



LAA AUNCH!




STARCATCHERS


DIRLIEBANE
THEATRE COMPANY

 
CREATIVE LAND SCOT
ALBA | CHRUTHACHAIL
LOTTERY FUNDED



LAAAUNCH!

Starcatchers and Dirliebane Theatre Company present Laaaunch!, an adventure of galactic proportions, made especially for tiny humans. It's perfect for babies up to 12 months who truly understand the challenge, peril and pleasure of lying, rolling, stretching, sitting up and making it to standing. Join stellar adventurers Dot, Dash and Minim for an interactive and rhythmical journey of physical exploration, strength, excitement and determination that requires the expertise of your baby.

With a comfortable set that babies are free to explore, Laaaunch! is a non-verbal performance, filled with musical beats and comedy, where the babies can interact with the performers in their own way and in their own time. Every baby in the space is welcomed by the characters singing their names, and they are introduced to the other babies in the audience, creating an immediately welcoming and engaged space.

Laaaunch! is quietly radical in the profound connection the performers create with the babies and their improvisational physical theatre style. It is a predominantly non-verbal performance; specifically created for the age and stage of the audience, one that responds to the children's developmental needs and sparking their imaginations and inspiring their movement and play as well as supporting the connections between the children and their parents/carers. We champion an approach that offers positive performance experiences that can be shared between adult and child as we know that these experiences contribute towards stronger bonds between them and also support adults and children to play, communicate and connect together.



CREATIVE TEAM & CAST

Rachel Colles, Creator / Performer

Fiona Ferrier, Creator / Performer

Susan Appelbe, Composer / Musician

Rory Clark, Musician

Katie Innes, Set and Costume Designer

Kate Bonney, Lighting Designer

Jade Adamson, Movement Support

Tim Licata, Creative Collaborator

STARCATCHERS

Starcatchers is Scotland's Arts and Early Years organisation. We are dedicated to creating work for the birth-5 age group. Our vision is that our youngest children fulfil their right to access arts and creative experiences that give inspiration, joy and wonder to early childhood. We producing and tour high-quality performance work, in Scotland and internationally, with recent works including *Float*, *Little Top*, *Mixed Up*, *MamaBabaMe* and *Hup*.

DIRLIEBANE THEATRE COMPANY

Dirliebane Theatre Company creates character based clown theatre performances for children, young people and their families.

Both organisations are committed to creating magical work for young audiences that is thoroughly, tested with audiences throughout the development process.

Rachel Colles – Creator / Performer

Rachel trained at the Royal Welsh and has worked across the country including Forest Forge Theatre Company, Pentabus Theatre Company, Polka Theatre, Lancaster Dukes, Bard in the Botanics and Scottish Ensemble. She trained in clown with Pierre Byland and John Wright. Since 2007 she has worked as a Clowndoctor and Elderflower for Hearts & Minds using clowning, improvisation, music, storytelling, puppetry and rhythm to connect with children in hospital and hospice care and adults with Dementia. Rachel is co-artistic director of Dirliebane Theatre Company.

Fiona Ferrier – Creator / Performer

Fiona is a clown, theatre maker and youth theatre artist. Fiona trained at Playspace Clown School in Sydney, and has worked for Hearts & Minds since 2004. She has trained with Jos Houben, John Wright and Pierre Byland. Fiona has created and toured clown shows with Mull Theatre and The Clown Conspiracy. Fiona created Dirliebane Theatre Company with Rachel, which since 2016 has created four shows and a series of films and soundscapes and toured work to schools and venues.

Susan Appelbe - Composer / Performer

Susan has worked with Dirliebane Theatre Company since 2019, creating music and sound design for many of their productions. Susan has performed in Sprog Rock (Katy Wilson) and The Red Shoes (The Letter J). Susan is currently a cello tutor and a member of Fauna String Quartet. Composing credits include 13 Sunken Years (Stellar Quines / Lung Ha Theatre).

Rory Clark – Performer

Rory has performed in theatre projects including Whirlygig (Catherine Wheels), Mixed Up (Imaginate/Starcatchers), Sprog Rock (Katy Wilson), and The Red Shoes (The

Letter J). Rory has led and developed workshops for various groups including mothers and babies, toddlers, primary, secondary and EASN schools, Deaf / Blind and older people.

Katie Innes

Katie is a freelance set designer and scenic artist. For Strange Town Theatre, she worked on large-scale, multi-media event 'Gen Z: The Future is Unwritten', 'A Field of Our Own,' site specific show at Hibernian Stadium and 'Dr Korczak's Example'. Katie has worked with Big House Events, Edinburgh Science Festival, Edinburgh Book Festival, Dogstar Theatre, the Glasgow Commonwealth Games and many other event and film companies.

Kate Bonney

Kate loves to make work that inspires and delights an audience, and help tell stories that need to be told. Recent work includes The Unfolding with Bristol Light Festival, Old Boy with Glass performance at Dundee Rep and Little Women with Pitlochry Festival Theatre.

Jade Adamson, Movement Support

Jade is a performer, choreographer and movement director. Recent projects include Oona Doherty's Navy Blue, choreographer for All or Nothing's Flying Force at Paisley Halloween Festival, movement director on Stamping Ground (Raw Material/Eden Court) and associate movement director on NTS's Orphans.

Tim Licata, Creative Collaborator

Freelance actor, director and teacher, Tim is Co-Artistic Director of Plutôt la Vie Theatre Company. Tim also teaches Clown, Bouffon, Slapstick, Improvisation and Feldenkrais Awareness Through Movement.



UK TOURING TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS

Laaunch! is designed to be performed in traditional theatre and non-theatre spaces. The show can be self-contained; however, this needs to be discussed in advance of any confirmed bookings.

AGES

For babies from birth - 12 months and their grown ups.

CAPACITY

Maximum capacity of 40 per performance; (15 baby & adult tickets, plus 10 additional adult tickets). This should be confirmed with the company in advance of any tickets going on sale.

RUNNING TIME

Laaunch! has a running time of 60 minutes without an interval. This includes a soft start and soft finish.

Maximum performances 2 per day with minimum 2-hour break between the end of first show and start of second show.

FIT UP & GET OUT

A detailed schedule will be prepared for every venue.

We require a minimum of 6 hours prior to the first performance. Ideally the Get-In will take place on the day before the performance.

The duration of the get out is venue dependant, however, should take no more than 4 hours.

STAGE & AUDITORIUM

We require:

- A minimum floor space of 8m x 6m for our set.
- A place for the audience to leave pushchairs, shoes, and jackets.
- Minimum height of 3m.

The audience sit in a horseshoe on the set with the performers, on beanbags.

SET

We tour with:

- Grey printed dance floor 4m x 3.75m.
- Beanbags x 15 (plus spares).
- 5 x small flats of 1800mm x 1200mm.
- Slash curtains attached to the doorways.
- Hanging reflective discs attached to the rig, bars or any suitable overhead/over stage support.
- Padded floor of 6m x 6m which goes under the printed dance floor.
- Grey painted 'drama' box used as a seat for the musician.

We require:

- A flat, clean floor.
- Black box masking.
- Blackout.

LIGHTING

We tour with:

- 1 x ETC Nomad with Mac book Pro.
- ETC show file.

We require:

- Dimmable house lights.
- 10 x Wide LED Pars.
- Hard power.
- DMX/Data cable.
- Table for operator in the space.
- General warm cover, including front and back light.
- Four specials (the exact position of these will be confirmed on a per venue basis).
- Lighting design will be updated for the tour.

SOUND

We tour with:

- 1 x Mac book Pro.
- 1 x PUSH 2.
- 2 x Small studio speakers. Percussion, Guitar & Sousaphone.

We require:

- Clean hard power.

COSTUME, WARDROBE & DRESSING ROOMS

We tour with all costumes and spares required for the production.

We require:

- Iron. / Ironing board.
- Washing facilities.
- 2 x dressing rooms – 1 x female and 1 x male. These need to be clean and warm.

IN HOUSE CREW CALL

We require at least 1 x member of venue crew to assist us for the duration of our visit.

TRANSPORT

Laaunch! tours in a LWB Transit van. Please ensure there is suitable parking for this vehicle for the duration of the get in.

COMPANY ON THE ROAD

4 - 5 people. 3 performers plus 1-2 technical staff.

COMPANY MANAGEMENT

We require:

A company office with access to WIFI.
A Green room space, kitchen with drinking water and tea and coffee making facilities.

INTERNATIONAL TOURING.

Please contact us to discuss requirements for international touring.



MARKETING & ENGAGEMENT

We can provide online assets, high resolution images, print and marketing plans.

AUDIENCE FEEDBACK

"It was fantastic.... from the moment it started all the babies just turned and looked, enthralled. The performers made sure to go to each and every child and involve them which was great as some kids would be shy or less able to move. It really seemed to be fascinating for the wee ones so I would recommend it to others."

"We went to this today in Perth and it was AMAZING. My wee girl was entranced by it all, curious but surprised. It felt like being in the babies world for once, instead of the other way around."

"I have never seen my son so engaged in an activity. He was in his element and it was so special to see. The personalised engagement and interaction given to each child made all the difference and seeing the children's faces so happy makes my heart full."

"It was perfectly pitched with enough stimulation without being overwhelming. All the staff were very attentive also. I felt like I was being looked after as well as the baby."

"They engaged so much with the babies, I really thought it was a wonderful experience that they created, not too intrusive as to scare anyone, but engaging enough to keep everyone focused."

"It showed me how to play with my wee one."

"The show was excellent. All the babies were thoroughly engaged and loved the performance. The three performers were brilliant."

"Loved that the actors learned my daughters name and remembered it throughout! First sensory type event and loved it! Loved how musical it was and the added touch of signing 'thank you' to each baby at the end."

TRAILER

<https://vimeo.com/starcatchers/laalaunch>

Full film available on request.



WRAP AROUND ACTIVITIES

Our outreach work aims to connect with audiences who might not normally participate in this kind of activity either because of lack of available work, or because of a sense that this might not be for them.

We will work with your Creative Learning / Engagement teams to determine appropriate ways to work with local groups, to encourage a new audience to feel comfortable and confident to come to a venue to watch a performance.

The performers are all experienced in working with groups with complex needs, and during the development of this work, visited settings with children with complex needs. We are happy to offer workshops based on the performance, in their settings.



CONTACT DETAILS

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