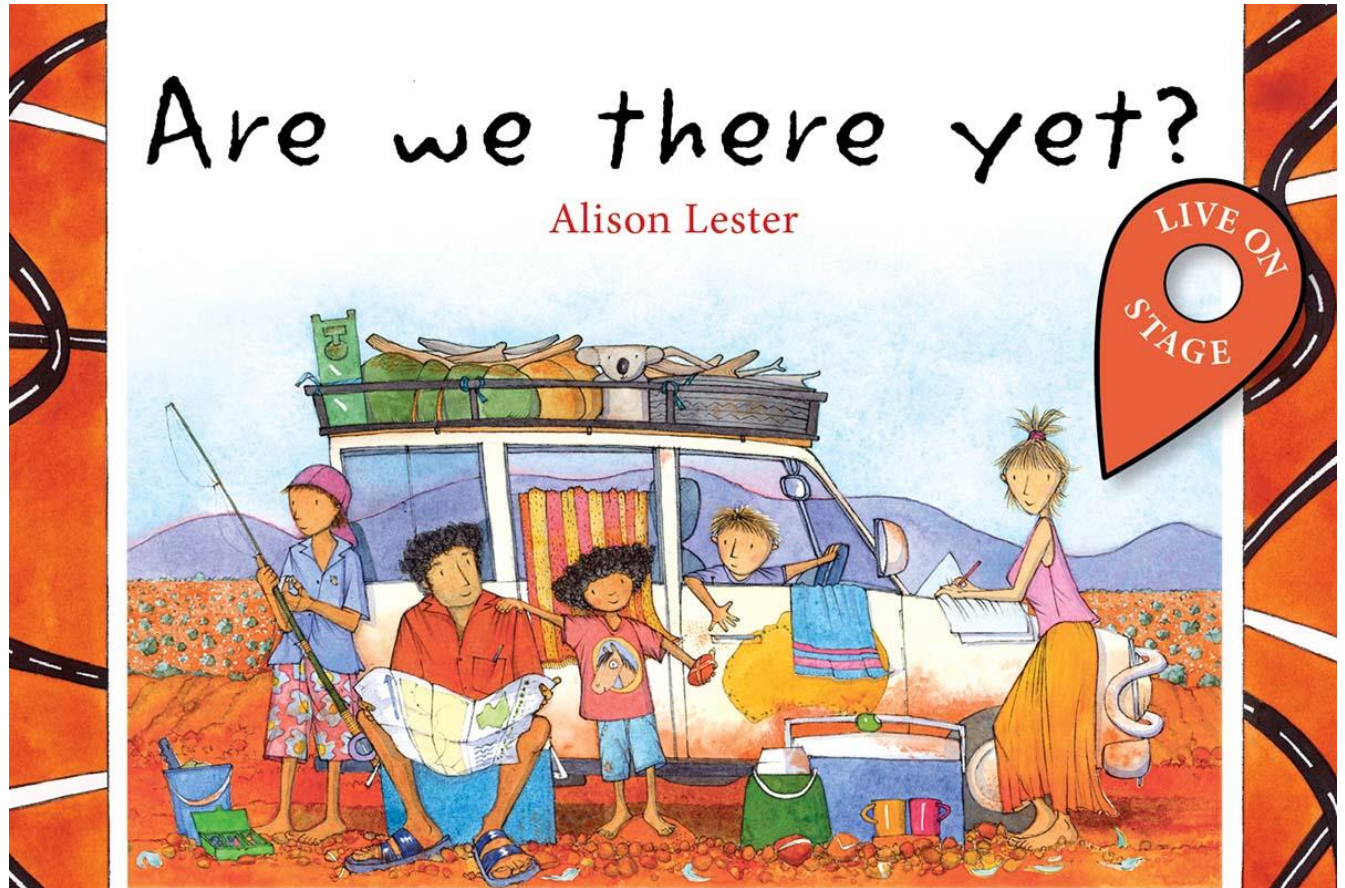


# Are we there yet?

Alison Lester



## Are We There Yet?

Visual Story

cdpKids

[www.cdp.com.au](http://www.cdp.com.au)

# About the Production

## **VENUE**

*Are We There Yet?* will be performed in a theatre.

The show is touring around Australia and will be visiting many theatres across the country.

What does your theatre look like? Families with children with sensory needs are encouraged to check their venue website, and/or plan an orientation visit to see the theatre before the show.

Please check with your venue for additional info.

## **DURATION**

The play runs for approximately 55 minutes, with no interval.

## **AGE RECOMMENDATION**

Recommended for ages 3+. Families are encouraged to review warnings to assess the appropriateness of the content.

## **ACCESSIBILITY**

If you have any questions about physical access, specific seating or theatre facilities, please contact the venue directly for more information.

## CONTENT AND SENSORY WARNINGS

This production may contain haze effects throughout the show.

If you are attending a Relaxed Performance, there will be a few small changes to sensory elements in the play, such as reducing bright light and loud sound. Some moments with moving lights and sudden noises may still be surprising.

There are times during the play where characters might appear to be injured or in danger. It's important to remember that the actors are pretending to be hurt, and they have carefully rehearsed these moments to stay safe.

Sometimes the characters in the play make up stories to frighten each other, and it might feel a little scary to you as well. That's ok – just remember that the actors are only pretending to be afraid, and the moment will pass quickly.

## THEATRE GUIDELINES

Photography, video recording and mobile devices are usually not permitted at the theatre.

However, if you need to use an assistive device (ie. an iPad) to assist with communication, please let the ushers know.

Using a device in the foyer or quiet areas is always ok.

If you need to take a break, **that's ok!**

You can leave the auditorium and find a place to sit in the foyer if you'd like. You can return to the auditorium whenever you are ready.

You can also cover your ears with your hands or put on some headphones if it is too loud.

# Going to the Theatre

*Are We There Yet* is being performed at theatres across Australia.

Do you know what theatre you're going to?



Every theatre is a little different. Before your visit, you can find more information about your theatre and how to get there on the theatre's website.

When you enter the building, you will see other people at the theatre who are going to see shows. Some of them might be there to see *Are We There Yet?* just like you!

It might be busy when you arrive. You may wish to allow some extra time before the show, or wear a pair of headphones if it's noisy.

You might already have your ticket with you, or you may need to collect it from the Box Office. There might be a queue of people also waiting to collect their tickets.

You will also see people who work at theatre wearing uniforms. They are called ushers. They can help you with directions or answer any questions you may have about the performance.



The doors to the theatre auditorium will open a few minutes before the start of the show. You can go inside early if you like. Before going inside, you might like to use the bathroom.

You will need to show your ticket to the usher when you go inside. They will help you find your seats.

## During The Show

The play will last approximately 55 minutes.

**When the show starts**, it will be time to be quiet so that you can hear everything.



**The lights will turn down** in the audience, but the stage will stay bright so that you can see everything.

There is no interval, but if you need to take a break during the show you can leave your seat and go out into the foyer. You can return to the theatre to watch the rest of the show whenever you are ready.

If you are attending a Relaxed Performance, it will be ok to move around and make noises during the show as you need to.

## After The Show

When the show is finished, people will clap to say thank you to the performers. Some might even cheer!

You can join in if you like. If it's too loud, you can cover your ears with your hands.



# The Set

When you go into the theatre you will see the set on the stage.

There will be a large pink coloured campervan in the middle of the stage. This is the campervan that the characters in the show travel across Australia in.

It will be a little dark on the stage at the start, but it will get brighter when the show begins.





# The Play

This play is called ***Are We There Yet?***

The story comes from a book with the same name, by author and illustrator Alison Lester.

It is about three siblings named **Billy, Grace and Luke**, who go on a family trip around Australia.



We meet them as adults at the start of the play, and they tell us the story of the adventure they went on many years ago when they were children.

They travel in a pink campervan and see lots of different places across Australia.

**3 actors** play different characters to tell the story in the play. Each actor plays both the adult and child version of their character.

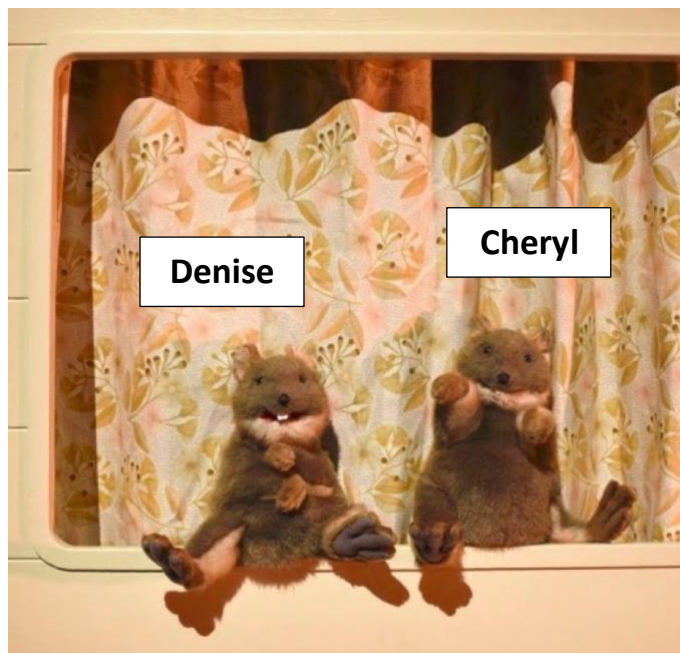
In one scene, the actor who plays Luke also plays their cousin, **Jamie**.

There are also two quokkas named **Cheryl** and **Denise** that you will meet a few times in the play.

They are **puppets** that are worn and voiced by the actors.



# The Characters



# The Story

We meet Grace, Luke and Billy as adults. They are talking about the adventure they went on as kids, in their parents' camper van.

Their mum and dad have given the camper van to them, and they are deciding what to do with it.

Grace starts to tell us the story of their family trip around Australia.



The actors are now playing Grace, Luke and Billy as children. You will get to see them go on the adventure!

It is Autumn when they head off on their trip.

They leave in the van and head to the red-rocked Flinders Ranges.



They have fun sitting around a campfire and doing magic tricks.

It's a little dark, and there is a slow flickering light on the stage.

They head back into the van and travel to the Great Australian Bight.

Billy makes up a scary story about a giant who took a bite out of Australia.

The lighting will be a little dark while Billy tells the story.



The actors are pretending to be scared! But it's ok and they're not in danger.

The lights turn blue and you will hear the sound of whalesong.

Grace, Billy and Luke sing a song about the whales they see.

They head off again in the van and arrive in Western Australia.

Billy is wearing a cowboy hat. Everyone is very excited about the places they are visiting, and they yell out the names of the places.

Some scary music plays and the lighting goes dark – but it's ok!

They're visiting Rottnest Island, a popular tourist destination where Australian marsupials called quokkas live.



Billy doesn't know anything about quokkas and he is scared of them, but he isn't in any danger.

Quokkas are friendly animals and are not actually scary.

Two quokkas named Cheryl and Denise appear in the campervan window a little later. They are puppets.

They start talking about Grace, Billy and Luke – but real-life quokkas can't speak English.



Billy is reading a comic book. When he notices them talking he is startled, and they leave.

You will see Cheryl and Denise two more times in the show as the family travels across Australia!



Grace, Billy and Luke leave Rottnest Island and head for the Outback.

They are going to get on a helicopter. The lighting will get darker and the actors will be shouting a lot.

(Helicopters make a lot of noise! When you are on one, you need to shout if you want other people to hear you.)



They leave the helicopter and go into a cave and it gets darker on stage. Grace, Billy and Luke turn on their flashlights.

Grace is a little scared of the dark but it's ok.

Nobody is in any danger.

When they get back to their campervan, it is stuck in the sand and won't start.

Grace, Billy and Luke shout a lot because they think they will be stuck in the desert forever.

They are soon found by a man named Russell, and his footy team. They help to push the van and get it started again.



After getting back in the van, they make their way to Uluru, a very large rock in the heart of the Outback that's over 30,000 years old.

Grace and Luke watch in awe as the sun sets, and Uluru fades from red to purple.

The lights will then fade out and it will be dark for a moment.

When the lights come back on you will hear Billy and Jamie (the family's cousin) giggling.

They are visiting Darwin in the Northern Territory and are staying with Jamie and his family.



They go for a swim in Jamie's family's pool and then they go floating down Nitmuluk. Nitmuluk is a gorge where a river winds through sandstone cliffs.

The round inflatables move on wheels, but we can pretend they are floating on water.

The lights go a little dark again, and Billy comes out holding a torch.



Everyone is exploring a rock art gallery that is full of Indigenous art. They are all amazed at what they are seeing.

When Grace, Billy and Luke head back to the van, their cousin Jamie tries to leave with them.



But he is caught by Grace, and he goes back home.

The quokkas, Cheryl and Denise, appear on the roof of the van and talk about Jamie.

Then the van goes back on the road.

The van turns around in a circle and some music starts playing.

While the van is moving Billy, Grace, Luke argue about who should be sitting where.

They all pull the curtains open and appear from out of the van windows.



The lights will turn on and off a few times.

Every time the lights come back on, Grace, Billy and Luke will appear in the windows in a different position.

Grace, Billy and Luke leave the Northern Territory and travel to the East Coast, Queensland. They arrive at a theme park in Surfers Paradise.

Grace, Luke and their mum and dad go on one of the theme park rides. Billy can't go on the ride because he is too young.

The actor playing Billy dresses in a white laboratory coat, and pretends to be a scientist explaining the physics of the ride.

It sounds very complicated and dangerous, but he's just being silly. When the ride starts, the lights will change colour to red.



The actors swing their arms up in slow motion.

They are pretending to be on the ride as it lifts them into the air and spins around very fast.

Grace, Billy and Luke are suddenly in Sydney!

There are lots of things here for them to see and do and they will be very busy.



Luke blows a whistle and sets off in a rush. The whistle is loud and very shrill, so you might want to cover your ears!

Grace and Billy run behind him and they yell about all of the places and sights they are seeing. They even go to Taronga Zoo – where you might see a puppet elephant trunk wave hello!

Grace and Billy have to be very fast to keep up with Luke.



On their last night in Sydney, they have a picnic at Sydney Harbour and watch the fireworks.

The lights on stage will start slowly flashing and changing colour.



They all leave Sydney and head south.

It is starting to get cold and Grace and Luke need to put on warm clothing, but they cannot find their jumpers.

Billy steps out of the van wearing all of the jumpers, as a joke.

It is now winter and it has started to snow.

Everyone has fun in the snow and they all toboggan down a big hill.



The quokkas Cheryl and Denise appear again wearing snow gear.

The quokkas have a very funny argument about their holiday.

Grace, Billy and Luke leave in the van and head to Canberra.

They spend the whole day visiting galleries.



They explore lots of places in Victoria as they continue driving south.

They head to Tasmania. The van has to drive on to a giant ferry to get there!

The trip takes a very long time and the ferry rocks from side to side making people seasick.

In Tasmania, they climb through forests and mountains with their backpacks, and sing a song together.



After they have gone around the entire island of Tasmania, they drive back on to the ferry.

It is almost the end of their trip around Australia and they are heading back home.

The van turns around to reveal a map of Australia.

The trio reflect on their amazing trip around Australia, and all of the places, animals and people that make it up.



The actors go back to playing the adult versions of Grace, Billy and Luke.

They share a moment together around the campervan, and Grace decides that she wants to keep it.

## The End

At the end of the performance, the actors will come to the front of the stage and take a bow, and say thank you to the backstage crew who helped them tell this story.

You can say thank you too, by clapping in a round of applause.



## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

### **Are We There Yet?**

A play by Finegan Kruckemeyer, based on the book by Alison Lester

Book cover illustration © Alison Lester

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