

ERO AND THE WHALE



IMMERSIVE THEATRE FOR ALL CHILDREN





www.grizzlybeartheatre.com

Step into the magical world of the Grizzly Bear Theatre Company, where creativity knows no bounds and every child's imagination takes flight! We craft awe inspiring, vibrant theatre that celebrates diversity and inclusivity, bringing to life thrilling adventures through mesmerising live music, enchanting puppetry, dynamic movement, and breathtaking visuals. With Grizzly Bear, every performance is a gateway to extraordinary journeys, making unforgettable experiences accessible to all young hearts and minds. Prepare to be dazzled and inspired!

Ero and the Whale



Trailer - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JSPSo_9kKxY



What is the show about?

Join a group of dedicated scientists on a thrilling mission to save a small population of puffins perched on a rugged cliffside ocean landscape. This adventure takes you deep into the majestic ocean where you will encounter enchanting jellyfish and a powerful sea spirit with all the magic of the ocean at their command.

Join us as we embark on a journey to heal nature and soothe the distress of the mighty humpback whales. This immersive and interactive story emphasises themes of love, friendship, and the immense power of the ocean to restore balance.

Experience Highlights:

- **Multi-Sensory Journey:** Engage all your senses through music, song, puppetry, projection, and physical theatre.
- **Interactive Storytelling:** Be part of the story, helping the sea spirit and scientists in their quest to heal the ocean.
- **Magical Encounters:** Meet jellyfish and interact with the sea spirit, experiencing the magic of the sea firsthand.
- **Conservation Mission:** Learn about the importance of protecting marine life and ecosystems.
- **Free exploratory experience before afternoon show** allowing audience members, who may find transitions challenging, the opportunity to experience the show on their own terms



They loved being able to touch everything and move in the way their body wanted. It was beautiful to see how magical he found it.





Loved how there were so many opportunities for the children to interact. Also loved how sensory it was. Even things to eat!



Who is the show for?

Ero and the Whale is a bold and inclusive new production that brings together children of all abilities—**disabled, non-disabled, neurotypical, and neurodiverse**—in the same performance space. We have created a show that is a uniquely accessible, immersive, and interactive theatre experience where every child feels welcomed, valued, and engaged.

Age range is 6-11 years old, but there is scope outside of this for friends and siblings. Maximum audience 12 children. Including carers/parents audience is maximum 40.

How Was the Show Developed?

Ero and the Whale was crafted over eighteen months through a collaborative process with diverse audiences and a multidisciplinary team of artists. Musicians, actors, puppeteers, designers, and technical experts combined their talents to create a uniquely accessible and high-quality theatre experience.

At the core of the development was a commitment to ensuring the show could engage all children, regardless of their needs, without compromising artistic integrity. This balance between accessibility and artistic excellence was a guiding principle throughout the process.

In November 2024, **Ero and the Whale** premiered to public audiences, receiving overwhelmingly positive reactions and affirming the importance of inclusive theatre that resonates with everyone.



Thank you for a beautiful, accessible show and all your kindness.



Who Are Grizzly Bear Theatre?

Grizzly Bear Theatre was founded by co-directors Ben Moores and Gren Bartley, both of whom bring decades of experience in creating children's theatre, with a particular focus on working with children with disabilities. Their work in this field has been both pioneering and impactful.

In collaboration with Bamboozle Theatre Company, Ben and Gren co-devised *Storm*, a sensory-rich adaptation of Shakespeare's *The Tempest* designed specifically for children described as "hard-to-reach autistic." The show was a significant success, touring for many years and reaching audiences across the globe, including in China, Egypt, and throughout Europe.

Their extensive experience led them to challenge a key assumption in children's theatre: why must performances be divided into standard and relaxed formats? Driven by this question, Ben and Gren set out to redefine the theatre experience by creating performances that are universally accessible. Their approach ensures that children of all abilities can experience high-quality theatre together, in the same space, at the same time. This universally accessible show creates community, raises awareness and breaks down barriers in the arts.



Requirements:

The show is suitable for black box studios seating around 50-100 people.
Full technical specification will be made available in advance of the tour.

Shows: 2 per day running for around 45 minutes each.

Durational piece: Free exploration space including music and characters from the show runs for 90 minutes immediately prior to the second performance.

Company:

5 performers, plus 1 technical manger. Venue tech support required.

Minimum playing space:

7m wide x 7m deep x 5m high rig

Get-in:

From 10am on day before performance.

Get-out:

3 hours on the day after the final performance.

Sound:

Please provide PA suitable for venue.

Lighting:

Full design available in advance of tour.

Please note that the tour of Ero and the Whale is subject to a successful application to Arts Council England.





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