

# Hinged Theatre



**Family show:**  
for audience 3+

**Running time:**  
approx. 55 mins, no interval

# *'Sky in the Pie'*

## marketing pack



'Sky in the Pie' weaves audience participation with exciting storytelling and adventure, creating a fantastic new show that keeps a young audience spellbound...

*Forced out of her home; where will the mysterious pie maker Dorothy Butterworth and Whiskey her crafty cat go? In desperation they choose an extraordinary mode of transport and collect mismatched companions on the way. How will this unusual group overcome their disagreements, face the hazards of their journey and defeat their adversaries?*

Hinged Theatre's trademark is participatory physical theatre. Beautiful puppets, changes in scale, haunting original music and circus are used in the telling of this fantastical tale. The show encourages everyone to get up and join in to help the protagonists on their journey.



### Show creation notes

Hinged Theatre make innovative, accessible, thought provoking theatre for young audiences. We pride ourselves on delivering shows that are enjoyable and memorable for all the family. Our main aim is not to keep bums on seats... but to involve the children in as much action as possible... joining in with songs and actions, becoming part of the scenery and helping the protagonists on their journey.

Whilst musing on the subject for a new show I came across a beloved childhood story 'There's Some Sky in My Pie' by Joan Aiken. It inspired me greatly and I thought that it would make a wonderful basis for a challenging and exciting theatrical adaptation. The underlying themes would enable children to engage with ideas of; home and displacement, acceptance of difference, conflict resolution and problem solving. The show was developed with children in schools and early years settings to bring their playful and interesting vision to the show.

This show mixes puppetry and live performance, with visually interesting sets and beautiful original music.

**Hinged Theatre Company:** [www.hingedtheatre.co.uk](http://www.hingedtheatre.co.uk)

**Jacky Crosher:** [jackycrosher@gmail.com](mailto:jackycrosher@gmail.com) **07870107385**

## Show synopsis

Dorothy (Dotty) Butterworth lives with her cat, Whiskey, in a little house by the sea. They are very poor and have to rely on the things they grow and catch from the sea to survive.

One day two dodgy developers, Jasper and Harry, arrive to evict them from their house in order to build a big coastal super highway. Dotty and Whiskey are given one day to leave before the

bulldozers come to flatten their home. To calm her nerves Dotty decides to bake an apple pie, due to lack of funds she has no baking powder and uses a bit of sky instead... this piece of sky is too large, the pie grows enormous and starts to fly away. To prevent this Dotty and Whiskey climb on board but the pie doesn't stop and it carries them away on an adventure... going wherever the wind takes them. On their journey they collect some new companions and eventually, with a lot of help from the audience, find their way back to Dotty's house, which is thankfully still standing....at the last moment, with everyone's help Dotty thinks of brilliant, satisfying and tasty plan to defeat the crooks



## *'Sky in the Pie'* -- Show credits:

Based on the story *'There's Some Sky in my Pie'* by Joan Aiken from her short story collection *'A Necklace of Raindrops'*

Producer and stage adaptation:

Script writing

Composer

Puppets designer/maker

Set and props

Costume

Original director

Re-direction

Performers

Photos

Video

Jacky Crosher for Hinged Theatre

Jacky Crosher and Adam Fuller

Paul Bradley

Marc Parrot

Priormade

Abi Kennedy

Amy Rose

By The Cast

Gwen Scott and

Jacky Crosher

Paul Blakemore

Sam Cleverly



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## Quotes for Hinged Theatre and Sky in the Pie:

*"Sky in the Pie is a charming blend of physical theatre, movement and puppetry, and held the audience spellbound throughout!"*

Helen Dorritt; Freelance arts project manager

*"Perfect show. My boys laughed all the way through, wanted to make a flying pie at home and spent all week looking for their imaginary cat, Whiskey!"*

Audience Feedback, Bristol Mum.

*"This is truly a show that is actually Fun for all the Family"*

Tobacco Factory Theatre Critic

*"Sky in the Pie is a magical show for children, where the pies really fly. Everyone laughed, shouted out and got involved with the drama of Dotty, Whiskey and their friends... the baddies were nasty and funny in equal measures. A beautiful family show from two versatile performers."*

Bristol Theatre Review

*"I found myself enthralled and unable to walk away. Even the little ones were mesmerized throughout and I loved how involved they got in the performance"*

Becca Clee; Street Theatre Programmer Larmer Tree Festival

*"I knew it was a good show... as NO children came out to use the toilet!! When little children get bored they all start fidgeting and a stream of them come out to use the toilets."*

Box office manager; New Woolsey theatre, Ipswich

*"A fabulous show, I loved all the audience involvement the children were totally engaged, we would come again"*

Canada Water, London Audience member

*"All the children were all engaged throughout from 3-8 years, the puppets were beautiful and you performers were amazing... how did you change costumes so many times?"*

The Albany, Deptford Audience member

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# *'Sky in the Pie'*

## Example show photos







## Marketing support

- Flyers and posters A5, A3 and A2.
- Promo film for use on website and FOH
- Colour images supplied as jpegs
- Company website and Facebook page
- Marketing support for venues (containing: copy, press releases, PR ideas and biographical notes)
- Post show informally meet the puppets and performers
- Post-show formal Q&A and Interviews with the company on request.

## USP:

This show has been specifically developed with and for young audiences. It is a great introduction to the theatre, with plenty of audience involvement and fun but also plenty of excitement and drama. The performers are adept at improvisation, enjoy reacting and playing with different audiences and always let the puppets meet the audience after the show.

Also the Sky in the Pie explores underlying themes of conflict resolution, home and the outsider which are key areas for this age as they meet new people and take their place in the world at nursery and school

## Links to: Early Years Foundation Stages and Key stage 1:

Communication and language,  
Understanding of the world,  
Personal and social development,  
Problem solving,  
Creative development,  
Language, literacy and the Arts.

## Educational topics for further development and exploration:

Home and displacement.  
Conflict and resolution.  
Meeting strangers, accepting differences and learning to live together



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# Technical and other information:

## Generally

- Show running time—approx. 55mins (dependent on audience participation)
- For a family audience age 3+
- Get in and fit up approx. 3-4 hours, get out approx. 1-2 hours
- Music specially designed and written for the show.
- Minimum space required 8m wide 7m depth and 3m high (there is some flexibility within this, please discuss if this is an issue)
- Requires one or two very light rigging points to suspend the flying pie with puppets and the cardboard baddies. All pulleys and line etc. supplied by the company. Access to the lighting points above stage required from ladder or tallscope. Alternatively these can be pre-rigged. (Short discussion with the venues individual technician usually needed)
- The show has a free standing set which will slot into any venue. (this is made from 8 cardboard sections 2 x 1 m and some other free standing elements)
- Required--- one dressing room for 2 performers
- Required—one technician to operate lights and sound who can work from script and cue sheet, operate Q-lab and the house lighting desk.
- Required— 1or 2 tables to set props and 3 chairs for costumes. These are all used behind the free standing set.
- Required—parking for one estate car for the duration of the company's stay at the venue. Access for unloading and loading of the set from this vehicle.

## Supporting links

- Promo video: <https://youtu.be/yJAXiSJeFtg>
- Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/hingedtheatre/>
- Website: [www.hingedtheatre.co.uk](http://www.hingedtheatre.co.uk)
- Full length video: available on request

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## Lighting:

- The lighting is very simple, making it adaptable for many spaces.
- The show requires a general daylight wash; it takes place over a 24 hour period from early morning through to the next morning and has no specials except for a thunder and lightning storm part way through
- We require the space to be pre-rigged ahead of our arrival. Where this is not possible please contact us so that we can arrange earlier access to the venue.
- We will programme the show onto the house desk. If you do not have a memory lighting desk please contact us to discuss options.
- We carry all colour required, but if you have colour in stock it will save time during the get in and the get out.
- Please feel free to substitute colour where necessary

## Sound:

- Operated from Q-Lab on toured computer, with external soundcard.
- We require two balanced jack inputs to the house sound desk.
- We require a stereo PA system appropriate to the space.
- Where fold-back is easily available, and necessary we will use it, but it is not required.

## Rigging points:

- There are two rigging points for suspension of the puppets... both are very light and can be attached to lighting bars/grids or other fixing points
- Point one: Is positioned about 1.5 m in front of the set and is off centre towards SL. This is a fixed hanging line. (see: right top picture)
- Point two: Is positioned above the set off centre towards SR. it is a pulley line, with two cardboard figures raised up on it. (see: right bottom picture)
- The lines and fixings are provided by the company
- The company manager Jacky Crosher has many years' experience of aerial rigging for circus and has a rigging qualification.
- Access to the ceiling or lighting points required on fit –up day.
- Access provided by venue from ladder, tallscope or other suitable equipment
- **Please contact if more information required**



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# Example Marketing copy:

(200 word and B side of flyer copy)

## *'Sky in the Pie'*

Coming straight to you from sell-out shows in Bristol, Ipswich and London...

Hinged Theatre's dynamic new children's show weaves audience participation with exciting storytelling and adventure, creating a fantastic new show keeps a young audience spellbound...

**Adapted from Joan Aiken's beautiful story 'There's Some Sky in This Pie'.**

*Forced out of her home; where will the mysterious pie maker Dorothy Butterworth and Whiskey her crafty cat go? In desperation they choose an extraordinary mode of transport and collect mismatched companions on the way. How will this unusual group overcome the hazards of their journey and defeat their adversaries?*

The use of puppetry, changes in scale, beautiful music and circus enable the performers to tell this fantastical tale. The show encourages everyone to get up and join in to help the protagonists on their journey.

*"Sky in the Pie is a charming blend of physical theatre, movement and puppetry, and held the audience spellbound throughout!" –*  
Helen Dorritt, freelance arts project manager

*"A perfect show. My boys laughed all the way through, wanted to make a flying pie at home and spent all week looking for their imaginary cat, Whiskey"*  
Audience Feedback (mum of 2 busy boys)

*"This is truly a show that is actually Fun for all the Family"*  
Tobacco Factory Theatre Critic

Designed for age 3+  
and their families.

(100 word copy)

## *'Sky in the Pie'*

**Hinged Theatre's dynamic new children's show...**

**Adapted from Joan Aiken's beautiful story 'There's Some Sky in This Pie'.**

Weaving audience participation with exciting storytelling and adventure, this fantastic show keeps a young audience spellbound...

*Forced out of her home; where will the mysterious pie maker Dorothy Butterworth and Whiskey her crafty cat go? In desperation they choose an extraordinary mode of transport and collect mismatched companions on the way. How will they face the hazards of their journey and defeat their adversaries?*

Designed for age 3+ and their families. Hinged Theatre use puppetry, physical theatre and circus to tell this fantastical tale.

(50 word copy)

## *'Sky in the Pie' ...*

Coming straight to you from sell-out shows in Bristol, Ipswich and London...

Hinged Theatre's beautiful children's show takes Dorothy and her cat on an extraordinary adventure that keeps a young audience spellbound.

Adapted from Joan Aiken's lovely story, 'There's Some Sky in this Pie', this show successfully mixes puppetry, circus and audience participation.

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## Sample Print: flyers



Brochure/  
Flyer A side  
No overprint



Flyer A side  
with example  
overprint

### *'Sky in the Pie'*

Hinged Theatre's dynamic new children's show...

Adapted for the stage, by Jacky Crosher, from Joan Aiken's beautiful story  
'There's Some Sky in This Pie'

Weaving audience participation with exciting storytelling and adventure, Hinged Theatre has created a fantastic new show that keeps a young audience spellbound...

*Forced out of her home; where will the mysterious pie maker Dorothy Butterworth and Whiskey her crafty cat go? In desperation they choose an extraordinary mode of transport and collect mismatched companions on the way. How will this unusual group overcome their disagreements, face the hazards of their journey and defeat their adversaries?*

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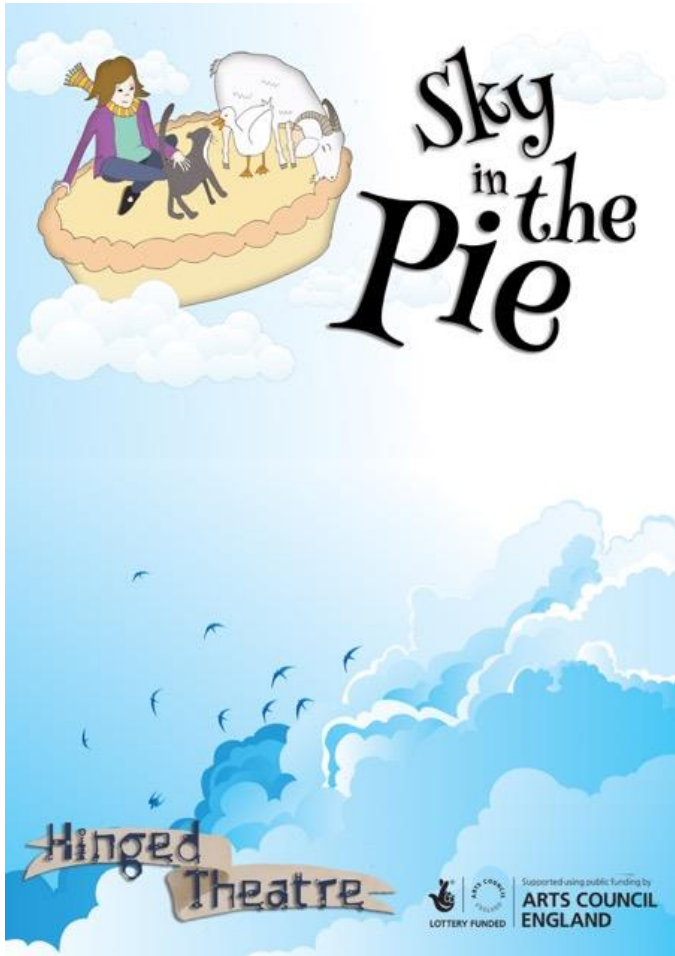
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Hinged  
Theatre

Flyer B side



Poster no overprint



Poster with example overprint