

Booster Cushion Theatre

Bringing books to life for children

An Outline of 'Old McDonald and the 3 Pigs plus...'

This show is presented by one actor. He plays Alistair McCalister, Old McDonald's farmhand. Alistair introduces us to the farm.

The set is a backdrop of a farm scene in a naïve style, with mice driving tractors, fields with apple trees, sheep, cows, dogs, goats and carrots. The Concertina book is about 2m tall and 4.5m wide. In front of the farmyard is a concertina book (1.6m x 0.9m). This book holds all the scenes for the show.

We start by finding the show's title. This pops up from a large field of vegetables, reaching to nearly 3m tall. Alistair then introduces us to the other fields on the farm, in rotation. Fields featured; vegetables, cheese, fruit, hens, bread and finally 'The End' field with all the above and spices, ice cream and strawberry fields.

Alistair then picks two people from the audience to help with the harvest. These farm hands collect the 8 items from 'The End' field and put the harvest into the barn.

Once the barn is filled Alistair asks the harvesters to help with the farm animals. A selection of audience members then put on a variety of slippers and tea cosy's to be Old McD's farm animals. These include: sheep, cows, dogs, cats, hens, rabbits, ducks, pigs and sharks.

Each helper makes their animal noise and they then sing 'Old McDonald Had a Farm' picking pairs of animals from the group so we only have to sing the verse a maximum of 5 times!

After the song one of the animals is to be crowned the King/Queen of the farm, and they will play the 3 pigs. After the coronation all helpers are thanked and rewarded with an apple. Alistair then shows us where the pigs have moved to and what they made their house from. Straw house from strawberries, stick house from melting ice cream and the brick house from peppers and spices and all things nice.

Our 3 pigs are then assembled and the houses are visited in turn. Alistair pretends to be the wolf. He huffs and puffs. The pigs run to the next house. The wolf tries to get in and is made to run away by a clever pig. We award our pig handler with a pen so they can write/draw the story for others to know how to save pigs from wolves.

Alistair thanks the audience and goes to tidy the farm up. The end.

This performance is clearly not a traditional story. There is a lot of opportunity for participation. As such, part of the show is improvised and hence the running time varies, but is usually 45 minutes or more.

Do not tell the children all of our story. It is a surprise. Mentioning the song and introducing the traditional version of the 3 Pigs story may be highly beneficial.

NB. There is nothing really scary in this performance.