

MEDIA RELEASE

10 October '24

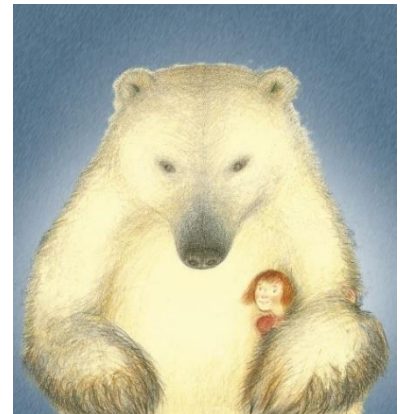
For immediate release

In its 30th anniversary year Raymond Briggs' *The Bear* comes to Waterside this festive season

A stunning adaptation of the much-loved author's book will be at Waterside in Sale,
Trafford from Sunday 01 – Sunday 29 December.

watersidearts.org/thebear

Waterside is thrilled to welcome back this December the enchanting festive show **The Bear** by **Raymond Briggs** –thirty years on since the book's original publication. The stage adaptation, by **Pins and Needles** and co-produced with **Exeter Northcott Theatre**, will delight a new generation of young people and their families with dazzling puppetry, delicious music, dreamy storytelling, and dozens of laughs.



The Bear, by illustrious writer and illustrator **Raymond Briggs** - author of *The Snowman* and *Father Christmas* - was first published on 01 September 1994 and thirty years have not diminished this wonderful story's appeal. An enormous polar bear comes to stay with a young girl, Tilly one night. Tilly gives it a bath and clears up its pool! but quickly forms a firm friendship and is soon riding on its back, dancing and playing!

Using beautiful puppetry and enchanting live music, audiences will be captivated by this wonderful show for children aged 3+ and their families.

Emma Earle, Director of The Bear & Co-Artistic Director, Pins & Needles says *'It's wonderful to bring back our adaptation of The Bear to Waterside in the book's 30th anniversary year. We've brought some unforgettable highlights to Waterside over the years, from The Bear to Father Christmas and the charming Mr. Popper's Penguins, and we're delighted to be returning. The timeless appeal of Raymond Briggs is undeniable and this beautiful adaptation will charm a new generation of audiences. We can't wait for everyone to experience the magic!'*

The Bear runs from Sun 01 Dec – Sun 29 Dec

watersidearts.org/thebear

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Times vary | Age 3 – 11 | 55 mins

£19.50 / £17.50 (for performances between Sat 14 – Thu 26 Dec) / £16.50 / £14.50 *

£12 schools | £10 low income tickets (on selected performances)**

SAVE THE DATE!

Press night for The Bear: Thursday 05 December 19:00

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Preview performance: Sunday 01 December | Schools performances Mon 02 – Thu 19 Dec 10:30 & 13:30

BSL performance: Sat 7 Dec 11:00

Relaxed performances: Sat 7 Dec 11:00 & Mon 09 Dec 13:30 (schools' performance)

----- ENDS -----

PR:

**For further information, interviews or images please contact
Claire Saville / Emily Lyons marketing@watersidearts.org or 0161 912 5616**

X @WatersideArts | Facebook: [/watersidearts](https://www.facebook.com/watersidearts) | Instagram: @waterside_

NOTES TO EDITORS:

Production images can be found here: [The Bear 2024 Production Images - Google Drive](#)

LISTINGS

THE BEAR

Based on the book by Raymond Briggs

Sun 01 – Sun 29 Dec times vary

Schools' performances: Mon 02 – Thu 19 Dec 10:30 & 13:30

£19.50* / £17.50* / £16.50 / £14.50

£10 low income tickets**

£12 schools

Age 3 – 11 | 55 mins

A Pins and Needles and Exeter Northcott Theatre Co-Production

Ever wondered what it would be like to sit on a polar bear's lap? Or ride on its back? Have you ever tried to give a bear a bath? Or clear up its poo?! Looking after a bear is exhausting stuff.

One night when she's fast asleep, an enormous snowy white bear climbs into Tilly's bedroom. It has a big black tongue and a yawn as big as your head. But Tilly's not scared.

With dazzling puppetry, delicious music, dreamy storytelling, and dozens of laughs, *The Bear* is an unforgettable experience for the whole family and a perfect introduction to theatre for little people.

"Move over War Horse, this polar puppet is magic" The Guardian

***For performances between Sat 14 – Thu 26 Dec**

**** On selected performances**

Based on Raymond Briggs' book *The Bear* ©1994 published by Puffin Books

Licensed by the Raymond Briggs Estate c/o The Agency (London) Ltd

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CAST

Tilly	Oriana Charles
Mum	Cat Rock
Dad	Rayo Patel
Understudy	Matt Davis

CREATIVE TEAM FOR THE BEAR

Associate Director	Kate Pasco
Puppetry Director	Finn Caldwell
Composer	Lucy Rivers
Lighting Design	Tom White
Stage Manager	Katie Bosomworth

Original Creative Team

Adapted for the stage by Pins and Needles Productions. Based on the book by Raymond Briggs

Co-Director and adaptor	Emma Earle
Co-Director	Hal Chambers
Designer and adaptor	Zoe Squire
Puppet Director	Finn Caldwell
Composer	Lucy Rivers
Puppet Designer	Sam Wyer
Lighting Design	Tom White

The Bear creative team includes Puppet Director Finn Caldwell (*Life of Pi*, *The Lorax*; *The Grinning Man*, *Running Wild*); Lucy Rivers (*Tidy*; *Gin Craze!*; *Father Christmas*); and Sam Wyer (*The Ocean at the End of the Lane*; *The Boy in the Dress*, *Alice's Adventures Underground*)

Based on the book by Raymond Briggs, *The Bear* was originally produced by Pins and Needles in 2013. Supported by Arts Council England, it was originally commissioned by Polka Theatre in collaboration with The Albany. Since then, *The Bear* has travelled extensively, including multiple UK tours and a 2019 tour of Malaysia.

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PINS AND NEEDLES THEATRE PRODUCTIONS

Pins and Needles Productions is a female-led theatre company, with fifteen years' experience of making innovative theatre, film, events and digital experiences for all ages.

Our award-winning work has been presented across the UK and internationally. From the Edinburgh Fringe, to London's West End; from Malaysia to New York.



We are well known for our imaginative adaptations of children's books, including the Olivier award nominated *Oi Frog & Friends!*; UK Theatre Award winning *Little Mermaid*; and smash hit *Father Christmas*.

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EXETER NORTHCOTT THEATRE

Exeter Northcott is a city-wide organisation welcoming more than 100,000 people each year to live theatre and events at the Northcott Theatre on the University campus, and the Barnfield Theatre in the city centre.

A registered charity, the Northcott also offers a wide range of creative opportunities for and with the people of Exeter and Devon. These include year-round opportunities for young people through the Northcott Young Company; a talent development programme for local artists and bespoke projects developed with community groups, schools, and other charities.

Exeter Northcott Theatre is supported by the University of Exeter, Arts Council England and Exeter City Council.

Registered Charity number: 1151620

Company Reg No: 8393145

www.exeternorthcott.co.uk

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WATERSIDE

Waterside is an award-winning, vibrant destination for performance, culture and events in the heart of Sale in Trafford, Greater Manchester.

Waterside opened in 2004 and has built a strong reputation for delivering high quality and engaging work, ranging from family theatre, interactive arts activity, performance, live music and regular comedy as well as high profile visual arts exhibitions.

With an important role to play in the local community, the venue welcomes over 100,000 visitors per year, stages the annual ten-day Refract Festival and the cultural LGBTQ+ celebration Pride in Trafford; and engages with over 7000 residents through the established participation programme.

The space houses a main auditorium (the Robert Bolt Theatre), a versatile conference and studio performance space (the Chambers), three exhibition spaces and a number of studios, meeting and workshop spaces, all used by a variety of different groups.



The Lauriston Gallery is open to the public six days a week and is free to visit. The venue is funded by Trafford Council and supported by Arts Council England, the Heritage Lottery Fund and Esmée Fairbairn Foundation.

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