

★ ADRIFF



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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 Hajianni

Age guide: 8+ (KS2) and family groups

Running time: 50 minutes (no interval)

Touring: February – March 2020

FEEDBACK FROM SCHOOLS

"It improved children's resilience and imagination in creative writing lessons".

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

"An amazing experience... Can't wait to build the important themes from Adrift into our curriculum."

"Both beautiful and poignant. Well done." — *@HighfieldBlacon*

"A thought provoking performance for key stage 2 about the plight of refugees" — *@StSavioursPrimary*

"A great tale of resilience. #wow #inspiring" — *@TheOaksPrimary*

"I'm so proud to work in a school that builds creativity and conscience into our curriculum. Amazing work."

"One of the most powerful things about this is putting SOCIAL JUSTICE at the heart of our curriculum."





THE STORY

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.

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 Hajiysianni

Nina Hajiysianni 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*.



VIDEOS AND IMAGES

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

Video trailer: [Watch on Vimeo](#)

Video documentary — The Making of Adrift: [Watch on Vimeo](#)

This 10 minute documentary was screened at the preview performance of *Adrift* here in Ellesmere Port and shows the process of creating the play in partnership with St. Bernard's Primary School

Video documentary — Making Waves: The Impact of Adrift: [Watch on Vimeo](#)

This video shows the impact of *Adrift*, visiting local schools to see how the play has impacted their curriculum and their pupils.

THEMES AND CURRICULUM LINKS

Themes and curriculum links:

Childhood, imagination, resilience
Refugee crisis, displacement, conflict
Journeys, home, sense of belonging
Tolerance and acceptance of others

Strong links to pupil voice, developing oracy and exploring and challenging perceptions.

Curriculum Development Project

The Ignite Teaching School Alliance, led by St Bernard's Primary School in Ellesmere Port, has developed a Curriculum Development Project based on the play *Adrift*. This was rolled out across 14 primary schools in 2018.

This will run again from September 2019.

Subject Leaders come together over the autumn term to design a coherent curriculum across all subject disciplines whilst making links to the refugee crisis. Pupils then see the performance in the spring term and go on to deepen their understanding through a whole school project with social justice at its heart.

For more details on this contact Emily Reid at St Bernard's Primary School on ereid@stbernards.cheshire.sch.uk



CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT

Andy Moor #FCCT @amoor4e
 @MissReid07 talks passionately
 and humanity rich curriculum
 #socialjustice #GameChange

Andy Moor #FCCT @amoor4ed · Jan 12
 Replying to @slotter08 @FloraBarton and 3 others
 We've been doing some really exciting work with @LearnatCZ and @ATTtweet around conservation and social justice. It's changed my whole thinking on partnership and what we can achieve with our kids. The sky is the limit!! Sounds like we need to work together @FloraBarton. 🙌🙌🙌

The Literacy Company and 1 other liked
St Bernard's Primary @StBernardsep · 6 Dec 2018
 Exciting day gathering art# ideas for the Adrift project with Julie Mitchell. Teachers closing their eyes and having a go at using music to inspire. @ATTtweet @TheLCUK @StBernardsep @amoor4ed @IgniteTSA #igniteAdrift19

Miss Reid @MissReid07 · Jan 20
 Working collaboratively, @IgniteTSA schools have created a vision for our social justice project 'Adrift'. Isn't this what curriculum should be about? @ATTtweet #igniteAdrift19 #relevant #bigeducationconversation

understanding of the world and where those who have been displaced from their homes come from. Children will gain secure geographical knowledge in the context of a human experience and explore the concept of 'Home'

Through the experiences and learning we provide, children will be able to form their own views of the world based on fact and understand why prejudices may occur. Where appropriate they will be able to question things they may read, see or hear in the media. They will be able to engage in conversations with their families, helping to pivot perceptions and break down

BOOKING DETAILS

Cost: £500 for one performance and talk back session

Maximum Audience: 120

Age Range: KS2

Performance Space Required:

School hall with no other activity taking place for the duration of our time with you.

7m wide x 5m deep x 3m high

We will need to use Gaffer tape on your floor to secure cables for sound and lighting requirements and cannot be held liable for any marking or lifting of polish that occurs

Time Requirement:

3.5 hours in total (1.5 hour set up + 1 hour performance + 1 hour clear away)

We can arrive as early as 7.30am to set up so we can start at 9am and be clear for lunch set up by 11am

Content:

Adrift performance (50 minutes)

Q&A session with the two actors. We will send through some suggested questions the staff can ask to get the children talking about the play and asking questions. We strongly recommend where possible that you allow the children an opportunity to ask questions and talk about the content of the play they will have just watched.

Access:

We will require access to the performance space for our van to unload the set and then we will need subsequent parking space for our van for the duration of time within your school (Mercedes Long Wheel-based Van 3.23m long x 2.4m high).

Company:

There will be three company members who will tour this show into your school – two professional actors and one professional stage manager. All will be DBS checked and will provide you with their DBS number on arrival and sign in at your school.

Option of follow-up workshop:

We work with freelance workshop facilitator Gav Cross (www.gavcross.co.uk) who can deliver a two hour workshop on Asylum Seekers and Refugees, created for Year 5 & 6 pupils.

Within this workshop Gav explores our common humanity exploring the similarities and differences between people, helping the pupils to challenge stereotypes and myths about people from different cultures, religions and countries.

He also incorporates a warm up game, a quiz looking at defining terms and challenging preconceptions of figures linked to asylum seekers and refugees, and a guided role play activity called 'A Time to Flee'.

If you are interested please email jess@actiontransporttheatre.org for dates and costs.

CONTACT INFO

All enquiries to Jess Egan-Simon: jess@actiontransporttheatre.org

Telephone: 0151 357 2120

Web: www.actiontransporttheatre.org

Twitter: @ATTtweet

Facebook / Instagram: @ActionTransportTheatre



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