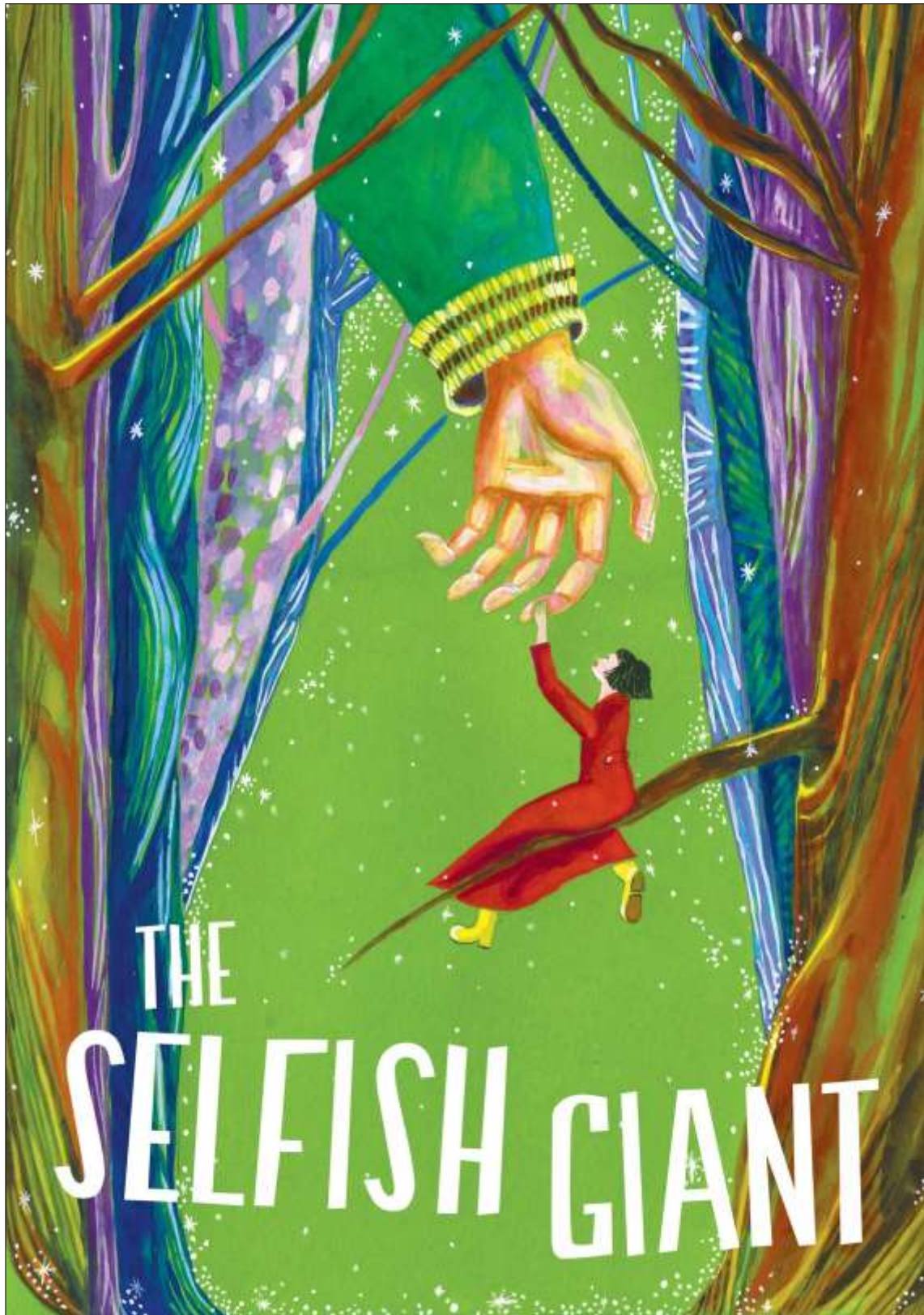




Soap Soup Theatre and Tessa Bide Productions present:



50 minutes - no interval - for family audiences 3+  
Suitable for small and mid-scale theatres  
[admin@tessabide.com](mailto:admin@tessabide.com)

## **A beautiful family show, inspired by the Oscar Wilde short story**

Inspired by the touching children's story 'The Selfish Giant' by Oscar Wilde, Bristol's two leading family theatre experts have combined forces to explore an unusual friendship, and how even the grumpiest giant's heart can melt when Spring finally comes.

*Grinter is a giant. She lives happily alone in her huge cold house, surrounded by her huge snowy gardens, enclosed by her high, frost-covered walls. She shuts out the world, because long ago, the world shut her out, and so she hides, safe and quiet in her peaceful, icy home. Outside the towering walls of her enormous garden, the world has been changing and there is very little green left. One day, the children - tired of playing on hard roads and grey rooftops - find a chink in the giant's wall and climb through, changing the course of the children's and Grinter's lives forever.*

*Powerful storytelling, captivating puppetry, beautiful design, enchanting music and a sprinkling of magic sums up this very special show.*

Suitable for age 3 and up. 55 minutes long.



Production image by Paul Blakemore

### **About Soap Soup Theatre**

Soap Soup Theatre was born out of the imagination of Artistic Director Tomasin Cuthbert Menes, and are proud makers of devised visual theatre, using our many years combined experience of design, puppetry, object manipulation, and performance to create theatre for family audiences. Our work is design led, so expect to see and hear colourful and creative design, tactile puppets, costumes and inventive object work.

We are passionate about making work which inspires and surprises, and encourages audiences imagination and creativity. Making work for families, means just that – making work that is accessible and enjoyable for adult family members as much as the children, so that a theatre trip to Soap Soup show is a shared experience, touching the hearts and minds of the young and old alike.

This is theatre of the senses, and of the heart.

## About Tessa Bide Productions

Tessa Bide Productions are an award-winning theatre company directed by Tessa Bide. We make innovative theatre productions for family audiences that tell original stories – aimed at encouraging a dialogue between the generations. At the heart of our work is an important story that needs telling: about remarkable people and topical themes. We tour our productions all over the world as well as leading outreach work to all ages, from early years to degree students and professional practitioners. Currently, we are touring our non-verbal solo show *A Strange New Space* internationally. This non-verbal show won *The Primary Times' Children's Choice Award* at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival 2017 and has travelled to Goa, India for the Story of Space Festival 2017 and The Hague, Netherlands for a run at the Nationale Theater in January 2018. We're also in development of our new show 'Perfect', a two-hander adaptation of the illustrated book by Nicola Davies and Cathy Fisher for a premiere in Easter 2018.

Tessa Bide Productions is passionate about delivering high-quality theatrical experiences to all ages that inspire and excite but never patronise. We aim to excite the adults just as much as the children and for a family's trip to the theatre to be a truly shared experience to never forget.



Production image by Paul Blakemore

## Production

The Selfish Giant is two-hander, originally performed by Tessa Bide and Tomasin Cuthbert and Directed by Adam Fuller. Co-Artistic Directors (alongside Liz Hart) of visual theatre company Lady Strong's Bonfire, the pair have performed several times together and have excellent on-stage rapport. The set makes full use of the space to create an immersive experience exploring scale. The scenography and sound design transport the audience into a rich and evocative world where giants are your neighbours and the voices of the wind and snow whisper at your keyhole and call down your chimney at night. The story uses bunraku/table top puppetry to transport between different scales and worlds; physical theatre directed by Laura Street with circus elements directed by Gwen Hales, and an evocative, original soundscore. The show is engaging, exciting and playful, a treat for any age.



Production image by Paul Blakemore

## Reviews

### On The Selfish Giant

- 'A Beautiful show that will appeal across generations' **The Spy in the Stalls** ★★★★★
- '50 minutes of theatrical magic' **Sheffield Bigstamp** ★★★★★
- 'The beauty of this play will remain for a long time to come' **Curious Mum**
- 'A story for our times' **Children's Theatre Reviews**

### Tessa Bide Productions

- "An engrossing show that is full of compassion and makes siblings of us all." **The Guardian** ★★★★★ (on Perfect)<sup>[1]</sup><sub>SEP</sub>
- "If I had to sum up Perfect in one word it would simply be that: perfect." **On the Beat**
- "Perfect is sophisticated and sensitive in its storytelling, exquisite in its design and, best of all, really trusts its young audience." **Children's Theatre Reviews**
- "The perfect example of a show where the adults are just as enthralled as the kids." **A Younger Theatre** ★★★★★ (on The Tap Dancing Mermaid)<sup>[1]</sup><sub>SEP</sub>
- "If you drew up a checklist of all the things a good children's show should contain, The Tap Dancing Mermaid would tick every box." **The List** ★★★★★ (on The Tap Dancing Mermaid)
- "We applaud Bide for getting the balance just right... what an inspiring production this is, sparking curiosity and genuine wonder." **Curious Mum** (On 'A Strange New Space')
- "Tessa Bide understands children in a way that can't be taught." **Children's Theatre Reviews**
- "Bide absolutely smashes the fourth wall – this is just everything a children's theatre experience should be." **Childplays** (on The Tap Dancing Mermaid)

### Soap Soup

- "Spellbinding. This is not your average children's play with bright colours and strident tones. It is lovely and gentle and even a bit haunting." **Bristol Culture** (on 'The Snow Baby')
- "Tender and enchanting... featuring a host of loveable characters." **The Reviews Hub** (on The Snow Baby)
- "A very enjoyable and well-executed piece of theatre that charmed us all." **Weston Super Mum** (on The Owl & The Pussycat's Treasury of Nonsense)
- "Using their wit and ingenuity, Soap Soup have forged a version that respects its origins whilst creating something innovative and exciting." Chris Pirie Artistic Director, Green Ginger (On 'Little Red Riding Hood')

## The Team

**Tomasin Cuthbert Menes - Artistic Director Soap Soup Theatre**  
*Co-Producer/Designer/Performer/Devisor*

Tomasin is proud to have produced six Arts Council funded shows with Soap Soup Theatre, touring nationally and receiving high praise from critics, bookers and audiences of all ages. A multi disciplinary artist, Tomasin's skills span design, making, storytelling, performance, puppetry as well as producing and running the company single-handedly. She is passionate about making high quality work which surprises and pleases, reminding adults of the magic of play and imagination, and encouraging children to explore, discover and create. Making work that touches people's hearts and makes them think is the core of what she does. Her performance style explores the relationship between puppet and puppeteer, fusing expressive human performances, detailed puppetry and above all lots of humour! She has designed, directed and/or made puppets, and been a puppetry mentor, for companies including Croon Productions, Hammerpuzzle, Stuff and Nonsense, Sixth Sense theatre, White Horse, the Bristol Old Vic the BOV Theatre School. Tomasin is also Co-Artistic Director of Lady Strong's Bonfire: a company specialising in adult visual theatre.



*Snow Baby*

The Soap Soup Theatre 2017  
*Photography by Paul Blakemore*



**Tessa Bide - Artistic Director Tessa Bide Productions**  
*Co-Producer/Performer/Devisor*

As well as freelancing as a performer and director for other companies, Tessa has made five Arts Council England-funded family-theatre productions with her own company: 'The Tap Dancing Mermaid', 'Arnold's Big Adventure', 'The Melody Makers', 'A Strange New Space', 'Perfect' and 'The Anarchist's Mobile Library'. Her productions combine an original story with a topical theme and use puppetry, physical theatre and music to tell it in a dynamic and unforgettable way. Tessa is an Associate Artist of The Omnibus Theatre (Clapham) and Puppet Place in Bristol and a resident facilitator of The Egg, Theatre Royal Bath. Recent work for other companies has included Puppetry Direction for The Egg's 'Afraid to Ask' Directed by Tim Bell; Puppetry Direction and Performer in Pontardawe Arts Centre's 'King of The Sky'; and Devisor and Performer in Open Sky's 'Hairy Fairy Tails' and Dante or Die and Peut-Etre Theatre's 'Clunk'. Tessa is also Co-Artistic Director of Lady Strong's Bonfire, alongside Tomasin Cuthbert and Liz Hart.



*Perfect*

Tessa Bide Productions 2018  
*Photography by Kirsten McTernan*

**Adam Fuller - Director/Dramaturg**

Adam has worked as a theatre maker with many companies, creating and touring (both nationally and internationally) shows for adults and family audiences both with and without puppetry. He has worked as a writer, devisor, director or performer with Green Ginger (Outpost), Kilter, Ramshaklicious, Soap Soup, Tessa Bide, Stuff and Nonsense, Likely Story, Full Beam Visual Theatre and for Pickled Image on numerous successful shows including the Tales With Granddad series and Santa's Little Trolls. Adam recently co-directed the Wardrobe Theatre's production, 'Reservoir Mogs', and 2016's 'Goldilock, Stock and Three Smoking Bears', both of which sold out for their entire six week runs. He has been involved as a performer with acclaimed shows for Horse & Bamboo and The Egg Bath, Hocket and Hoot, Idiot Child and The Roar Ensemble as well as puppeteering for Aardman and the BBC.

**Matt Huxley - *Composer***

Matt graduated with a first class degree from Oxford University in 2013 and has since gone on to create work for Invisible Ensemble, Stuff and Nonsense, Wellington-Jones Productions and many more. His work has been heard at The National, London's Young Vic, the Roundhouse, the Lyric Hammersmith, the Oxford Playhouse, Poole Lighthouse, on Rinse FM and NTS, and has been toured nationally and internationally. Matt has worked as the Musical Director and composer for all of Tessa Bide Productions' previous shows.

**Laura Street - *Movement Director***

Laura trained at The Northern School of Contemporary Dance and is a Bristol based Dance Artist and early years Teacher. She is passionate about inclusivity and has worked on a large range of projects with a variety of different partners. She leads family workshops for the University of Bath at The Egg, has toured nationally with - and choreographed for - companies such as Oily Cart and Travelling Light and is the Artistic Director of aboutNOWish. Her most recent movement direction was for The Wardrobe Theatre's sell-out Christmas hit *Reservoir Mogs*. She often collaborates with different schools, nurseries, community groups and artists. Laura Street will be directing the movement of the show, and acting as our 'inclusivity' SEN expert, with her experience of working with children with additional needs. Laura worked in this capacity for Tessa Bide Productions' R&D of Perfect, and the R&D and development of ASNS.

**Robbie Butler - *Lighting design***

Recent credits include productions at the Marlowe Theatre, Southwark Playhouse, The Park Theatre, Guildhall School of Music and Drama and Opera Holland Park. Further credits include collaborations with the Wardrobe Ensemble, Tarento Productions, The Orwell Foundation, Abandoman, The Octagon Theatre Bolton and the Royal Danish Opera.

**Gwen Hales - *Circus Director***

Gwen has travelled the world with traditional and contemporary circuses since 1998, as an aerialist, street performer, fire-eater and clown. She now is a freelance circus director, choreographer specialising in work that crosses the boundaries between skill and narrative. She has directed aerial at The National, and in several Sally Cookson productions including Peter Pan, Hetty Feather and The Lion the Witch and The Wardrobe.



Production image by Paul Blakemore

## Marketing and audience development

- The content of this show appeals to a wide range of ages.
- The story is a classic: often referenced in the National Curriculum and the company have developed an in-depth Education Pack which supports the delivery of the show to school groups.
- The skilled puppetry, humour and song appeal to adult audiences as well as children.
- Both companies have a back-catalogue of successful shows and tours, and together have a powerful draw to the Performance for Young Audiences market.
- Both companies have a strong online presence, with 1500 twitter followers, 1500 facebook likes and over 700 Instagram followers between them, as well as professional websites and mailing lists with over 1600 subscribers.
- Eye-catching promotional artwork for fliers and posters
- Two high quality promotional films and production photographs.
- In-depth Marketing Pack which supports marketing initiatives within the individual venues. We have considerable experience writing these packs, which contain press releases and PR ideas.
- There is also the option of running workshops in schools and community centres local to the venues, to interact with children and families who may not normally engage in the arts. Both companies have a raft of experience leading such outreach streams and can deliver Arts Award training too.



Production image by Paul Blakemore



## Process

The project underwent a 2-stage R&D period throughout 2018, where we explored the use of circus and puppetry, and then narrative and song. Alongside this we built prototypes of the puppets and created the set design before going into rehearsal in October-November. We were supported by our partner organisations Headley Park Primary and Brave Bold Drama as well as premier venue, The Omnibus, to make the show.

Working with Headley Park Primary, we ran a series of workshops across all KS2 year groups. In these workshops we will be exploring the themes of loneliness and friendship, through theatre arts including puppet making, devising and performance and sound design. The children's work informed and inspired the devising process, and work in progress showings enabled feedback from the young people, as well as industry and carers to support the creation of the show.

## Example Print

**THE SELFISH GIANT**  
Inspired by Oscar Wilde's short story  
28 Nov to 24 Dec  
OMNIBUS THEATRE

**TESSA BIDE**

"An engrossing show"  
★★★★  
The Guardian on Perfect

This festive season, you are invited to step into a theatrical world where giants are your neighbours and a once beautiful garden is stuck in everlasting winter. Explore an extraordinary friendship, and how even the grumpiest giant's heart can melt when Spring finally comes.

Following last year's award-winning Christmas show, Omnibus Theatre hosts an enchanting new adaptation of Oscar Wilde's short story *The Selfish Giant*. This heart-warming reimagining combines captivating storytelling with spellbinding puppetry, original music and a sprinkling of festive magic.

*Griener the giant lives happily alone in her cold house, surrounded by her snowy gardens, enclosed by her high, frost-covered walls. Outside the world has changed. There is very little green left. One day, the children – tired of hard roads and grey rooftops – climb through a gap in the giant's wall, changing the course of the children's and Griener's lives forever.*

Critically acclaimed Tessa Bide Productions and Soap Soup Theatre collaborate on this enthralling play, beautifully crafted for all ages.

This production was supported by [MARINE THEATRE](#)

#SELFISHGIANTSHOW

"Sophisticated and sensitive ... exquisite in its design and, best of all, really trusts its young audience"  
Children's Theatre Reviews on Perfect

**28 November – 24 December 2018**  
(excluding 2, 10 and 17 December)  
Weekdays: 10.30am & 1.30pm / Weekends: 11am & 2pm

For ages 3 - 103

Tickets:  
£10 adults  
£8 children & conc.  
omnibus-clapham.org  
020 7498 4699

Omnibus Theatre, 1 Clapham Common Northside, London SW4 0QW

## Contacts

admin@tessabide.com

Tessa Bide: 07983611194