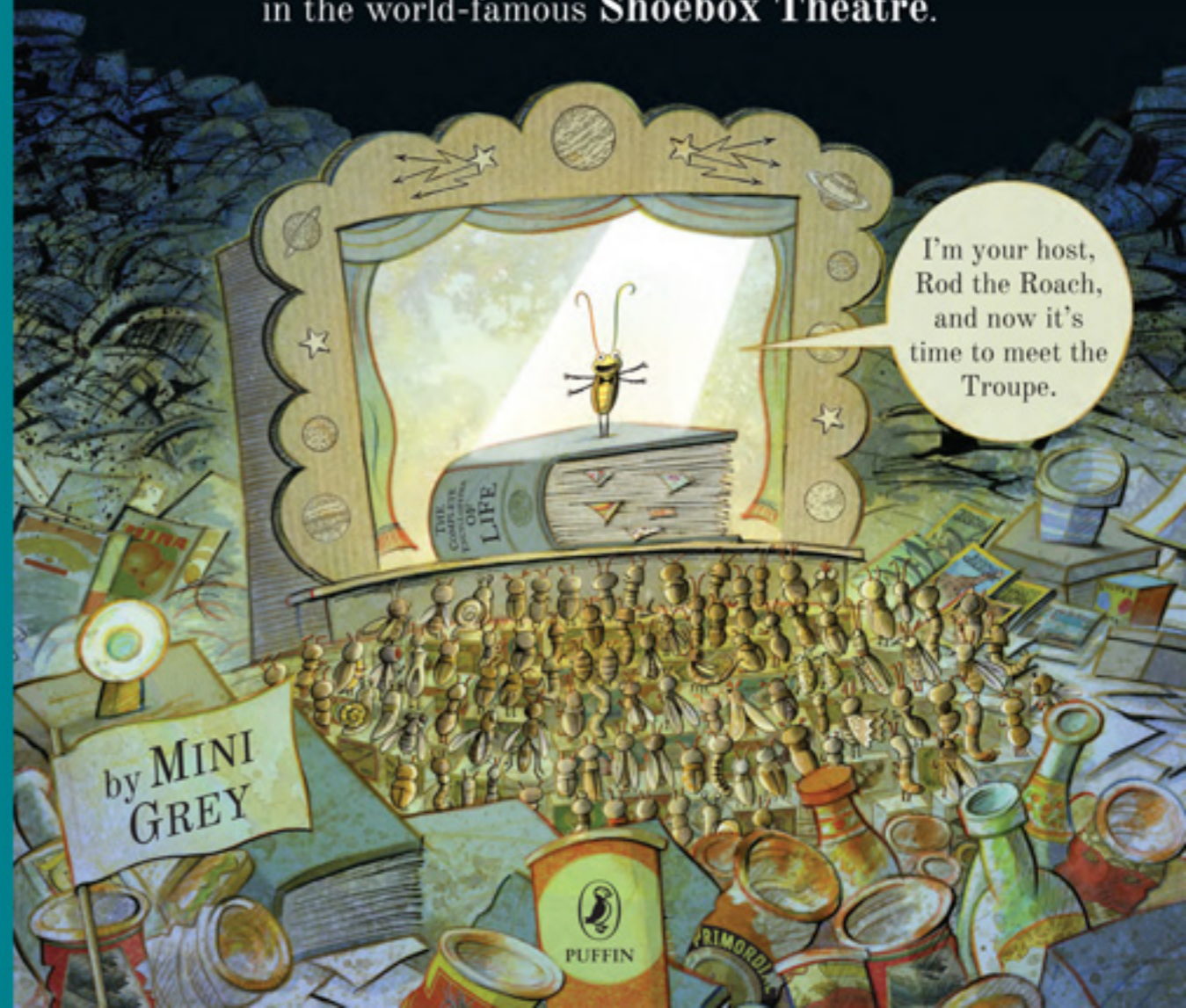






Welcome to tonight's performance  
of the  
*Greatest Show*  
ON  
**EARTH**

in the world-famous **Shoebox Theatre**.



I'm your host,  
Rod the Roach,  
and now it's  
time to meet the  
Troupe.

by MINI  
GREY

PUFFIN

PRIMORDIAL



# PLAN OF THE SHOE BOX THEATRE

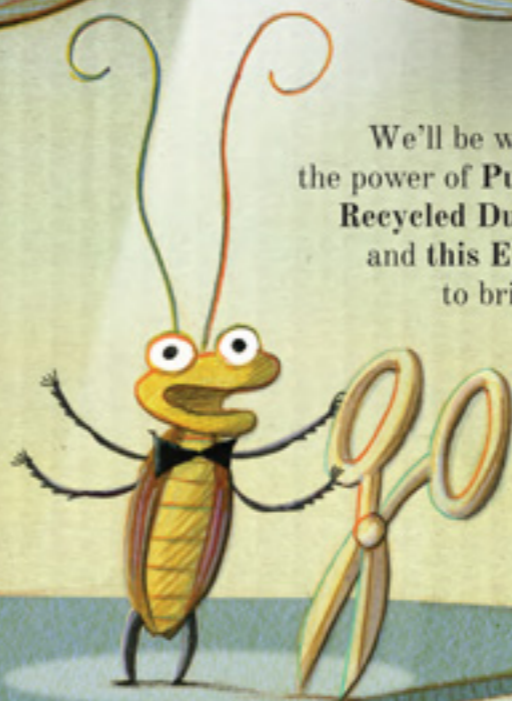
Here are  
**THE WINGS**,  
where we have a  
**closer look**  
at the story . . .  
(. . . with Annika Ant.)

Here's the  
**MAIN STAGE**,  
where the Troupe  
act out the story of  
Life on Earth.  
(*Read this bit first.*)

Your performers tonight are  
Pierre, Cedric, Gary, Malia,  
Alonzo, Brunhilda and Edna.  
*Say hello, Troupe!*

We'll be working with  
the power of **Puppetry, Collage,**  
**Recycled Dump Materials**  
and this **Encyclopedia**  
to bring the

**biggest story**  
ever told  
to you tonight.



BONJOUR!



Hello!



Hi!



Salaam!

¡Hola!



GUTEN  
ABEND!



How do!



**4.6**  
billion  
years



Down here is the Orchestra Pit,  
where we have the team in charge of the Tape Measure of Time:  
Anton, Anatole and Annette. *Say hello, Time Team!*

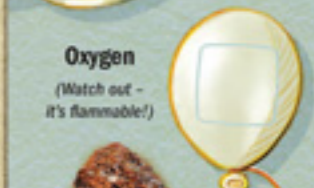


## INGREDIENTS for your Earth-like Planet

You will need:



**Carbon**  
(We made this carbon by burning some toast.)



**Oxygen**  
(Watch out - it's flammable!)



**Iron**  
(This has got a bit rusty.)



**Magnesium**  
(Nearly took my feelers off!)



**Silica**  
(This is Silicon Dioxide, AKA sand.)



**Calcium**  
(Shells, bones and teeth are built of calcium.)



**A pinch of Sulphur**  
(Whoooo, that's eggy!)



and plenty of ice.

It's **4.6 Billion** Years Ago...



This is it,  
ladies and gentlemen.  
As we raise  
the curtain ...  
**THE STORY OF  
LIFE**  
is about to begin!

It's time to  
**COOK UP**  
an Earth-like planet.

## HOW TO COOK UP AN EARTH-LIKE PLANET



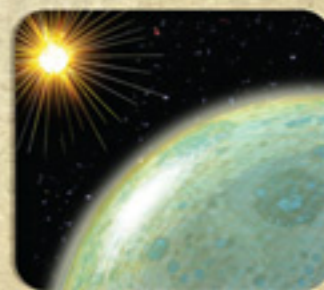
Take your ingredients and mix them up at high speed in your Cosmic Blender until they're really hot and start to form a lump of molten mixture.

Place the lump at the right distance from a young star



so it is not too hot or too cold. It will be quite steamy.

Leave it for a few hundred million years to cool. Watch as a golden-brown crust forms and the steam settles down ...



and condenses into a lovely watery ocean.

**4.6**  
billion years



1

Every centimetre on the Tape Measure of Time stands for

**ONE MILLION YEARS**





## HOW TO KEEP YOUR NEW WORLD SAFE

You'll need well-behaved NEIGHBOUR PLANETS

with STABLE ORBITS.

You'll need a MOON to stabilize your orbit and rotation,

and a MAGNETIC FIELD

to protect you from the Solar Wind,

which would otherwise steal all your water away.

# It's 4.6 Billion Years Ago

Here is the young Earth.

It has only just been built.

It is hot and bothered and bursting with lava.

## HOW TO KEEP YOUR NEW WORLD SAFE

You also need to be the right distance from the Sun.

If you're too close,



YOU GET VENUS - too hot!

If you're too far away,

you get

MARS -



too cold.



4.6  
BILLION  
YEARS AGO

4599  
4598  
4597  
4596



4584  
4583  
4582  
4581

4575  
4570  
4569



4565  
4564



4559  
4558  
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4551

