



What's the show about?

It's about a 12 year old boy named Malcolm who hides in a box from puberty. His mate and even his Gran can't coax him out. There's a couple of girls on a bench that gossip a lot and are overheard by Malcolm.

What sort of show is it?

The show begins with a chat from the performer before a puppet performance using glove and rod puppets in a traditional puppet booth in the shape of a polytunnel. Children get to interact with the performance.

Is it appropriate for P6 and P7?

Yes. The show has been very thoroughly researched, with Curriculum for Excellence guidance at its core. It is also designed to complement the popular Living & Growing programme.



Does it discuss sexual activity?

No. The show is primarily about emotional and physical changes at puberty, the nature of good friendships, understanding feelings and pressures from peers.

How was the show developed?

The show has been written by Ailie Finlay and Scott Simpson in consultation with teachers, pupils and senior NHS Health Promotion officers. Scott worked as a social researcher for 6 years often on behalf of NHS Health Scotland - much of that work was in the field of relationships and sexual health. He got the idea to do this show while consulting in schools across Scotland.

Development was funded by the Scottish Arts Council and the show was piloted in several local authorities.



Can children see behind the scenes?

They love to come in the booth afterward and see all the puppets, props, pulleys, levers, gadgets, music system and lighting.



How long is the show and workshop?

The show is 45 minutes.
The workshop can be flexible but is designed for 50 minutes.



Where can it be performed?

It is designed to be able to fit into a classroom to keep a comfortable atmosphere but can also work in a large hall for larger groups. The workshop takes place in the classroom.

What happens in the workshop?

They work in pairs some of the time and do fun group activities. Children will more readily talk about the puppet characters instead of themselves. Here's just a few of the things we ask them to talk about:

- How do you think Malcolm was feeling in the box?
- What do you think he was he thinking about?
- How were people either helpful or not so helpful to Malkie?
- What is good information versus misinformation, gossip and boasting?
- Should you believe everything you hear?
- Who has power in different relationships?
- How many people actually had a boyfriend or girlfriend in the show? (none!)
- How can you keep your emotions and body healthy?
- What makes a good friend?
- It's important to talk about things like feeling worried, growing up, changing bodies, love and sex. Using your hand to count, can you think of 5 people you trust to talk to about things like that?
- When do boys and girls go through puberty?
- Why do we go through puberty?
- How can hormones make you feel?
- What sort of things happen to girls' bodies or feelings during puberty?
- What sort of things happen to boys' bodies or feelings during puberty?



Are there any preparatory materials?

We'll send teachers a list of key vocabulary, key themes, sources for further information and a letter about the show for parents and carers if they wish to send it.

Will I get a Teacher's Pack?

Yes, with photocopyable activity sheets linked to characters in the show and addressing Curriculum for Excellence learning outcomes.