

SYDNEY OPERA HOUSE PRESENTS

SNEAKY DISGUISES & OPERA HOUSE SURPRISES FOR APRIL SCHOOL HOLIDAYS

Shhh, don't tell teacher, but kids can draw on the Sydney Opera House wall this April school holidays.

Australia's premier destination is inviting every student on staycation to take their curious mind harbourside during school break for a jam-packed day of family time that includes any of three exclusive holiday shows and free – and guilt-free – digital graffiti opportunities.

Mr Stink will be there, a classic tale of misconceptions from the masterful **David Walliams**, brought to life before young eyes by **Jonathan Biggins**. Or you can catch the comic cabaret **Cautionary Tales for Children**, as wicked as it is hilarious, starring **Virginia Gay**. If it's adrenalin-pumping physical risk you're after, the **Flying Fruit Fly Circus** has your ready-to-be-wowed teens and tweens covered with its edgy show **Stunt Lounge**.

And that Opera House wall – well it's not so much a wall as an interactive digital canvas! Get the relaxed little holiday brains whirring as you join in on **Creative Play: Digital Drawing Wall**. Our team of professional illustrators invites your children to add their art to the World Heritage-listed "masterpiece of human creativity". The Digital Drawing Wall is a free and unique Opera House school holiday activity, encouraging creativity and helping children create large-scale original artwork in collaboration with professional artists.

In addition to special stories on stage and free **Creative Play**, the Opera House's [Junior Adventure](#) (an action-packed, one-hour tour of the Opera House designed specifically for children) and [Junior Lunch](#) menus at our family-friendly harbourside restaurants and cafes mean that a convenient day out has never been easier (or more memorable). So clear your schedule and experience the ultimate family day out, guaranteed to keep even the littlest guests entertained all day (and exhausted at the end).

Mr Stink is, as the title suggests, a pungent reminder of the pitfalls of judging people too quickly, adapted from the acclaimed book by **David Walliams**. Chloe is just about the loneliest girl in the world. Overlooked at home and bullied at school, she befriends the local homeless man, Mr Stink, and decides to hide him in her garden shed! This charming story explores important social and ethical issues – bullying, exclusion, homelessness – through enjoyable, accessible comedy and loveable characters. Directed by **Jonathan Biggins** (Wharf Revue, Australia Day, Pete The Sheep) and adapted by **Maryam Master** (The Incredible Book Eating Boy), this world-premiere Australian adaptation is brought to life by the team behind *The Gruffalo* and *The 52-Storey Treehouse*.

Next up, prepare to be exhilarated and amazed by the feats of physical daring showcased by the five dynamic performers in **Stunt Lounge**. The first production in the three-year partnership between the **Flying Fruit Fly Circus** and Sydney Opera House, *Stunt Lounge* is a highly skilled, hour-long glimpse into the future of circus, from spectacular acrobatics and audacious aerial acts to hula-hoop hijinks.

Surprises continue – and good behaviour is put aside – with **Cautionary Tales for Children**. This curious cabaret is proof that learning lessons about good behaviour can be absurd and hilarious! Starring the extraordinary **Virginia Gay** (from TV's *Winners & Losers* and *All Saints*) with original music by **Mark Jones**, there are laughs and lessons aplenty throughout this wickedly entertaining questioning of conventional wisdom. Based on the 1907 Hilaire Belloc comic verse, this show will delight kids aged 7 and over, with live singing and sneaky surprises to keep the laughs coming and your feet tapping from the first moment to the last.

Sydney Opera House Head of Children, Families and Creative Learning **Bridgette Van Leuven** says: "Through wonderful storytelling, acting, digital drawing, music and comedy, the April School Holiday season offers families joyful creative experiences packed with important social issues. The hilarious *Cautionary Tales* for

Children and delightfully moving Mr Stink will connect with all kids, parents and carers and inspire some good discussion and deeper understanding, long after the show is over. We hope you let us know on Facebook what these discussions are like!"

Sydney Opera House Creative Learning Specialist **Frank Newman** says: "The Digital Drawing Wall is a three-way play between illustrators, performers and kids. It's old school meets new school and the result is crazy drawings and some odd performances! It's the perfect combination of graphic design and pantomime with kids (and adults) laughing at both."

Sydney Opera House Director of Visitor Experiences **Jade McKellar** says: "The key to the Sydney Opera House during the school holidays is found in our [Junior Day Packs](#). These value packs provide the absolute best way to experience everything we have on offer for young and old alike. There's more beneath the sails than just our brilliant live performances, and it's so convenient to spend the day exploring, adventuring and getting creative."

Bring your children's creative imaginations alive this April school holidays, and help them learn about the fun to be had when things are not what they seem! The Sydney Opera House program is as colourful as a circus troupe, as intriguing as a detective story, and as magical as a secret revealing itself. The sparks will keep coming long after you leave.

Keep up to date by joining us on our Facebook page: [Sydney Opera House – Kids and Families](#)

Images are available to download [here](#).

MR STINK

Dates: 9-24 April 2016
Venue: Playhouse, Sydney Opera House
Ages: 6+
Bookings: 02 9250 7777

STUNT LOUNGE

Dates: 12-17 April 2016
Venue: Studio, Sydney Opera House
Ages: 12+
Bookings: 02 9250 7777

CAUTIONARY TALES FOR CHILDREN

Dates: 20-24 April 2016
Venue: Studio, Sydney Opera House
Ages: 7+
Bookings: 02 9250 7777

CREATIVE PLAY: DIGITAL DRAWING WALL

Dates: 9-24 April 2016
Venue: Western Foyer, Sydney Opera House
Ages: All ages
Bookings: 02 9250 7777

FOR MEDIA ENQUIRIES CONTACT:

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