Bluey programme notes.

Hello everyone, and welcome to this performance of Bluey.

I expect many of you will know Bluey from your television, but this is the first time she has stepped out of the screen and onto the stage in this production by Andrew Kay and Cuff & Taylor with Windmill Theatre company for BBC studios. Bluey is now loved by children all round the world and we are very lucky to be able to see all the family here in Plymouth.

Bluey and her family look a little different than on the television as here they are large puppets which are brought to life by skilled puppeteers who you may catch sight of dressed in short green coloured overalls.

Bluey lets us share her adventures with her Mum and Dad and little sister Bingo. They are a very happy family of Blue Heeler dogs and live in Queensland, Australia. Bluey looks just like his dad, but of course is much smaller. They both have light blue coats on their backs, arms and legs, with white paws, yellow faces and tummies. The top of their heads are dark blue and dad has a few grey hairs on his head. All the family have pointed ears and faces, with large black shiny noses, and large round eyes. Although they are still Heelers, Mum and Bingo are coloured differently, with light brown bodies and ears and yellow tummies. Bingo is a smaller version of Mum, just as Bluey is like Dad, but smaller.

They don’t stand like the dogs we are used to with four paws on the ground; but stand on their hind legs and use their front legs as arms, so can dance and move around just like you and me.

Another dog, Lucky’s dad, lives next door, and is a labrador with a light brown coat and floppy ears. A shiny black nose and large round eyes; he joins the family in the yard where there is a large tree with lights hanging from the branches and a bench at the base. We also find some chattering gnomes amongst the pretty flowers and a wandering leaf, which is green just like the leaves on our trees.

Dad likes to sit back on the beanbag and relax on a Sunday afternoon, but Bluey and Bingo have other plans as they love nothing more than playing games with their parents, and most of all playing tricks on Dad.

When our story begins, we are outside their home in Australia and can see houses silhouetted against the dawn sky which slowly turns pink with the rising sun. Birds called Ibis peck at the ground and ruffle their feathers whilst smaller birds called lorikeets soar and sweep in the sky. Ibis have long thin legs and oval shaped bodies; they ruffle their short wings and peck at the ground with their long, curved beaks. As the lights come on in the houses this scene disappears, and we find ourselves in the Heeler’s playroom with a pink striped floor and open bi-fold doors at the back letting us see their beautiful garden with palm trees. Across the back, in front of the open doors, is a raised area with open shelves to the right which hold toys and a pink and white striped play-tent in front. To the left of the open doors are more toys on the raised area and a large red beanbag to the front; Dad’s open book lies on the beanbag.

As the fun continues, we move into the children’s bedroom where two identical beds are in the centre of the room with soft fluffy pillows before going into the garden for more fun.

Finally, as the day draws to a close, we are back in the children’s bedroom with them still playing their tricks until bedtime.

I will describe what is happening during the story and hope y ou enjoy meeting Bluey and his family today.