



**Music, mayhem and magic – a children's classic is brought to life on the stage, with one of our favourite stars shining in a leading role.**

## BUSH BLOSSOM



Ursula captures her character's cheeky nature perfectly.

One of the most refreshing things about singer and actress Ursula Yovich is that you never know where she might pop up next.

Proving her amazing versatility once again, this sweet-natured and extremely talented young woman has now charmed audiences with her performance in the new musical, *The Adventures of Snugglepot and Cuddlepie and Little Ragged Blossom*. The production's world premiere was held in January at the Theatre Royal in Sydney for the 2007 Sydney Festival.

The production is adapted from *The Complete Adventures of Snugglepot and Cuddlepie*, written by beloved children's author May Gibbs.

An Australian classic, the book tells the story of Snugglepot and Cuddlepie – two gumnut babies which May Gibbs modelled on the young nuts on a eucalyptus tree. One day, the two foster brothers hear the wise old Kookaburra talking about "large, flightless mammals" – scary giant creatures known as humans. Of course, Snugglepot and Cuddlepie decide they want to meet one, and so they set off on their quest.

Along the way they encounter many friends, including Little Ragged Blossom, Mr Lizard, Fantail, Koala and Frog. But not all creatures in the bush are friendly, and so the young adventurers also find themselves having to evade the evil Mrs Snake and flee the mean old Banksia Men.



Ursula lets her inner child out to play as Little Ragged Blossom, together with Snugglepot (Tim Richards).

My name is \_\_\_\_\_

### PREPARATION BEFORE READING:

Ursula Yovich is a singer and actor who will play the part of Little Ragged Blossom in *The Adventures of Snugglepot and Cuddlepie and Little Ragged Blossom*.

Snugglepot and Cuddlepie are two little gumnut babies who go on adventures in the bush. They make lots of friends, but also have to escape some enemies as well.



## ACTIVITY 2: READING FOR MEANING

This report tells us that Ursula Yovich is playing the part of Little Ragged Blossom in the new musical *The Adventures of Snugglepot and Cuddlepie* and *Little Ragged Blossom*, based on *The Complete Adventures of Snugglepot and Cuddlepie*, written by Australian author May Gibbs.

In the story, two gumnut babies set off to meet the humans that have been seen in the bush. They meet many friends along the way, including Little Ragged Blossom, Fantail, Koala and Frog. Unfortunately, they also have to try to get away from the evil Mrs Snake and the mean old Banksia Men.

**Read Bush Blossom on page 4.**

1. Which singer and actor will play the part of Little Ragged Blossom in *The Adventures of Snugglepot and Cuddlepie* and *Little Ragged Blossom*?

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2. Snugglepot and Cuddlepie are two little gumnut babies.

TRUE      FALSE

3. Australian author May Gibbs wrote *The Complete Adventures of Snugglepot and Cuddlepie*.

TRUE      FALSE

4. Name two characters that Snugglepot and Cuddlepie have to try to get away from.

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### ACTIVITY 3: CHARACTERS IN THE STORY

In the boxes below, draw two characters from the story and label each picture.

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### ACTIVITY 4: WRITE AN ALPHABET POEM

Alphabet poems are 26-word poems, each word starting with the next letter of the alphabet. For tricky letters like x and z, you might need to use words that have the sound of the letters, like eXcellent, or you might even make up words.

In your alphabet poem, write 26 words to describe an exciting adventure in the bush.

First, take a bit of time to brainstorm and list all the words that you can think of that help to describe what an adventure in the bush might be like. Think about what you might see and do when you're out in the bush.

Next, write your words in alphabetical order into your poem below.

You could use a dictionary to help you find the best words for your poem, or share your list with a friend and write your poem together.



My adventure in the bush

A  
B  
C  
D  
E  
F  
G  
H  
I  
J  
K  
L  
M  
N  
O  
P  
Q  
R  
S  
T  
U  
V  
W  
X  
Y  
Z

## FURTHER READING

Why not look for a copy of *The Complete Adventures of Snugglepot and Cuddlepie* by May Gibbs in your school library?

