

**TRON
THEATRE**

Tron Theatre Company presents

WOLFIE

SOME SORT OF FAIRYTALE
BY ROSS WILLIS



PROGRAMME

4 – 13 May 2023

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

“I AM AFRAID OF WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO THESE CHILDREN IF NO ONE TOOK THE RISK TO LOVE THEM.”

Some plays make you sit up and listen. Some plays demand to be staged because of an image or an idea or a single hyper-theatrical stage direction. *Wolfie* has all of these in spades.

Ross Willis's play understands that love is the most fundamental, necessary tool we have to connect with one another, and that the social care system as it currently operates has little of it to give. Looked After Children are among the most vulnerable and most let down members of our society. A child who has experience of the care system is more likely to go to prison than university. To give the stage to twins who each have a wildly different experience of the care system is a radical political act. To give the stage to twins who speak in the fantastical, imaginative register of *Wolfie* – because it's the only way to speak their histories – is a vital theatrical one.

The play demands that we imagine a woodpecker who whisks children away from the woods, a woman who tears out her own kidney, a mannequin man boyfriend and fetuses who speak from the womb. If we are able to sit in a rehearsal room or auditorium and make the most-unstageable stage directions come to life then surely we can also imagine a new system, one where children are treated with respect, kindness and care.

Joanna Bowman
Director

CAST LIST

Z Leah Byrne
A Anna Russell-Martin

CREATIVE TEAM

Writer Ross Willis
Director Joanna Bowman

Set & Costume Design Alisa Kalyanova
Lighting Design Colin Grenfell
Sound Design Danny Krass
Movement Director Jack Webb

Stage Manager Babette Wickham-Riddick
Wardrobe Supervisor Heather Currie

Production Manager Laura Walshe
Technical Manager Mark Hughes
Technical Stage Manager Jason McQuaide
Stage Manager Suzanne Goldberg
Venue Technician Alex Hatfield
Venue Technician Craig Crawford
Stage Management Placement Lara Cassidy

Print Design Jamhot
Promotional Photography Mihaela Bodlovic
Production Photography Tommy Ga-Ken Wan

Wolfie is produced by special arrangement with
Alexandra Cory, Berlin Associates, 7 Tyers Gate,
London, SE1 3HX, 44 (0) 207 632 5283.

berlinassociates.com

GIVE FEEDBACK

Let us know what you thought of *Wolfie* at the Tron
by emailing feedback@tron.co.uk or write to Tron Theatre,
63 Trongate, Glasgow G1 5HB.

You can also join us online for behind-the-scenes footage, photos,
news, gossip and updates from all our Tron Theatre shows on our
social media networks:

 /trontheatre
 @trontheatre
 @trontheatre
 tron.co.uk

The video and/or audio recording of this performance by any means whatsoever is strictly prohibited.

BIOGRAPHIES

JOANNA BOWMAN — DIRECTOR

Director credits include: *Moonset* (Citizens Theatre); *Blue Stockings* (Mountview Academy of Theatre Arts); *Sing Yer Heart Out For The Lads* (Chichester Festival Theatre, Revival Director); *She Wolf* (Edinburgh Festival Fringe); *The Metamorphosis: Unplugged* (Vanishing Point); *Alright Sunshine, Mary and Ada Set the World to Rights* (Òran Mór); *Fox-Pop, Smiles Better* (Edinburgh International Festival/Mahogany Opera) and *Chaos* (Perth Theatre).

Associate Director credits include: *The Wind in the Willows* (Wilton's Music Hall); *Carousel* (Regent's Park Open Air Theatre); *The Good Life* (Fiery Angel/UK Tour); *The Metamorphosis* (Vanishing Point/Emilia Romagna Teatro Fondazione/Tron Theatre).

Assistant Director credits include: *Sing Yer Heart Out For The Lads* (Chichester Festival Theatre); *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Regent's Park Open Air Theatre); *Cyrano de Bergerac* (National Theatre of Scotland/Citizens Theatre/Lyceum Theatre); *Nora: A Doll's House, A Christmas Carol, The Macbeths* (Citizens Theatre) and *Toy Plastic Chicken* (Traverse Theatre/Òran Mór).

Joanna is Associate Director of the Tron Theatre, a National Theatre Connections Mentor Director, and a Creative Associate of Vanishing Point. She was a finalist for the 2022 JMK Award.

LEAH BYRNE — Z

Leah is a Scottish actor, who trained at the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland. Her stage credits include: *Moonset* (Citizens Theatre); *Cinderella, Oor Wullie, A-Z of Dundee* and *Tay Bridge* (Dundee Rep); *The Scent of Roses* (Royal Lyceum Edinburgh); *Absolute Bowlocks!* (Òran Mór) and *Romeo and Juliet* (Cumbernauld Theatre).

Recent screen work includes: *Dog Squad* (CBeebies); *Flaps* (Comedy Central); *Deadwater Fell* (Kudos/Channel 4); *The Last Bus* (Hurricane Films); *Call The Midwife, Fried* and *Footballers United* (BBC).

Radio includes: *Cross Roads* and *The Positive* (Baker Street Productions); *Whenever I Get Blown Up I Think of You* (BBC).

COLIN GRENFELL — LIGHTING DESIGN

Theatre includes: *Gypsy, Macbeth, The Cherry Orchard, Kes, Separate Tables* (Royal Exchange Theatre/Manchester); *Tao of Glass* (Manchester International Festival/Perth International Festival); *Tamburlaine* (RSC); *The Mentor* (Theatre Royal Bath/Vaudeville Theatre); *Lost Without Words, Lifegame, Theatre of Blood* (Improbable/National Theatre); *Black Watch, 365, Men Should Weep, The Bacchae, Granite* (National Theatre of Scotland); *The Village Social* (National Theatre of Wales); *The Thief of Baghdad* (ROH Linbury); *The Full Monty* (UK Tour); *A Christmas Carol* (Everyman Liverpool/Spymonkey); *Leopards* (Rose Theatre); *The King of Hell's Palace* (Hampstead Theatre); *Beauty and the Beast* (MCA/Chicago/Abrons New York/Adelaide Festival); *The Caretaker* (Liverpool Everyman/Trafalgar Studios/BAM); *A Midsummer Night's Dream, Half Life, The Mother, Forever Yours, Marie-Lou, Wild Goose Dreams, Xmas Eve* (Theatre Royal Bath); *Still, This is Paradise, The Devil Masters, Pandas, On the Exhale* (Traverse Theatre); *70 Hill Lane, Still No Idea, Coma, The Paper Man, Spirit* (Improbable); *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof* (Theatr Clwyd, Best Lighting Award at the 2017 Wales Theatre Awards); *The Elephant Man* (Best Design CATS Award) and *The Hanging Man* (Best Design TMA Awards).

Opera includes: *Pelleas et Mellisande* (LA Phil); *Pirates of Penzance* (Scottish Opera); *La bohème* (ETO); *Fidelio* (Opera Theatre Company Dublin); *Norma, Così fan tutti, La bohème, Eugene Onegin, Andrea Chenier, Rigoletto, Queen of Spades, La file du regiment, Il Trovatore, Un ballo in maschera* and *Kata Kabanova* (Opera Holland Park).

ALISA KALYANOVA — SET & COSTUME DESIGN

Alisa is a theatre designer based in Glasgow. She studied Visual Communication and Graphic Design at the Iceland University of the Arts in Reykjavik before training in Set and Costume Design at the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland in Glasgow. Upon graduation she received The John Groves Technical Award for overall achievement.

Recent theatre credits include: *Exodus*, *The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde* (National Theatre of Scotland); *The Summoning of Everyman*, *The Taming of the Shrew* (Royal Conservatoire of Scotland); *Kissing Linford Christie* (Catherine Wheels); *hang*, *The Mistress Contract* (Tron Theatre); *Julius Caesar* (Company of Wolves); *Chaos* (Perth Theatre); *The Bookshop Untold* (Wigtown Book Festival); *Maw Goose* (Macrobert Arts Centre – costumes only); *Sleeping Beauty*, *Jamie and the Unicorn* (Ayr Gaiety Theatre – costumes only); *Figaro*, *The Merry Widow* (Opera Bohemia); *Robin Hood* (Cumbernauld Theatre); *The Lost Elves*, *Meet Jan Black*, *Lampedusa* (Wonder Fools); *Deliverance* (Brite Theatre and Vanishing Point – as creative collaborator).

DANNY KRASS — SOUND DESIGN

Danny Krass is a sound designer and composer working predominantly in Scottish theatre. Danny is particularly interested in how music and sound interact with text. He has composed and created sound designs for many of Scotland's leading theatre companies including, amongst others, the Traverse Theatre, National Theatre of Scotland, Vox Motus, Catherine Wheels and Fire Exit.

ANNA RUSSELL-MARTIN — A

Anna trained at the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland and The Dance School of Scotland.

Theatre credits include: *Exodus*, *The Panopticon* (National Theatre of Scotland); *Life Is A Dream* (Royal Lyceum Theatre); *Nora: A Doll's House* (Young Vic/Citizens Theatre); *Me and My Sister Tell Each Other Everything*, *Bunny*, *Colonel Mustard and the Big Bad Wolf* (Tron Theatre); *Cyrano De Bergerac* (Citizens Theatre/Royal Lyceum Theatre/National Theatre of Scotland); *A Christmas Carol* (Citizens Theatre) and *Toy Plastic Chicken* (Òran Mór/Traverse Theatre).

Television credits include: *Karen Pirie* (ITV); *Annika* (Alibi) and *Casualty* (BBC).

Film credits include: *Falling Into Place*, *Ghostlight*, *You Land* (short) and *The Shift* (short).

Radio credits include: *KELI*, *The Portal*, *Mother Load* (Lepus/Royal Lyceum Theatre); *Venice Preserved*, *The Apple*, *The Tree*, *Five Days Which Changed Everything* and *The Kids Table* (BBC).

Awards include: Best Female Performance at the CATS Awards 2020 for *The Panopticon*. Commended at the Ian Charleson Awards 2022 for *Life Is A Dream*. The Scotsman's One to Watch 2020. The Duncan MacRae Memorial Award for Scots Language. Anna starred in a short film called *The Shift* which went on to win multiple awards including: Best Actress at the Shortez Guimareas Film Festival, Venice Short Film Nomination for the European Film Awards 2020 and the New Talent Award at Lisbon Film Festival.

JACK WEBB — MOVEMENT DIRECTOR

Jack is an award-winning choreographer, movement director, dancer and teacher working across dance, theatre, opera and film. He is based in Edinburgh and has been working internationally for the past seventeen years.

Recent movement direction credits include: associate movement director for *The Strange Undoing of Prudencia Hart* by David Greig, directed and co-created by Wils Wilson, a co-production between the Royal Lyceum Theatre Edinburgh, National Theatre of Scotland and Double M Arts and Events; movement direction and choreography for *L'etoile*, an opera by Emmanuel Chabrier, directed by PJ Harris for the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland; Fringe First-winning *Silkworm* by Vlad Butucea for Pearlfisher, directed by Mojisola Elufowoju; the CATS Award-winning *I Am Tiger* by Oliver Emmanuel for Perth Theatre and Imagine, directed by Lu Kemp; and movement direction and choreography for music videos *Cockcrow* and *Party On* by Aidan Moffat and RM Hubbert.

ROSS WILLIS — WRITER

Ross's debut play *Wolfie* premiered to great critical acclaim at the Theatre503 in March 2019 directed by the theatre's artistic director Lisa Spirling. The play was named Best New Play at both the Writers' Guild Awards and the Off-West End Awards 2020 and also earned Ross a nomination for Best Writer in the 2019 Stage Debut Awards and Most Promising Playwright in the Evening Standard Theatre Awards.

His next play *Wonder Boy* premiered at the Bristol Old Vic in March 2022 directed by Sally Cookson and also won a Writers' Guild Award for Best Play in 2023. Ross is under commission to the Royal Court as part of their Jerwood New Playwrights Programme and he was selected as one of the seven writers to take part in the inaugural Genesis Almeida New Playwrights Big Plays programme.

In 2019 Ross was awarded a Channel 4 Playwright Scheme bursary and spent 2020 on attachment at the Orange Tree Theatre. He is currently an Associate Artist of Pentabus Theatre and has previously been on attachment at the Bristol Old Vic, writer-in-residence at Theatr Clwyd, a member of the Orange Tree Theatre's Writers' Collective, Tamasha Playwrights Group, Soho Theatre Writer's Lab and the BBC Writersroom Writers' Access Group.

SIGNPOSTING & SUPPORT

We acknowledge that the focus on life in and after the care system in *Wolfie* and the mental health impact of this may be a trigger for audience members. We have compiled a list of Scottish organisations providing support and advice for care experienced young people; and of those that provide mental health and wellbeing support and information:

WHO CARES SCOTLAND – WHOCARESSCOTLAND.ORG

Provides independent advocacy services for care experienced young people. Helpline: ☎ 0330 107 7540 or ✉ help@whocaresscotland.org

SCOTTISH THROUGH CARE AND AFTERCARE FORUM (STAF) – STAF.SCOT

Member organisation with a dedicated webpage with information on financial support for care leavers and care experienced young people: staf.scot/financial-support-for-care-leavers

YOUNG SCOT – YOUNG.SCOT

For information on benefits, support and places to go for help if you've been in care or are a care leaver:

☞ young.scot/get-informed/support-for-care-experienced

For information and support about how to look after your emotional well-being and mental health: ☞ young.scot/campaigns/ayefeel

THE PROMISE SCOTLAND – THEPROMISE.SCOT

Website with information about Scotland's promise to care experienced children and young people.

BARNARDOS – BARNARDOS.ORG.UK

Charity that protects, supports and nurtures the UK's most vulnerable children. 16+ provides transitional support services to young care leavers:

Glasgow: ☎ 0141 332 8580 or ✉ 16plus.glasgow@barnardos.org.uk

Edinburgh: ☎ 0131 446 7000 or ✉ 16PlusEdinburgh@barnardos.org.uk

ABERLOUR – ABERLOUR.ORG.UK

Charity that helps disadvantaged children and families have a brighter future.

STUDENT AWARDS AGENCY SCOTLAND (SAAS) – SAAS.GOV.UK

Information on funding support available to care-experienced students.

☞ saas.gov.uk/full-time/support-for-care-experienced-students

BREATHING SPACE SCOTLAND – BREATHINGSPACE.SCOT

Breathing Space Scotland is a free, confidential phone service for anyone in Scotland over the age of 16 experiencing low mood, depression or anxiety.

☎ 0800 83 85 87

THE SAMARITANS – SAMARITANS.ORG

The Samaritans offer a range of services, including a free confidential phoneline for anyone in emotional distress, struggling to cope or at risk of suicide.

☎ 116 123

NHS LIVING LIFE

NHS Living Life is a free phone service for those aged 16+ experiencing anxiety, low mood and mild to moderate depression. Guided self-help and cognitive behavioural therapy.

☎ 0800 328 9655

SHOUT

SHOUT is a volunteer-run, 24/7 crises text service, free on all major mobile networks, for anyone in crisis, anytime, anywhere.

☑ Text 85258

SAMH – SAMH.ORG.UK

SAMH provide information and support on mental health.

Telephone support available Mon-Fri, 9am-6pm. ☎ 0344 800 0550

HEADS UP – HEADSUP.SCOT

Website providing advice and information on mental health conditions – about how you can support yourself or the people you care for, and details of the services and range of interventions available to you.

SUPPORT

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For more information email development@tron.co.uk



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