Australia.



The actors are now playing Grace, Luke and Billy as children. You will get to see them go on the adventure!

It is Autumn when they head off on their trip.

They leave in the van and head to the red-rocked Flinders Ranges.

They have fun sitting around a campfire and doing magic tricks.

It's a little dark, and there is a slow flickering light on the stage.



They head back into the van and travel to the Great Australian Bight.

Billy makes up a scary story about a giant who took a bite out of Australia.

The lighting will be a little dark while Billy tells the story.

The actors are pretending to be scared! But it's okay and they're not in danger.

The lights turn blue and you will hear the sound of whalesong.

Grace, Billy and Luke sing a song about the whales they see.



They head off again in the van and arrive in Western Australia.

Billy is wearing a cowboy hat. Everyone is very excited about the places they are visiting, and they yell out the names of the places.

Some scary music plays and the lighting goes dark – but it's okay!

They're visiting Rottnest Island, a popular tourist destination where Australian marsupials called quokkas live.

Billy doesn't know anything about quokkas and he is scared of them, but he isn't in any danger.

Quokkas are friendly animals and are not actually scary.



Two quokkas named Cheryl and Denise appear in the campervan window a little later. They are puppets.

They start talking about Grace, Billy and Luke – but real-life quokkas can't speak English.

Billy is reading a comic book. When he notices them talking he is startled, and they leave.

You will see Cheryl and Denise two more times in the show as the family travels across Australia!



Grace, Billy and Luke leave Rottnest Island and head for the Outback.

They are going to get on a helicopter. The lighting will get darker and the actors will be shouting a lot.

(Helicopters make a lot of noise! When you are on one, you need to shout if you want other people to hear you.)

They leave the helicopter and go into a cave and it gets darker on stage.

Grace, Billy and Luke turn on their flashlights.

Grace is a little scared of the dark but it's okay.

Nobody is in any danger.



When they get back to their campervan, it is stuck in the sand and won't start.

Grace, Billy and Luke shout a lot because they think they will be stuck in the desert forever.

They are soon found by a man named Russell, and his footy team. They help to push the van and get it started again.

After getting back in the van, they make their way to Uluru, a very large rock in the heart of the Outback that's over 30,000 years old.

Grace and Luke watch in awe as the sun sets, and Uluru fades from red to purple.

The lights will then fade out and it will be dark for a moment.



When the lights come back on, you will hear Billy and Jamie (the family's cousin) giggling.

They are visiting Darwin in the Northern Territory and are staying with Jamie and his family.

They go for a swim in Jamie's family pool and then they go floating down Nitmuluk on round inflatables. Nitmuluk is a gorge where a river winds through sandstone cliffs. The round inflatables move on wheels, but we can pretend they are floating on water.



The lights go a little dark again, and Billy comes out holding a torch.

They are all amazed at what they are seeing.

Everyone is exploring a rock art gallery that is full of Indigenous art.



When Grace, Billy and Luke head back to the van, their cousin Jamie tries to leave with them.

But he is caught by Grace, and he goes back home.

The quokkas, Cheryl and Denise, appear on the roof of the van and talk about Jamie.

Then the van goes back on the road.



The van turns around in a circle and some music starts playing.

While the van is moving Billy, Grace, Luke argue about who should be sitting where.

They all pull the curtains open and appear from out of the van windows.

The lights will turn on and off a few times.

Every time the lights come back on, Grace, Billy and Luke will appear in the windows in a different position.



Grace, Billy and Luke leave the Northern Territory and travel to the East Coast, Queensland.

They arrive at a theme park in Surfers Paradise.

Grace, Luke and their mum and dad go on one of the theme park rides. Billy can't go on the ride because he is too young.

The actor playing Billy dresses in a white laboratory coat, and pretends to be a scientist explaining the physics of the ride.

It sounds very complicated and dangerous, but he's just being silly. When the ride starts, the lights will change colour to red.

The actors swing their arms up in slow motion.

They are pretending to be on the ride as it lifts them into the air and spins around very fast.



Grace, Billy and Luke are suddenly in Sydney!

There are lots of things here for them to see and do and they will be very busy.

Luke blows a whistle and sets off in a rush. The whistle is very shrill, so you might want to cover your ears!

Grace and Billy run behind him and they yell about all of the places and sights they are seeing. They even go to Taronga Zoo – you might see a puppet elephant trunk wave hello!

Grace and Billy have to be very fast to keep up with Luke.



On their last night in Sydney, they have a picnic at Sydney Harbour and watch the fireworks.

The lights on stage will start slowly flashing and changing colour.

They all leave Sydney and head south.

It is starting to get cold and Grace and Luke need to put on warm clothing, but they cannot find their jumpers.

Billy steps out of the van wearing all of the jumpers, as a joke.



It is now winter and it has started to snow.

Everyone has fun in the snow and they all toboggan down a big hill.

The quokkas Cheryl and Denise appear again wearing snow gear.

The quokkas have a very funny argument about their holiday.



Grace, Billy and Luke leave in the van and head to Canberra.

They spend the whole day visiting galleries.

They explore lots of places in Victoria as they continue driving south.

They head to Tasmania. The van has to drive on to a giant ferry to get there!

The trip takes a very long time and the ferry rocks from side to side making people seasick.



In Tasmania, they climb through forests and mountains with their backpacks, and sing a song together.

After they have gone around the entire island of Tasmania, they drive back on to the ferry.

It is almost the end of their trip around Australia and they are heading back home.



The van turns around to reveal a map of Australia.

The trio reflect on their amazing trip around Australia, and all of the places, animals and people that make it up.

The actors go back to playing the adult versions of Grace, Billy and Luke.

They share a moment together around the campervan, and Grace decides that she wants to keep it.



The End

At the end of the performance, the actors will come to the front of the stage and take a bow, and say thank you to the backstage crew who helped them tell this story. You can say thank you too, by clapping in a round of applause.





Relaxed Performance
Visual Story

