

PINS & NEEDLES  
PRODUCTIONS

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# THE BEAR

BY RAYMOND BRIGGS

Adapted by Pins and Needles Productions

# TOUR PACK



Raymond Briggs ©1994

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ENGLAND  
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[www.pinsandneedlesproductions.co.uk](http://www.pinsandneedlesproductions.co.uk)

# 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.

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# 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 17 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 returned to the Lyric for its 7th consecutive year last Christmas. Our family adaptation of the Little Mermaid won Best Show for Children and Young People at the UK Theatre awards 2018.

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, Bath Theatre Royal.



## SHOW DETAILS

Duration: 55 mins, no interval

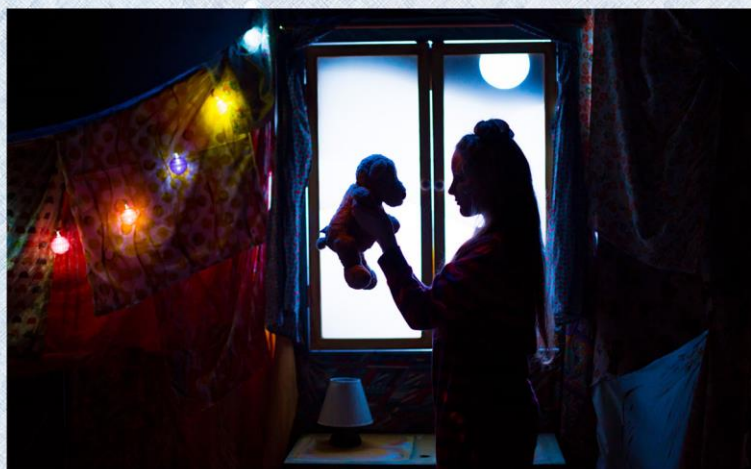
Suitable for ages 3+

3 cast members

Minimum playing area (including off stage areas):

8mtr (width) x 6mtrs (depth)

Full technical specification available on request.



## CREATIVE TEAM

Original author: Raymond Briggs

Adaptation by: Pins & 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

Artistic Directors: Emma Earle/Zoe Squire

Producer: Lee Rayner

Assistant Producer: Alice Massey

[tour@pinsandneedlesproductions.co.uk](mailto:tour@pinsandneedlesproductions.co.uk)

0330 333 9237



# 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)*