



# Logistics Guide for all ALPHASHOWS

This logistical guide is to help you understand fully the product you have purchased. It isn't really necessary to give this to all teachers/staff, please just (as the teacher or venue manager in charge of bookings) communicate anything you feel is necessary to the teachers/staff participating in the event. **It is imperative as the person in charge of the booking you have made that you fully read this manual.**

This guide contains specific logistical information and information about the company and the show. Various resource guides are also available specific to each show. The separate packs split into pre and post show classroom activities. Download these documents from the website <http://www.alphashows.com.au/downloads/>

## **CONTENTS OF THIS DOCUMENT:**

### **About the Company / Show + Staging and Tech Specs**

Some more details about our outcomes, the company and the show. Also specific staging and technical information about our shows; what you need to do before we arrive etc.

### **During-show details**

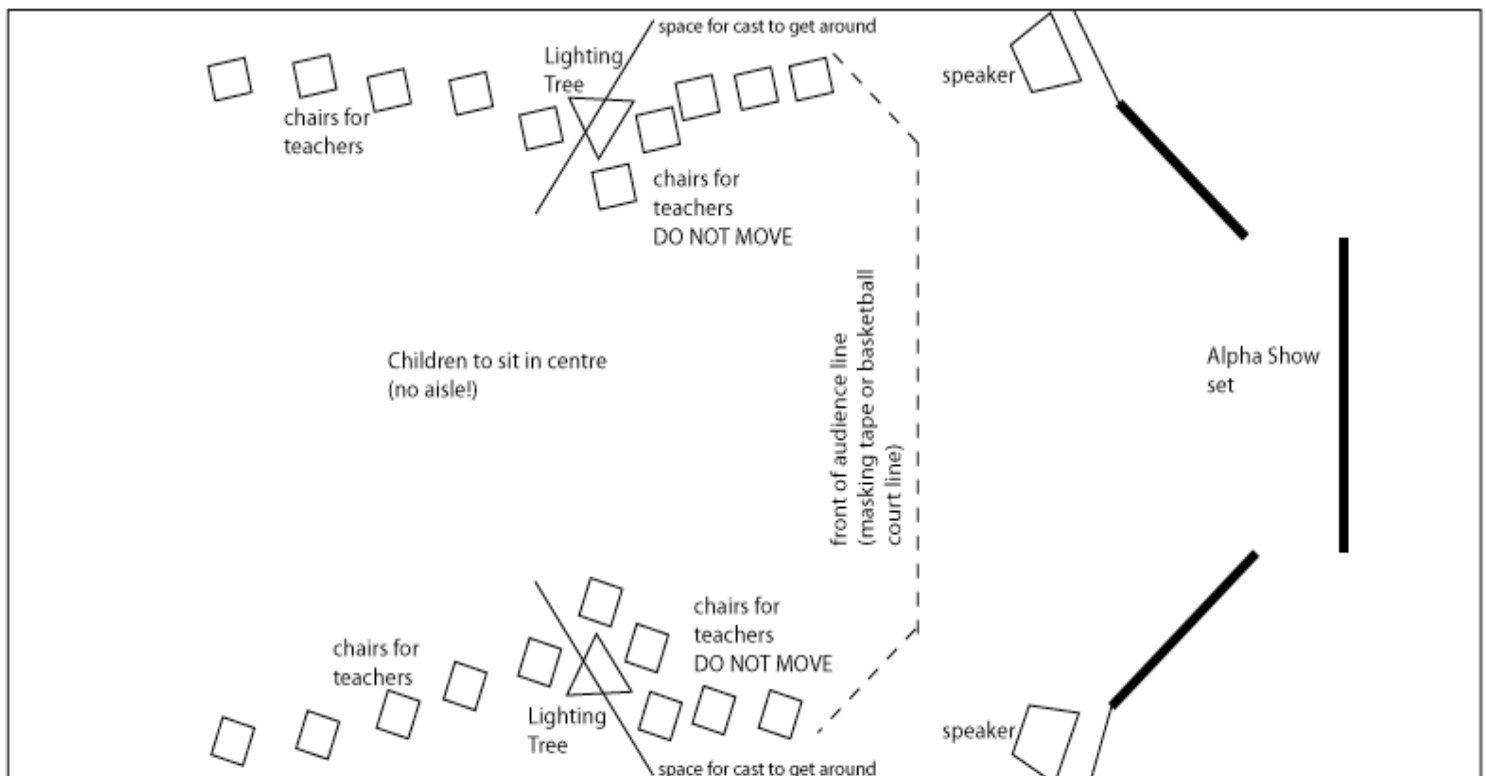
Read this for important information you will need to know when you are participating with the children during the show. Some details are essential to ensure the maximum value for the children.

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# STAGING AND SHOW-DAY SPECIFICS

- Details:** All Alpha sets are bigger than you might usually expect and need a reasonably large area to maximise the impact. You would also want to 'black out' any windows if possible, clear the hall and prepare the room using the **room layout chart below**, although we will happily arrange the room like this on the day for you. We can also adapt to almost any small room or large theatre.
- Suitability:** Prep to Year 10 (Age 4 – 15 + adults)  
**If you're having 2 shows, split by age (do not mix). Eg. P-3 in one, 4-6 in another.**  
Feel free to invite year levels outside the original booking, **UP TO YEAR 10 or so**
- Set up / bump out time:** 90 minutes (cast arrive at 7:45am or 12:15pm, or approx 90 minutes before show)  
60 minutes for pack up (count on 90 minutes if any children are present)
- Duration:** 80-90 minutes + Question Time (depending on show and audience involvement)  
Count on at least 100-105 minutes from start to finish of performance
- Space needed:** 8m x 8m cleared space, depending on show this can sometimes be reduced
- Power:** 3 phase OR 2 power points on separate circuits
- Payment:** Payment is usually **due on the day**, please use the enclosed invoice to pay; if the invoice has incorrect numbers we will send you an updated invoice on email, **payment is then due within 7 days; fee of \$50 applies to late payments.**
- Touring Letter:** Check your "Touring Letter" which has a checklist of things to do before the show.
- Copyright:** © Alpha Shows Pty Ltd 2003-2009. All performances are subject to copyright and **no electronic recording of any part of a production or the audience is permitted.** Photographs are permitted; please let the Tour Manager know on the day of your performance if you are going to be taking photographs. We'd love a copy!

## Room Layout Illustration (for schools and other non-theatre venues):



These are particularly useful if you are having the Alpha Show in a theatre or other performing arts venue that would require more specific technical information. But it also contains information for any venue that might help you prepare

- Alpha sets up all sound and lighting off-prompt. We can connect to 3-phase or 2 separate circuited 15 amp standard outlets, so it's best to have these available on the stage right side. **ALL VENUES ALWAYS HAVE AT LEAST 2 CIRCUITS – SO ANY VENUE WE CAN PERFORM AT.** At schools usually your hall will have 2 circuits, although sometimes we must run 1 cable into a canteen/kitchen. **IF WE NEED TO RUN INTO A CANTEEN, YOU WILL NOT BE ABLE TO HAVE OTHER APPLIANCES ON DURING THE ENTIRE TIME WE ARE THERE, AS WE USE THE ENTIRE POWER OF BOTH CIRCUITS.** Please ensure that no extra power load is on any of the circuits you arrange for us to use; otherwise we will trip the circuits and not be able to perform the show for you. *We also have the ability to run off 3-phase so it's easiest to have 3-phase ready for us on off-prompt side.*
- Sound desk with powerful amp and speakers. Unless your venue is large this will be sufficient for most venues. For larger venues, please have a DI Box or a headphone/quarter inch jack to take a channel up to your system. **It is Alpha policy to always have our sound system set up in case there is ever a problem with a venue system. Please do not ask us to forgo the use of our equipment in favour of yours!! We won't do it!!** 😊
- We will do a substantial sound test with a dB meter to get the levels appropriate for your venue, whether we are using just our equipment or connecting in to your sound system as well. This will be slightly louder than you may be used to with other children's shows but well within safety levels. This is due to the nature of the product, being a rock-concert style, and the fact we are appealing to a higher age range.
- Lighting will be done at all venues using our own equipment and operators. Please have a place ready to set up 2 x lighting trees in an appropriate position with good view of the stage area. This can be on the side or at the rear of the auditorium.
- Our lighting rig is as follows – we have 2 different possible setups that may be visiting you. Both are listed here:
  1. 14 x Par 56's, 2 x 650w Selecon Acclaim Fresnel's, 2 x 250w Moving Head Intelligent Lights, 1 x 1300w Blinder all connected to 2 x 6 channel Theatrelight Dimmers controlled by a LSC Minim desk
  2. 8 x Multipars 575w (connected via Weiland cables to 2 x LSC Redback Single Phase 6 channel dimmers), 8 x LED Pars, 1 x 1300w blinder, 4 x 250w Moving Head Intelligent Lights, all connected via DMX to LSC XTC Lighting console, which can control up to 100 fixtures, with special controls for moving lights.
- All lighting is operated by Alpha crew. We have a complicated lighting plot with very specific and quick cues and **Alpha policy is to ALWAYS run our own lights no matter the venue. It is very difficult to duplicate what we do so please do not ask us to forgo the use of our lights, unless your season runs for more than 3 shows. You can always add venue lights in on top of ours but we will always use our lighting.**
- Some venues benefit from adding in the standard house rig in addition to the lighting we provide. We can call the show to your lighting operator to add additional lights at your venue. We will do a lighting plot (about 20 minutes) with you once our lights are set up. Alternatively, you can run a DMX feed off our system and run Channels 1-4 (or Channels 41-44 for XTC console) with the following wash colours/gels – WHITE (1), YELLOW (2), RED (3), BLUE (4). That way our desk will run your lights, avoiding the need for an operator.
- ROBE 1500 Fog + Martin Haze Machine used - venue must have smoke detectors isolated
- Small pyros used in King Arthur and optionally Cinderella. Please notify us before visiting if you do not wish this effect to be used.
- Compressed Air confetti hand-held cannon used in Aladdin
- All other equipment, set and costumes etc set up by Alpha. If you have crew on duty, helping to bring stuff in would be appreciated; setup of equipment will be done by the Alpha cast.

### ➔ **Conditions of Booking – important for all clients**

- A specific date and time cannot be guaranteed (even if you have paid a deposit); although we will work with you to find the best time suitable
- A booking deposit of \$300 applies at time of booking to reserve your date - note this only confirms your date, not other details (like audience size). Alpha does not take bookings without a deposit. Failure to pay your deposit within 14 days of the statement date will result in either: removal from the schedule (if necessary), date changes without notice, or the loss of your discount/rebooking rate resulting in your booking defaulting to our standard full rate.
- The booking deposit is NON-REFUNDABLE under any circumstances
- A cancellation fee of \$500 (per show/day) in addition to the booking deposit applies to all cancellations received up to 7 days before show.
- No refund of any kind will be issued upon cancellation within 28 days. If you book a show and then later cancel, and you have not paid a booking deposit, you may be sent a bill for the deposit of \$300. To cancel a show you **MUST** contact Alpha by email or phone, failure to do so will result in a cancellation fee of \$300. Simply ignoring a statement and failing to pay a deposit does **NOT** count as a cancellation, and these conditions will continue to apply.
- You can re-schedule without any fee\* 48 hours or more before the original scheduled date. Re-scheduling within 48 hours loses your booking deposit + any other costs to Alpha as a result.  
\* provided there are no accommodation or other associated costs incurred by Alpha as a result
- Any extra costs associated with the performance will be at the expense of your school. If Alpha is required to cover any associated costs (due to your policy) then your school is no longer eligible for any discounts and/or may be charged an additional administration fee of \$200 or the equivalent cost to Alpha Shows. Alpha will not be held liable for any costs, damage, repair or cleaning of the venue / property as a result of the event.
- Ground floor access to the venue is required for unloading/loading of a substantial amount of equipment. If the Alpha van cannot get access to the venue 6 metres or closer to the venue, an additional \$175 will be charged to your account to be paid to Alpha staff to cover the extra time/effort it takes to bump-in. Van requires 3.3m height clearance and 2.5 metres width. Your venue must be located on the ground floor. If it is not, there must be a lift, but the bump in fee will apply
- If any delays for unloading/loading occur there will be an additional cost of \$25 per 10 minutes or part thereof.
- You agree to not charge students or take money from a levy for an Alpha Show over and above the charge per student (ie. the ex-GST cost per student) listed on the reverse side of this invoice. Making an Alpha Show a fundraiser must be done only with the company's consent.
- Your school agrees to these conditions when you make a verbal booking, send a booking form, tick the box on a questionnaire, submit a booking online, or pay a deposit, **and all bookings must be accompanied by a signed agreement and sent back to us, as per this agreement on the back of your statement**

### **OTHER CONTRACTUAL TERMS:**

- Any promotion of the show or venue hire for the show is your responsibility
- Title must be represented as "The Alpha Show of [SHOW]" or if in the middle of a paragraph of text "Alpha's [SHOW]" is also acceptable (not as the main title however)
- The graphic Alpha provides for the title of the show must be used as the title somewhere on all marketing & material produced pertaining to the show, & be large enough to read. **NO OTHER VERSION OR FONT IS PERMITTED FOR USE WHEN DISPLAYING THE TITLE OF THE SHOW.**
- The Alpha LOGO must be present on all marketing & material produced pertaining to the show, and be of a reasonable size to read
- All artwork/marketing must be approved by Alpha Shows prior to printing or publishing.
- **NO IMAGES** are to be used for marketing Alpha's shows except the ones we provide ie. you must not use Disney images or other random ones off the internet. Copyright as well as product integrity are important and must be adhered to under ALL circumstances.
- All materials we provide must not be altered or edited without permission (including Colouring Sheets)

## **ABOUT THE COMPANY**

**ALPHASHOWS** specialises in producing modern, and yet traditional shows (that borrow from the pantomime genre) which are more reminiscent of a new genre: a musical rock concert, and bringing this wonderful experience to schools, theatres, organisations and communities that would not normally have access to a theatre experience of such high quality.

Our first show was *Beauty & the Beast* that toured originally in October and November 2003. We have since toured this show to almost 50,000 children. The *Hunchback of Notre Dame*, Alpha's new show for 2004, has toured to almost 30,000 children. *Sleeping Beauty*, almost 40,000, and *Cinderella* in its first year in 2006 will tour to almost 20,000, *Hercules* in 2007 is the biggest premiere season yet, with *Aladdin* even bigger in 2008. *King Arthur* in 2009, and a revamped version of *Beauty and the Beast* in 2010. Theatres also buy Alpha shows, including venues like Monash University (Alexander Theatre), Fun4Kids Festival (Warrnambool Ent Centre), Darebin Arts Centre, Gasworks, Hamilton PAC, Ararat PAC, Regent Theatre Yarram, Her Majesty's Theatre, Federation Square, Wyndham PAC, Karralyka Centre, Plenty Ranges PAC, Portland PAC, and Lilydale Athenaeum to name a few. Our aim is to continue to bring a new, big production musical to your school every year. Continuing to support the Arts and invite this type of show to your school every year is important, as we must condition the love of theatre as often as possible and encourage repeat cultural experiences – this can't be just a one-off!

**Alpha shows are also about VALUES**, and how to integrate new empowering ways of living into our lives. Conditioning and reinforcing role-models and specific (but non-preachy and subtle!) values is imperative to a child's social development - and should happen as often as possible, at the very least once a year! Imagine the end of a student's schooling – will they necessarily remember how to do long division? Maybe not, but they will definitely take onboard and have life changing experiences from the subconscious learning of empowering behaviours, such as what we aim for with Alpha shows.

Alpha shows are expensive to produce, especially with six performers in each show, and yet we remain passionate and committed to making our shows as cheap and as much value-for-money as possible. We are not out to make big profits from touring our shows to schools; we believe it is always fair to ask every student who sees an Alpha show to pay the same 'ticket-price' as every other school's students (usually \$7) – this educates as to how the theatre industry works, by 'buying a ticket', and creates a pattern now that hopefully will continue into adulthood. As for the style and topics of our shows, we believe that fairytales and other mythical/classical stories have a way of connecting with us on a deep level. We can use these stories which are familiar and popular to influence in positive ways. We can explore subjects that are important to children. We can play with archetypes, role models, and good vs evil themes. It is important for a child's development to explore cultural taboos; I'm sure you have witnessed children giggling about a fart joke or something similar. It is important as adults to not take these taboos away from children, but allow a canvas for them to be explored. If we condone taboo's (as has been increasing in popularity with books like "The Bad Book" etc), then children simply have to move to more serious and dangerous taboo's to explore this side of their psyche – we see this in modern times too, children 'growing up' too fast and overly rebellious and anti-social behaviour. In Alpha shows we can explore the taboo by having one character be 'child-like' and another character be 'parent-like', which means that the child can still own the taboo whilst being free to embrace and laugh at what is happening on stage. Having a big show with lots of characters means we are able to provide this interaction between lots of characters, and have a greater positive impact than if we were limited to 1 or 2 performers on stage.

"Unlike other company's shows that focus on one area of the curriculum, Alpha shows cover a **broad range of issues relevant to children** and **important values** that can be reinforced in the integrated curriculum classroom." - *Jenny Goldsmith, Donald PS*

**Alpha's casts are always of the highest possible quality, for more details on specific cast members visit <http://www.alphashows.com.au/team.html>**

## DURING SHOW

### ➔ Seating

Ensure Prep/Kinder children do not sit at the front or in the 'middle' if they are likely to be scared by the noise/Beast/Villains, and any child that would require supervision or care be seated near teachers. We will request that teachers be seated towards the front on the sides, near the lighting stands to protect the children from tripping on them, and to be near the younger children. If very new preps, kindergarten students or just specific young children are participating and you know they are especially likely to be overwhelmed, we suggest bringing them into the venue early to meet the cast. It's your responsibility to ensure special care students to be looked after by you, as our outcome is to serve the majority of the audience (who are going to be pretty loud & over the top.) **We do not require an aisle; we find it to be counter-productive to energy levels and cohesion.**

### ➔ 'Shooshing' & Managing Children to be an audience

Our shows let the children be loud and over the top, becoming another character in the story. So with that in mind, it's nice to let them become this, suspend all disbelief and play like the kids they are. Every so often we notice teachers trying to quieten down the children. Whilst we're happy for you to do whatever you think is best for your group of children, we've found that this can sometimes disconnect the children from the show and the characters, which means they're not as loud and expressive as we like to encourage them to be, which may be different to other TIE. Managing children is best done in other ways – please don't just sit there and constantly 'shoosh' as it is VERY DISTRACTING! Try another approach please!

***So please just be on alert to help the performers, especially if they start pulling or touching the performers. We need your help to stop children grabbing at us! They get very excited and don't realise how hard it is to perform whilst being 'grabbed' at. It's really just the shooshing thing as it can be quite distracting and annoying for all.***

Please also be understanding that if you DO have a very loud group of children who want to 'talk' to the characters all the time, we'll probably have our sound levels up pretty high so other audience members can hear the show, as well as protecting our voices from strain. You can help by surreptitiously helping the children remember there are times to yell-out and also times to listen. It CAN spoil the show for the rest of the audience if a few children are incessantly talking to the characters and yelling out random things.

***IMPORTANT: So...if a single child or small group of children are clearly disrupting the show for others and calling out random / inappropriate things almost constantly, a teacher might need to be on alert to perhaps move them to the back of the room. Please watch out for this during the show.***

### ➔ **Backstage area off limits**

We change costumes backstage both before and during the show, for quick changes. So we need to be directly behind our set (not off in another room / dressing room). So for this reason, once our set is up, can we please ask that nobody be permitted backstage at any time. This goes for students, staff, public, anyone - with the exception of authorised personnel at a theatre. If a teacher has an office in an area where our backstage area is, they cannot come backstage to use it. If there are windows, all access to areas that have windows looking on to our backstage area must be sectioned off by you. If you need equipment from an area that will become backstage once we set up - you must get this out BEFORE we arrive. We cannot have chairs and the like being taken from backstage, and it also really doesn't work to do this even whilst we are setting up. You must have all of the area in your hall completely free of any equipment / furniture.

### ➔ **Fog machine / effects**

There is a fog and haze machine used during all Alpha shows – this is safe and has no known effect on people with asthma. If you are at all concerned, simply seat any children with severe asthma at the back, the fog will not reach them. Children may cough, this is simply an instinctual reaction, **the fog does not cause coughing** (we perform in it every day!). **PLEASE – IMPORTANT!** You may want to discuss the elements of theatre that we use in our shows and talk to your children about the fog machine and how it will smell funny but it doesn't actually make them cough. Ensure any sensitive children drink lots of water before the show which should minimise reactions. **Ensure you isolate any smoke detectors**, Alpha will not be held liable for any detectors going off or the calling (automatic or otherwise) of Fire Brigades. There are a lot of flashing lights as well, although we don't use a strobe machine (some lights do flash fast however)

### ➔ **Our sound system**

Unfortunately, with a touring show and the short time we have to bump in, it is very difficult to get the sound right so quickly everywhere we go. Each venue is different and most venues we perform in have terrible acoustics. In addition, we position our speakers etc in a way that is not ideal for where the teachers usually seat (well to the sides) and sometimes this might mean the sound seems a bit 'muffled' for you, or just not ideal, or you may not hear all the dialogue.

Just be aware of this, especially when giving feedback.

**Bottom line is – what was the sound like for the children?** If they verbally yell out the answers to the hundreds of audience 'questions' we ask during the show, then we're pretty certain that they could hear us properly. So any feedback from you about not being able to understand us is probably irrelevant. Children experience our shows very differently from adults (eg. Not needing to "hear" every word), so your point of view is probably not relevant to how a child has experienced the show.

### ➔ Loudness of children & our sound levels

Alpha shows can be pretty loud. They're a little different to other 'kids shows' in that we really create that *atmosphere of a rock concert* and get the children engaged and excited for theatre and ... basically, that's one of the reasons we are loved all around the country, so we kinda know what we're doing. This includes shows at schools but also at theatres.

But we don't want to be ridiculously loud and NEVER want to be so loud that it's distorting and horrible. We love that balance of big and loud but still quiet in some parts, to create variety and interesting theatre. We're really only loud in SOME parts of our shows, such as a massive emotionally charged 'pump up' section, or a sword fight, or a big song. So with this in mind, if you do feel the show was too loud and want to give us feedback about it, please be SPECIFIC. We need to know the character/song, how long for, if it was consistent for the whole show etc etc. Otherwise the feedback will be useless. And remember some parts of the show simply will be loud and then later on we'll be quiet again.

Some shows are also unique, in that the audience is a bit crazy and, as we allow this craziness as a rule, they can threaten to start to 'control' the show. So just to give the performer's the 'edge' they need to maintain control, we just need to be that smidge higher in volume than in an average Alpha show. This is what we aim for. This sometimes can mean someone with a low tolerance to sound could get annoyed, but we must take this risk in order to serve the majority and the children.

*Basically, we're going to keep doing what we do. It works for the kids and they are always engaged – so we think we're onto a pretty good thing. If you like what we do, rebook us!*

Sensitivity to sound is most likely an anchor to a negative experience in the past. Such as being yelled at by grown ups, being scared and hearing loud noises. It may serve your children best if you can get to the root of this issue rather than assuming we were too loud, as we really do work hard to ensure the sound level is safe and most engaging / effective for each audience and venue.

*We've actually found some kids whose parents have warned us and teachers about how they won't cope to actually go perfectly fine during our shows because we don't give them the chance to become self-focussed!*

We use a **dB (sound level) meter** where we have strict maximum levels. This ensures, that no matter the venue, we are absolutely certain that even at the loudest points in the show, the **sound level is SAFE** for all and enjoyable. We also use a **sound compressor**, which effectively cuts off any excessive sound level from a performer's voice level without loss of quality of the rest of the sound.

Remember, the excessive noise is most likely from the children yelling, if you wish your audience to be not too loud, preframe them before the show and practice 'being quiet' once the audience interaction part is over.

**Sometimes we don't get it perfect, so please forgive us when we don't!**

But generally, due to our experience, when we take everything into account the level is always where it needs to be, especially with a loud audience.

So here's how you can help / points to remember:

- **Look for any children that are blocking their ears, especially young children.** Help to reframe the noise, and if necessary, move away from speakers and/or sit with a teacher. Be careful not to reinforce the disempowering behaviour of wanting attention. Some children will cry – 100% of the time when they cry and are moved to sit with a teacher, they enjoy the show and are fine by the end. It's best to keep them in the room no matter what, even if they say they want to leave.
- Help to remind everyone, including other teachers and children, that **the children in the audience will probably be pretty loud** (especially at schools) – this is the idea and we do encourage it as part of ALL ALPHA SHOWS. Our goal is to have them engaged and excited, so that they develop a love for theatre, arts and culture from a young age. The children should be allowed to be as loud as they like – I know, this is the opposite of what is usually expected of children – that's why they love Alpha shows! 😊
- Remember the goal - we're about creating a rock-concert atmosphere so generally we err on the side of 'loud' We're also committed to making the show appealing to an older age group, up to Year 10 or so. Kinders and Preps are generally the only sensitive ones, **so keep any over-sensitive children far away and/or near teachers** to avoid what we call 'pop-ups' in the middle of an audience
- Take a moment to think of the Performer - we strive to look after our Performer's voices and try to avoid them having to strain – they have to perform usually more than 70 shows over 7 or 8 weeks – that's a lot! You'd be surprised at the difference a small drop in mic volume can make for a Performer's voice stress when they are committed to delivering clear and understandable dialogue and singing to your children, especially if your group is one to make a lot of extra noise
- As above, we try not to 'shoosh' children in our shows, and want to allow them to chat, yell out and do whatever they want – therefore we want to keep mic levels high so people who want to listen to every word can hear all the dialogue no matter what is going on. Obviously excessive levels also means it's hard to understand because of distortion and other factors, so we're constantly adjusting during the show and doing our best to provide everyone the chance to hear all dialogue.
- Most venues have horrendous acoustics. It's a challenging task to get the sound levels right for these venues that aren't suited to theatre performances. You can help by **finding the best venue possible for the show**
- If you want to write on the feedback form that we were loud, go right ahead. We already know and we've done our best to bring the best possible show to your school. Any quieter and something is 'missing'... Plus remember to be specific in your feedback.
- **Once again, we do thank you for your understanding if we don't get it perfect on the day – we do our best!**

## ➔ Question Time

More than likely, Alpha will run a Question Time session after the show. For specifics on this, please read the Question Time section in your pre-show activities guide.

## ➔ Starting the show

**We will start at the start time listed on your invoice, unless it is very obvious that children are still arriving. We cannot delay more than a minute or two.** If it is obvious you are ready before this, we will start early. At theatres, we will wait for front of house clearance.

You should aim to bring children in 5-10 minutes before the start time so we don't go over time. We should start right on the start time so you get maximum value. Whilst our lighting is state-of-the-art and the same as you would find in a big theatre, it will only be effective and theatre-like if you have a blackout! Quietening the children down before the show isn't necessary like it might be with other theatre-in-education shows.

### ➔ Teacher participation

Teachers lead the school, so their attitude rubs off on the kids. At least that is what we seemed to have noticed being the case. There is a marked difference at a school where teachers sit there being boring – it effects the entire 'vibe' and the children are often lethargic in their participation

**The opposite is always true – wherever we find students that are excited, happy and playing full out – we always find teachers who have lead the way and live, play and work that way too.**

**We don't care what you do, you're paying us and it's your product you've purchased. But the show always works better when teachers be great leaders and find reasons (any reason) to feel good and participate enthusiastically in life (and the show).**

### ➔ Teachers using laptops / working at the show

The outcome of an Alpha Show is to give a real experience of theatre to the school community. Unless you bring your laptop to the theatre or bring work to the movies, please don't do it at Alpha Shows.

Again – we don't really care, it's not our ego that will be bruised! It's just a little disrespectful to the teacher that booked it, the performers, the children and other people who want to enjoy it. This isn't like other boring Theatre-in-Education shows anyway so you probably won't be bored. If someone is not interested in the show that's ok (not everyone likes theatre), they can perhaps go and do some work somewhere else so as to not distract or subconsciously discourage the children. So please don't come to the show if you don't want to see it and enjoy it.

**FUN WARNING!** The actors will almost certainly pick on teachers during the show who bring laptops/work! It can be amusing but it's probably best to avoid this possibility! 😊

So that said, we're not trying to be 'precious' (once you meet us you'll see we are NOT like that!). Our aim at Alpha is to 'need nothing' from you, except payment and a feedback form. Everything else we do is for your children, for learning and for a great experience for everyone involved. So everything in this guide is here to attempt to make the event the best it can be for the children. We don't take offence if certain adults aren't interested in what we're doing, theatre isn't everyone's cup of tea! 😊

Some teachers have also claimed in the past that they were 'taking notes' on our performance. Whilst we honour your commitment to gathering information to use in class, we really would appreciate it if you could avoid anything that looks like you're not paying attention. Regardless of what anyone believes, we have seen a very consistent pattern that when we visit a school that has teachers disconnected for ANY reason (even if it is to take notes), on laptops, or just not participating or sitting there like a statue – the children have trouble feeling it's "ok" for them to be energetic also. We usually ask for the audience's participation to 'stand up' and help the hero, running through a powerful guided closed eye – we need the teachers to be standing up and doing this too! Who knows you might learn something too! 😊

***The exception to this suggestion is – please fill in our feedback form during the show so we can get it straight after! Schools who hand back a feedback form with a booking get a cheaper price...***

### ➔ Taboos & Language

We have noticed in the past some conservative teachers/schools being concerned with the use of taboos & certain language in the show. We feel it important that we let you know up front that for almost all Alpha Shows, there is some level of 'child level humour' that is appropriate for both the pantomime genre we borrow our format from, and for the outcome of engaging children at a high level. This may include the following G-rated language:

- **Bum / Butt / Bottom**
- **Poo**
- **Stinky / Smelly**
- **Fart / Other related fart jokes**
- **Vomit**
- **Sucks**
- **Sexy**
- **Shut up**
- **Idiot / Fool + other low level insults for comedy**
- **Hot (or other mild sexual innuendo on the positive side)**

We NEVER make use of words such as "Oh my God/Gosh" or "Damn/Darn" or other religious based language, or any bad language more severe than this. Period. (Even if people think they heard it!)

You must understand that we have been doing these shows for a long time and understand what engages our audiences – which cover a large range from age 4 to 16. We always have a few silly crude 'poo jokes' and the like for younger audience members who still think of these words as taboo/funny. It simply works to increase the level of engagement and rapport, so that they'll be 'hooked' and listen to everything later on, especially the values education message.

Also note – this is a common problem for even children's literature writers. A few years ago there were a couple of classic children's literature books that became famous for getting children to read a lot more widespread than in the past: "**The day my bum went psycho**" and "**The Bad Book**" and the like. Our shows are no more 'naughty' than these books that children read all the time. If you can't see how a book with the word "Bum" in the title is a great way to get kids to read, and thus, also think that us using the word "bum" intelligently in our show (or you think we're just trying to annoy teachers by being 'rude') then you haven't gotten the point of what we are trying to do with our shows. We run a company of highly intelligent and spiritual people who are dedicated to providing an experience that creates a measurable affect on consciousness and personal development for all who experience the shows. Nothing we put in our shows is done without thought. If we put the word 'bum' in or make vomit or fart jokes, it's done for a VERY good reason. And if you're finding something 'inappropriate' - perhaps you are trying to just find fault for other reasons?

### **However – we are flexible!**

If you are at a strict school or know certain taboos that we've listed above will result in the school never booking us again, *we can change any of these specific jokes or cut them.* Obviously the show won't be as engaging and funny for children that enjoy that humour, hence why we don't permanently cut them. **If it will be a problem at all, please let the Tour Manager know about your preference upon our arrival and we will make it happen for you, or better yet, please EMAIL US in advance so we can prepare.**

## **Feedback on 'appropriate' in schools**

Recently, we've had some schools give us negative feedback about taboo language etc etc. I am very disappointed by this as it is simply clear that they have not bothered to read this guide and not taken the time to care for the audience and the school's culture to let us know about it so we can alter the show. We believe we ARE appropriate, as do 99% of our clients - and we get feedback on this, about how we are the best at engaging our audiences, almost every day. We would rate our shows as G-rated. They see a lot worse on our show on radio, early evening TV etc. So the only variable is certain teachers or certain cultures (the children won't complain!). If you are at ALL likely to be one of these, we need to know in advance. If you fail to do this, we cannot adapt and it will be very very disappointing for us and everyone.

So. We have told you about our show, and asked you in advance to please tell us if you need anything altered. We are willing to be flexible and adapt. So if we get negative feedback about any of this after we are so obviously committed to making the show right for EVERY school and venue, we will be very disappointed! It's up to you to tell us!!!!!!!

## **THANK YOU**

We at **ALPHASHOWS** thank you immensely for inviting us to your school. We hope that this document has helped you to expand on the show and given you some great insight into our goals and outcomes. We also hope it has given you a great idea of how you can use what we at Alpha are so passionate about to reinforce the values, create positive futures for *your* children and effective grown-ups for the 21<sup>st</sup> century. It's our goal to make this EASY for you and have a whole bunch of stuff to do before and after the show, so that if you want to you could have a whole week's (or even more!) worth of lessons that focus on various elements inspired by Alpha's show. Let us know if we succeeded on this!

**There is a topic on the Alpha forums <http://www.alphashows.com.au/forum> (in the Theatre-In-Education section) that is solely for telling everyone the 'wins' you've had relating to an Alpha show. I would *really* welcome everyone's contribution and challenge you to be a part of this in an active way for the benefit of all – the more we discuss and share our triumphs in this world, the more positive and empowered a world we will live in!**

Please also let us know other ideas or activities you use with your children, so all children that we perform to can benefit. Posting your ideas on the forum is a great way to share your new ideas.

Again, thank you and we look forward to seeing you on the day of your performance.

Yours most sincerely

Ben Jackson  
**Managing Director**