

# RELAXED PERFORMANCE GUIDE



## What's the performance about?

An intrepid family of adventurers and their musical dog embark on their quest to find a bear. They wade through the gigantic swishy swashy grass, the splishy splashy river, the thick oozy, squelchy mud, the big dark forest, the swirling whirling snowstorm, and the narrow gloomy cave. When they enter the cave, they see one shiny wet nose, two big furry ears, and two big goggly eyes. It's a bear! The family tiptoe their way back through the cave, they try not to get blown away in the snowstorm, they stumble trip through the forest, wade through the squelchy mud, splash splosh through the river, and feel the swishy swashy grass, chased by the bear all the way! They get to their home and hide under the covers. Having embarked on a gigantic adventure, the family are finally home and not going on a bear hunt again!

## The show's main points

### **The characters**

We're Going on a Bear Hunt is a musical play performed by four actors and one understudy. The understudy covers two parts and one of the other actors covers the remaining two parts. You'll see four actors on stage in total: three male and one female. The female actor plays Girl and the male actors play the Dad, Boy and Buddy the Dog. All the roles are played by adults, even though the Girl and Boy are children and the Dog is played by a male actor who does not speak in the show but does sing! Additionally, there is Baby. Baby is a puppet carried by different family members throughout the show.

Bear is played by the understudy and the actor who plays it wears a costume that covers him head to toe! The bear is friendly and not scary, but he is rather big!

There is plenty of music in the show with all the actors singing songs and interacting with audiences on a regular basis. Rhyme, rhythm and repetition form a large part of the production, so feel free to sing-a-long, dance and answer back when the feeling takes you!



Thos Wainwright plays DAD



Thos in costume as Dad

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A BEAR HUNT



Joey Hickman plays BOY



Joey in costume as Boy



Rebecca Newman plays GIRL



Rebecca in costume as Girl

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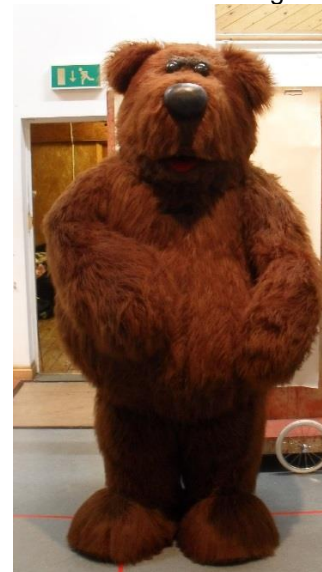
Benjamin Hills plays DOG/MUSICIAN



Benjamin in costume as Dog/Musician



Jordan Turner is the Understudy which means you might sometimes see him on stage if somebody is ill or injured. He also plays BEAR



Jordan in costume as Bear

The set in the show is very simple and is made up of three moving trucks that are on stage at all time. The actors move these around during the show. There are also other props that they use to create each scene. Some green fabric on sticks becomes the long grass, towels and buckets that the actors fill with water become the river, brown paint is mud, cardboard boxes are the forest trees, white sheets make the snowstorm and the cave is very dark with the actors having to use torches.

## **A story of what the play is about**

Four performers enter the theatre through the audience. They are looking for something – a bear. They make their way to the stage and they ask everyone for help. They don't know what a bear looks like so

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please can everyone give some suggestions. Once they have enough ideas, they repeat what a bear looks like and then they sing about the bear hunt they're going on.

On their way they face several obstacles. The first one is long wavy grass. "They can't go over it. They can't go under it. Oh no! They have to go through it!" The grass is swishy, swashy and it makes them sneeze!!!

They stop for a break after this to enjoy the beautiful day and the Girl tears a butterfly shape out of a piece of paper. She gives the butterfly to someone in the audience and asks everyone else to make a butterfly with their hands.

Baby is tired after this, so the Girl gets a Box and the family put him to bed and play him a lullaby. Baby waves good night to everyone. Feel free to wave back!

The bear growls, reminding the family of their bear hunt, and they set off again.

They reach a river. "They can't go over it. They can't go under it. Oh no! They have to go through it!" The river is deep and cold. The Boy takes the first step into the river. It is very cold and he makes funny noises as he makes his way to the middle where he nearly falls over! The Girl is next, and then Dad, but guess what – Dad can't swim! His children give him armbands and they all splish splash about in the river together with Buddy the Dog. At one point the Boy and Girl have water pistols and start spraying the audience so you might get a bit wet!

Then we hear chewing sounds and a fish bone is thrown on to the stage. The bear has eaten the fish. The bone doesn't smell very nice. The family continue on their bear hunt.

Next they get to the thick oozy mud. "They can't go over it. They can't go under it. Oh no! They have to go through it!" Dad, Boy and Girl put on aprons and fill up bowls with the mud. The mud squelches and squerches. They each paint a picture with it, and then it gets very messy and they have a mud fight with each other!

As they are tidying up, Girl rips her picture down to reveal some big bear prints! It takes the family a while to notice, so everyone can join in to tell them that they're there. The family study the bear prints, and then they sing We're Going On A Bear Hunt again.

Next they reach the big, dark forest. "They can't go over it. They can't go under it. Oh no! They have to go through it!" They stumble and trip through the forest and then they step in poo – bear poo. Buddy the Dog likes this and he gets up to roll in it!

Baby's woken up by now, and Girl and Boy help him take his first steps on two of the boxes. Dad is very excited, and then Baby starts dancing!

The family sing We're Going On A Bear Hunt again, and they ask everyone in the audience to join in. It can get quite loud!

They continue on their bear hunt straight into a swirling whirling snowstorm. "They can't go over it. They can't go under it. Oh no! They have to go through it!" They all throw snow into the air and dance around in it. And then they hear a bear snoring!

Now they're at the narrow gloomy cave. It's very dark and they need their torches as they tip toe through the cave to come face to face with "one shiny wet nose! Two big furry ears! Two big goggly eyes! It's a bear!"

The family quickly run back the way they came, with the bear chasing them all the way. Although he is big and chasing them, he isn't too scary! Back through the cave, the snowstorm, the forest, the mud, the river and the grass to the front door. They get into bed, and realise they forgot to shut the front door. They run back downstairs and Dad gets stuck outside. The bear is coming. Just in time Dad gets back inside, up the stairs, into bed and under the covers. They are not going on a bear hunt again.

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The family get out of bed to say goodbye to everyone, and the bear joins them on stage for one last sing along of We're Going On A Bear Hunt.

## Lighting

The Forest and the Cave scenes are both very dark.

## Sound

As mentioned above, the actors often ask the audience to join in with calling out the words or joining in with the songs so at certain points, it can get a bit noisy. Audiences can also hear the bear growling and whilst this is not disturbing, there is a point when the cast are in the cave when you can hear it quite loudly.

## Other

During the River scene there is water sprayed into the audience, so please bear in mind that your child might get wet during both these scenes if he or she is sat close to the stage.

On top of the above, the Mud scene also gets quite messy, but this tends to be for the cast only.

## Running Time

The show is approximately 55 minutes long with no interval.

## Recommended Age

Ages 3+ and their families.