



LOGISTICS GUIDE

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. This manual is not required reading, but has thorough information regarding an Alpha show if you need it. It also contains our Safe Working Method Statement if you require this.

This guide contains full detailed logistical information and information about the company and the show. The Touring Pack PDF we send will suffice for most purposes as it provides an overview as well as the cheat sheet PDF (these all get sent to you on email). 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

<https://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.

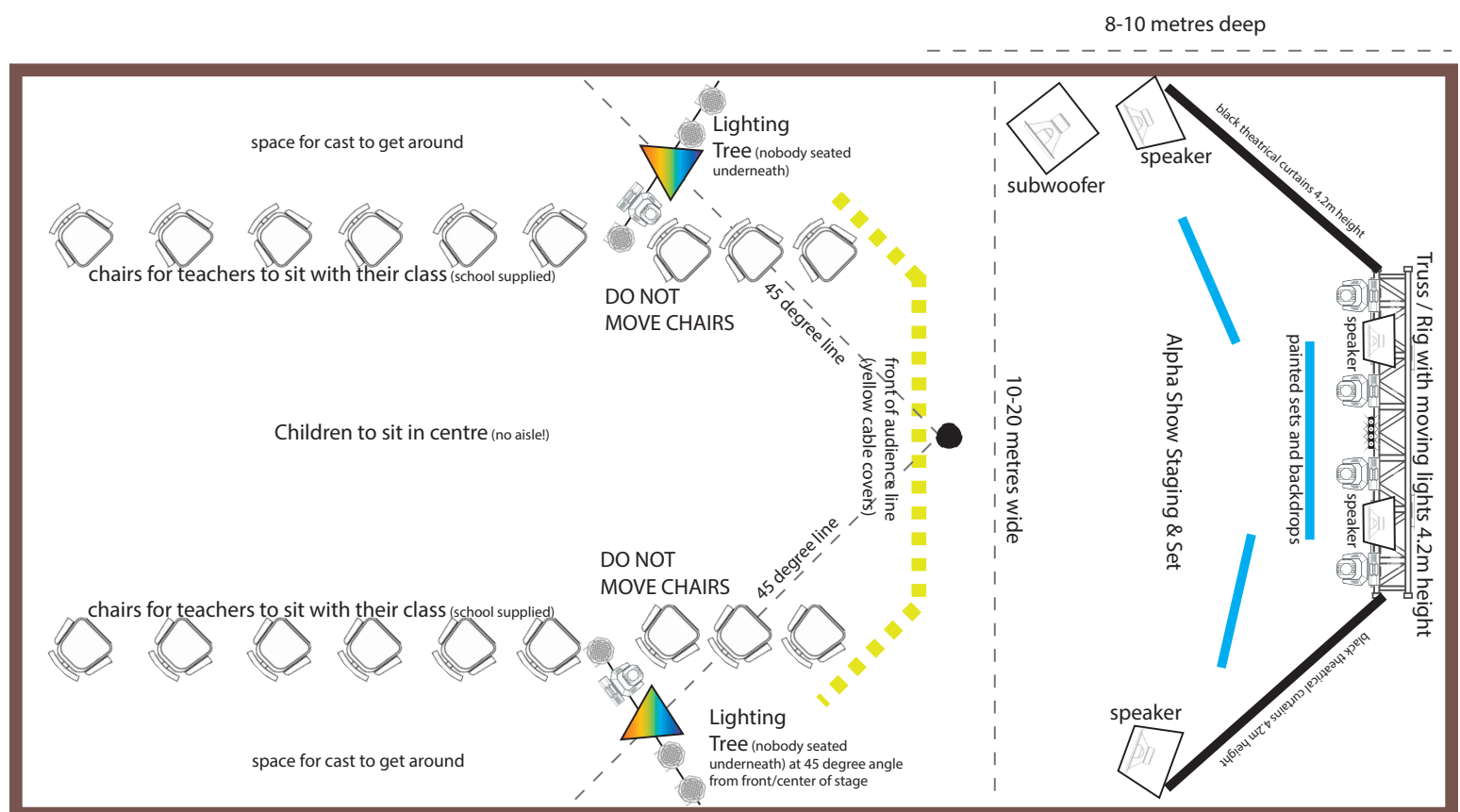
During-show details

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.

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. We can also adapt to almost any small room or large theatre. Your main responsibility before show day is to remove all equipment from the area that we will be setting up in.
Suitability:	<u>Prep to Year 10</u> (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:	70-80 minutes + Question Time (depending on show and audience involvement) Block a 90 minute session for the performance from start time to end time
Space needed for our setup:	10m wide x 7m deep MINIMUM cleared space (can reduce to about 8m wide) Ideal to set aside 10m x 10m plus space for your audience 4.2 metre height clearance for truss and stage curtaining/lights, minimum 3.5m
Power:	Standard power outlet (without any other loads on the circuit)
Payment:	If the invoice has incorrect audience numbers we will send you an updated invoice on email; payment is due within 7 days of show. Deposit for next booking due in 30 days.
Touring Pack:	Check your "Touring Pack PDF" which has a checklist of things to do before the show.
Copyright:	© Alpha Shows Pty Ltd 2003-2024. All performances are subject to copyright and no electronic recording of any part of a production or the audience is permitted, other than quick snippets for social media (eg. Instagram). Photographs are also permitted provided you tag @alphashows in all uploads to social media.

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



➔ Tech Specs

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

Location

- Alpha sets up all sound and lighting desks off-prompt.
- Please have everything prepared for this location of our desks to operate the shows from.
- If you have a dedicated area for sound in the audience, please reserve this area for us to use.
- We need ground floor access to the venue, for our vehicle to bring equipment straight in onto your stage. Please arrange this.
- Our set will use up most of the stage, and be integrated into your curtaining system with our black stage curtaining.
- Stage space required will be approx 9 metres deep (min 7/8 meters required)
- Legs are dropped after setup, and often the half tab is brought down half way to touch our curtaining/set.

Power

- We can connect to 1 separate circuited 15 amp standard outlet.
- Please ensure that no extra power load is on the circuit you arrange for us to use; otherwise we will trip the circuit and not be able to perform the show for you.

Setup

- 2x winch up stands to 4.2m high truss, + telescopic poles and stands with full curtaining up to 15 metres wide. Backdrops, fully constructed sets and large props to fill a large stage

Other effects

- ROBE 1500 Fogger used – venue must have smoke detectors isolated (optional but highly recommended)
- Compressed Air confetti hand-held cannon used in Aladdin
- Small hand held pyrotechnic devices used only by trained employees in several shows.
- Snow machine with snow foam effect using a nontoxic, nonflammable and odourless liquid in Snow Queen and Scrooge.
- 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.

Sound

- Sound desk with Yamaha TF1 digital mixer, 2 x w channel Power amps, 2x 15" FOH speakers, 2x 12" Overhead speakers attached to truss, 1 x 18" Subwoofer SR, 8x sennheiser receivers and belt packs, with 6x countryman E6/other earsets, and 1x sennheiser handheld.
- Unless your venue is very large this will be sufficient for most venues.
- For larger venues / longer seasons (greater than 2 shows) we can send audio feeds up to your system to be controlled by your operator. For single/double shows this is not possible and not necessary.
- 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!! This is just as the quality of the show can often suffer and it's a risk we don't like to take – we have gotten into too many troubles doing this in the past. Plus our sound system is very loud and powerful for audiences up to 1000.
- 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.
- QLab operating all sound, lighting, network cues from Macbook

Lighting

- 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. We aim for this to be 45 degrees either side of front center of stage, and 45 degrees above. Please reserve the area in the audience normally used for sound mixing desks and operator, or preferably closer to the stage either side.
- Our lighting rig is as follows:
 - SETUP Full rig: 4 x Chauvet HEX LED Pars, 2 x Martin ELP Zoom Pars, 1 x 4 globe LED color blinder/wash, 2 x FOH Moving Head Wash, 2x Martin Scanner 1 LED on Truss, 2x Moving Head Spot/Beam on Truss.
 - Controlled via QLab network commands to Lightkey.
- There is no way to control venue lights or have an operator follow along, as we have hundreds of lighting cues per show.
- All lighting is operated by Alpha crew.

ALPHASHOWS – LOGISTICS GUIDE

➔ Safe Working Method Statement (SWMS)

1. VEHICLE UNPACK

- | | |
|---------------|---|
| Van + Trailer | <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Cast to guide reversing trailer where possible. Stand behind driver side mirror at rear of vehicle in vision of driver. Do not stand behind vehicle out of sight of driver.- Care must be taken opening the rear vehicle doors. Watch out for people, cars and obstacles |
| Loading ramp | <ul style="list-style-type: none">- 2 Cast to lift ramp where possible.- Ensure locking pin is in place.- No stacking gear on cases allowed on ramp.- 2 Cast on each case where ramp angle is steep.- No running or jumping on ramp at any time. |

2. LOADING IN/OUT

- Engaged Cast must complete venue site inductions if venue requires.
- All heavy road cases are on casters.
- Trolley available for subs, Desks and other Equipment over 25 kg.
- Lighter gear may be stacked in a safe manner on road cases.
- No overloading or triple stacking.
- Min 2 Cast to lift heavy cases above 300mm. Min 3 Cast to lift cases up stairs.
- Use proper technique. i.e. Bend knees, back straight
- 2 Cast to push cases up or down steep incline.
- Closed in safety boots must be worn while loading and rigging.
- Walking pace only when pushing cases.
- Take extra care around other people.
- Drink adequate fluids.

3. SETTING UP

- | | |
|-----------------|--|
| Audio | <ul style="list-style-type: none">- PA stacks must be leveled, stabilized and gaffed or strapped together.- Fold back wedges must not overhang stage.- Cables on floor in walkways must be gaffed down or covered with cable covers.- All PA gear to be tested and tagged annually. |
| Lighting | <ul style="list-style-type: none">- No ladders above 2m are carried or required.- Two Cast are required to hang lights in awkward positions.- Locking pins must be engaged to take tension off the FSWR / Winch- Telescopic stands must each be weighted with 1 x 10 kg bags.- Rigged truss must be inspected before and after rising.- All Lighting fixture above 2m must have safety Cables attached.- Ensure that the rigging system is not over weight or used against manufacturer recommendations.- All faults must be reported, no matter how small, to the <u>Tour Manager</u>- Allow plenty of ventilation for coils, do not cover with blacks.- Cables in walkways must be gaffed down to floor or use safety coverings- Be aware of wet risk, i.e. no lighting cans on front of stage where drinks might spill. |
| Fog Machine use | <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Fog Machine use must be used modestly with consideration to performers and audience.- Fog machine must be approved for use by Venue Management and Tour Supervisor- If required, a smoke isolation permit must be obtained from the venue.- Smoke isolation must be confirmed with the venue before any fog machine used. |

ALPHASHOWS – LOGISTICS GUIDE

General

- All equipment to be cleared in public areas before doors are opened.
- No running or jumping.
- No climbing past 1.5 m. high.
- Safety signs must be placed if appropriate.
- Reasonable care must be taken to avoid injury or damage to performers, their equipment and the venue.

4. SHOWTIME

- People on stage/backstage for no reasonable purpose are to be politely escorted off.
- Venue management or security to be advised if the above procedure is refused by that person.
- PA is usually set to target dance floor and sound levels to suit event conditions.
- Earplugs / ear muffs recommended for sensitive audience if required.

5. PACKUP

- Pack up on stage only until guests/patrons leave.
- No heavy gear to be moved until guests/patrons have left.

Remember - Health and Safety is the overriding policy for ALPHA SHOWS

➔ **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. Booking deposits do not secure dates, but a place in our schedule, which will continue to be a floating booking until we find you a date that is mutually acceptable.
- A booking deposit of \$400 applies at time of booking to reserve your place in our schedule, this does not confirm other details such as audience size, which you will confirm on show day. Alpha does not take bookings without a deposit. Failure to pay your deposit within time specified on the booking confirmation statement will result in either: removal from the schedule (if necessary), date changes without notice, or the loss of your discount/loyalty rates resulting in your booking defaulting to our standard full rate. Final payment is due within 7 days of the PERFORMANCE.
- The booking deposit is NON-REFUNDABLE under any circumstances, unless we cancel your show at our option. For any other reason you wish to permanently cancel (instead of just reschedule) on your part or any other reason not within Alpha's control, including your policies, change of schedule or any other force majeure/ conflict/event/lockdown/ government or natural disaster, the booking deposit is non-refundable.
- An additional cancellation fee of \$800 (per performance) in addition to the booking deposit applies to all cancellations received within 11 days of the show, including cancelling one out of two performances. If you have paid a deposit, and you wish to just reschedule instead, your booking will be reserved and you can reschedule and have your booking deposit transferred to your new date. All cancellations/reschedule requests must be received in writing (email is fine).
- You can re-schedule without any fee* 11 or more days before the original scheduled date, including rescheduling to the following year! Re-scheduling within 11 days loses your booking deposit + any other costs to Alpha as a result such as accommodation, fuel, actor stand down fees according to MEAA award laws. If you wish to reduce from 2 performances to 1 performance, you must also give notice of this change 11 or more days before your scheduled date * provided there are no other costs incurred by Alpha as a result of your request to reschedule
- 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, and you agree that as a result of the event, normal wear and tear on floors and your grounds/grass will definitely occur (including gouges, scratches, tyre marks, bogging etc). You also agree to inform any 3rd party/external venue of these conditions and ensure they understand the sizeable nature and resulting effects of the event upon their venue & property that will occur. Venue/client assumes all responsibility for audience safety, including any audience members who choose to go onto stage; it is assumed venue/client has all appropriate insurance to cover performance. Any damage not caused by Alpha's staff to our equipment or vehicles will be charged to your venue/school.
- Alpha is a Child Safe Standards Organisation and our policy can be found here: <http://www.alphashows.com.au/child-safe-standards/>
- Alpha staff as per the Working With Children Act (2005) all hold or have applied for their WWCC which can be supplied on demand. By law, responsibility for ensuring staff have WWCC falls to Alpha, not the school. If your policy requires copies please request them in advance of the show as we do not have time to all visit the office to present WWCC cards in person. Copies of WWCC can also be used to sign our staff into your visitor log on the day.
- Ground floor access to an INDOOR venue is required from arrival time to whatever time we leave, for unloading/ loading of a substantial amount of equipment. NO OUTDOOR VENUES ARE PERMITTED. If the Alpha van cannot get access to the venue 10 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. Alpha van requires 3m height clearance and 2.5 metres width, as well as a large turning circle and cleared space (no other vehicles or equipment!) to maneuver for unloading and loading. 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. We must have access for our entire visit - we CANNOT MOVE OUR VEHICLE AFTER LOAD IN! So please do not ask! It's dangerous and time prohibitive.

ALPHASHOWS – LOGISTICS GUIDE

- Any induction/training that you require due to your policy (whether done on the day of the performance or prior) will be done according to your policies, however if this excessively delays setup the show may be pushed back and an admin fee of \$50 may be charged.. If any other delays for unloading/loading occur there will be an additional cost of \$50 per 15 minutes or part thereof. We need access to an unlocked, child-free and open venue up to 20 minutes before the official arrival time. Any delays will result in delays to show start time. All cast cannot sign in at reception due to time restraints/early arrival times, please sign in for them if you require this or our Tour Supervisor can do this for all cast. If you insist on in-person cast sign-ins for every single person at your reception/office, the \$50 'sign-in' fee will be charged & time of arrival must be 15 minutes earlier to accommodate.
- 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 your invoice. Making an Alpha Show a fundraiser must be done only with the company's consent for a worthy cause. You can however, charge the rate on your invoice, and retain any discount for the school. Students can pay up to last minute / on the day including giving their ticket price in cash to an Alpha staff member to attend, simply do not include them in your final audience tally. No audience member should be turned away for simply bringing the payment later than your policy might generally require. Students are encouraged to 'buy a ticket' and save up for the event and pay on the day of the show.
- If your teacher-in-charge-of-bookings contact (listed on your statement) changes for whatever reason (teacher leaving, absence, change of role) please inform us as soon as possible, with the updated name and email address of the new contact. Contacts must be someone who will actually attend the performance/s and be available to chat with our team!
- Your school agrees to these conditions automatically once you permit the show to go ahead. All bookings must be accompanied by signature either in advance or on the day. If we don't get an agreement to these conditions and a signature beforehand or onsite, we may have to cancel the show and/or leave your venue, without refund.

MARKETING/IMAGES CONDITIONS

- 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 use of the word "pantomime" or "panto" are prohibited.
- 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 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 images from the internet. Copyright as well as product integrity are important and must be adhered to under ALL circumstances. It's important we don't mislead people about the show they will experience.
- All materials we provide must not be altered or edited without permission (including Colouring Sheets)

ABOUT THE COMPANY

ALPHASHOWS specialises in producing modern yet traditional shows which are more reminiscent of a new genre: something akin to what we call 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. We pull from multiple modalities and formats. It's part band on tour, empowering seminar, meditation retreat, group healing session, glitzy music theatre, pop star concert, silly pantomime, traditional kids theatre, dramatic play and competitive and passionate sport game.

Our first show was Beauty & the Beast that toured originally in October and November 2003. We have since toured to over 1 million audience members. Our aim is to continue to bring a new, big production musical to your school every year. We have 10 productions so no student ever need to see the same show again. From 2024 onwards, each show tours only once every 5 years! So we typically have 2 touring seasons per year: <https://www.alphashows.com.au/schedule/>

Alpha shows are about values and social & emotional learning (integrated with CASEL and other programs like Be You), and methods for how to integrate new empowering ways of living into our lives. These are based on real-life research, practice and scientifically valid psychological techniques. Conditioning and reinforcing role-models and specific values is imperative to a child's social development - and should happen as often as possible, at the very least once a year! We believe Alpha's shows are a really impactful and useful method to jump start this type of consciousness development in children. If you have a show every year, then they get to have these types of messages reinforced seven times over primary school. If you only have a show every 2 years, that is reduced to only 3 or 4 times - we've found this reduces our possible impact on a student's consciousness. We know this from hearing from audiences over the years - many of whom have even come to audition and then work for us! So we know this works when we visit every year!

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. 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 simply to save a buck or two.

"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

DURING SHOWS AT A SCHOOL / SCHOOL AUDIENCE

➔ 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 of other children yelling or from the dramatic content on stage, 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, neurodivergent children or just specific children are participating and you know they are especially likely to be overwhelmed or sensitive, we suggest bringing them into the venue early to meet the cast and definitely have them seated near you, or at the rear, and probably wearing ear muffs. 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 a good 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 (Theatre-in-education) - meaning, we don't need you to 'keep the quiet' like you might be used to with other visiting shows. 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!

However - please be on alert to help the performers, especially if they start pulling or touching the performers or throwing things on stage, or otherwise very disruptive/ inappropriate behavior or behavior that could be a safety issue. We need your help to stop children if any of this occurs. They get very excited and don't realise how hard it is to perform whilst being 'grabbed' at, rushing the stage, throwing rubbish onto the stage etc.

Please also be understanding that if you DO have a very loud group of children who want to 'talk' and yell 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, which might be time to help them quieten down, when it's obviously derailing the show or causing excessive disruption.

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, teachers, 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 (we know this might be annoying, but again, cast are in underwear backstage oftentimes!). 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 or sports equipment 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. We are sorry that this is annoying but it has caused many problems (especially for cast members when changing costumes) as well as issues of safety with the set in the past when these guidelines aren't followed!

➔ Fog machine / effects

There is a fog machine used during all Alpha shows – this is safe and has no known effect on people with asthma. It is water based liquid that heats up. 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. If you can't isolate smoke detectors (this would be unusual as it's supposed to be possible by law) that's ok, or if you have another reason to not have the fog machine in use - just tell the Tour Supervisor on the day of the show and they'll keep the fog machine turned off. You'll lose the effect of the lighting show, and the 'wow' factor that the children love about the fog, but other than that, the show will be just as good. We also use some flashing lights as well, although we don't use a strobe machine (some lights do flash fast however)

Here are instructions on what you're looking for to 'isolate' your detectors.



➔ **Our sound system**

Our sound system is state of the art, with multiple speakers set up for each show (4 speakers plug an 18" subwoofer). We test the levels before each show, so it's always safe. Some teachers may feel it's too loud, but generally it's just about right because we do encourage the children to be loud themselves in their interaction with us. Just be aware of this. If you know your audience is less likely to be loud or you have pre-framed them to be super polite and not yell so much, if you feel it necessary you can request for the sound system to be a little lower than normal. Just mention this to the Tour Supervisor before the show.

Mostly it's not necessary, or might only be requested for the benefit or a few special cases in the audience. You're best to just move your special needs children to the rear and let the show be as it is intended (impactful and like a rock concert) unless your circumstances are extraordinary (ie. the majority of your students are sensitive/special needs). If that's the case just discuss with the Tour Supervisor your specific needs and we can accommodate, but again, if your audience ends up being loud anyway, we'll have to turn up the volume to ensure the show can be heard over their noise.

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. In almost all cases, it's being overwhelmed by the other children yelling, not our sound system. 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.
- We usually recommend just giving these children some ear muffs before they even come in the venue. 90% of times, you'll see that these children will later remove their ear muffs during the show. It was not an actual sensitivity but a fear of something else. You can help them reframe the issue.
- 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, or perhaps if you have a larger contingent of neurodivergent children, *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 school venues have difficult 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, or having curtains and other sound absorbing items in the room / on walls.
- 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 and smoke detectors isolated! Quietening the children down before the show isn't necessary like it might be with other theatre-in-education shows, in fact, the pre-show music is designed to get them going and engaged before the show even starts! Our pre-show announcements also contain some fun facts and information, good as a reminder for teachers who haven't read any pre-show documentation!

➔ **Teacher / Supervisor / Adult 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. Shows are always most impactful and fun for everyone when the teachers play with us and have fun too! 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 mind 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) and have some fun with us!

➔ **Teachers / Supervisors using laptops / working at the show**

The outcome of an Alpha Show is to give a real experience of theatre to the school community. Nobody typically would bring a laptop or other work to a theatre or movie at a cinema, so probably best not to do it at an Alpha show either. It sends a weird message. However, in the 'age of screens' we are aware many people do now watch the tv and have their phone or tablet out as well. If you're good with that idea - sure. But we believe that enjoying a show fully without the distraction of modern 'screens' is the ideal way to go.

Again – we don't really mind, 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 Theatre-in-Education shows (that aren't generally entertaining for adults) so you (hopefully!) 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 pleaseL just 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! 😊

Also be aware for the specific moments in the show when we might ask for the audience's participation to dance, participate or '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! These are real, powerful methods for impacting human emotion and consciousness, so participating in this works for adults too. Every time I watch a show before it goes out on tour, I participate in these 'closed eye' processes and they always hit me emotionally and help me grow in little ways in my own path to being a better human being. And I wrote the shows! So I know they definitely work for everyone. So feel free to participate in the process - they are real, psychologically legitimate processes that can actually assist in one's emotional and psychological development.

➔ 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 / Stupid + other low level insults for comedy (by villain)
- 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 script 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.

Please do know - 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. We never want to be 'inappropriate' or turn anyone off, but we do want to engage the children at the highest level possible!

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. If it will be a problem at all, please let the Tour Supervisor 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. We then mark your school as 'conservative' in our database and you'll always get the taboo-free version of the shows!

Also note, that has of 2022 and beyond, all the shows have been re-written from the ground up. We've found new ways of telling jokes without excessive use of anything taboo. It's rare to have anything in the shows beyond the occasional mention of 'vomit' or 'smelly'. And we do not even include anything related to gender ideology, cultural appropriation, or sexual agendas. None of that has a place in our shows.

To submit a request for 'conservative performance', go to this page and fill out the form:
<https://www.alphashows.com.au/conservative-performance-request/>

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 21st 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!

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 social network 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.

Join the newsletter here to stay up to date with Alpha Shows: <https://alphashows.beehiiv.com>

Yours most sincerely

Ben Jackson
CEO & Founder