



Media Release

Popular early childhood ‘Grug’ stories to be reborn on stage

The Australian premiere season of **Grug**, based on the much loved fictional picture book character of the same name created by **Ted Prior** will be held in Adelaide from **14 – 24 April** at **The Forge Theatre, Marryatville High School, 170 Kensington Road Marryatville, Adelaide**.

Grug is co-production between **Windmill Theatre** and the **Queensland Performing Arts Centre’s *Out of the Box Festival*** for children aged between 1 and 5 years and their families.

The *Grug* books were first published between 1979 and 1992 by *Hodder and Stoughton* and were republished by *Simon & Schuster*, Australia in June 2009. There are currently 28 titles in the series and *Grug* has more than 59,000 Facebook fans!

Grug began his life as the top of the Burrawong tree that fell to the ground. Resembling a small, striped haystack with feet and a nose, *Grug* is fascinated by the world around him and solves everyday problems creatively and without fuss. When dancing instructions are too difficult to understand, he invents his own dance and calls it ‘The Grug’. When snails eat his cabbages, *Grug* plants more cabbages so there will be enough for both him and the snails.

Now Ted Prior’s hugely popular character is brought to life for this magical stage production for very young theatregoers.

The production has already attracted interstate and overseas touring interest and with advance sales for the Adelaide season ahead of target the show looks as if it will be another hit for one Windmill Theatre’s niche markets, the 1-5 year olds. Windmill has already achieved sell-out successes both in Australia and overseas with its previous productions catering to the very young – *The Green Sheep*, *Cat* and *Plop*.

Windmill Theatre’s Artistic Director, **Rose Myers** (who is also Artistic Director of Queensland’s *Out of the Box Festival*) said, “Windmill has always been at the forefront of creating theatre for very young audiences and the popularity of these shows in Adelaide, interstate and overseas continues to grow at a rapid rate.

“Our production of *Plop!* that premiered here in Adelaide and toured to Canberra and Brisbane last year is soon to embark on a major US tour and I am sure *Grug* will also have a hugely successful touring life after the Adelaide and Brisbane seasons. *Grug* is a quite a celebrity in his own right with a significant fan base and we are thrilled to be creating and presenting his first ever live gig!” she said.

Grug's creator *Ted Prior* previously worked as a police officer and art teacher and also worked in children's TV and animation. Ted says that thirty years ago he was living on a small farm in northern New South Wales. He had just started reading stories to his two very young children and thought he would try to create there own imaginary bush animal and write a story about it. He doodled around and came up with *Grug!*

Directed by **Sam Haren** with designs by **Jonathon Oxlade** (based on the original illustrations by *Ted Prior*) and music compositions by **DJ TR!P**, *Grug* stars **Jude Henshall, Nathan O'Keefe** and **Lucas Stibbard**.

**Grug plays; Wednesday 14th April 1.30pm: Thursday 15th April 10am + 1.30pm :
Friday 16th April 10am + 1.30pm:
Saturday 17 April 10am + 12pm + 2pm: Sunday 18 April 10am + 1.30pm: Tuesday
20 April 10am + 1.30pm:
Wednesday 21 April 10am + 1.30pm: Thursday 22 April 10am + 1.30pm: Friday 23
April 10am + 1.30pm:
and Saturday 24 April 10am + 12pm + 2pm.**

Bookings may be made at all Bass outlets, BASS Dial n'Charge 131 246 or at www.bass.net.au
All ticket prices inclusive of BASS booking fees.

\$19 per person, \$14 groups of 6 +
Duration 35 minutes

www.windmill.org.au

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