

Your Family Arts Center

DALLAS CHILDREN'S THEATER

DON'T LET THE PIGEON DRIVE THE BUS! THE MUSICAL!

SYNOPSIS

One Act (approximately 1 hour)

Come see Mo Willems's beloved character the Pigeon on stage at Dallas Children's Theater. All he wants to do is DRIVE THE BUS! But, will anyone give the poor bird a chance?

The Pigeon is upset because he never gets to do anything. To prove it, he asks a Hot Dog Vendor for a hot dog. But the Hot Dog Vendor refuses to give one to the Pigeon; instead, the Hot Dog Vendor gobbles one up himself. A little while later, the Pigeon is shocked to see the Duckling with a hot dog. The Duckling says he just asked nicely for one, and the Pigeon proclaims again he doesn't get to do anything!

While sighing heavily, the Pigeon is shooed away by a City Worker. The City Worker is putting up a new bus sign. Although the Pigeon is at first unimpressed, the bus pulls into the new stop and changes everything for the bird. The Bus Driver exclaims that she loves driving the bus. The Pigeon quickly realizes that he wants to drive the bus, too!

As the Pigeon gets wrapped up in pretending to drive the bus, the Bus Driver drives the bus away. The Pigeon is so sad when he finally realizes the bus is gone. He dreams of the bus, and he and the dream bus dance and sing together (as backup Ducklings sing along). The dream ends, and the Pigeon is once again alone with no bus.

But, the actual bus comes back to the stop. The Bus Driver reassures the Pigeon she'll always return to this stop because it's on her bus route. People start to arrive to get on the bus. First comes a very busy Business Man who needs to get to work on time. Then a Little Old Lady arrives at the bus stop; she's in a hurry to get to the hospital to meet her new grandbaby. The Little Old Lady, seeing the Pigeon, throws birdseed his way (much to the Pigeon's chagrin). Finally, a Teenager rushes in. He just has to get to the movie theater right now to see the latest action movie! The Pigeon thinks this might be the chance for his dreams to come true and asks the Bus Driver if he can drive the bus. The Bus Driver, and all the passengers, answer with an emphatic "NO"! The Pigeon is frustrated, and the Teenager tells him about a time when he was also disappointed. He asked his mom for a puppy, but she said "no." The Pigeon has discovered a new goal: he wants a puppy! The Pigeon rushes off stage to find one.

Not wanting to make the bus late, the Bus Driver tries to start the engine. But, something is wrong. All the passengers begin to panic, but the Bus Driver calmly tries to work on the engine. While the Bus Driver is working, the Pigeon runs back on stage. He's obviously frightened by something. The other passengers begin to panic again. When everyone finally calms down, the Pigeon reveals that he did find a puppy, and it's "horrifying." The Puppy zooms on stage, and the passengers think it's adorable.

Finally, free of the Puppy, the Pigeon sees the Bus Driver's hat next to the bus. He puts it on, gets in the driver's seat, and attempts to drive the bus. But, he can't even reach the peddles! The Pigeon feels so disappointed, but the Bus Driver tells the Pigeon he just needs to find his own thing. Encouraging him, the Bus Driver helps him see that flying could be his thing. With all the passengers cheering him on, the Pigeon learns how to fly. He flies around town and informs all the other passengers waiting for the bus that it's running a little late.

Back at the original bus stop, the Bus Driver gets the bus working again. The Old Lady shares the birdseed with the other passengers, and the Teenager actually likes it. And the Puppy comes back onstage. The Pigeon doesn't want a puppy anymore, so the Bus Driver says she will take it with her. The Bus Driver even promises the Pigeon a hot dog when she comes back that way.

As the bus pulls away, the City Worker puts up another sign. It's a sign for a new airport. And, once again, the Pigeon has a new goal: he wants to fly the plane!

Notes:

- This show is one act and has no intermission.
- Some of the characters are played by puppets.
- The Bus Engine is a character in the play – there a lot of big, fun bus noises vocalized throughout the performance.
- A few times characters come out into the audience. For a less interactive experience, sit towards the back of Section B.