



Introductory Notes: Moss Piglet

1. Introductory information

Event name: Moss Piglet

Event presenter: Windmill Theatre Company in association with Adelaide Festival Centre's centrEd program.

Event date and time: Audio-described performance **Saturday 2nd May 2026** at 12:30 with a touch tour commencing at 11.45am.

Event location: The **Space Theatre**, Adelaide Festival Centre.

Runtime: 45 minutes (with no interval)

Event synopsis: This theatre piece is all about Tardigrades!

Have you heard of Tardigrades?

Some people call them 'Water Bears', others call them 'Moss Piglets'.

Moss Piglet is a show about these small and curious critters. Taking us from jelly-filled petri dishes to the depths of a volcano, to Arctic glaciers, to the moon! This show explodes the mysteries of the wildly weird tardigrade.

Warnings: At times during the performance there will be flashing lights, haze effects and loud music. You can bring headphones and can exit the theatre at any time.

Audio Describers: Catherine Fitz-Gerald and Jules Fielke

2. Set description

The set is like a large circle—that is pale yellow on one side and has a green wedge on the other. At the back are two walls: a pale yellow one with a big round screen in the corner, and a bright green one in front of it on our right. The gap between them is where the actors come and go, appearing and disappearing.

On the left is a busy science lab. There's a metal bench with a bright green top, a curved sink, and a tall tap that sprays real water. The bench is covered with fun science gear—test tubes, goggles, a giant flask, beakers, a Bunsen burner, a microscope, and little petri dishes. There's even an old orange telephone with a curly cord.

The star of the lab is the **Freeze Master 5000**, a large white machine with a clear chamber full of swirling white flakes and cool blue light. When it switches on, icy fog spills across the bench and out into the air.



The green wall is more than a backdrop. Two cameras film the action live: one trained on the lab bench, the other facing the green wall itself, which works exactly like a movie green screen. When someone steps in front of it — often Scientist Antoine pretending to be a Moss Piglet—the camera mixes them with special video backgrounds. Their journeys appear on the big round screen in the back yellow wall: deserts, volcanoes, the ocean floor, the furthest reaches of space.

Standing before the green wall are two tall triangular metal cupboards — with blunt flat tops and small castors on the base so they can be rolled and repositioned. At first glance they're just storage. But these two objects have a secret life.

Tipped onto their sides, they become a ramp, a runway, a launchpad. Pushed together, they form a volcano — that erupts with thin red streamers pouring from the top.

Later, they pull apart slowly, the gap between them widening like a crevasse splitting open in a mountainside, or the automated doors of a spacecraft sliding apart in the dark. At just the right moment, a blue shadow puppet screen is drawn out between them, and silhouettes begin to move across it.

Beside the volcano, a low green platform sits close to the ground. Above it, enormous twisted green tubes spiral upward — as though someone took a handful of moss, placed it under a microscope, and let it grow until it filled the room.

Sometimes the lights go completely dark, before projections transform the whole space into something else, a burning desert, a volcano's crater, the frozen South Pole, or the black stillness of space.

In the **Deep Ocean Trench**, shadow puppets swim across the screen—fish, sharks, a huge whale, a tiny submarine, and a lone diver descends into the dark. And then, moving through the space itself as though the theatre has filled with water, a large jellyfish appears. Its tentacles trail behind it, glowing softly pink as it drifts on a long, bendy pole.

3. Characters and Costumes

There are two actors in this theatre piece, they are dressed as scientists.

Scientist **Antoine Jelk** has an air of calm authority. His brown hair is smoothed back, his dark eyes are sharp, and he wears a neat trim beard. Antoine is dressed



in a green Adidas football jersey with crisp white trim, long green shorts over pale purple leggings, and bright orange socks.

His colleague **Dylan Miller** is slightly younger, in his mid-twenties, full of restless energy and mischief. Dylan has a thick mop of dark hair on top, a curly fringe falling over his forehead, close-cropped sides, and a neat moustache above a ready grin. He wears a long-sleeved green Adidas tracksuit top and dark green cargo trousers, gathered snugly at the ankles with elastic.

Both scientists wear white laboratory coats, piped in green at the collar, cuffs and pockets — and both sport chunky high-top Nike trainers with bold flashes of electric orange and yellow.

Throughout the play, **Moss Piglet** — the show's extraordinary little hero — appears in many shapes and sizes, brought to life by both actors.

We first meet Moss Piglet as a microscopic creature: a lumpy, elongated blob in purple and yellow, semi-transparent like a tiny glowing slug, projected large on a circular screen above the stage.

At miniature scale, Moss Piglet becomes a tiny purple ball perched on a stick — glimpsed inside an ice sculpture, or as a larger ten-centimetre skiing puppet weaving down a slalom ski slope.

Infant Moss Piglet is operated by Dylan's hand and is altogether more loveable. About eighty centimetres long, this version is pale purple, soft and pillowy — its body made of rings of puffy fabric from head to tail, with four sets of stumpy little legs ending in gentle claws. A short, stubby snout gives it the look of a friendly piglet.

Adult Moss Piglet is a full body costume — a great big purple puffy sleeping bag — worn by Antoine. His own arms become the top pair of legs, his own legs the bottom pair, while two more sets of legs waggle from the front of the costume. Antoine's face peeks out from inside the wide purple hood, as Moss Piglet lumbers to life.

In the shadow puppet section of the show, Moss Piglet is transformed again — this time into a flat, two-dimensional cut-out shape behind a glowing blue screen, swimming through an underwater world alongside whales, sharks and divers.

Antoine also transforms into **Lava Man**. He wears a red skull cap topped with painted flames and is wrapped in a sweeping circular cape of deep red — a cascading swirl of ruffles from neck to hem. He holds two sticks beneath the fabric to help make the cape billow and swish like wings of living fire. He uses it to



flick tongues of flame toward Moss Piglet, sending the little creature leaping and dancing.

Throughout the play, the story is guided by a Voiceover — a narrator's voice, recorded or spoken from offstage, that we hear but never see.

4. Creatives

Director & Co-Creator: Clare Watson

Co-Creator: Gareth Davies

Co-Creator: Elena Carapetis

Performer: Dylan Miller

Performer: Antoine Jelk

Designer: Meg Wilson

Composer & Sound Designer: Luke Smiles

AV Designer: Michael Carmody

Lighting Designer: Chris Petridis & Richard Vabre

Puppetry Directors: Nathan O'Keefe & Jonathon Oxlade

Movement Director: Larissa McGowan

5. Access information

The production takes place in the **Space Theatre** at the Adelaide Festival Centre. There is an accessible drop off area located off Festival Drive under the River-bank Footbridge, with a lift to the promenade level.

A designated disability drop-off is also available 45 minutes before performances. To access the drop off area, turn onto Festival Drive from King William Road, pass the Festival Plaza car park entrance and stay left, driving through the EOS Hotel visitor drop off loop to arrive at the Space Theatre access drop off.

Adelaide Festival Centre is easily accessible by public transport, including the tram (stop at Railway Station), trains, buses and a free bus service that operates on a loop throughout the city and North Adelaide with stops on the corner of King William Road and North Terrace.

You can enter the Space Theatre by foot from North Terrace, Adelaide Railway Station, Adelaide Oval, or King William Road.

From North Terrace, walk down the laneway alongside SkyCity Casino. From King William Road, you can walk over Festival Plaza (there's a lift and escalator down to the Dunstan Playhouse and Space Theatre level).

Assistance: assistance is offered by venue staff.