



THE NEW VICTORY THEATER.
A project of The New 42nd Street

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PRESS RELEASE

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The New Victory Theater Presents
The New Victory Scottish Festival
A Celebration of Scotland's Exciting and Visionary
Theater for Young Audiences

THREE U.S. PREMIERES!

September 18 – November 1, 2009

The worldwide reputation of Scottish children's theater has benefited over the last decade from a major effort among the country's artistic leaders to focus on theater for young audiences as a serious art form. To recognize this success and introduce New York audiences to Scotland's most provocative, engaging and imaginative theater companies for young audiences, The New Victory Theater will present the New Victory Scottish Festival from September 18 through November 1, 2009.

During the seven-week festival, The New Victory will present shows from four of Scotland's leading theater companies: Catherine Wheels Theatre Company in association with Brunton Theatre (Hansel and Gretel, from an original production by the National Theatre of Scotland – creators of Black Watch), Shona Reppe (Cinderella), Puppet State Theatre Company (The Man Who Planted Trees), and Andy Manley in association with Starcatchers (My House). Among the delightful and inventive productions from these companies is a "promenade" adventure (a New Vic first!) where audiences of 100 at a time walk through a New Victory that is transformed from basement to balcony into a haunted forest and other surprising destinations.

"In Scotland there is a fundamental, industry-wide respect for children and a willingness to communicate with them at eye-level through different experimental and aesthetic vocabularies. The result of this openness toward risk-taking is a

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performing arts scene that is among the most innovative and visionary today. The New Victory Theater is proud to honor the accomplishments of these Scottish innovators," said Mary Rose Lloyd, Director of Programming at The New Victory Theater.

"It is a tremendous honor for Scottish companies and Scottish work to be recognized in this way by the most important presenting children's theater in the world," said Tony Reekie, Chief Executive of The Bank of Scotland's Imagineate Festival, the UK's largest performing arts festival for children and young people.

"It must be stated that it's the artists who deserve this accolade. Their skill, passion and creativity are recognized across the world and this project is a fitting tribute to not only those companies chosen, but all the artists working for children and young people in Scotland today," Mr. Reekie added.

The productions featured in The New Victory Scottish Festival include:

Cinderella -- Shona Reppe Puppets, September 18-27

The world's most beloved fairytale comes to life like never before in the hands of award-winning (Total Theatre Award, 2002 Edinburgh Festival Fringe) and internationally renowned puppeteer, Shona Reppe. Dedicated to producing inventive and highly imaginative small-scale visual theater for children and their families, Shona is considered one of the artists largely responsible for Scotland's notable emergence as a force in British puppetry. "Shona Reppe is the fairy godmother of puppet theatre." (Edinburgh Evening News)

For ages 4 and up.

Full price: \$25; Member: \$17.50

My House -- Andy Manley in association with Starcatchers, October 2-18,
U.S. PREMIERE

The first of its kind in Scotland, The Starcatchers Project explores the development and creation of theater for babies and young children (0-3 years old), their families and caregivers. In My House, creator Andy Manley, along with designer Claire Halleran and composer Danny Krass, invite parents and little ones to gather round as a simple cardboard box unfolds into a haven of colors, textures, shapes, and sounds. Presented in a New 42nd Street studio for an audience of only 25 at a time, this gentle and intimate one-man show is the perfect first-time theatrical experience. "A charmingly simple and quirky piece. Deeply silly, yet enchantingly accessible to toddlers." (The Sunday Herald, UK)

For ages 18 months to 3 years.

Full price: \$20; Member: \$14

The Man Who Planted Trees – Puppet State Theatre Company, October 2-11,
U.S. PREMIERE

“Laughs, heartbreak, war, regeneration, scented breezes, sparkling wit, and the best dog puppet ever” (The Guardian) sums up the Puppet State Theatre Company’s theatrical adaptation of French novelist Jean Giono’s environmental classic. The tale of a thoughtful shepherd who plants a forest, acorn by acorn, transforming a barren wasteland is told by a puppet named Dog and his easygoing foil. Winner of the Total Theatre Award 2008 at the Edinburgh Festival Fringe and the 2007 Eco Trust’s Eco Prize for Creativity, The Man Who Planted Trees is a unique blend of comedy, puppetry and storytelling with sensory effects.

For ages 7 and up.

Full price: \$25; Member: \$17.50

Hansel and Gretel – Catherine Wheels Theatre Company in association with Brunton
Theatre, October 15-November 1, U.S. PREMIERE

This unique production of The Brothers Grimm fairytale requires that the entire New Victory be transformed from basement to balcony to accommodate the complex and intricate needs of a “promenade” theater piece. Audiences follow the path of Hansel and Gretel as the pair journeys from their kitschy 1970s inspired home through a spooky forest and into the dangerous clutches of a bald-headed witch who is at once nasty, funny and completely off-her-rocker. Hansel and Gretel features live music, and for a little nostalgia and camp, some Bay City Rollers’ tunes in the soundtrack. Described as “a world of dark absurdity that Tim Burton would be proud of” (Edinburghguide.com), Hansel and Gretel is based on an original work by the National Theatre of Scotland (Black Watch).

For ages 8 and up.

Full price: \$35; Member: \$24.50

The nonprofit New Victory Theater is supported, in part, with public funds from the National Endowment for the Arts; New York State Council on the Arts, a state agency; and from the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs. The New Vic Council, Friends of The New Victory and the theater’s dedicated patrons, corporate and foundation donors also provide essential contributions, helping to make possible programming of the highest quality. The Jim Henson Foundation has provided a special presentation grant in support of Cinderella, The Man Who Planted Trees, and Elephant. The Complete Works of William Shakespeare (abridged) and NV4us are generously sponsored by McDonald’s on 42nd Street, right across from The New Victory Theater.

The New Victory Scottish Festival is made possible through funding from the Scottish Government’s Edinburgh Festivals Expo Fund and the Bank of Scotland Imagine Festival.

Ticket Information

Theater-goers who buy tickets for three or more New Vic shows qualify for free Membership benefits, including 30% savings. To purchase tickets online visit NewVictory.org, and to purchase by phone, call 646-223-3010.

Full-price tickets for individual productions will also be available from August 12, 2009, either online or by phone. Beginning September 8, the New Victory Theater box office (209 West 42nd Street) will be open Sunday and Monday from 11am-5pm and Tuesday through Saturday from 12 noon-7pm.

About The New Victory Theater

The New Victory Theater, a project of The New 42nd Street and New York City's first and only full-time performing arts theater for kids and their families and classmates, presents a range of professional productions at affordable ticket prices (regular season prices range from \$12.50-\$35 and Member tickets are only \$8.75-\$24.50). In addition, it also offers daytime school performances (\$2 per student), family workshops and jobs to high school and college students. Interactive Lobby Activities, FYIs (performance-related exhibits) and Talk-backs with the artists are offered in conjunction with select performances throughout the season. The theater's website, NewVictory.org, provides video clips and more information about each production in the season, as well as show-related activities.

The New Victory Theater sparked the subsequent revitalization of 42nd Street when it opened its doors in December 1995.



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About The New 42nd Street

Founded in 1990, The New 42nd Street is an independent, nonprofit organization charged with long-term responsibility for seven historic theaters on 42nd Street between Seventh and Eighth Avenues. In addition to running The New Victory, The New 42nd Street built and operates the New 42nd Street Studios -- a 10-story building of rehearsal studios, offices and a 199-seat theater named The Duke on 42nd Street -- for national and international performing arts companies. Since its opening on June 21, 2000, the New 42nd Street Studios has been fully occupied by both nonprofit and commercial theater, dance and opera companies. With these institutions and the other properties under its guardianship, The New 42nd Street plays a pivotal role in fostering the continued revival of this famous street at the Crossroads of the World.

THE NEW VICTORY SCOTTISH FESTIVAL

COMPANY BIOGRAPHIES

Shona Reppe Puppets

Based in Fife, Scotland, Shona Reppe Puppets has been dedicated to creating highly visual and accessible small-scale puppet productions for children and their families since 1997. The company won a Total Theatre Award during the 2002 Edinburgh Festival Fringe for Cinderella, and in 2004, it won Best Children's Show at the Tron Theatre Awards (Glasgow) for Spend a Penny. Shona Reppe is the Associate Artist for ATTFife.

Andy Manley in association with Starcatchers

The first of its kind in Scotland, The Starcatchers Project explores the development and creation of theater for babies and young children (0-3 years old) and their parents or caregivers. Starcatchers was launched in October 2006 and engaged the artists Andy Manley and Vanessa Rig to undertake the first phase of the project. They developed themes and ideas that were tested in workshops with children in local childcare settings, and these workshops allowed Andy and Vanessa to create theater suitable for the developmental phase of their audience.

Puppet State Theatre Company

Performer Rick Conte studied journalism at the University of Georgia in the mid- to late-80s and moved to Edinburgh in 1989. Since then he has toured with bands and worked with many of Scotland's top theater companies, including National Theatre of Scotland, Wee Stories, The Edinburgh Puppet Company and Catherine Wheels Theatre Company. Along with his creation, "Lord Dennis Tippleworthy," Rick has addressed conferences on European Alcohol Policy at Warsaw, Leiden and Helsinki. Rick performed with Edinburgh's Bongo Club Cabaret from 1998-2002.

Richard Medrington has been a touring puppeteer since 1984. His one-man shows include The Interrogation, The Adventures of Ivan the Slug and AA Milne's Winnie the Pooh, which toured the UK for five years to packed houses, ending with a sell-out run at the Royal National Theatre. He moved to Edinburgh in 1992 and is a veteran of 15 Edinburgh Festival Fringes.

The Man Who Planted Trees has been touring extensively since it began in 2006, travelling to arts festivals throughout the UK, Ireland, Bermuda and Malaysia. The production is the winner of the Eco Trust's Eco prize for Creativity (2007), and was a sold-out show at the 2007 Edinburgh Festival Fringe.

Catherine Wheels Theatre Company

Catherine Wheels was formed in 1999 by the director Gill Robertson. The company's first production Martha has run in theaters throughout the UK, Ireland and North America, playing at The New Victory Theater in New York on the way. In 2008, Martha won the award for Best Production at the Shanghai International Children's Festival. Lifeboat, which won the Barclays Stage Award for Best Show for Children and Young People, has been part of the Edinburgh Festival Fringe and the New Zealand International Arts Festival (2007), and was the first production by a Scottish children's theater company to perform at the Sydney Opera House.

Page 2

Lifeboat also ran at The New Victory Theater (2007). These successes, along with Something Wicked This Way Comes (in association with the National Theatre of Scotland), Hansel and Gretel (in association with the National Theatre of Scotland), Cyrano, Snow Baby, The Lion of Kabul, Kappa and The Ballad of Pondlife McGurk have established Catherine Wheels as a leading producer of theater for children and young people. The company is based at the Brunton Theatre in Musselburgh, just outside Edinburgh.

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