

STARCATCHERS

RSNO
SCOTLAND'S NATIONAL
ORCHESTRA

Evaluation

Starcatchers &
the RSNO present

Hup



For babies 0 - 24
months and their adults

Hup

Between April and July 2015 Stacracchers and the RSNO's production of Hup toured Scotland to venues and communities across Scotland.



STATS

12 venues

12 community settings

5 performers

1 production manager

55 performances

1,612 total audience

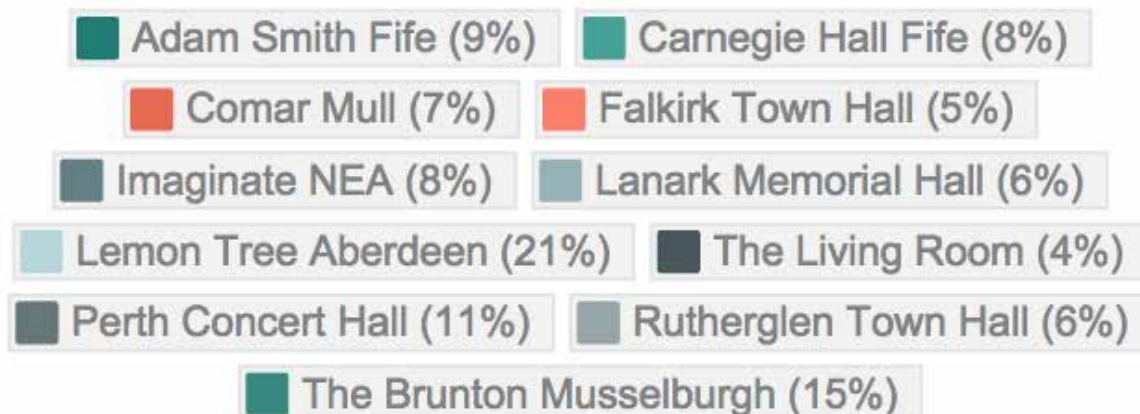
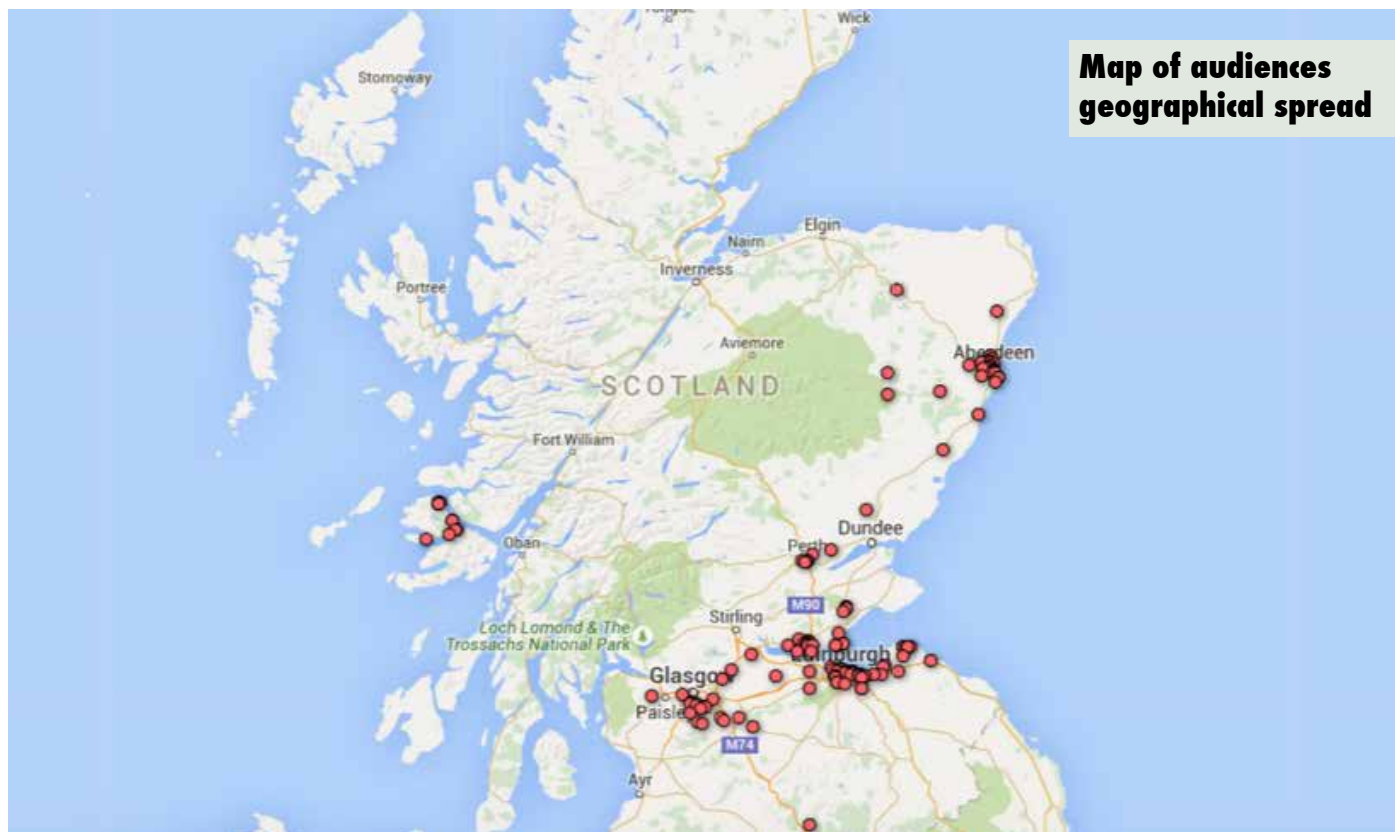
91% capacity

1650 minutes of music played

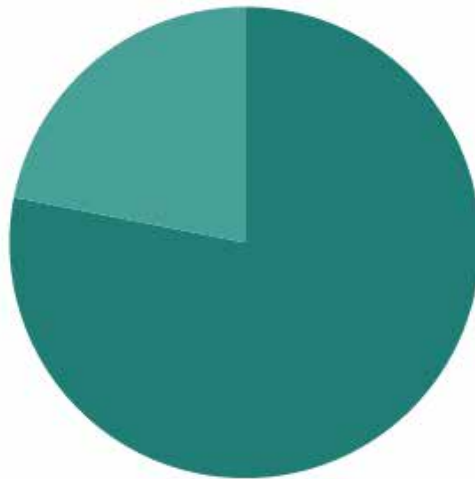
825 minutes of play

Audience Feedback

We asked for audiences to complete a short survey either online or on paper immediately after the performance. **207 people answered our survey:**



Which venue did you visit to see Hup?



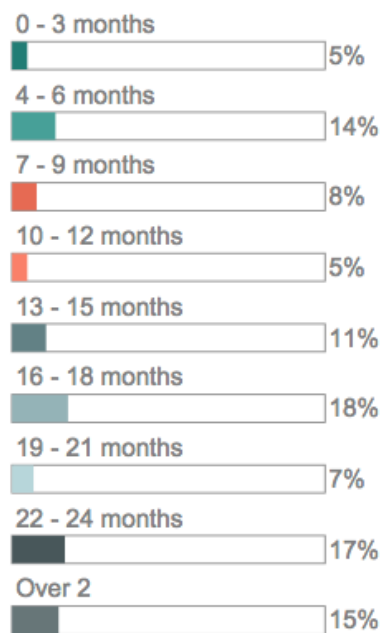
■ YES (78%) ■ NO (22%)

Have you visited this venue before?



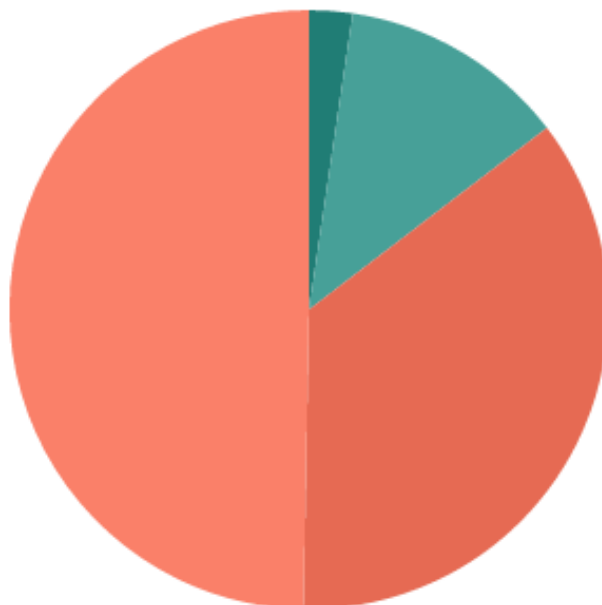
■ None (3%) ■ One (83%) ■ Two (13%) ■ Three (1%)

How many children did you bring with you today?



How old are they?

How often do you listen to music at home?



■ Rarely (2%) ■ Sometimes (12%) ■ Often (36%) ■ Very often (50%)

 How often do you attend cultural/arts activities with your baby?



How did your child react to the session? Do you think they enjoyed it?

“

She absolutely loved it, as did we. We've never seen her so engrossed in anything and sitting still for such a long period of time. She was in awe!

Luke loves music and was dancing and walzing the whole way through. Great interaction!

I thought she might be too young but she watched everything and loved the music

Amazed at how the performance caught the attention of a 7 month old

He was absolutely mesmerised by the entire experience from start to finish

I couldn't believe he could sit still for so long. He's been active since starting to walk so it was amazing!

”

BUZZWORDS

Shy Brilliant Amazing Held Interested Entranced
Attention Beautiful Dancing Fascinated
Enjoyed Smiled Music Instruments
Loved Unsure Engaged Lights
Performance Enchanted Mesmerised
Excellent Calm Particularly Experience Engrossed

Did you enjoy the session?

“

A lovely relaxed experience that put the audience at the centre of the performance which was wonderful

I thought it was a lovely experience for myself and Thea to share

Brought the baby to his first birthday - hope this is the first of many times we go to the theatre as his birthday treat.

I loved it and we listen to the CD at home a lot

I really enjoyed it. I often don't enjoy baby activities, but a really nice space was created - creative, peaceful and fun.

Amazed by how calm all the children were

Yes, although I felt very stressed at the beginning when I couldn't get my daughter to stay beside me on the carpeted sitting area but a member of staff stepped in to assure me that this was okay. That made a big difference.

”

BUZZWORDS

Fun Parents Children Daughter Baby Great Atmosphere
Enjoyed Brilliant Music Performance
Loved Gentle Beautiful Magical Relaxing
Length Fantastic Simple Excellent Nice

What did you like the most?

“

Everything! It was really well planned and there was no need to worry about baby's reaction to the performers as it would have been easy to tiptoe out if required.

Music, felt safe for child to explore, simple set, use of props

Relaxes, so child friendly. Obviously a lot of thought put in

The atmosphere created, very welcoming, easy and serene. Making our environment part of the show (seating arrangements) integrating play sessions using best elements.

It was engaging for the babies throughout. Loved that it was a proper high quality performance for babies. Great way to introduce babies to the arts.

Fab to have events tailored to under 2s. I have taken my wee one to regular "recitals for wrigglers" but those are the only other event even vaguely like this!

Calm, beautiful music, difference experience

Good open atmosphere - makes children (and parents) feel comfortable, music was beautiful, plus time after performance

Relaxed, combination of music and theatre, length duration

Stimulated all the senses for babies and adults. Cosy environment with friendly performers. Really loved it all really!!

”

Press

Mary Brennan | The Herald

01/05/15

Production for the very young tells story without using words

HUP - and away we go, into a forest clearing that's enclosed by cut-out perspex trees. It is home to a mischievous raccoon and it harbours a trio of musicians who will turn out to be every bit as playful (as well as playing violins and a cello).

It is a new collaboration between the Royal Scottish National Orchestra and Starcatchers, especially devised for the very young. The intended age range is up to 24 months, the emphasis on soundscapes, visuals and story-telling which doesn't rely on spoken text. Instead, Hup delivers an adventure in friendship and sharing the joys (and bushy tails) of a raccoon with a love of nature.

Dressed in monotone from the black tip of her nose to her stripey-socked toes, Hazel Darwin-Edwards is an engagingly bouncy critter. (She is also Hup's co-creator along with composer Abigail Sinar). When we first encounter her, she's humming. Soon, she's percussing on the floor and violinist George Smith is picking up the thym and moving it on, into a tune that has the lilt of a Scottish folk song. As it loops sweetly, a second violin chimes in (Abigail Sinar) and we're beguiled by harmonies. What emerges, with the addition of a cello (Andrew Huggan), is a lovely interaction between musical moods and rhythms and the little games that our lively raccoon initiates - it is a game in itself, spotting the cause and effect nature of the relationship.

Raccoon is cheerfully set on morphing the musicians into fellow furies - Smith introduces a gentle tension by acting the refusenik. He succumbs, as do the tinies, who have infiltrated proceedings in response to peek-a-boo play, or in pursuit of fluffy tails. If half-an-hour seems a test of their concentration, the reward is a constant flow of intriguing activity and enticing music, followed by some hands-on play for all.



Kelly Apter | The Scotsman

15/05/15

Hup - a perfectly tailored work for under-tuos. The research and knowhow of pre-school theatre specialists Starcatchers and the talented musicians of the Royal Scottish National Orchestra have combined to give babies and toddlers a delicate introduction to classical music. Two violinists and a cellist are joined by a pesky raccoon, determined to enlist everyone into her black and white briagde. Face paint, false bushy tails and stripy socks are produced from various boxes, while the musicians play Abigail Sinar's gorgeous new score.

What the babies make of it is anyone's guess - those synapses are busy firing away in private behind wide, questioning eyes. Some toddle around the carpeted space, most sit absorbing it all like sponges.



Irene Brown | EdinburghGuide.com

15/05/15

Hup is a short and quietly beautiful piece of bespoke musical theatre for babies and toddlers up to 24 months. There is a delightful atmosphere where participants are invited to sit on golden carpets surrounded by yellow and orange perspex trees from designer Karen Tennant. Co-creator Hazel Darwin-Edwards who is dressed as a saucy, slinky raccoon, cuts out paper birds and arboreal 'helicopters' to charm the wee recipients. Once seated, children and their adult companions are treated to some truly lovely music composed by co-creator Abigail Sinar and played on violins and a cello that's accompanied by playful interaction with that raccoon.

There is a necessary narrative that weaves its way silently through this charming experience. In a reverse of expectations the raccoon gradually persuades the other to join her stripey black and white world, but the gentle brightness of the citrus coloured forest is not dimmed by the string players joining their black snouted, hooped and fluffy tailed chum. *Au contraire!* She does this with simple recognisable props that effectively bring complete inclusiveness to the musical group - a fine if subtle message for the weans!

Both transfixing and mesmerising, this relaxed and intimate delight of a performance is full of surprises geared right at tiny tots by clever enough to draw in the adults in the room too as it magically links nature and music.

Edinburgh based company Starcatchers specialises in performances for babies and very young children with the aim of nurturing their creative and cognitive development. As an introduction to highly imaginative theatre for this very special group of citizens, Hup absolutely excels.



Alan Radcliffe | Allanradcliffe.wordpress

15/05/15

One of the greatest pleasures of Xana Marwick's show lies in watching the varying reactions of the young audience as the live music, composed by Abigail Sinar, moves between moods that range from playful to romantic, and the performers dress up and initiate games of hide and seek and pin the tail on the donkey. Inevitably, some of the kids take longer to immerse themselves in the action than others, but the final invitation to shuffle forward and play with props such as cushions, cones, funny glasses and pieces of fur and fluff is met with unabashed enthusiasm.

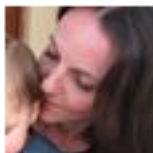


Social Media Feedback



Pati Adams We must thank YOU for giving such an entertaining, rewarding and educational afternoon. Wonderful. Please, please let us know as soon as you are on tour again. Wouldn't want to miss your visit.

Unlike · Reply · 1 · 4 July at 15:39



Kara McKee – 5★ Magically mesmerising! The show is absolutely beautiful. Myself, my 2 year old, 6 month old and granny thoroughly enjoyed it. Please come back to Tobermory!x

Unlike · Comment · about 3 weeks ago · 4 Reviews ·



Tracie Leckie – 5★ We loved Hup at Rutherglen town hall today. A fantastic show.

Unlike · Comment · on Friday · 3 Reviews ·



Anne-Marie Kean – 5★ Literally just in the door from seeing Hup this morning with my baby girl! Amazing!! Such a beautifully sweet experience for us to have shared together. Although it states 0-24 months I initially thought, at 12 weeks, Thea would be too young. When we arrived all the other babies looked older than her but I was very wrong! She watched every move and listened to every note with complete wonder! I think she may now be a little bit in love with the Cello. She did start to cry a few times but I realised it was only when Raccoon left her line of sight haha. Visually, Aurally and tactilely stimulating. The music was engaging and jolly. All the black and white stripes helped keep Thea's attention and focus. I was completely gutted I left my phone in the car so I didn't get to take any photos at all!! The free CD at the end was a perfect gift and I put it on as soon as we got in the car. Needless to say Thea slept the whole way home. Please come back soon so we can come again! Highly highly recommend anybody and everybody to take their bubbas to see Hup :)

Unlike · Comment · on Saturday · 36 Reviews ·



Starcatchers likes this.



Jenny Smart We had a great time at the Falkirk performance today. Enjoyed by the parents as well as the baby!

Unlike · Reply · 1 · 2 May at 17:54



Pip Shiels We both enjoyed the show today so much - I don't think I've ever seen a group of babies & toddlers so enchanted for so long. More shows like it would be wonderful & also something similar for 2-5 year olds. Well done to all who created it & performed - I will definitely recommend it to friends.

Unlike · Reply · 1 · 2 May at 21:03



Louise Farquhar We took our 22 month old little boy on Saturday& he loved it! Highly recommend!

Unlike · Reply · 1 · 5 May at 19:46



Fiona Marie Rich The CD is still a firm favourite in our car!

Unlike · Reply · 1 · 22 June at 21:53



Elinor Gallant @el_gallant · 5m

@StarcatchersUK rather late but wanted to say how much we (inc two 7 month olds) loved #Hup @TheBrunton last wknd - congrats to all involved

1 1



Laura Santi We sooooo enjoyed today , thank you !! Would love to see more events like this ! 😊

Unlike · Reply · 2 · 2 May at 16:47



May 12

Archie loved #Hup! @ImagineUK @StarcatchersUK #imagine15



RETWEETS
5

FAVORITES
5



3:29 AM · 12 May 2015 · Details

Hide photo



Jen Costine

Had a wonderful time seeing Hup!! Thank you!! 🎵



Jen Costine



Nursery and Community Feedback



We had our visit from the Hup today. Fab fab fab!!!!!! We loved it. It was a magical experience for the children and they were agog! (and so were we). **Woodlands nursery**

The staff and children really enjoyed it and the staff commented on how the children were so taken with it, that they had never seen them engage in something for that length of time-I'm sure as you can imagine, they can get fed up easily and wander off. **Soroba Family Group**

From the moment we walked in there was a sense of calm. The music was the voice and told the story with the interpretation from the raccoon although Matty kept saying "the cat". **Seabeach Nursery**

...the performance of Hup today at Rachel House was just wonderful.

The relationship between the artists and the audience was just so lovely to watch, everyone was so mesmerised by the lovely music and Hazel's playful movements. It was both funny, tender and engaging. The playful way the performers interacted with each other and the use of props was a joy.

It was evident to see the enjoyment in the children faces, and the parents and staff present all talked about how much they had enjoyed the experience and really hope that Starcatchers will visit again, which is my sincere wish. **Rachel House**



We loved your show!
Thank you so much for
visiting us ☺
Aileen Anna & All
the boys & Girls xxx

Links & Images

Hup in development : <https://vimeo.com/93133758>

BeHup the scenes development: <https://vimeo.com/93133757>

Hup trailer: <https://vimeo.com/132418959>

Images: Solen Collett

Films: Geraldine Heaney

