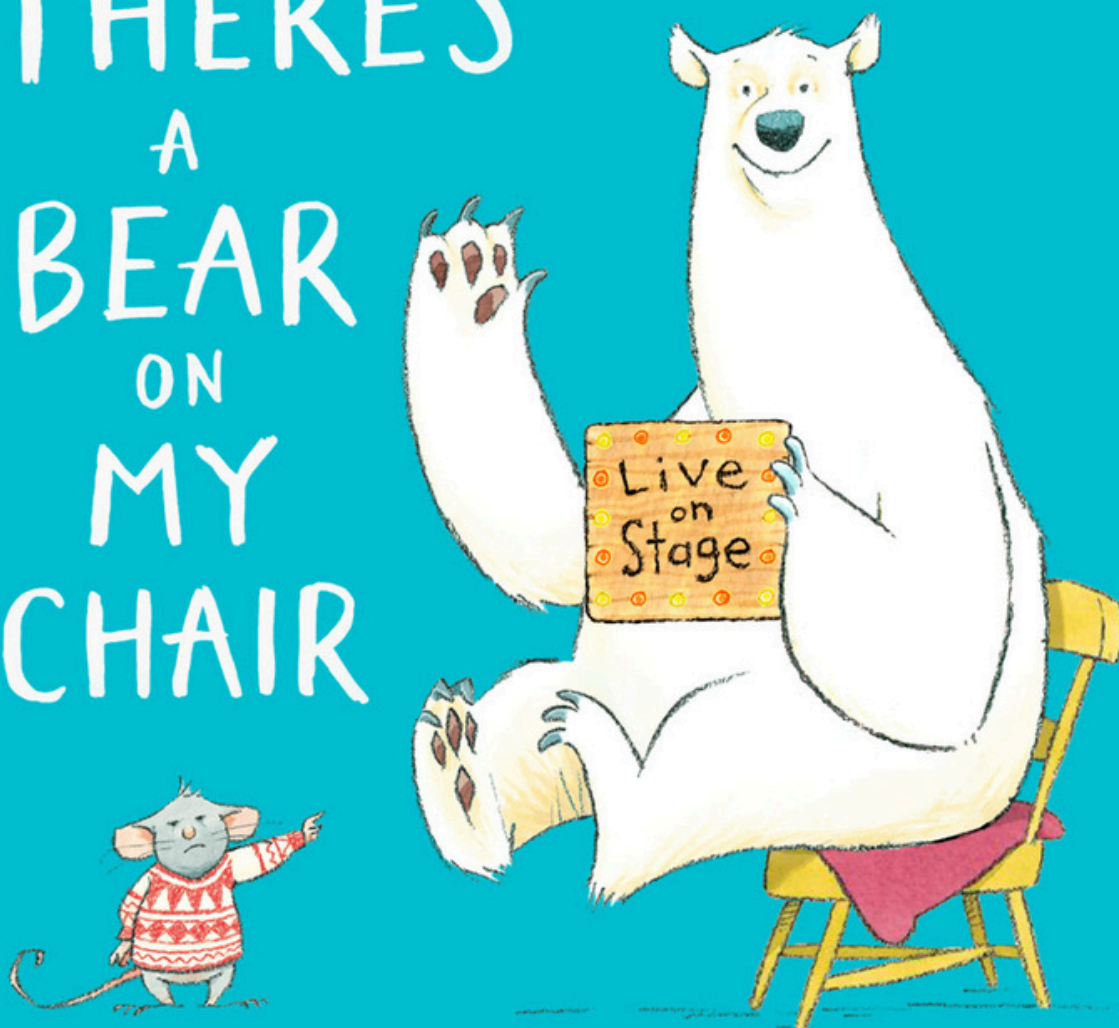


fuel

Fuel in association with Southbank Centre presents

THERE'S
A
BEAR
ON
MY
CHAIR



By Ross Collins

Adapted for the stage and directed by Toby Olié



Supported using public funding by
ARTS COUNCIL
ENGLAND



Contents

Welcome - Page 3

About The Show - Pages 4 - 5

About Fuel - Pages 6 - 7

About The Egg- Page 8

Cast & Creative Team - Pages 9 - 10

Biographies - Pages 11 - 27

Fuel Staff - Page 28



Welcome!

There's a Bear on My Chair combines the kind of comical, playful anarchy found in classic cartoons with ridiculous rhymes and wit, all the while feeling like a unique, hilarious and heartfelt story of two unlikely friends learning how to understand each other and get along.

We hope audiences have a huge amount of fun watching the exploits of Bear and Mouse. Our puppeteers are some of the best in the UK, and we laughed throughout rehearsals – trying to pack in as many silly jokes and double-takes as possible! Puppetry has a unique ability to appeal to a broad range of audiences, so we hope the show appeals to anyone with a funny bone, no matter their age.

Ross Collins' illustrations are so witty and expressive, with a strong sense of emotion and physicality. We hope those of you who are already fans of the books will get to rediscover these beloved characters in a fresh, new way, all the while feeling like you're watching old friends that you know and love. You will get to see some unique, new illustrations from Bear and Mouse's world drawn by Ross Collins exclusively for this stage production. Plus, we have some excellent, very retro music choices for Mouse's air guitar and party, so I hope there might be a bit of dancing in your seats - enjoy the show!

Toby Olié
Adaptor, Director and Puppet Designer

About the Show

Poor Mouse! A Bear has settled in his favourite chair and it just isn't big enough to share.

Mouse tries all kinds of tactics to move the pesky Bear but nothing seems to work. However, it isn't long until the tables are turned and Bear finds himself with an unwelcome guest – the cheeky Mouse won't leave his house!

In this first ever stage adaptation of Ross Collins' much-loved books, Toby Olié (*Spirited Away*, *Animal Farm*) brings Bear and Mouse to life through unforgettable puppetry. Enter the mischievous world of Bear and Mouse for a show packed with laughs and surprises. The world premiere production will be presented as part of the Southbank Centre's flagship Imagine Festival, the UK's leading arts festival for children and their grown-ups.

Based on *There's a Bear on My Chair* and *There's a Mouse in My House*

by Ross Collins, © Ross Collins, 2015

Licensed by Nosy Crow Limited

Adapted for the stage and directed by Toby Olié

There's a Bear on My Chair is supported by Arts Council England, the Garrick Charitable Trust, the Royal Victoria Hall Foundation and the Golsoncott Foundation.

About the Show

There's a Bear on My Chair is for ages 2-7 and their grown-ups.

It lasts for 50 minutes with no interval.

All performances feature creative captioning.

The 11:30am performance on Saturday 1st March will be BSL interpreted by Suzy Evans.



Bear and Mouse in rehearsals!



Fuel leads the field in independent producing in the UK's live performance sector, working with brilliant artists to explore urgent questions, to shine light on how we relate to each other and the world around us, and to tell untold stories by under-represented voices. From theatres to car parks, from schools to public spaces, Fuel produces high quality new theatre that reaches diverse audiences across the UK and internationally.



Fuel collaborates with outstanding theatre makers with fresh perspectives and approaches who produce shows, performances or experiences which have direct and playful relationships with their audiences.

Fuel is celebrated for its pioneering producing model that develops innovative ideas through attentive collaboration, a spirit of curiosity, and an emphasis on trust. Fuel has developed a reputation for spirited and surprising new theatre, deep relationships with a wide range of artists, and passionate commitment to inclusion and care for young and diverse audiences.

Fuel was founded in 2004 and is led by Kate McGrath. Since its story began, Fuel has produced shows, festivals, films, installations, podcasts, apps and books. In doing so, Fuel has supported the artistic development of over 120 lead artists or companies and reached more than 1.5 million people, live and digitally, hosted over a hundred internships and been recognised with awards for its work.

Fuel is currently working with artists and companies including Will Adamsdale, Natalie Ibu, Joelle Taylor, Common Wealth, Inua Ellams, Hannah Lavery, Racheal Ofori, Toby Olié, Uninvited Guests, Khalid Abdalla, Jay Bernard, Suspect Culture and Melanie Wilson. Fuel is supported by Arts Council England as a National Portfolio Organisation, the Leche Trust, the Garrick Trust, the Backstage Trust, the Esmée Fairbairn Foundation, and the John Ellerman Foundation.



Fuel at 20

Fuel celebrates 20 years of fresh work for adventurous people by inspiring artists. Producing new work, as well as supporting the development of work and artists' careers, has always been at the heart of what we do and our 20th anniversary programme fulfils those aims with multiple new projects as well as ambitious and groundbreaking work designed to provide real and significant support to artists as they create new work and develop their skills.

fueltheatre.com

[@fueltheatre](https://www.instagram.com/fueltheatre)

Welcome to the Egg at Theatre Royal Bath

“The Egg Theatre aims to be a place of innovation, imagination and learning, where theatre for and with young people is invented and reinvented every day.”

Kate Cross MBE, Director of The Egg

Brimming with history, the Theatre Royal Bath is one of the oldest and most beautiful theatres in Britain.

Comprising three auditoria, the Main House, Ustinov Studio and The Egg theatre for children and young people, a wonderfully varied programme of top quality entertainment is on offer all year round.

Built on its current site in 1805, the Theatre Royal Bath is one of the oldest working theatres in the country.



Cast

Ailsa Dalling | Fred Davis | Elisa de Grey | Ben Thompson

Creative Team

Toby Olié – Adaptor, Director and Puppet Designer

Ross Collins - Author

Adam Pleeth - Composer and Sound Designer

Amy Jane Cook - Set and Costume Designer

Aideen Malone - Lighting Designer

Erin Guan - Video Designer

Michael Jean-Marain - Associate Director

Charlie Tymms - Puppet Co-designer and Puppet Maker

Beez Barry – Assistant Puppet Maker

Andy Downie - Production Manager

Nikita Bala - Company Stage Manager

Stella Kailides - Technical Stage Manager

Male Arcucci - Costume Supervisor

Andrej Gibanov – Lighting Programmer

Clancy Flynn – Lighting Programmer

Kendell Foster – Video Programmer

Suzy Evans – BSL Interpreter

VocalEyes – Audio Description

Susie Ferguson – Creative Learning Specialist

Creative Team (cont.)

Ross Collins – Artwork

Chloe Batchelor – Graphic Design

Bread & Butter – Press Representative

Stacy Coyne Wright - Marketing Consultant

Jamie Isbell / Jam + Post – Archive Videographer

Isaac Madge – Promotional Videographer

Dan Tsantilis – Production Photographer

Special Thanks

Mouse jumper knitted by Debbie Olié

Based on a pattern by Pål Schönhold

Prop Makers: Katy Clare Brooks, Jo Lakin

Performers who took part in the production's research and development:

Audrey Brisson, Laura Cubitt, Michael Jean-Marain & Aye Leventis



Mouse and Party Mice under construction!

Ailsa Dalling Performer and Puppeteer



Ailsa Dalling is a puppeteer and visual artist based in Bristol. She works in theatre, film and TV performing, making and directing puppets. Ailsa's theatre credits include; *Animal Farm* (Robert Icke/*Fiery Angel*), *Venus & Adonis* (RSC), *The Dancing Frog* (Kneehigh). She was also lead artist and puppet director for *RAT* (*The Rat Affair*). Most recently she was Puppet Director and Maker for the touring visuals for globally recognised artist *Aurora*. Her film/TV credits include work with; Samsung, Joe Wright, Channel 4, Cbeebies, BFI, Matthew Holness, Joseph Wallace. Ailsa is a co-founder of the *Gobby Women Collective*. As a visual artist, she specialises in printmaking and works as a tattoo artist in Bristol.



Fred Davis Performer and Puppeteer

Fred is an Associate artist with Gyre and Gimble.

Theatre includes: Life of Pi (Schoenfeld Theatre); Life of Pi (A.R.T); Life of Pi [Olivier award, Best supporting actor] (Wyndham's Theatre); Ocean at the end of the Lane (National Theatre); Dido and Aeneas (Bodø Concert Hall, Norway); The Life of Pi (The Sheffield Crucible Theatre); Peter Pan and Running Wild (Regents Park Open Air Theatre); The Hartlepool Monkey (UK Tour); Running Wild (UK Tour); The Tempest (Petersfield Shakespeare Festival Open Air); Peter Pan

TV includes: Don't Hug Me I'm Scared, Jurassic World: Dominion

Other credits include: Chichester Festival Theatre, Butterfly Lion by Michael Morpurgo, Self Help, Scratch event for new playwrights, Animalian and Scratch event for new playwrights.

Elisa de Grey
Performer and
Puppeteer



Prince Charming, The Wolves in the Walls (Little Angel Theatre); Pinocchio, A Christmas Carol (Citizens Theatre); Peter Pan (Regent's Park Open Air Theatre); Vivaldi's The Four Seasons: A Reimagining (Shakespeare's Globe); Running Wild (Regent's Park Open Air Theatre UK Tour); Goodnight Mr Tom (Chichester Festival Theatre/West End and UK Tour); Little Universe, Brilliant (Fevered Sleep); These Associations (Tino Sehgal); No Way Out (Southwark Playhouse); The Juniper Tree (Goat and Monkey Theatre Company); The Water Babies (Northern Broadsides); Gormenghast (David Glass Ensemble); Beyond Midnight (Trestle Theatre Company); Binari (Obviam Est); Macbeth (Conspirators of Pleasure); Cinderella, Robin Hood, The Lottie Project (Polka Theatre). TV credits include: The Lost World of Mitchell and Kenyon, Harbour Lights (BBC).



Ben Thompson Performer and Puppeteer

Ben trained at Guildhall School of Music and Drama.

Theatre includes; *The Wizard of Oz* (London Palladium/Curve), *101 Dalmatians* (Regent's Park), *Animal Farm* (UK Tour), *The Walk* (Good Chance), *The Boy in the Dress* (RSC), *Vivaldi's Four Seasons* (Shakespeare's Globe), *Running Wild* (Regent's Park), *The Lorax* (Old Vic), *Treasure Island* (National Theatre), *The Light Princess* (National Theatre), *Twelfth Night and Richard III* (Shakespeare's Globe/Apollo), *A Christmas Carol* (National Theatre of Scotland), *War Horse* (National Theatre), *His Dark Materials* (Birmingham Rep).

Television and Film includes; *Fungus the Bogeyman* (Sky/The Imaginarium), *Fantastic Beasts 2*, *Gravity* (Warner Bros.) and *Life* (Columbia Pictures).



Toby Olié
Adaptor, Director
and Puppet
Designer

Toby is a director, designer and puppeteer.

His work as a puppetry designer/director includes: *Spirited Away* (London Coliseum); *The Enormous Crocodile* (Leeds Playhouse); *Animal Farm* (UK tour); *101 Dalmatians* (Regent's Park); *Pinocchio* (National Theatre); *Don Quixote* (RSC); Disney's *The Little Mermaid* (Holland, Moscow and Tokyo); *Running Wild* (Chichester Festival Theatre).

Toby's work as a director includes: *The Wolves in the Walls* (Little Angel Theatre); *The Four Seasons: A Reimagining* (Shakespeare's Globe); *The Elephantom* (National Theatre) and associate puppetry director of *War Horse* (West End).

He was the hind puppeteer of Joey in the original production of *War Horse* (National Theatre) before moving to Joey's head for the subsequent West End transfer.

Ross Collins

Author



Ross Collins graduated from Glasgow School of Art with a first class honours degree and in the same year published his debut children's book. He has since illustrated over 100 books and written more than a dozen, including the hugely successful *There's a Bear on My Chair* series.

Ross has visited many schools and literary festivals up and down the land, entertaining and inspiring his young readers. Scottish-born, Ross lives in Glasgow with his family and a stupid dog.

Adam Pleeth
Composer and
Sound Designer



Adam Pleeth is a composer and musician who has worked across theatre, musical and dance.

As a composer, his work includes *The Elephantom* at the National Theatre and in the West End; *James and the Giant Peach* (Leeds Playhouse), *Pitcairn* (Shakespeare's Globe, Chichester Festival Theatre), *This May Hurt a Bit* (Out of Joint), *The Wolves in the Walls*, *Red Riding Hood and the Wolf* (Little Angel Theatre), *Laika* (Unicorn), *The Hartlepool Monkey* (Fuel/UK Tour), *Ballad of the Burning Star*, *Juana in a Million* (Theatre Ad Infinitum), *Caucasian Chalk Circle* (National Youth Theatre of Wales), *The Adventures of Curious Ganz* (Silent Tide/Little Angel Theatre), and *Time Stands Still When I Think of You* (The Place).

He also writes and releases music as *The Mighty Child*.

Amy Jane Cook
Set and Costume
Designer



Amy has been working in performance design for over a decade.

She has been nominated for four Off West End Awards for Best Set Design and won the Welsh Theatre Award for Best Design for Constellation Street at The Other Room.

Theatre includes: Boys from the Blackstuff (West End/National Theatre/RC Liverpool/Tour), Ride (Charing Cross Theatre/Curve Theatre/USA), Protest (Fuel/Northern Stage/Tour), Jellyfish (National Theatre/Bush), Two of Us, Absurd Person Singular (Watford Palace Theatre), The Suspicions of Mr Whicher, The Importance of Being Earnest (Watermill Theatre), Wolf Cub (Hampstead Theatre); The Rise and Fall of Little Voice, Insignificance (Theatr Clwyd/NYC), You Stupid Darkness (Theatre Royal Plymouth), The Funeral Director (Southwark Playhouse), Lava (Nottingham Playhouse).



Aideen Malone
Lighting Designer

Credits include: *Kyoto* (RSC); *Twelfth Night*, *Carousel*, *Fiddler on the Roof* (Regents Park Open Air Theatre); *Dracula* (National Theatre Scotland); *Lemons Lemons Lemons Lemons Lemons* (Pinter Theatre); *Wonder Boy*, *You Bury Me* (BOV); *Duet For One* (Orange Tree); *The Clothes They Stood Up In* (Nottingham Playhouse); *Running With Lions* (Lyric Hammersmith); *Hamlet* (Young Vic); *Old Bridge* (Bush Theatre); *A Kind Of People* (Royal Court); *Death of a Salesman* (Young Vic & Piccadilly Theatre); *A Monster Calls* (Old Vic / BOV); *Brighton Rock* (York Theatre Royal); *La Strada* (The Other Palace); *Jane Eyre*, *Peter Pan* (NT); *Hetty Feather* (Duke of York).



Erin Guan Video Designer

Erin Guan is a London-based scenographer, video designer, and interactive installation artist from China. Her work spans across intercultural performances and minority voices.

Her recent theatre credits include *The Dao of Unrepresentative British Chinese Experience* (Kakilang/Soho Theatre), *Romeo and Juliet* (Polka Theatre), *Turandot* (The Opera Makers & Ellandar/Arcola Theatre), *Pied Piper* (Battersea Arts Centre), *The Apology* (New Earth Theatre/Arcola Theatre), *A Gig for Ghosts* (Forty Five North/Soho Theatre Upstairs), *Unchain Me* (Dreamthinkspeak/Brighton Festival), *The Lonesome Death of Eng Bunker* (Kakilang/Omnibus Theatre), *Prayer for the Hungry Ghost* (Barbican Open Lab), *Foxes* (Defibrillator Theatre/Seven Dials Playhouse).

Her recent TV work includes costume design for *East Mode S2* with Nigel Ng (Comedy Centra/Channel 5).



**Michael Jean-
Marain**
Associate Director

Michael is an actor and puppeteer who trained at The Urdang Academy, London. Theatre credits include: Animal Farm (Children's Theatre Partnership), The Hatchling (Trigger Productions), War Horse (National Theatre UK and International Tour), The Merchant of Venice (Orange Tree Theatre), The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe (West Yorkshire Playhouse), We're Going On A Bear Hunt (UK Tour), Hetty Feather (West End), 3 Little Pigs (UK Tour), The Gruffalo's Child (UK & US Tour). Television credits Include: Lockerbie: A Search for Truth for Carnival Films/Sky and Mary & George for Sky Atlantic. Workshop credits include: Spirited Away (Toho Co/PW Productions), The Enormous Crocodile (The Roald Dahl Story Company) and The BFG (RSC)



Charlie Tymms
Puppet Co-
Designer and
Puppet Maker

Cindarella (Chichester Festival Theatre) The Lord of the Rings (Watermill Theatre & on tour) The Dream Thief (National Theatre of Iceland) The Dinosaur Show (Southwark Playhouse) Zoe's Peculiar Journey Through Time (Burg Theatre, Vienna & Southbank Centre) Josephs Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat (Palace Theatre) Puppet fabrication/lead sculptor: WEST END: Spirited Away (London Coliseum Theatre) Stranger Things (Pheonix Theatre) BROADWAY: Life of Pi, Harry Potter and The Cursed Child, REGIONAL UK: The Wicker Husband (Watermill Theatre) Wizard of Oz (Leeds Playhouse) Running Wild (CFT). Witches, Christmas Carol, Peter Pan, Noah (CFT). EDUCATION: BA Central School of Art and Design, MA Goldsmiths University of Arts, Motley Theatre Design School UK.

Beez Barry
Assistant Puppet
Maker



Beez Barry is a skilled puppet maker with a background in costume, props, and scenic arts. She has worked with Toby Olié on *Spirited Away* and *The Enormous Crocodile*, as well as on productions for the National Theatre, the Old Vic, and Shakespeare's Globe. Beez's craftsmanship has also been seen in film, TV, and fashion, with credits including *The Sandman* (Netflix) and *Cyrano*. A graduate of London College of Fashion and Goldsmiths, Beez brings creativity, precision, and passion to her work, crafting imaginative worlds through puppetry.



Nikita Bala

Company Stage Manager

Nikita Bala is a London-based freelance stage and production manager with a passion for all things technical. She has enjoyed collaborating on silly, clown-y shows, buzzing through festivals, and touring across the country doing what she loves.

Past credits include: *Tender* (Bush Theatre); *Nowhere* (Fuel); *Bangers* (Cardboard Citizens); *Lady Dealer* (Grace Dickson Productions); *Godot is a Woman* (Silent Faces) and *The Wolf, the Duck, and the Mouse* (Unicorn).

Stella Kailides
Technical Stage
Manager



Since studying at Goldsmiths University in 2015, Stella has successfully managed a wide array of productions, ranging from site-specific and outdoor arts to traditional theatre and dance.

Most recently working with Stopgap, CRIptic, Buildhollywood, Festival.org and Dante or Die, she always works with a consistent focus on navigating the complexities of bringing an idea to life.

Working on such a variety of projects offers unique environments and the opportunity to collaborate closely with local communities, the general public, and trained professionals across multiple sectors.

As our planet and industries evolve, she is a passionate advocate for making the arts more sustainable and inclusive.

Male Arcucci
**Costume
Supervisor**



Born and raised in Buenos Aires, Malena is a theatre designer and costume supervisor based in London. She is co-artistic director of Mariana Malena Theatre Company. Design credits include: *When You Pass Over my Tomb* (Arcola Theatre); *Super Chefs* (UK Tour); *Strangers Like Me* (NT Connect and Hackney Shed), *The Bit Players* (Southwark Playhouse), *Friday Night Love Poem* (Zoo Venues); *Playing Latinx* (Summerhall); *La Llorona* (Dance City Newcastle); *The Two of Us* (Theatre Deli); and various productions in Buenos Aires, Argentina. Associate Designer credits include: *Falkland Sound* (Royal Shakespeare Company), *Dear Elizabeth* (The Gate); *Chiaroscuro*, *House of Ife* (Bush Theatre); *Thebes Land* (Arcola Theatre). Costume Supervisor credits include: *The Empress*, *As You Like it* and *The Tempest* (Royal Shakespeare Company).

Suzy Evans
BSL Interpreter



Suzy lives in London and works primarily in London and Essex. She has working within the Deaf community for over 27 years. She qualified as a registered British Sign Language / English Interpreter in 2012. She currently works in the following domains; Legal, Community, Health, Education, Social Care, Mental health, Performance and Theatre interpreting.

She has been working in the theatre interpreting domain for the last three years and has thoroughly enjoyed the challenge. In 2023 she completed a pilot programme at the Rose Bruford College who collaborated with the Interpreters of Colour Network.

She has always been active and played sports, strives to maintain a positive, happy, healthy life, and is currently learning Jiu Jitsu.

Fuel Staff

Angela Bryan-Brown - Executive Assistant and Assistant Producer

Alex Ferguson - Development Producer

Caitlin Gleeson - Senior Producer

Luke Holbrook - Senior Producer

Todun Illuyomade - Assistant Producer

David Lewis - Head of Finance

Kate McGrath - Artistic Director & CEO

Makeda Newman - Programme Assistant

V Reynolds - Communications Manager

Ine Van Riet - Executive Director

Marina Sacco - Engagement Producer

Tanya Stevenson - Production Manager

Joanne Williams - General Manager

