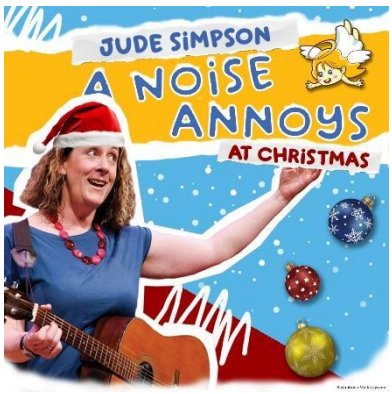
A Noise Annoys at Christmas



Poet, entertainer and three-time national slam winner Jude Simpson performs a festive hour of playful poetry, silly songs and joyful interaction, for Primary School children in Key Stages 1 and 2.

From a rap about wrapping, to imagining how noisy that original "silent" night must have been, there is lots of joy, a healthy dose of nonsense, and a few seasonal words of peace and harmony!

What better way to round off the National Year of Reading than with a show that engages children with the spoken and written word, and leaves them full of joy at the possibilities of language.

We will bring:

- a professional and dynamic performance of spoken word/poetry, song and comedy, exploring language, and touching on Christmas themes;
- follow-up workshops and/or Q&A sessions for classes or smaller groups;
- everything we need! All we ask is a socket, and a minimum 5m x 3m performance space.

We will leave you with:

- smiles, inspiration, a Christmassy glow, and a poetry book for your school library!!

"Jude Simpson is funny, sharp, emotional in her work, and a terrific performer – she needs to be seen and heard wherever possible." – *Michael Rosen*

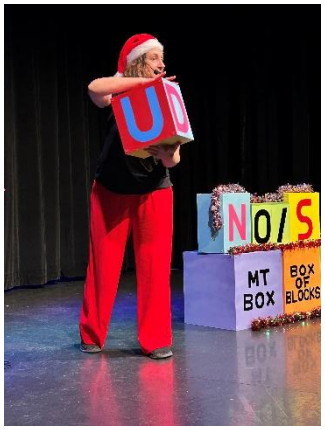
"Simpson's playful poetry is fantastically funny, and her love of language is infectious. For adults and children alike, it's practically impossible to leave "A Noise Annoys" without a smile on your face." *- The Family Stage*

To book "A Noise Annoys at Christmas", contact Patrick on patrick@judesimpson.co.uk or Jude on 07734 525722

Background to the show:

"A Noise Annoys at Christmas" is a festive version of Jude's acclaimed family show "A Noise Annoys", which finished its tour of the UK earlier this year, gathering a nomination for Best Kids Show at the Leicester Comedy Festival, and selling out venues such as Exeter Library, Cambridge Junction Theatre and the Cambridge Literary Festival!

For more info, see www.judesimpson.co.uk



The Christmas show was commissioned by Landmark Theatres, and was premiered in December 2025 with Primary schools and families at Peterborough Key Theatre, and The Landmark, Ilfracombe. The show includes poems and songs, jokes and wordplay, physical humour with prop and blocks, and fun audience interaction.

To view the trailer, click on this link:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jS8scjvSmA4

Accessibility / SEND

We have found that the spirit of this show, and the variety of ways in which people can engage, make it relatively accessible to many people, including those who sometimes find it difficult to access mainstream entertainment.

As well as listening to spoken poems and songs (Jude sings and plays guitar), the audience sees colourful props, boxes and blocks moved around the stage. There is a range of noises and sounds during the show, but nothing loud, unexpected or shocking.

For smaller audiences, the show includes sensory elements, like rustling tissue paper, and is in essence a 'relaxed' performance, meaning fidgets and noises from the audience will not derail the show!

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For all sizes of audience, there are opportunities to join in or interact – from conversations and offering ideas in smaller groups, to seeing teachers compete to make the best reindeer noise in larger groups (with willing teachers!)

Props can be installed in advance for pre-show familiarisation or a touch tour, and the script is available on request, for example, to aid audio-description or BSL interpretation.

We will discuss your school's individual requirements during the process of booking the show, so please raise any factors or concerns with us, and we will do our best to bring the performance and workshops that meet your needs!

Practicalities:

- The full show is 50 minutes long, and available for groups between 12 and 120 pupils.
- There is also a 30-40 minute version, for large assemblies over 120 pupils, and a version that can be delivered in 5-10 minute chunks, for example in hospitals or alternative educational settings.
- Dates are available every school day from 16th November to 15th December 2026.
- A range of workshops is available, on writing, performing and exploring the Christmas story. These can be offered for groups up to whole classes (30) and at all ages in KS1 and KS2.
- There is a cost to the show, which we will discuss when you express interest, but we are also making an application for funding, so that budget is not a barrier to access.

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About us

Jude Simpson is a poet, spoken word performer and three-time national slam winner. Her work combines poetry, wordplay and song to entertain and delight audiences. She is published in books and anthologies, online and in print, and performs at theatres, schools, libraries and festivals around the UK – most recently touring her family show "A Noise Annoys".

Patrick Wilson is an award-winning producer, director, and theatre educator based in Cambridge. He has led theatre education projects across the UK and facilitated workshops as far afield as the US and East Asia. Patrick is passionate about sharing drama opportunities with as many young people as possible.

✓ Both Jude and Patrick have DBS clearance, and are members of TROOP Artist Development Programme at Cambridge Junction Theatre. Patrick is a member of Equity, and Jude is a member of the Society of Authors.

Examples of workshops we can offer

1. **Write and Perform!** We will create a poem together based on sounds, then workshop how we could perform it, using our voice and bodies. Suitable for groups of up to 10, age 8+
2. **Write your own poem!** With writing prompts and props, we will have a go at generating ideas for poems, and writing them in different styles and forms, thinking about our own perspective or "voice". Suitable for groups of up to 30, age 7+
3. **What Words Could You Give Someone at Christmas?** We will think about the power of words, and discuss ways we could use our words as Christmas "presents" for the people in our life. Maybe a poem, a home-made card with a thoughtful, or even a song to sing! Suitable for all ages.
4. **Christmas – What's the Story?!** A workshop exploring what we do and don't know about the original Christmas story, including looking at what

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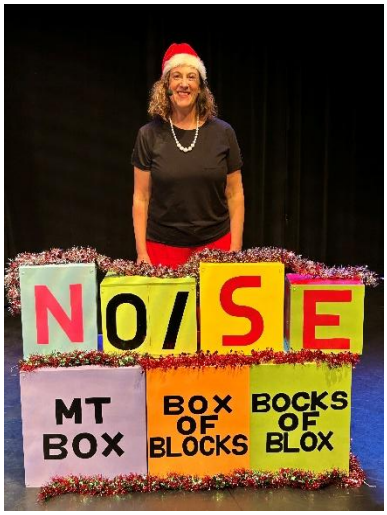
is and isn't in the Biblical account (donkeys, angels, innkeepers, etc.) and discussing what the story means in the Christian faith.

5. **Ask me a Question!** Jude will talk about her life as a writer and performer, and will answer your questions about the show, poetry and creativity. All ages.

A note about faith content



The show covers all sorts of aspects of Christmas festivities (Rudolph, presents, festive food) and also includes a participative poem about the traditional Christian nativity story, including Mary and Joseph,a donkey, angels, shepherds, kings and the baby Jesus.

The nativity is one of Jude's favourite stories, and this piece includes a call to think and reflect on where meaning lies at Christmas, but the show does not propose any particular belief system – except a strong belief in the power of words!

The show ends on a song asking, "What words could you give someone at Christmas?" – encouraging listeners to challenge themselves to say something true and heartfelt to somebody they care about.

We look forward to bringing our show to your school or venue!! Please get in touch to confirm your interest and discuss your requirements.

Patrick@judesimpson.co.uk Jude@judesimpson.co.uk

07734 525722 (Jude)

"*A Noise Annoys* really lifted my spirits in a way I wasn't expecting. With well pitched puns, joyfully chaotic songs and poems that play, I was captivated the whole way through." - *Bedford Today*

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