

# ★ ADRIEN



**TOUR PACK**

Autumn 2019

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# ABOUT ADRIFT

*Adrift* is the culmination of an exciting story. Commissioned by Big Imaginations as a piece of new writing for ages 8–11, it has been developed through Action Transport Theatre’s close partnership with a local school, St. Bernard’s RC Primary School in our hometown of Ellesmere Port. The whole school community has been involved in developing the show.

Performed by skilled performers from Spain and Brazil —trained in Gaulier and corporeal mime — and set in a poetic and fantastical world, the show uses ATT’s trademark physical comedy and clowning to underpin a poignant and timely story of two children escaping conflict.

It is a story of loss, bravery, imagination and hope.

**Credit:** Action Transport Theatre and St Bernards RC Primary School present

**Strapline:** *Adrift*, a refugee fairytale

**Written by:** Beverley Hancock-Smith

**Directed by:** Nina Hajjianni

**Age guide:** 8+ (KS2) and family groups

**Running time:** 50 minutes (no interval)

**Touring:** September 14th – November 3rd

# PRAISE

"Every child in the UK needs to see this show."  
*Una Meehan, University of Chester*

"Heartbreaking, captivating, hilarious"  
*Twitter review*

"Perceptive, funny and powerfully told. One of the most important plays you'll ever see."  
*Audience feedback*

"As always — theatre that is truly for, with and by young people"  
*Steph Green, Thought Plane Theatre*

"An amazing experience... Can't wait to build the important themes from  
Adrift into our curriculum."  
*Local primary school headteacher*





# MARKETING COPY

## SHORT COPY (60 WORDS):

Two children are in a boat.

They play. They laugh. They argue.

They dream of catching a fish so big it will capsize the boat. Of encountering a mermaid who will sing them the most beautiful melodies. Of lassoing a whale who will pull them to shore, to a new land of thick green grass and endless blue skies. A safe land.

Told with tenderness, humour and Action Transport Theatre's (*Happily Ever After*, *STATik*, *Little Red*) signature visual storytelling, *Adrift* is a celebration of the resilience and imagination of childhood.

# MARKETING COPY

## LONG COPY (160 WORDS):

Two children are in a boat.

They play. They laugh. They argue.

They dream of catching a fish so big it will capsize the boat. Of encountering a mermaid who will sing them the most beautiful melodies. Of lassoing a whale who will pull them to shore, to a new land of thick green grass and endless blue skies. A safe land.

*Adrift* is a brand new play from Beverley Hancock-Smith, developed by acclaimed children's theatre company Action Transport Theatre, created in partnership with St. Bernard's RC Primary School.

*Adrift* brings together the celebrated company behind the critically acclaimed *STATik* and *Happily Ever After* with international mime and physical theatre artists Vini Carvalho (Brazil) and Carmen Arquelladas (Spain), original music from Patrick Dineen (*Little Red and the Big Bad Wolf*, *Happily Ever After*) and enchanting design from Lois Maskell (*The Mighty Boosh*).

Told with tenderness, humour and ATT's signature visual storytelling, *Adrift* is a celebration of the resilience and imagination of childhood.

# CAST

## **Kalib — Vini Carvalho**

Originally from Brazil, Vini trained in corporeal mime with Thomas Leabhart, and now works as a physical performer, choreographer, director, mime and movement teacher. He is the artistic director of Fool's Cap Theatre.

## **Mariam — Carmen Arquelladas**

Originally from Spain, Carmen trained in physical theatre with Gaulier in Paris and John Wright in the UK. She is an international performer and artist who has been working in theatre companies for more than 11 years as co-director, actress, and designer for both costume and set. She is co-founder of award-winning, Liverpool-based Teatro Pomodoro.



# CREATIVE TEAM

## **Writer — Beverley Hancock-Smith**

Bev is a writer and lecturer at De Montfort University, Leicester. Her previous plays include *Voices*, a verbatim radio play, written and performed by inmates of HMP Leicester and *Into the Blue* for the Arcola Theatre, London. Her play *Dead End Job* won Most Promising New Writer at the Liverpool Everyman Theatre 'Write Now!' Festival. Born and brought up on the Wirral, Bev first began working with Action Transport as a young writer in 2000.

## **Director — Nina Hajjiyanni**

Nina Hajjiyanni is Artistic Director of Action Transport Theatre, and a celebrated director and theatre-maker. Her work at ATT has included *Little Red and the Big Bad Wolf*, *STATik*, *Happily Ever After* and many pioneering, site-specific plays created with local young people.

## **Designer — Lois Maskell**

Lois has worked as a set and costume designer since 2005 with collaborations including National Museums Liverpool, Royal Exchange Manchester and the cult BBC comedy, *The Mighty Boosh*. Lois lectures in Theatre and Performance Design at Liverpool Institute for Performing Arts (LIPA).

## **Composer — Patrick Dineen**

Liverpool-based composer and sound designer Patrick Dineen has created the 'signature sound' of many of Action Transport Theatre's plays including *Little Red and the Big Bad Wolf* and *Happily Ever After*. He has also composed for National Theatre Wales, The Lowry, Northern Stage and various BBC, ITV and Channel 4 productions.

## **Co-producers — St. Bernard's RC Primary School**

St. Bernard's RC Primary School in Ellesmere Port is a key educational partner of Action Transport Theatre, and a lead school in the Ignite Teaching School Alliance. Staff and pupils across the school have fed into the development of *Adrift*.





# MARKETING ASSETS

**Production photos:** [Download from Google Drive](#)

(Credit Chris Payne)

**Video trailer:** [Download from Vimeo](#)

(Credit canteencreate)

**Video documentary:** [Download from Vimeo](#)

(Credit canteencreate)

This 10 minute documentary was screened at the preview performance of *Adrift* here in Ellesmere Port and details the process of co-producing the play with children from a local primary school. There's no obligation to use it in your marketing.

# SELLING ADRIFT

## Themes

Childhood, imagination, resilience  
Refugee crisis, displacement, conflict

## Key selling points

The play was uniquely co-commissioned by, and developed in partnership with, a local primary school  
It utilises clowning and physical theatre and is a new, high quality play for young audiences  
Created by the team behind celebrated shows *Happily Ever After*, *STATik* and *Little Red*

## Potential audiences

Schools KS2 audiences  
Drama and performing arts students  
Local refugee/migrant groups  
Children and family audiences

Sample press release and schools letter available. Please email Adam Kirkup:  
[marketing@actiontransporttheatre.org](mailto:marketing@actiontransporttheatre.org)





# TECHNICAL INFO

**Number of performers:** 2

**Number in touring company:** 3 (2 performers, 1 stage manager)

**Touring availability:** Sept–Oct 2018; national touring from Autumn 2019

**Scale of venue:** small scale

Full tech spec available. For any technical queries email  
[technical@actiontransporttheatre.org](mailto:technical@actiontransporttheatre.org)

# CONTACT INFO

Touring / booking queries: [jess@actiontransporttheatre.org](mailto:jess@actiontransporttheatre.org)

Marketing queries: [marketing@actiontransporttheatre.org](mailto:marketing@actiontransporttheatre.org)

Technical information: [technical@actiontransporttheatre.org](mailto:technical@actiontransporttheatre.org)

Telephone: 0151 357 2120

Web: [www.actiontransporttheatre.org](http://www.actiontransporttheatre.org)

Twitter: [@ATTtweet](https://twitter.com/ATTtweet)

Facebook / Instagram: [@ActionTransportTheatre](https://www.facebook.com/ActionTransportTheatre)

