



Sydney
Festival
2025

BULLYBULLY



BULLYBULLY

Maas theater en dans

Netherlands

AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE

Riverside Theatres, Lennox Theatre

7-12 January

Sydney Opera House

6-12 July

40 minutes (no interval)

CAST AND CREDITS

Directed and created by: René Geerlings

Performed by: Sue-Ann Bel, Sanne Bokkers (Lennox Theatre), Henke Tuinstra (Sydney Opera House)

Choreography: Art Wutthinan Srisayam

Set design: Sanne Danz

Costume design: Daphne Karstens

Music composition & sound design: Reinier van Harten

Technical crew: Peter Raaijmakers, Frans Baudoin, Andrea Spoor

Producer: Djoeke Westdijk

Marketing manager: Bora Sirin

International bookings manager: Rosa Brinks

ABOUT THE SHOW

What do a toddler and your average world leader have in common? If you were to squint your eyes and look at a toddler and an adult man in a suit talking nonsense sitting next to each other, you may hardly even see the difference.

BullyBully gives the audience Duplo-level insight into the collision of two world powers that, eventually, learn to meet in the middle; politics at the kindergarten and childishness among serious and powerful grown-ups. This is a toddler's slapstick musical that presents us with two performers, many songs, funny quarrels, a bit of bickering and, eventually, a happy ending.

This work was conceptualised and directed by René Geerlings, the current artistic director of Maas theater and dance. Geerlings is known for his remarkable and accessible youth theatre shows, and for being able to get people laughing about serious matters. *BullyBully* has kept thousands of young children (and their

grown-ups) on the edge of their seats and toured since 2022 through more than 10 different countries in Europe, performed in Indonesia, and is now performing in Australia for the first time. *BullyBully* was created in the Netherlands but is also performed in Türkiye with a Turkish cast as part of the Atta Festival.

"Hilarious toddler musical with arguing world leaders. Both children and parents will recognise the everlasting battle for attention between siblings."

–Theaterkrant

A NOTE FROM THE CREATOR

I thought it would be a good idea to break down a big, complicated subject and mold it into something that lies at a toddler's level of understanding. This is something I've done before with *Wanted: Bunny*, a play about anarchist rodents, and *Get'm*, a play about our modern-day craving for attention. Now I'd like to do it with the subject of globalisation and quarrelling world leaders. It all ends well, of course. And at heart, this play is just as much about friendship and getting used to things that were once new and unknown, like complementary colours that, in unison, can take the shape of a beautiful rainbow.

–René Geerlings, Director

MAAS THEATER AND DANCE

Maas theater and dance is the largest theatre and dance production company for youth in the Netherlands, and has its own theatre in Rotterdam. They create bold youth theatre in all possible forms and for all conceivable ages. What their artists share is creating physical work for a young audience, often



without language, and choosing personalities on stage instead of characters. These productions tour across Rotterdam, the country and the world. Maas theater and dance aims to be a place where every child or young person can be themselves or (re)invent themselves, and a place that reminds adults of the child within themselves. Their theatre welcomes different disciplines and encourages people and communities to meet and interact. They want every child to have the opportunity to play, imagine and create. With their artistic mentality, they use theatre and dance to encourage children and young adults to stay true to their hearts.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Funded by Municipality of Rotterdam and the Dutch Ministry of Education, Culture and Science

SUPPORT SYDNEY FESTIVAL

Learn more about how your support could make projects like *BullyBully* possible [here](#).

GOVERNMENT PARTNER

