

Welcome to this introduction to *Fantastic Mr. Fox*. This play, based on the original novel by Roald Dahl, was adapted for stage by David Wood, and translated into Mandarin by Huang2 Su1 Huai2 (黄素怀). *Fantastic Mr. Fox* is presented by The Little Company, of Singapore Repertory Theatre.

The performance will last approximately 1 hour with no interval.

My name is Grace Lee-Khoo,
And my name is Seren Chen.
Seren and I will be providing the audio description for *Fantastic Mr. Fox* today.

What is the play about?

Fantastic Mr Fox is a classic tale of goodies and baddies. It is an inspiring story about the brave and clever Mr Fox who, with the help of his family and friends, outsmarts three farmers' nasty schemes in order to provide food for the animal community.

The farmers Boggis, Bunce and Bean have been digging up the animals' home, trying to capture Mr Fox by any means possible. Trapped underground, Mr Fox and his family and friends are starving, leaving him with no choice but to devise a plan to find food for everyone in order to survive.

Production Credits

制作经理	Production Manager	傅冬儿 Charlene Poh*
制作协调	Production Coordinator	王良骏 Jonathan Heng*
舞台监督(督导)	Supervising Stage Manager	胡夏玲 Woo Hsia Ling
舞台监督	Deputy Stage Manager	林佩颖 Natalie Lim
助理舞台监督	Asst Stage Manager	卓文芳 Toh Wen Fang
舞督实习	Stage Management Intern	李温仪 Lee Wen-yi
发型设计	Wig Stylist	Ashley Lim
服装协调	Costume Coordinator	李嘉渊 Lee Jia Yuan
道具协调	Props Coordinator	曾梨莉 Chan Lee Lee
舞台技术人员	Stage Technician	王蒂尉 Derrick Wong
灯光操作	Lighting Operator	徐英杰 Peter Chi
音响操作	Sound Operator	葉紅延 Jean Yap

Props, Set, and Setting

The KC Arts Centre is a theatre with a proscenium arch, which frames the stage and separates the raised stage, which is about 1 metre tall, from the audience. The stage usually has a ceiling to floor length curtain but in this instance, the curtain is not drawn from start to finish. Everything on stage can be seen once audience enters the space. The theatre has 2 levels and the dress circle level above has rows of seats curved in a gentle U-shape. Performers will move off stage at times and perform amongst the seated audience on both levels in the theatre. The theatre holds seats for about 380 people.

Fantastic Mr Fox takes place in the idyllic countryside where there are big trees, rolling green hills and sprawling farmlands, home to the 3 farmers Bing Bing, Peng Peng and Pang Pang, as well as a variety of woodland animals such as the badgers, moles, rabbits, weasels and of course, a lovable family of foxes.

The stage floor is green with the pattern of scattered dark green leaves to represent the forest floor. The play begins with a square red and white checked picnic mat placed right in the middle of the stage. A brown woven basket is placed in the middle of the picnic mat, closer to upstage. Before and next to the brown basket are bottles of glowing, translucent lime green liquid, which the characters term apple cider. Strewn across the mat are 3 piles of bright orange carrots with green stalks still attached, a big silver dish of golden brown roasted turkey or duck resting on a bed of green lettuce to the right of the mat. A roasted chicken with all the trimmings takes centre-mat and a large green sponge cake covered in orange frosting that resembles a cluster of flowers, big enough to feed a whole family. Throughout the show, the foxes and the Badger would come in contact with such food props, as well as other props of pre-cooked chickens, turkeys, ducks.

The most striking feature of the set is a big and perfectly round sphere, a flat circle about 2.5 metres in diameter hanging right in the middle of the stage. It's white in colour but that can change when different lights are projected onto it. The performance begins with the sphere bathed in green light. With bright yellow light, it is the sun bright in the day and when yellow wanes and turns to chilli red, burnt orange and soft pinks, it conveys the moments of sunset. The sphere also throbs with a blue wash to signify late night and dark spirals can be projected onto it. Over the course of the show, the sphere also serves as a circular screen for shadow puppetry, where the outlines of the farmhouses and human-dwelling neighbourhoods can be projected onto its surface. A performer also appears behind it at some point and with clever back-lighting, her silhouette stretches from the ceiling to the floor of the stage, creating the illusion of a giant woman moving on stage.

The sphere is framed by 2 sets of curved and towering ceiling to floor slats, a pair upstage and a pair downstage, the upstage slats are wider on both ends and stack directly behind the slats closer to down stage. Sticking out from the curved sides of the slats is green cut outs in the shape of branches, rows of leaves and twigs. From the mid-section to the foot of the curved slats are uncountable pieces of brown leaves stuck to the flat green surface, lending a 3D effect to signified piles of fallen dead leaves.

The wider upstage slats can move and cross each other during scene transitions, meeting in the middle to form the big trunk of an aged tree with 2 curved sides, signposting the cosy home of the foxes.

In the Fox's home where the downstage slats frame the whole stage from left and right corners, the upstage set of slats meet in the middle to form a tree, framed family pictures and calligraphy scrolls with Chinese words of well wishes hang from both sets of slats.

On top of transitioning between the forest, foxhole and farm land, the foxes will be forced to flee their home as the claws of 2 massive excavators, one red and yellow will emerge from left stage and right stage respectively to threaten the foxes. They flee by burrowing deeper into the ground and a spinning black spiral on the central sphere of projection represents this. As they flee offstage and into the audience seating area, starting from the front row, a large piece of brown see-through cloth that spans the entire floor length of the audience seating area will be dragged over the heads of the audience. Gradually from the first row to the last, the audience will be covered by the cloth as they work together with the cast and crew to move the massive piece of soil-coloured fabric.

The foxes and friends will visit 3 farms as they are driven to hungry desperation.

The first farm destination is Pang Pang's chicken coop. The large sign with a white background with big red characters indicates this and it reads "Pang Pang's Chicken Farm" (Pang Pang Yang Ji Chang). On its left, a warning sign with a black background and bold white characters reads "No Entry for Strangers" (Xian Ren Mian Jing) and on the right, a circular sign about 1 metre in diameter shows a dark brown outline of a fox with an unwelcoming line diagonally across it.

The 3 signs are suspended over a tall row of white chickens, life-sized puppets made out of felt and stuffing, with red felt crowns, yellow pointy beaks, spindly chicken feet and black beady eyes. Side by side, they sit in a trough-like structure made out of brown wooden scaffolding, built at the height safely above most people's heads, presumably to be out of reach of animals and short people. White feathers flutter in the air as they cluck in distress and fall into the clutches of Mr Fox.

The second farm belongs to Bing Bing, a duck and turkey farmer and suspended white sign with the Chinese characters tell us so. The animals enter the smoky storage section where light brown cardboard boxes are piled up across the space. Besides dead turkeys and ducks packed into the boxes, the animals also help themselves to carrots meant for their rabbit friends. The security at Bing Bing's farm however is tight and technologically sophisticated. This is displayed with 4 streaks of green laser lights criss-crossing the stage. The agile animals, with their newfound spoils, have to carefully move over, under and around these laser lights so as not to trigger the alarm.

The third farm visited by Mr Fox, his children and Mr Badger is the apple cider facility owned by Bing Bing. 3 white metal canisters, about the height of an average male adult human being, are where apple cider is brewed and stored. On each side of the

canisters are 2 transparent pints filled with the same translucent lime green liquid we notice in the opening picnic scene.

The 3 farmers shine torchlights in the dark, swing long brown axes over their shoulders and brandish hunting rifles during the fox-extermimating scenes. All 3 rifles appear to share the same brown handles and long arm-length gun barrels close to 80 centimetres and the oblivious Pang Pang would unwittingly point his gun at his farmer friends, giving them proper scares each time.

The 3 farmers also appear in puppet form, carefully made hand puppets in identical outfits and no more than a foot long. They are animated by Badger from the side of the stage when he plays the role of narrator. The Badger also puppets a life-size doll, created to resemble a elderly villager in a white long sleeve shirt, dark grey vest, brown pants, brown boots and brown suspenders. He has fair skin tone, slender in built, the average height of an adult male between 5 to 6 feet with kind brown eyes and a grey beard on his face. The villager puppet will appear on the right corner of the dress circle level, illuminated by a spotlight and seated on the railing, legs dangling over the audience members below.

Cast, Characters, and Costumes

There are six actors in this play, each taking on from one to three roles, changing costumes and voices depending on the scene.

Vester Ng plays the titular **Fantastic Mr. Fox** - his only role in this play. With red-brown, black-tipped, pointed ears sitting atop a short crop of dark hair, and a similarly red-brown, black-tipped tail, he is unmistakable. He always wears a terracotta suit, with a white shirt, tan tie, a matching tan pocket square, and brown shoes. His short moustache and goatee lend him a fatherly air.

Juni Goh plays the **Badger**, also his only role in the play. Unlike the foxes, he has rounded black and white ears. They sit on top of a head of salt-and-pepper hair, with a white streak down the middle. His suit is patterned in charcoal plaid, paired with a black satin tie, dark grey oxfords, and thin wire-rimmed glasses.

Isabella Chiam plays Mr. Fox's wife, **Mrs Fox**, and in one short scene, the **Little Badger**.

As Mrs. Fox, she sports the same red-brown, black-tipped ears and tail as Mr. Fox and the rest of their fox family. She has a short, dark, curly bob on her head, and wears a short-sleeved, round-collared, yellow floral dress that comes down past her knees. To complete her ensemble, she wears a sky-blue apron around her waist, and camel block-heeled oxfords.

As the Little Badger, she looks completely different. A black and white striped cap covers her hair and rounded black and white ears protrude from the top. She's dressed like she's going to school, with a white shirt, black blazer with white piping, and black shorts, with black sneakers and a red backpack to finish the look.

Ric Liu plays **Peng Peng**, the **Bookworm Fox Child**, and the **Rat**.

As Peng Peng, the skinny apple farmer, he wears a pair of tan overalls over a green plaid shirt, with a green bobble beanie covering his head, and knee-high green rain boots. Each of the farmers has a particular colour scheme - look out for Pang Pang and Bing Bing's!

As the Bookworm Fox Child, he wears a white shirt buttoned all the way up the neck, tucked into a pair of blue and yellow plaid pants. His pointed red-brown, black-tipped fox ears sit on top of a blue bowler hat, and he has a matching blue bow tie and suspenders. On his feet are a pair of black sneakers with white laces, and on his face is a pair of round, thin-rimmed glasses. His tail is, like the rest of his family, red-brown and tipped with black.

The Rat wears a grey hoodie and sweatpant ensemble, with the same black sneakers with white laces, together with a pair of black sunglasses, He swaggers around with his round grey ears and long pink tail.

Sugie Phua plays Pang Pang, the Football Fox Child, and the Rat Sidekick.

As Pang Pang, the fat chicken farmer, he wears a gigantic marine-blue long-sleeved jumpsuit, the pants billowing round and wide over his hips. Past the unbuttoned collar, a yellow plaid shirt peeks through. The wide pants cover most of his blue knee-high rain boots, but they are still visible from the ankle down. His ensemble is completed by a brown newsboy cap.

The Football Fox Child, as his character name suggests, wears a sporty outfit. He wears an orange polo with white sleeve tips, a white collar, and white stripes across the chest. This is paired with white shorts, bright red knee socks, and white sneakers. To round everything off, he wears a red cap back-to-front on his head, from which the characteristic red-brown, black-tipped, pointy fox ears stick out. His tail is a matching shade of red brown, tipped with black.

The Rat Sidekick wears the exact same outfit as Ric Liu's Rat.

Finally, **Sharon Sum** plays **Bing Bing** and the **Karate Fox Child**.

As Bing Bing, the short duck farmer, she wears a white blouse tucked into tan pants, which are then tucked into a pair of brown leather riding boots. Her shiny, dark brown hair is worn in a French twist, and a red, glittery hair clip sits on top. A matching red military-style blazer completes her look.

As the Karate Fox Child, she wears a white martial arts gi with a purple belt and white sneakers. Her long, dark brown hair is tied into a single braid, often seen trailing down her right shoulder, with a red ribbon tied around the end. Her pointy ears and tail are the characteristic red brown tipped with black. On her left chest is a small, red-brown patch in the shape of a fox's head, with the distinctive pointy ears.

Access Information

SRT aims to provide an excellent experience and service for all patrons who may require additional support to access our venue and enjoy our events.
For accessible booking option, please contact us at 6733 8166 from 11am to 7pm, Monday to Friday.

Nearest parking options are Robertson Quay Hotel, located at 15 Merbau Road, Singapore 239032 opposite the theatre's front door
or in Robertson Walk Carpark at 11 Unity Street, Singapore 237995.

For Public Transport options, the nearest Bus Stop is B13211.

The nearest MRT stations are Clarke Quay (NE5), on the Northeast Line and Fort Canning (DT20) on the Downtown Line.

The touch tour will commence 1 hour and 15 minutes before the show at 12.45pm. Please have your own mobile device and headset with you. The Box Office will have standby headphone and devices on standby if needed.

The Box Office is located on the first level, close to the Merbau Road entrance, on the right as you enter. Say hello to the friendly Box Office manager and she will gladly assist you.

KC Arts Centre, the home of SRT is assistance dog friendly.

An accessible toilet is on the first level, next to the bar.

KC Arts Centre is accessible for wheelchair use from both the front and rear entrances. There is currently 1 wheelchair space on row Q in the theatre stalls.

If you require a wheelchair space, or would like to understand more about transferring options, please contact our venue team at boxoffice@srt.com.sg or 6733 8166.

The bar will not be in operation prior to and after this performance.

We look forward to welcoming you and hope you have a wonderful time with us!

END