

Théâtre Sans Frontières presents



Heaven Eyes

A play based on the novel **Heaven Eyes** by the internationally renowned writer David Almond, it first toured to venues in North East England and Cumbria in autumn 2014. It was recommended by the British Theatre Guide as one of the best family shows in North East England 2014.

David has written extensively for children and twice been a Whitbread Children's Award Winner: his novel *Skellig* took the prize in 1998. In 2010, he won the international Hans Christian Andersen Award for writing. His books have been translated into over 30 languages.

Heaven Eyes is a wonderfully, poetic but gritty story for 9-13 year olds. Three children run away from a care home and sail downriver on a raft. They discover a strange girl and her Grandpa on the mudflats. The girl has a secret only Grandpa knows ... and he's not telling.

“Almond encourages us to embrace the uncertainties and relish the contrasts he delivers: the light and dark; what is real and what is fantasy; how these children can be ‘damaged’ but happy at the same time. The book tackles some deep issues, these children struggle with their identities and where they fit into the world around them; but these unfold in a subtle manner not spoiled by over-sentimentality ... David Almond has crafted a spellbinding story of a child finding her own way in the world.”

Hackwriters: the international writers magazine

Synopsis

Three orphaned teenagers (Erin, January, Mouse) run away from the children's home they live in. They sail down the Tyne on an improvised raft and get stuck on mudflats in the Ouseburn area. Here they encounter a strange girl (Heaven Eyes) who speaks in pigeon English and is living with an old man, Grampa, whose jacket says “Caretaker” on it. The old man spends every evening digging in the mud flats looking for saints. Mouse joins him. January distrusts the old man and thinks he is going to murder them all. Erin makes friends with Heaven Eyes. As tension mounts between the group, January discovers a photo of Heaven Eyes with her family which says her name is Anna. He later finds newspaper cuttings of a shipwreck. They finally learn the truth of Anna's past.

“An incredible, imaginative, magical, mysterious, haunting dream-like book that I will never forget.” Molly, aged 13

Themes

The book touches on many themes pertinent to younger teenagers and fits in with the PSHE and SMSC curriculum:

- loyalty
- friendship / loneliness
- memories / the past

- death / ghosts
- families / home
- identity

What the Press said

'Funny, fantastic, scary, poignant and sad' – Northumberland Gazette

'a real treat for young and old' – Northumberland Gazette

'a magical performance' Cuckooreview.com

'grittily realistic but with an other-worldly edge' British Theatre Guide

'captivating for both children and adults' Juice Festival Blog

'children and adults will find themselves transported to another world' North East Reviews

'an engaging, strongly paced production' The Northern Echo

What the audience said

- Excellent adaptation - loved the close up feeling of Caedmon + great set & marvelous acting
- Thoroughly involving
- Wonderful setting and music as expected, fabulous acting
- Very magical & moving
- Stunning projections, amazingly acted, rivetting performances
- The whole production, performance and feeling the actors put in was brilliant
- It was outstanding, conveying the magical and linguistic wealth of the book
- So well adapted & set also superb
- Moving. Surprisingly funny. Sad. Brill.
- Dealt with many issues appropriate to the age range with such sensitivity. Be brill for schools.
- Very inventive, great production
- Superb writing, acting & setting
- Beautifully done
- Magnificent!
- A wonderful performance. We were all engrossed all the way through.

The Tour

The production is touring UK venues February/March 2017. Suitable for 9-13 year olds; David Almond also has a strong following amongst adults.

Technical

In English

Duration: one hour 25 minutes, no interval

Performance space of 6m x 6m

Live and recorded music, video projection

Cast of 6 actors with 1 stage manager

Finance

All deals considered

Contact

A short video with highlights from the production can be found on the home page of TSF's website: www.tsf.org.uk

For further information and to book this show for your venue, please contact:

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Heaven Eyes

Technical Specifications

(based on 2014 Tour)

Schedule/Crew Call

1. Get In 8 hours + pre-rig if possible
Running Time 1 hour 25 approx (no interval)
Get Out Under 2 hours
2. Crew Call 2 in-house technicians minimum

Company

3. Cast 3 female, 3 male
Technical 1 SM (operating LX/Sound/AV)
Dressing Rooms 2
4. Vehicles 1 Luton Van, 1 Mercedes Vito people carrier

Stage/Set

5. Preferred Playing Area 9-10m wide, 8m deep
Preferred Grid Height 6m
6. The set consists of 3 trucks, the largest measuring 182cm x 110cm x 103cm in its smallest form. There is also a window frame with a length of 312cm. Max height 3.3m when built. Floor cloth 6m x 6m.
7. Flown Items Starcloth 6.5m wide x 6m deep
Backcloth 6.5m wide x 6m deep
Suspended cloth pieces (low level, hung from fishing line)
8. Props/Furniture - a wooden raft, table, chair, various stools, plus numerous smaller props.
9. Standard black box masking with legs and borders.

LX

10. Rigging/Dimmers 3 onstage LX bars, 1 FOH bridge, 4 side booms on stage
58 dimmers (including 23 floor circuits) with DMX control
11. Lanterns 22 Zoom Profiles (Source 4 or similar)
19 1K/1200w Fresnels
16 650w Fresnels/PCs
2 Par 64 (1 floor can)
10 Birdies
(some lanterns may be toured)
12. Desk ETC Element (toured)
13. Effects 2 Starcloth units (DMX + 13A), located upstage (toured)
Gobo Rotator (toured)
Smoke Machine (DMX + 13A), located upstage (toured)
14. Touring SM will operate lights, sound and AV from standard control position. Please ensure good visibility of the stage, and where possible, a live sound position.

Sound

15. Sound System In-house PA system and sound desk for playback of music and FX
with Monitors UL and UR
16. Playback Macbook Pro running QLab with stereo output and AV out (toured)

AV

17. Projector Panasonic Projector (13A + VGA) to be positioned FOH (toured)
with DMX Shutter (toured)

Miscellaneous

18. Working light in the wings and crossover. Prop tables. Washing machine/dryer if available.