FASCINATING FACTS ABOUT 'THE LION KING'

• There are more than 232 puppets in the show, including rod puppets, shadow puppets and full-sized puppets.

• It took director Julie Taymor and her team 37,000 hours to build the original puppets and masks.

• There are 25 kinds of animal species represented in the production.

• The longest animal is the elephant: 4 metres long, 3.5 metres high, 2.75 metres wide.

• The tallest animals are the 5.5 metre giraffes in the song ‘I Just Can’t Wait to be King’ and the smallest animal in the show is the 13cm trick mouse at the end of Scar’s cane.

• There are 106 ants on the Ant Hill Lady.

• There are over 350 complete costumes in the show, each consisting of several different elements

• There are 22 hand-beaded corsets in the show, each consists of thousands of individually sewn beads.

• The sun in ‘The Lion King’ is constructed from 43 aluminium ribs attached to each other with silk strips.

• Six African languages are spoken or sung in the show, they are: Sotho, Swahili, Zulu, Tswana, Congolese and Xhosa.

• It requires 50 cast members plus an additional 100 people backstage to make each performance happen.