

The Gramophones Theatre Company present

TARZANNA



A kick ass, girl power aerial theatre show for 3-8 year olds and their families.



Supported using public funding by
**ARTS COUNCIL
ENGLAND**

Production Pack

Contents

1. **About Tarzanna**
2. **About The Gramophones**
3. **Marketing resources**
4. **Workshops**
5. **Creative team**
6. **Venues**
7. **Box office notes**

1. **About Tarzanna**

Tarzanna is an indoor or outdoor aerial theatre show for 3-8 year olds. The show will delight young audiences as they are taken on a journey into a magical world through playful aerial storytelling, original music, moments of interactive fun, puppetry and acrobatic brilliance.

“Children’s media and books are packed with gender stereotypes: princesses waiting for Prince Charming, fairies dressed in pink, and heroic characters that are almost invariably male” (*The Guardian*); according to a study published in the American periodical *Science*, by the time they are six, girls already think that they are less capable than boys. Tarzanna tells the story of an alternative female role model who is the hero, in charge of her own destiny and with the power to make change. Tarzanna invites all children to think differently about the role of girls and their power and potential to change the world. The show is non-verbal and is therefore suitable for D/deaf audiences and audiences who do not speak English.

Tarzanna was originally commissioned by and performed at Derby Festé in 2016, and has since been performed at Circus Hub (Nottingham), Curve (Leicester) and in the grounds of Leeds Castle. In 2019 it tours to six exciting venues across the UK.

Running time: 45 minutes

2. About The Gramophones

The Gramophones are a playful female theatre company, who devise honest theatre that places the audience at the centre of the performances. We use inventive storytelling, physical theatre, clowning, circus and autobiographical work to create accessible theatre.

We have been commissioned to make work by Derby Festé, Creative Arts East, First Art and Shire Hall Dorset. We've toured with various rural touring schemes and to small-scale theatre venues. We have received eight successful Grants for the Arts Awards.

Curve Theatre Breakthrough Company 2014, New Perspectives Step Up Company 2012.

★★★★★ “An injection of optimism...energetic storytelling” - *Broadway Baby on End to End, nominated for best show and best new writing at Buxton Fringe.*

★★★★★ “This is all told with imagination, inventiveness, energy, emotion and sensitivity; making for an excellent evening at the theatre” - *The Good Review on Wanderlust.*

“Tarzanna was wonderful! Just loved how everyone from 9 months to 90 “got it”– beautiful production!” - *Audience member, Derby Festé.*

“Their work is always inventive, surprising and above all entertaining, each of their shows has the feeling of being a special event, subtly unique and unrepeatable” - *Nathan Miller, HATCH.*

3. Marketing resources

Copy (102 words)

Anna doesn't like mess. She likes things to be in order, but her neat world is turned upside down when she is magically transported to the rainforest and discovers wonders she's never seen before. Wild creatures appear and dance before her as she swings through the jungle of her dreams. When her new home is put in danger, can she let go and become the wild Tarzanna she needs to be in order to save her newfound friends?

Tarzanna is a playful aerial theatre show for all the family to enjoy. Watch the performers literally climb, jump and swing through the air.

Sample images



A full album of production photography is available to download from tinyurl.com/TarzannaPhotos

Where possible please accompany any use of production photography with the following credits:

Tarzanna, by The Gramophones Theatre Company
Photography: Pamela Raith
Design: Mark Hornsey (Babbling Vagabonds)

Video

Teaser trailer (1.10): tinyurl.com/TarzannaTeaser
Trailer (2.10): tinyurl.com/TarzannaTrailer

Feedback from previous audiences and venues

Such a great intro to circus for little ones. Thank you for inspiring + empowering my 3-year-old female warrior. Perfect timing as alarmingly she was just starting to say boys were strong not girls but not anymore! Totally reprogrammed +empowered! #ThisGirlCan -*Audience member*

“An absolute treat, a real highlight of Inside Out 2017 and needs to be seen far and wide. Girl power!” - *Suba Das, Associate Director, Curve*

“Tarzanna was wonderful. Just loved how everyone from 9 months to 90 got it- a beautiful production” - *David Lane, venue programmer*

Anecdotal feedback from The Albany- This was the best selling children’s show they had ever had. The Northwall said “best audience numbers we’ve had for a May show ever!” (Amy Walters, Programme manager)

4. Workshops

Workshops and wraparound activities are available at an additional cost to accompany the show. Please contact gramophonetheatre@gmail.com for prices and availability.

Monkey Madness: Aerial trapeze workshop suitable for young children. Learn how to dangle, sit and stand on a trapeze, make interesting shapes and monkey movements. Please note, if we are visiting your venue with the indoor version of Tarzanna this workshop will only be possible if you have another space in your venue to rig trapezes.

Animal movement and circus skills workshop: Learn how to move like a animal and have a go at spinning plates, hula hooping, juggling and diablo. Please note, if we are visiting your venue with the indoor version of Tarzanna we will need an additional space in which to run this workshop.

5. Creative team

Ria Ashcroft - Director
Hannah Stone - Producer
Claire Crooke - Rigger/Performer
Farrell Cox - Performer
Florencia Leon - Performer
Ali Bakewell - Company Stage Manager
Alexandra Stafford - Lighting Designer
Mark Hornsey (Babbling Vagabonds) - Designer
Sarah Bebe-Holmes - Choreographer
Darren Clark - Composer
Fourbeatwalk - Print Design

Originally devised by The Gramophones and The Babbling Vagabonds and commissioned by Derby Fête. 2019 version devised by The Gramophones. Supported by Déda and funded by Arts Council England.

Ria Ashcroft

Ria Ashcroft is Co-Artistic director of The Gramophones Theatre Company alongside Hannah Stone, Ria is also a director, physical theatre performer and producer. Ria is very passionate about marrying her two loves, theatre and circus, and is particularly interested in creating narrative based aerial theatre shows, such as *Tarzanna*. She set up Circus Hub - an accessible circus training space in Nottingham City Centre, to bring circus for all to Nottingham.

Hannah Stone

Hannah is Co-Artistic Director of The Gramophones alongside Ria Ashcroft. She is also an actor, writer and mother. She started the company in 2011 and has produced four Edinburgh runs, the creation of nine shows and nine national tours. Hannah trained as an actor at Bretton Hall, graduating in 2005. She then went on to work with various theatre in education companies. She also has a wealth of experience working with young people having led several youth theatres, as well as workshops on a variety of topics. She has recently been developing her producing outside of The Gramophones by co-producing *I Dare You*, directed by Beth Shouler, and The Party Somewhere Else festival at Nottingham Playhouse.

Claire Crook



Claire Crook is an accomplished circus and theatre performer specialising in Corde Lisse. She has worked widely in circus theatre, traditional and contemporary circus, cabaret, corporate and community events, and is an experienced teacher of aerial skills, and a circus rigger. Credits include: Theatr Genedlaethol Cymru: *Y Storm*, *Osborne*; What: *Birdy*; Paper Doll Militia: *Loops End*; Citrus Arts: *Looping the Loop*, and Syrcas Circus: *Coppelia*, *Y Goeden Annwn* and *Throi a Throsi*. Her own artistic works includes *Who Do They Think They Are*, an ensemble aerial theatre performance exploring themes of diversity and identity in circus; *Mirrors and Ribbons*, commissioned for Festival of the Mind 2018, a solo show about female body image, and women in circus through history, performed in Sheffield Cathedral; *Trapped*, a solo rope piece using text and physical theatre to explore life, death and the human condition; *Avid Shenanigans*, a collaboration with visual artist Sarah Jane Palmer that combined aerial work with projection, animation, emotion and live shadow interaction.

Farrell Cox



Farrell Cox is a physical performer and aerialist. She trained at East15 Acting school, Dell Arte International, California and with renowned clown Philippe Gaulier. Credits: *Don Quixote* - RSC (The Garrick), *The Exploded Circus* - Mimbres (UK Tour), *Hive City Legacy* - Hot Brown Honey (The Roundhouse), *Tree* - Highly Sprung (Warwick Arts Centre), *Alice's Adventures Underground* - Les Enfants Terribles (The Vaults), *Penguin! Elephant!* - Goblin Theatre (UK Tour), *The Lost Carnival* - Las Theatre (UK Tour), and Charles Chipperfield Traditional Circus. Other work includes: Samsung S9+, Toyota Flow C-HR, and the Olympic Opening Ceremony (London 2012).

Florencia Leon



Florence Leon comes from Chile where she trained in Lecoq style. She then went on to have several highly successful theatre companies in Santiago de Chile, Barcelona and England, including Tacto Theatre Company, winner of "Best Theatre Company Award" in Chile. She works with Artichoke Art Group as a theatre teacher and director (winners of Springboard Festival).

Award, Brighton and Hove Youth Performing Arts Festivals). Other companies she works with include Feral Theatre, Sometime Soon Arts Commedia Dell Arte, Anomic Theatre, Theatre Royal Brighton and Periplum (international and national touring 2014-2019).

Ali Bakewell

Ali has been a freelance Stage Manager since 2003 when she began work for Roundabout Theatre in Education at Nottingham Playhouse after training in technical theatre at New College Nottingham. She has since toured the whole country with shows playing in a wide diversity of venues including village halls, churches, a fire station and The Edinburgh Festival as well as studio theatres and main houses. It's a fascinating way to explore our country.

There is no average day for a touring stage manager. It can consist of driving the van, rigging and operating sound and lights, washing the laundry and writing show reports. During a show she'd rather not be seen or heard because that will mean everything is going to plan. Her favourite part of her job is watching the audience reactions - especially from children. Between contracts she works as a supply teacher in Nottingham primary schools and delivers workshops from face painting to fire walking.

Alexandra Stafford

Recent theatre credits include: *Kindertransport*, *The Elves and The Shoemaker*, *Posh* (Nottingham Playhouse); *Babe*, *The Sheep Pig* (Mercury Theatre Colchester); *Around the World in 80 Days* UK Tour presented by Kenny Wax Family Entertainment; *Playhouse Creatures*, *The Rivals* and *Proof* (The New Vic); *A Thing Mislaid* (Maison Foo); *Hard Times* (Oldham Coliseum); *Lava*, *All The Little Lights* and *Amateur Girl*, (Fifth Word Theatre); *Sherlock Holmes* and *The Hound of the Baskervilles*, *Betrayal*, *Blithe Spirit* (York Theatre Royal); *The Season Ticket* (Northern Stage and Pilot Theatre); *Outsiders* and *Antigone* (Pilot Theatre); *Mirror Mirror*, *The Remarkable Tale of Oliver Twist*, *Emil and the Detectives* (Red Earth Theatre); *Sleuth* (Nottingham Playhouse and West Yorkshire Playhouse); *Harvest*, *Finding Nana* (New Perspectives); *A Tender Thing*, *The Kreutzer Sonata* (Chipping Norton Theatre and Arcola); *The Island* and *Stones in His Pockets* (Dukes Lancaster and Chipping Norton Theatre); *Così fan tutte* and *Hansel and Gretel* (Clonter Opera) and thirteen Pantomimes for Harrogate Theatre, the most recent being *Jack and The Beanstalk*. Alex was the Head of Lighting at Derby Playhouse. Lighting Designs for Derby Playhouse include *My Dad's Corner Shop*, *Educating Rita*, *Up 'n' Under*, *The Blue Room*, *Bouncers*, *Three Viewings*,

A Life in the Theatre and A Slice of Saturday Night.
www.alexandrastaffordlighting.co.uk

Mark Hornsey/Babbling Vagabonds

Babbling Vagabonds create exciting and original theatre productions for all the family. They provide unique experiences indoors and out, that blend the wonder and magic of a gripping story told with skill and imagination. They believe in the transportative power of live performance to create a valuable shared experience for all who participate in it.

Babbling Vagabonds are Phil Coggins, Mark Hornsey and Tara Saunders. They have been working together for nearly 20 years and have created 27 new pieces of theatre over that time.

Sarah Bebe Holmes

Sarah Bebe Holmes' aerial style is characterised by quality of movement, emotional narrative content, and original innovative choreography. Notable performance credits include: Chicaco Contemporary Circus Festival, Manipulate Visual Theatre Festival, National Mallakhamb Championship (Mumbai, India), Treasure Island Music Festival (San Francisco), and Derry City of Culture (Ireland). Sarah also co-founded Structural Integrity Project (SIP), an international aerial film project that challenged the concepts of what an aerial production could be; the SIP filmed aerial in unexpected rural and industrial locations, including aerial silks on a banyan tree outside an abandoned palace in Lebanon, aerial chain suspended from stationary cranes in Edinburgh, and the underside of the onramp to the Golden Gate bridge in San Francisco. In 2010-2011 Sarah toured as aerialist and puppeteer with London-based threesixty Entertainment's 1300-seat pavilion production of *Peter Pan*. Sarah played Luce in *This Twisted Tale*, (U.S. Tour and Edinburgh Fringe Festival). Sarah is a choreographer and director for circus and aerial theatre productions including *Sharashif* (Beirut Lebanon), *Two and a Half Sisters* (Zagreb, Croatia), *Snow Queen* (Zagreb, Croatia) and *RISE* (Edinburgh Scotland).

Darren Clark

Darren is a New Zealand born composer and lyricist working in the theatre in the UK. Since beginning his professional career in 2012 his work has been heard in productions by the Royal Shakespeare Company, in London's West End, Off West End, Off-Broadway and the Royal National Theatre amongst many others. He is the inaugural recipient of the Music Theatre International Stiles and Drewe Mentorship Award and his songs have appeared as finalists in the Stiles & Drewe Best New Song

Competition on three separate occasions, winning runner-up in 2015. His musicals have been licensed in the USA and Australia, his work was selected for the national BEAM Showcase in London. His most recent musical *The Wicker Husband* has been selected to be presented at the most prestigious musical theatre festival in the world, NAMT in New York.

He is a founding member of Paper Balloon Theatre Company, dedicated to making original theatre for, with and by young audiences. Paper Balloon have now created several shows including *Night Light* at the Camden Fringe, a UK tour of *The Grumpiest Boy in the World* by Finegan Kruckemeyer, the utterly bonkers Christmas show *Once Upon a Snowflake* with the Moscow Puppet Theatre and most recently the original shanty story *The Boy and the Mermaid*.

6. Venues

2018 Curve, Leeds Castle, Circus Hub Nottingham

2019 Déda, The Albany, Jacksons Lane, Aberystwyth Arts, The North Wall, ARC Stockton

2020 Dates pencilled- The Lowry, Lakeside Arts, New Wolsey, The Junction Cambridge, Lincoln Drill Hall, Northern Stage

7. Box office notes

Production name	Tarzanna
Company	The Gramophones Theatre Company
Main contact	Hannah Stone (Producer), gramophonestheatre@gmail.com , 07929 168436
Website	gramophonestheatre.com
Social media	@The_Gramophones (Twitter/Instagram) TheGramophonesTheatreCompany (Facebook)

<p>Copy</p>	<p>Anna doesn't like mess. She likes things to be in order, but her neat world is turned upside down when she is magically transported to the rainforest and discovers wonders she's never seen before. Wild creatures appear and dance before her as she swings through the jungle of her dreams. When her new home is put in danger, can she let go and become the wild Tarzanna she needs to be in order to save her newfound friends?</p> <p>Tarzanna is a playful aerial theatre show for all the family to enjoy. Watch the performers literally climb, jump and swing through the air.</p>
<p>Images</p>	<p>Download high res images at tinyurl.com/TarzannaPhotos</p>
<p>Video</p>	<p>tinyurl.com/TarzannaTeaser tinyurl.com/TarzannaTrailer</p>
<p>Age range</p>	<p>3+</p>
<p>Target audiences</p>	<p>Children aged 3-8, of all genders, and their families. Audiences interested in circus and aerial performance. Audiences interested in positive and empowering stories for girls that challenge stereotypes and centre on a female protagonist. Audiences interested in positive messages about animals, nature and the environment. The show is non-verbal and so is accessible to D/deaf audiences and people who do not speak English.</p>
<p>Running time</p>	<p>45 minutes</p>
<p>Genre(s)</p>	<p>Theatre, Family Theatre, Physical Theatre, Circus, Aerial.</p>