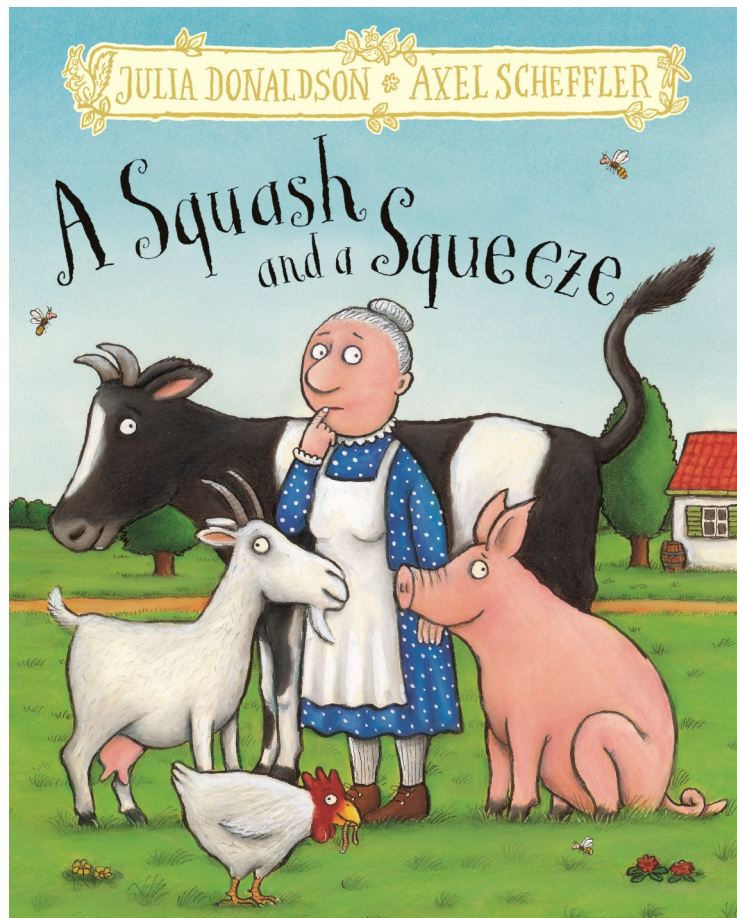




Visual Story

A visual resource for children and adults with Autistic Spectrum Disorder.

This resource is intended to help prepare any visitors for a new experience and to help them to become familiar with the show, surroundings and situation.

The Show

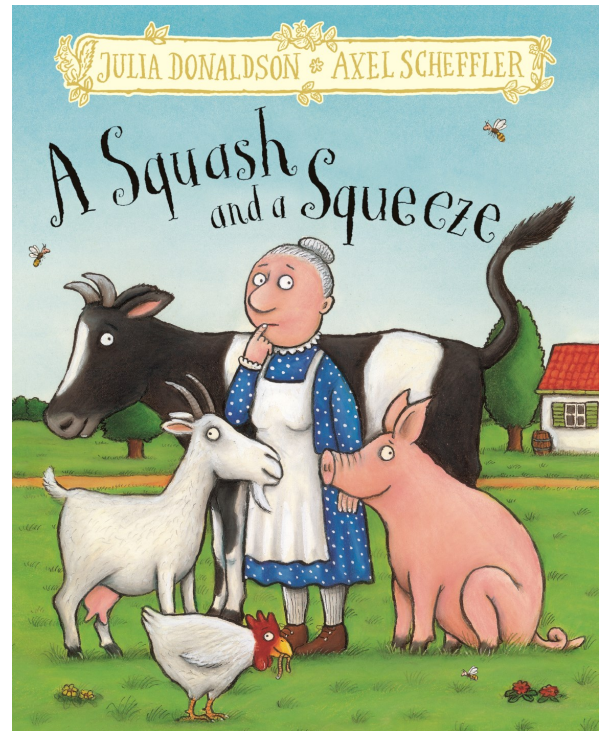
The show lasts for 50 mins and does not have an interval.

There are 3 performers in the show and the animals are all puppets.

The show has recorded music and lots of songs.

Synopsis

This show is based on the book *A Squash and a Squeeze* by Julia Donaldson. The show follows the sequence of the book but is not exactly the same, for example in the show the wise old man is a salesman, and the animals have different reasons to be persuaded to go into the house.



Once upon a time, a little old lady lived all by herself in her cosy cottage, but she wasn't happy – her house felt just too small. Whatever could she do? Will the wise old man's solution of bringing in a flappy, scratchy, greedy, noisy crowd of farmyard animals work?

Join us for this heartwarming and hilarious adventure, full of beautiful puppets and enchanting songs. Written and illustrated by the unparalleled picture book partnership of Julia Donaldson and Axel Scheffler, and adapted for the stage by Oliver-nominated duo Barb Jungr and Samantha Lane.

This play is based on the original book *A Squash & A Squeeze*.

Text © Julia Donaldson

Illustrations © Axel Scheffler

Published by Macmillan Children's Books ©

Production photographs by Suzi Corker

Characters

The old man and woman are played by performers. All of the animals are puppets.



Old Man



Old Lady



The farm hand, who is also the main puppeteer for the animals



Bees



Cat



Hen



Cow



Goat



Pig

The Show

In this section special alerts are written in blue ink.



When you enter the auditorium you will see the set. This is the old lady's house. **There are farmyard sounds in the background.**

Just before the show is going to start the old man comes out into the audience with his suitcase and says hello. He is a tradesman from 'Easy Peasy Solutions' He plays the audience his jingle and might ask you to join in with singing along.

The show starts with the old man introducing himself again using his catchphrase. A farmhand enters. There are wasps buzzing around and a wasps nest on the side of the house. The old man gets rid of the wasps nest by batting it off the house. **There is a loud buzzing sound as the wasps give chase.**



The old man sings a song about Easy Peasy Solutions, and how he can help with anything! He is quite clumsy and doesn't seem to be doing a very good job! When he hands his business card to the farmhand at the end of the song he gives it straight back!



The window of the house flies open and the old lady pops her head through shouting about how small her house is. She shoos her cat away as there isn't even room for the cat in the house.

She shouts again in frustration.

There's not enough room in my house.

The old man hears her cry and offers his help.

They sing a song about the house. The old man thinks it's a lovely house, but the old lady just thinks it's too small. The house opens up so that we can see inside it. The old lady opens the door of the house and screams with fear as she wasn't expecting the old man to be on the other side.

The song ends and the old man comes into the house. The cat runs away with a loud meow as the house is full. The old man has a look around and tries to think of an easy peasy solution. He opens the door and sees the hen in the hen house. He has an idea.....

Take in your hen!

The sing a song about hens. The old lady says that hen has it's own house, but the old man is determined to catch it and bring it in the house.

They chase the hen around.

The hen sings some of the song. When the hen sings the lights turn red and everyone does a wing flapping dance.

The hen flaps about the house and knocks things over while the old woman screams. The old lady shouts STOP!



The old lady can't understand how this is helpful. The old man tells her that this is just the first step.

He asks her to walk outside with him as the hen squawks around the house.

As they start walking away from the house we hear the sound of thunder in the distance and some lightning flashes.

In the farmyard they meet the goat. The old man pretends that his finger has been bitten off by the goat and screams, just as the thunder gets louder.

The old man wants the old woman to take the goat into her house.

They try to bring the goat into the house but it won't budge. The rain gets worse and they put up an umbrella. They soon realise that the goat wants to be under the umbrella too!

They sing a song under disco lights about goats not liking rain, and use the umbrella to tempt the goat into the house.

Once the goat is in the house it eats the umbrella and the curtains! The old lady screams in anger as her curtains are destroyed!

The old lady is annoyed with the old man. She tells him to leave and slams the window of her house as she sends him away.

The old man is looking for more business. The lights turn on and he comes into the audience asking if anyone needs help with anything.

It doesn't take long for the old woman to shout for help again. Her house is still a squash and a squeeze.



The old man tells her to take in her pig!
They can't work out how to get the pig into the house. It's a big pig!

They decide to have a tea break with some biscuits to think about it. As they talk about the different biscuits they could have the pig starts to take notice. Every time they mention a fancy biscuit the pig gets more and more excited until it finally squeals with delight at the mention of a Florentine.

The pig sings a song about how people think pigs are greedy but really they prefer fancy food!

As the pig hunts around the house for food the hen pops its head out of the teapot with a squawk as the old lady screams and the pig munches on an apple and lets out a gigantic burp!

The old lady is very upset as her house is a mess and there is even less room than before. She tells the old man to leave.

Just as he is leaving the pig does an enormous, loud and very stinky fart!
The old lady calls the old man back. She really needs his help!

They drink a cup of tea from the pot that the hen was hiding in, feathers fly everywhere as they hear the sound of a cow mooing outside.

The old lady shouts Noooooooooo as the old man tells her to take in her cow!

The house begins to throb with music and lights and the sounds of animals screeching and squawking. The door and window fly open and the sounds get louder. The hen escapes and flies around the audience squawking and flapping.



The cow sings a song from outside of the house. The cow is sad because they feel like they are missing the party and that everyone else is having fun without them! She decides to go in!

The cow is in the house with all of the other animals and the old lady. It is chaos!

The old lady can't take any more. She never wants to hear about easy peasy solutions ever again! She sings a sad song about how much she loved her beautiful home, and that now it is ruined. All in one day.

The old man joins in with the song and makes the old lady jump as he announces that he has a solution!

He tells her to take them all out!

The animals squeak and squawk and bleat and moo as they gradually leave the house.

Once all the animals have gone the old lady realises that there is plenty of room—just for her!

The old man reminds us that the solution is always Easy Peasy! You can join in with his catchphrase if you want to.

They sing a song about being happy with what you have got.

When the song finishes the lights go down and when they come on again the performers bow. You can clap if you like.

The performers sing one final song about being in a squash and a squeeze. There are actions and clapping that you can join in with if you want to.

When the song finishes the performers wave and say goodbye and leave the stage.

We hope you enjoyed the show!

