



# Show Report

Showstoppers Theatre Group  
**Finding Nemo JR.**

20 June 2026

## PRODUCTION INFORMATION

|                          |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
|--------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| PRODUCTION               | Finding Nemo JR.                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| SOCIETY                  | Showstoppers Theatre Group                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| VENUE                    | Hyde Festival Theatre                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| GENRE                    | Musical                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| CAST SIZE                | 33                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| DIRECTORS                | Rachel Bunting & Victoria Husband                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| CHOREOGRAPHER            | Megan Husband                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| ASSISTANT CHOREOGRAPHERS | Victoria Husband & Katie Wilkins                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| COSTUMES                 | Victoria Husband                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| MARKETING                | Megan Husband                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| MUSICAL DIRECTOR         | Katie Wilkins                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| STAGE MANAGER            | Rachel Bunting                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| ASSISTANT STAGE MANAGER  | Victoria Husband                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| STAGE CREW               | Dave Husband & Sean Crossley                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| SET DESIGN & PROPS       | Rachel Bunting & Victoria Husband                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| LIGHTING & SOUND         | Steven Oliver-Grant, Daniel Oliver-Grant & Kelly Holder                                                                                                                                                                         |
| TICKET PROVIDER          | Sparks Theatre Management                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| PROGRAMME DESIGN         | Rachel Bunting                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| VIDEOGRAPHER             | JHC Video Services - Phil Steels                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| LEAD CHAPERONE           | Megan Husband                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| CHAPERONES               | Katie Wilkins, Katie Dearnaley, Becci Alberti-King, Sally Morgan, Sheila Gooding, Ann Croke, Carley Baddeley, Tracey Hall, Elizabeth Adamson, Michelle Wright, Tina Swinyard, Emily Hill, Tanya Shaw, Lucy Green, Romona Travis |
| FRONT OF HOUSE           | Hyde Festival Theatre Volunteers                                                                                                                                                                                                |

## PRINCIPAL CAST

|        |                    |
|--------|--------------------|
| Nemo   | Anna Timoney       |
| Marlin | Archie Dinsdale    |
| Dory   | Louisa Johnston    |
| Gill   | Evelyn Beresford   |
| Crush  | Eliza Drabble      |
| Bruce  | Eve-Marie Gilligan |

|                    |                    |
|--------------------|--------------------|
| Nigel/Pearl Parent | Nyla Robinson      |
| Professor Ray      | Samantha Newberry  |
| Peach              | Tabitha Arrowsmith |
| Bloat              | Jorgie-Leigh Dodd  |
| Chum               | Camilla Batchelor  |
| Coral              | Lily Lester        |
| Sheldon            | Daisy Gaskell      |
| Pearl              | Betsey Allen       |

## SUPPORTING CAST

|                        |                         |
|------------------------|-------------------------|
| Squirt                 | Albert Beresford        |
| Breeze                 | Aria Mellows            |
| Angel Fish             | Avani Fredrick          |
| Seahorse               | Carter Nolan            |
| Moonfish 1             | Daisy Duke              |
| Bubbles                | Darcie Loughlan-Crinion |
| Moonfish 6             | Ella-Rose Crossley      |
| Damsel                 | Florence Nugent         |
| Anchor                 | Freya Collins           |
| Moonfish 5             | Grace Wathey            |
| Vacationer             | Josh Toop               |
| Electric Eel 2         | Lottie Simpson          |
| Lobster                | Maisie Knight           |
| Moonfish 4             | Prince Haddow           |
| Octopus 1              | Ruby Watkiss            |
| Kai                    | Sophie Wilson           |
| Scuba Diver/Tad Parent | Summer Croke            |
| Tad                    | Tristan Campbell        |
| Sheldon Parent/Gurgle  | Zosia Kedzierska        |

|                       |                         |
|-----------------------|-------------------------|
| DATE OF PERFORMANCE   | Saturday 20th June 2026 |
| DATE REPORT PUBLISHED | Monday 22nd June 2026   |
| ADJUDICATOR ID        | NSA0003                 |

|                    |               |
|--------------------|---------------|
| NSA LOGO ON POSTER | Yes           |
| NSA IN PROGRAMME   | Yes           |
| PROGRAMME CLASS    | Best Licensed |

## THE REVIEW

REVIEW WORD COUNT

1894

STRONGEST ELEMENTS

### Delightful Leading Roles

- **Archie Dinsdale** (Marlin), **Anna Timoney** (Nemo) and **Louisa Johnson** (Dory) carried the story beautifully, with Louisa's comedic timing and Archie's and Anna's character development helping to bring heart and emotion to the production.

### A Vibrant Underwater World

- The colourful set, imaginative costumes and atmospheric lighting combined to create a visually engaging Great Barrier Reef. Particular highlights included Mr Ray's illuminated fins, the sparkling sardines and the creative umbrella jellyfish.

### The Enthusiasm and Commitment of the Entire Cast

- Perhaps the greatest success of the evening was the joy radiating from the stage. From the supporting cast's constant reactions and commitment to staying in character, to the supportive atmosphere created amongst performers aged just 6 - 12, it was evident that every child was having a wonderful time and giving their all.

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What a treat to spend a Saturday evening at the theatre. My guests and I had the pleasure of returning to Hyde Festival Theatre to watch Finding Nemo Jr., brought to life by the junior members of Showstoppers Theatre Group.

One of the things I always enjoy about visiting Hyde Festival Theatre is the warm welcome. Volunteers are always on hand to help audience members find their seats and attend to any needs, while parents and friends of Showstoppers enthusiastically sell programmes and raffle tickets. It is exactly the kind of friendly community atmosphere that makes amateur theatre so special.

Our hosts for the evening were **Rachel Bunting** and **Megan Husband**, who wore many hats throughout the production, serving as directors, choreographers, set designers, stage managers and chaperones. They also shared that this was the first time the society had divided the cast into two separate productions, giving even more of their young members the opportunity to shine on stage. While this was a departure from the usual format, in my opinion it has been a very successful move so far.

Finding Nemo Jr. proved to be a wonderful choice for Showstoppers and their cast of 33 performers, aged between six and twelve. The colourful and vibrant production offered plenty of opportunities for every cast member to contribute, with a variety of character roles and lively supporting cast numbers that perfectly suited the youthful energy of the company.

As the curtain rose, the audience was immediately transported beneath the waves. The stage designed by **Rachel Bunting** and **Victoria Husband**, the set featured a colourful underwater world filled with vibrant blues, neon coral and an array of sea life that instantly captured the atmosphere of the Great Barrier Reef. A cleverly designed cave at centre stage concealed a raised performance area, adding depth and variety to the staging.

I was particularly impressed by how much responsibility the young cast took for managing their own props and assisting with scene changes, helping to ensure smooth transitions throughout the performance. Additional support came from the stage crew of Victoria and **Dave Husband**, alongside **Sean Crossley**, who we were told is new to stage crewing and has already become a valued member of the team.

The costumes, once again coordinated by Victoria Husband, were imaginative, colourful and great fun. Every cast member had their own unique sea creature identity, from fish and octopuses to sharks and even mermaids. Rather than restricting movement with full character costumes, the designs cleverly suggested each creature while allowing the performers the freedom to move comfortably around the stage – a thoughtful choice that worked extremely well. There were several particularly memorable costume designs, including Mr Ray's flowing fins adorned with twinkling lights, the sparkling sardines and the wonderfully creative jellyfish, created using umbrellas to striking effect. Together, the costumes added even more colour and personality to the underwater world and clearly delighted the audience.

Lighting and sound for the production were provided by **Sparks Theatre Management**. The lighting design made excellent use of cool blue washes, helping to create the illusion of being beneath the ocean waves, while brighter, more celebratory lighting during the supporting cast numbers brought bursts of colour and energy to the stage. I particularly enjoyed these moments, which reminded me of the rainbow-like patterns created when sunlight dances through the water.

The sound design supported the production well throughout the evening. With a large cast and many young performers sharing the stage, there were naturally a few minor microphone inconsistencies during the performance I attended, but these were quickly overcome and did nothing to diminish the enjoyment of the show or the enthusiasm and commitment of the cast.

**Archie Dinsdale**, who portrayed Marlin the clownfish, clearly relished the opportunity to take on this part, and it was wonderful to see him stepping into his first major leading role. He embraced the challenge of portraying Marlin as both a protective father and a character undergoing considerable growth throughout the story. Beginning as fearful and overprotective, Archie convincingly charted Marlin's journey towards becoming a more courageous and trusting role model. He delivered his dialogue with confidence, performed his musical numbers with enthusiasm and moved purposefully around the stage, demonstrating a clear understanding of both the character and the story he was helping to tell.

The titular role of Nemo was played by **Anna Timoney**. She captured the character's innocence and youthful curiosity beautifully, while also giving the audience glimpses of the courage and determination that drive Nemo's journey throughout the story. I particularly enjoyed her rendition of Where's My Dad?, which conveyed the emotion of the scene with sincerity and heart. Considering this was Anna's first principal role, she should be incredibly proud of her achievement. She approached the part with commitment and enthusiasm, and it will be exciting to watch her continue to develop and see what roles the future holds for her.

Dory, played by **Louisa Johnson**, seemed perfectly suited to the role. She captured all of the character's lovable, forgetful and quirky traits that audiences know and adore, bringing plenty of warmth and humour to the performance. Louisa handled her dialogue with confidence and demonstrated excellent comic timing throughout. Her singing was strong and assured, and she developed a lovely rapport with Archie as Marlin, as well as with the many other characters she encountered on her journey. Remarkably, this was also Louisa's first leading role, making her performance all the more impressive. She was undoubtedly one of the standout performers of the evening, and I look forward to seeing where her theatrical journey takes her next.

The Reef Kids play an important role in setting Nemo's adventure in motion and **Betsey Allen** as Pearl, **Daisy Gaskell** as Sheldon and **Tristan Campbell** as Tad worked wonderfully together. Full of energy and personality, the trio displayed strong comic timing and created believable friendships on stage. A special mention should also go to **Samantha Newberry** as Professor Ray. With dialogue packed full of scientific terminology and endless enthusiasm, Samantha handled the role with confidence, clear diction and a warm stage presence that suited the character well.

The Sharks – Bruce, Anchor and Chum – were brought to life by **Eve-Marie Gilligan**, **Camilla Batchelor** and **Freya Collins**. As the comedic trio of intimidating Great Whites attempting to live by the motto “Fish are friends, not food”. They provided plenty of laughs throughout. Their choreography cleverly captured the image of sharks circling their prey, with some particularly amusing moments when Bruce's encounter with blood tested the group's vegetarian resolve.

Following Nemo's capture, the Tank Gang – Gill (**Evelyn Beresford**), Peach (**Tabitha Arrowsmith**), Bloat (**Jorgie-Leigh Dodd**), Gurgle (**Zosia Kedzierska**) and Bubbles (**Darcie Loughlan-Crinion**) – provided both humour and heart. They remained in character well, focusing on the scene ignoring any distractions and their interactions with one another felt warm and supportive, perfectly conveying the close-knit bond of the aquarium residents.

Act Two opened with a burst of energy as the audience rode the East Australian Current alongside Crush, the laid-back sea turtle, played by **Eliza Drabble**, and Squirt, portrayed by **Albert Beresford**, supported by the supporting cast. The scene was packed with fun, feel-good vibes. Albert brought all the enthusiasm and excitement you would expect from Crush's young offspring, while Eliza delivered a confident performance with some lovely comedic touches. Despite not feeling at her best at the performance I attended, she gave her all on stage and demonstrated admirable commitment to her fellow cast members and the production.

During the scene changes, the audience was treated to a recurring comedy sketch that quickly became a favourite. **Josh Toop**, as the "Vacationer", attempted to relax in his deckchair and enjoy his sandwich, only for Nigel the Seagull, played by **Nyla Robinson**, and his feathered friends to swoop in and steal it, accompanied by the iconic cries of "Mine! Mine! Mine!" These entertaining interludes provided plenty of laughs and kept the energy of the show flowing beautifully between scenes. I am pleased to report that, after some careful planning and the use of a decoy sandwich, Josh's long-suffering holidaymaker finally enjoyed a well-earned victory over the mischievous seagulls!

As with any youth theatre group, there are cast members with varying levels of confidence, musical ability and stage experience, including some who are completely new to the stage. By giving the Juniors their own production, these young performers have been provided with greater opportunities to take on larger roles, contribute more meaningfully to the storyline and develop their skills in a supportive environment alongside their peers. This cast were clearly having the time of their lives, evident in the smiles that shone across the stage throughout the performance. The older members looked after the younger ones, and every member of the company appeared to genuinely enjoy performing for their friends and families. Special praise must go to the supporting cast, whose enthusiasm helped bring the underwater world to life. What impressed me most was their commitment to staying in character, reacting naturally to the action around them even when the focus was elsewhere. These details added depth to the production and demonstrated stage awareness. It is a credit to the Showstoppers team, who have clearly created an environment in which every child feels supported and confident to perform. Among the supporting cast, several performers particularly caught my eye, including **Daisy Duke, Sophie Wilson, Avani Fredrick** and **Prince Haddow**, all of whom displayed wonderful commitment, expressive reactions, smiles and infectious enthusiasm. Their enjoyment of performing shone through and contributed greatly to the vibrant atmosphere that made the production such a delight to watch.

This was a production where every performer had the chance to be seen, heard and valued. With more time, energy and focus dedicated to this junior cast, the stage feels less overcrowded, allowing individuals to enjoy their own spotlight and truly shine. It also creates a natural progression route, enabling performers to move into the Senior and eventually Adult groups as their confidence, experience and abilities grow. I sincerely hope the Senior group enjoys the same success next week and has the opportunity to shine in its own right. This new structure appears to benefit all the young people involved and provides a stronger platform for performers of all ages to flourish.

Overall, Finding Nemo Jr. was a joyful and heart-warming production that showcased the talent, enthusiasm and dedication of Showstoppers Theatre Group's youngest members. It was evident just how much hard work had gone into every aspect of the show, both on stage and behind the scenes, and the pride felt by performers, families and production team alike was clear to see. Productions such as these are about far more than simply putting on a show. They provide young people with the opportunity to build confidence, develop friendships and create memories that will stay with them for years to come.

Rachel Bunting, Victoria Husband and the entire Showstoppers team should be immensely proud of what their young cast achieved. Judging by the smiles on stage and the enthusiastic applause from the audience, this underwater adventure was a resounding success. The pace, timing, show time and choice of production were all spot on. Thank you to you all for a wonderful evening that me and my guest had and I look forward to seeing what Showstoppers Theatre Group has in store next.

## PHOTOGRAPHS



## PROGRAMME



The poster features a vibrant underwater scene with blue water, bubbles, and colorful coral. At the top, the 'Show Stoppers THEATRE GROUP' logo is displayed with a row of stars. Below it, a large seashell contains the 'Disney • PIXAR FINDING NEMO JR.' logo, with a small Nemo character integrated into the word 'NEMO'. A large, bold, yellow banner across the middle reads 'SOUVENIR PROGRAMME'. Below the banner, text provides details about the music and production. At the bottom, the venue 'HYDE FESTIVAL THEATRE' and date 'SATURDAY 20TH JUNE 2026' are listed, along with showtimes '2P.M. & 7.15P.M.' and ticket prices 'TICKETS CONCESSIONS £10 / ADULTS £12'. A QR code is located on the right side. Logos for 'HYDE Festival THEATRE', 'Sparks', 'act', and 'Northern Stage AWARDS' are at the bottom.

**Show Stoppers**  
THEATRE GROUP

Disney • PIXAR  
**FINDING NEMO JR.**

**SOUVENIR PROGRAMME**

Music and Orchestrations Adapted and Arranged by Myrna Conn  
Based on the 2003 Disney / Pixar film Finding Nemo written by  
Andrew Stanton, Bob Peterson, David Reynolds and directed by Andrew Stanton

This amateur production is presented by arrangement with  
Music Theatre International  
All authorised performance materials are also supplied by MTI [www.mtishows.co.uk](http://www.mtishows.co.uk)

**HYDE FESTIVAL THEATRE**  
**SATURDAY 20TH JUNE 2026**  
**2P.M. & 7.15P.M**  
**TICKETS CONCESSIONS £10 / ADULTS £12**  
**Tickets available from: [www.sparksem.co.uk](http://www.sparksem.co.uk)**

 **HYDE Festival THEATRE**   