

# The Gruffalo's Child - Audio Description Pre-Show Notes

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## Show Information

The Gruffalo's Child is a theatre show based on the children's book of the same name, written by Julia Donaldson. Before this show, Mouse encountered a Gruffalo and managed to scare him away as well as other predators. Since then, The Gruffalo now has a young daughter and this show tell her story as she goes off into the deep dark wood to find the "big bad mouse".

## Set and Props

The Riverside Theatre is a traditional theatre space known as a proscenium arch venue. It has a raised stage and 761 seats across three levels: the ground level seating is called the stalls, and there are two levels of balcony seating called the circle and the gallery.

The Gruffalo's Child is set in a deep dark wood. At the front, on the left are two rocks which are both approximately thirty centimetres wide and 20 centimetres tall, and on the right, a tree stump approximately 50 centimetres tall. Further back, there are six tree trunks with branches swaying toward the

centre of the stage at the start of the show. The outer most trees stay in the same place throughout the show, while the ones closer to the middle have hidden wheels that allow them to be moved around the stage depending on the scene.

At the back of the stage in the centre, there is a cluster of tree trucks together in one piece. The right side of this tree cluster opens like a door to reveal a cave where the Gruffalo sleeps. Suspended directly above the trees is a large, yellow, full moon.

## **Characters and Costumes**

There are three actors in this show who each play different roles. They are Jessie Lancaster, Drew Livingston and Rebecca Rolle. At the start of the show, Jessie is wearing a brown beanie, cardigan, short pants, and shin high boots. Drew wears a light grey beanie with a pom-pom, a dark grey scarf, a white long sleeve shirt, dark grey trousers held up with braces and black shoes. Rebecca wears a black beanie, a dark grey dress & black boots.

### **Mouse**

Jessie plays the role of Mouse. In the original story, we follow the journey of Mouse into the wood. This time, Mouse is only seen towards the end of the story. When Jessie plays Mouse, she wears the same clothes as earlier, except the beanie now has mouse ears on top, and there is a tail on the back of the shorts.

### **The Gruffalo**

Drew plays the role of The Gruffalo. He is a creature who is feared by all other predators in the wood, but is frightened of mice. He wears a one-piece costume with patchy brown and white furs, ears out to the width of his shoulders, white horns, teeth & claws.

## **The Gruffalo's Child**

Rebecca plays the role of The Gruffalo's Child. Like her father, the Gruffalo's child also has brown patchy fur but is lighter in colour. She also has similar horns, ears and claws to her father, except they are smaller. She also carries a handmade stick figure called Stickman when she goes into the wood.

## **Snake**

Drew plays the role of Snake. A Latino dancing instructor, he is the first of three predators originally encountered by Mouse. He speaks with a Spanish accent and wears a snakeskin headband and shirt consisting of black, brown and white colours.

## **Owl**

Drew also plays the role of Owl. An aging air force pilot, he is the second of the three predators Mouse encountered. He wears black glasses, a knitted beanie with owl ears on the front, a maroon knitted scarf, and a grey knitted cardigan with different coloured knitted feathers hanging on the sleeves.

## **Fox**

Drew also plays the role of Fox. A sly salesman, he is the last of the three predators Mouse encountered. He wears a red brimmed hat with pointed furry ears, brown furry gloves, and a red trench coat with brown fur on the pockets and collar. He also carries a yellow feather duster.

- End of pre-show notes. -