

PINS & NEEDLES
PRODUCTIONS

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THE BEAR

BY RAYMOND BRIGGS

Adapted by Pins and Needles Productions

TOUR PACK



Raymond Briggs ©1994

The Bear

By Raymond Briggs
Adapted for the stage by Pins and Needles Productions

**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.



Following their hugely successful adaptation of Father Christmas with Lyric Hammersmith in 2012, Pins and Needles are continuing their relationship with author Raymond Briggs' with this magical and vibrant adaptation of The Bear.

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. So bring a bear, and join Tilly and her great big white friend on a wild and magical adventure.

'Watch out War Horse, this polar puppet is magical.'

The Guardian

Pins and Needles are delighted to have adapted this heart-warming and humorous wintry tale for the stage. They have teamed up with Puppet Director Finn Caldwell (The Lorax and War Horse) and Puppet Designer Samuel Wyer (Alice's Adventures Underground) to bring to life a large scale, mischievous polar bear puppet. The Bear is directed by Emma Earle (Co-Artistic Director of Pins and Needles and Director of critically acclaimed immersive children's show Adventures In Wonderland) and Hal Chambers (Artistic Director of children's theatre company Tucked In). The set and costume design is by Zoe Squire (Co-Artistic Director of Pins and Needles). Following their successful collaboration on Father Christmas, Pins and Needles have again teamed up with Composer and Lyricist Lucy Rivers (Little Sure Shot).

The Bear is Produced by Pins and Needles Productions in association with Polka Theatre.

www.pinsandneedlesproductions.co.uk

PINS AND NEEDLES PRODUCTIONS

Pins and Needles makes ambitious theatre that is imaginative, playful and highly visual. The company was established in 2009 by Emma Earle and Zoe Squire who met while training at the Bristol Old Vic Theatre School. To date they have produced 13 new productions for a range of ages, including the world premiere of Raymond Briggs' Father Christmas which has played at both Lyric Hammersmith and West Yorkshire Playhouse, and returns to the Lyric for its 5th consecutive year this Christmas. And the new family musical Mr Poppers Penguins, which is playing in New York this Autumn before it's West End debut this December.

Pins and Needles thrive on creating new worlds and solving ambitious staging challenges. Their aim is to capture the imaginations of young audiences through magical, bold and inventive storytelling. They are an Associate Company of the egg, Theatre Royal Bath.



CREATIVE TEAM

Original author: Raymond Briggs
Adaptation by: Pins and Needles Productions
Directors: Emma Earle and Hal Chambers
Designer: Zoe Squire
Puppetry Director: Finn Caldwell
Puppet Designer: Samuel Wyer
Composer/Lyricist: Lucy Rivers
Sound Designer: Liam McDermott
Lighting Designer: Tom White

CONTACTS

Tour Producer: Lee Rayner
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Artistic Directors: Emma Earle & Zoe Squire
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SHOW DETAILS

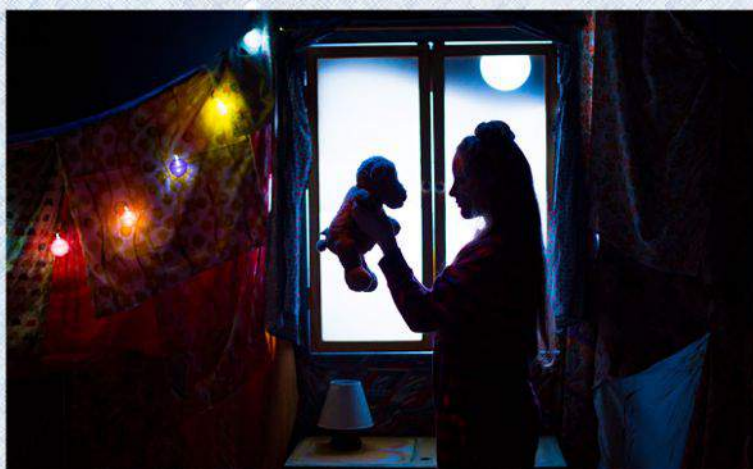
Duration: 55 mins, no interval

Suitable for ages 3+

3 cast members

Minimum playing area (including off stage areas):
8mtr (width) x 6mtrs (depth)

Full technical specification available on request,
please contact Lee Rayner.



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What are people saying about The Bear?

'I love the bear'
Young Audience feedback
(Polka theatre)



'The best thing we've seen out
as a family by a long stretch-
plenty for everyone.'
Audience feedback (the egg)

'The delightful notion of a polar bear about the house is beautifully explored in this witty, inventive production.'
The Stage (4 stars)

'If Raymond Briggs is renowned for penning classic Christmas stories, Pins and Needles is fast gaining a reputation for their stellar adaptations of his work'
Children's Theatre Reviews

'This enchanting production is everything children's theatre should be.'
The Guardian

'Watching the children laugh, shout and for a moment cry, was magic.'
Audience feedback (Salisbury Art Centre)



From other shows

'It's a delightful take on a very popular story and a fine example of how, with imagination and flair, you can create excellent theatre from a very simple narrative.'
The Stage (on Father Christmas)

'This will make children love theatre'
West Yorkshire Post (on Father Christmas).

'The comedy, action and variety kept the children transfixed'
Bristol Evening Post (on The Elves and the Shoemakers)