

The Tin Soldier



The Tin Soldier is an adaptation and reimagining of the Hans Christian Anderson tale [The Steadfast Tin Soldier](#). This show has been written for 5+ by Mike Kenny who also wrote the award winning [The Railway Children](#). [Birds of Paradise Theatre Company](#) (BOP), which is the first disability lead company in Scotland, invited Mike and the creative team to imagine a world for the characters that is new and magical and that does not shy away from the sadness and challenges within the tale.

“When I was growing up as a disabled boy in a largely upright world I looked for characters on TV and in books that I could relate to so Anderson's Tin Soldier with his one leg and doomed love for the paper ballerina was right up my street.

When I was chatting with Mike about possible adaptations for BOP's Winter show I was thrilled to discover he shared my love of Anderson's surreal world, fantastical journeys and characters in search of a place to belong. Mike has come up with is a beautiful retelling of the story in the context of a world where more and more people are forced to leave their homes in search of some place to call their own.

Our story begins in a Place, not the place where the Tin Soldier's story is set but the place where Jack, one of the main characters in the play is - a place where children are sent until a home can be found for them.” Garry Robson Director and Artistic Director BOP

5 things that are unique and exciting about this show

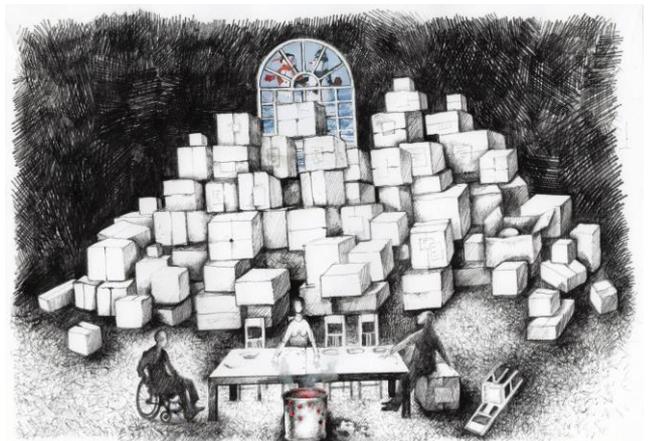
1. A brand new script
2. Integrated creative access including description and text enriches for children
3. Disabled and non-disabled cast, inc use of sign supported English / BSL
4. Original music performed live by young composers
5. Unique set and puppets designed by award-winning Russian designer

Creative Access

BOP is committed to making work that is accessible and we are excited as this is the first time we have made work for children. What does creative access mean? BOP always integrates elements into our work to provide access for people with sensory impairments or who are Deaf and use BSL. For The Tin Soldier we are looking at verbal description within the script, pre-show descriptions of set and cast, sign supported English and BSL used by one of the characters and some captions or text support designed into the set. These elements make the show more accessible and interesting to everyone – and such access is a great fit for young people.

Set and design

We are excited to be working with an award winning designer and puppet maker from Russia, Victor Nonenko. Victor is creating a world for use within an orphanage that can transform and imagine the world beyond as the characters tell the story.



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The creative team

Director Garry Robson, Artistic Director of BOP
Writer Mike Kenny
Design Victor Nonenko

The cast

Jack Robert Softley Gale, Artistic Director of BOP
Dancer Caroline Parker
Soldier Lauren Gilmour
Musicians Audrey Tait
Stuart Ramage

Music

There will be original music performed live by award-winning folk duo Bella and the Bear and critically acclaimed music producer Audrey Tait.

Some suggested activities and ideas to use in your classroom pre or post show

- How would you feel if you were lost or rejected like The Tin Soldier? Can you tell that story with boxes and objects - can you bring a box and a few objects to life to tell a story?
- Make a paper ballerina cut out - download a template & instructions from us (BOP web link below)
- Make a soldier - a puppet, from objects or build from boxes
- Make a puppet - what would a puppet of you look like? What are the different ways of making a puppet? <https://www.tes.com/teaching-resource/puppet-research-sheet-6125881>. [Bottle puppet](#) idea.
- The Social Model of Disability - watch our video aimed at children (following with resources see below)
- Dance to our music - how does a ballerina dance? How does a soldier dance? Contact BOP for exclusive preview track.

Resources

Introduction pack and visual story available November - inc. verbal intros recorded by cast on our website.

The themes of rejection, longing, journeys/migration and community in The Tin Soldier may resonate with curriculum themes and activities. The production also contains rich material for activities and discussions within the classroom - from the set and puppets to the integration of access. BOP Theatre is a good role model for disabled and non-disabled children as it promotes inclusion and positive attitudes to disability within society.

Dates and details

The Studio, 22 Potterrow, Edinburgh, EH8 9BL

Thursday 7th - Saturday 23rd December

Eve 7pm (not Sun or Mon) Matinees 2pm Thu 14, Fri 15, Wed 20, Thu 21, Fri 22 and Sat 23 Age: 5+

BOP website <http://www.boptheatre.co.uk/tin-soldier>

The Studio website <http://www.edtheatres.com/thetinsoldier>

BOP contact mairi@boptheatre.co.uk

Theatre schools contact groups@edtheatres.com