

**OPERA
UPCLOSE**

in partnership with

CHICKENSHEd
THEATRE CHANGING LIVES

 ISLE OF WIGHT
MUSIC HUB

 SOUTHAMPTON
MUSIC HUB

Peace At Last

Based on the picture book by **Jill Murphy**

Music by **Joanna Lee**
Words by **Robin Norton-Hale**



**“A special treat
and something that as a
five-year-old you’ll never forget.
Inspiring a new generation.”**

UK TOUR | 2023

operaupclose.com/peaceatlast2023

WELCOME!

An enormous bear-hug sized welcome to Peace At Last, an opera made especially for you.

Your grown-ups will tell you that sleep is a precious thing indeed ...

Mr Bear is desperately trying to get to sleep but is kept awake by the varying sounds of the night: Mrs Bear snoring, Baby Bear playing, a dripping tap, a clock ticking, an owl hooting ... join us as we help him find somewhere he can get a decent night's rest.

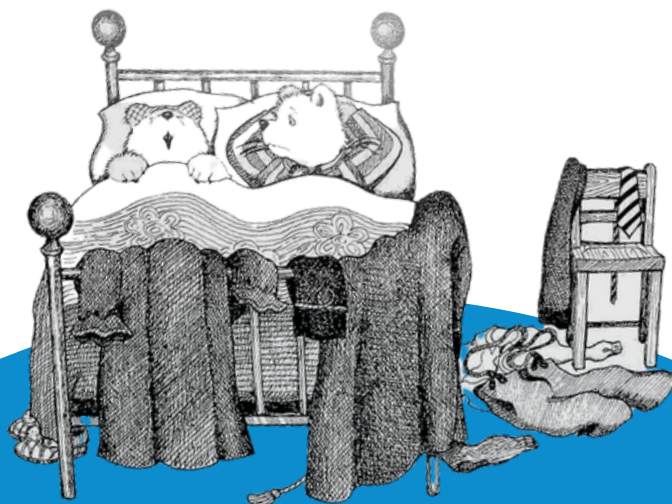
Everyone at OperaUpClose wants to loudly thank (sorry Mr Bear!) our partners; our supporters; our talented, dedicated artists - composers, writers, performers, technicians, designers and directors; you, our wonderful audience; and, most importantly, the irreplaceable and sorely missed Jill Murphy whose stories will continue to engage and delight for generations to come.

We look forward to seeing you all again soon at another OperaUpClose performance.

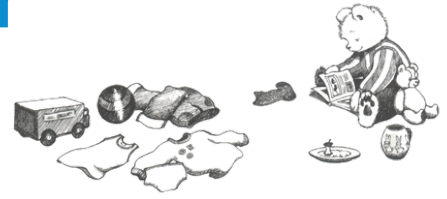
Enjoy your time with the Bears!

FLORA MCINTOSH

ARTISTIC DIRECTOR



REMEMBERING JILL MURPHY



“

One of my mum's favourite things, was to see her work come to life in a live theatre setting. I think it was one of the most immediate ways that she could experience people enjoying her stories, as the act of making the books was always more solitary. I have no doubt, that she'd have been sat in the front row enjoying this wonderful production of *Peace At Last*, immensely proud.”

CHARLIE MURPHY

JILL MURPHY'S SON

FROM JILL'S FRIEND AND AGENT

PAMELA TODD

“Jill was a born storyteller and the enduring appeal of all her books lies in their message. Anything is possible. Don't be put off, don't be knocked back. There's magic in the everyday and imagination can transform ordinary lives. Jill had every faith in her young readers. She loved meeting them and wrote long, often illustrated replies to their letters. Jill's passing has left a big hole in the heart of the children's book world, but she has also left behind a magical legacy.”





OPERA FOR THE VERY YOUNG

OperaUpClose are on a mission to grow a body of work made with and for very young children, reflecting and expanding the imaginations of these young creators through a collaborative process with writers, composers and performers. We tour to theatres, schools, nurseries and libraries, creating a UK-wide network of community partners for future Early Years commissions and child-led creation that supports a sustained programme of music-making in the classroom.

Our new partnership with Chickenshed Theatre is an exciting opportunity to embed integrated signing and other inclusive arts practices into all our future work, with Southampton and the Isle of Wight Music Hubs supporting the development of meaningful long-term relationships with schools and Early Years settings in our local area.

To support this mission and bring the magic of musical storytelling to children across the country, sign up to our newsletter, become a friend, and be part of the story. Thank you!

NEWSLETTER >

SUPPORT US >

CAST



BABY BEAR

NATASHA AGARWAL

Natasha is a British Indian soprano from Liverpool. She recently created the role of Jack in the critically acclaimed world premiere of Jonathan Dove's *Itch* at Opera Holland Park and made a "stand out" role debut at WNO as Neera in Will Todd's *Migrations*.



MRS BEAR

GEMMA MORSLEY

Gemma has recorded and performed several operas in concert with Opera Rara including *Semiramide*, *Il Proscritto* and *La Princesse de Trébizonde* under the batons of Sir Mark Elder, Carlo Rizzi and Paul Daniel. Music theatre roles include Mrs Sowerberry & Mrs Bedwin in *Oliver!*



MR BEAR

CHUMA SIJEQA

Chuma is a South African baritone and completed a Masters at Guildhall School of Music. He joined the Jette Parker Young Artist Programme's 20th Anniversary Company where his roles included Angelotti in *Tosca*, Second Philistine in *Samson et Dalila* and Second Nazarine in *Salome* (ROH main stage), plus many more.



MUSIC DIRECTOR
/ CLARINET

GREG HEARLE

Greg studied at the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama and the Royal College of Music, graduating with a Distinction. Later becoming a 2018 fellow of Southbank Sinfonia. Greg freelances with orchestras such the RPO, BBCSO, Britten Sinfonia, and Royal Northern Sinfonia, and teaches at leading West London schools.



HARP

NICOLETTE CHIN

Nicolette is a highly sought-after harpist from Singapore. An avid chamber and orchestral performer. Notable groups she's worked with include the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra, London Philharmonic Orchestra, Royal Ballet Sinfonia and Southbank Sinfonia. Nicolette trained at the Royal Academy of Music, where she won all of its prizes for harp.

LEARN MORE



CREATIVES

REVIVAL
DIRECTOR



BECCA MARRIOTT

Becca Marriott began her operatic career as a singer; performing numerous leading roles for OperaUpClose, The King's Head Theatre and Grange Park Opera (among others) to great critical acclaim. Between 2016 and 2018 she crafted new dramaturgies and libretti for three award winning and award nominated opera adaptations for The King's Head Theatre, before founding her own company, The Opera Makers, in 2019 to support emerging artists. This year she created and directed a radical adaptation of Puccini's Turandot for Grimeborn opera festival - the first outside Asia to feature an entirely BESEA cast. Becca is supported by Arts Council England's Developing Your Creative Practice.

SET & COSTUME
DESIGN



SOPHIA LOVELL SMITH

A designer for theatre, opera, dance and interactive performance for children, Sophia studied Theatre Arts at Bretton Hall and has just designed SALT (Lighthouse, Poole & Angel Exit), The Worst Princess (Full House Theatre) and Little Angel Theatre (The Bed). In 2022 Sophia created Chasing Dots (MishMash Prods & RNS, Sage/The Glasshouse, Gateshead) and Jina and the STEM Sisters (HMDT) and London Rhymes, a band making music for toddlers, plus more. Recent productions include 5 years with Spitalfields Music, for the Musical Rumpus Programme, The Bed for LAT (Offies 2020 finalist) and Paper Aeroplane for Half Moon Theatre (Offies 2021 finalist).

ASSOCIATE
DIRECTOR



SARAH DRIVER

WITH CHICKENSHED

Sarah currently works at Chickenshed Theatre Company, mainly within the theatre for children division. Creating new theatre and developmental activities for 0-7 year olds, with a main focus on the songwriting and music for the Tales from the Shed and Planet Play programmes. She also supports BSL within the company for performances, teaching sessions, translating, as well as, outreach programs. She has been performing onstage from an early age, going on to get a degree in inclusive theatre practice.

LIGHTING
DESIGN



WILL EVANS

Will has lit internationally and in London's West End and designed lighting for many shows for younger audiences including; 'Aliens Love Underpants', 'Monstersaurus', 'Stuck', 'The Way Back Home', 'Don't Let the Pigeon Drive the Bus!' and 'The Legend of Perseus' all for Big Wooden Horse. For Tall Stories he has lit 'Snow Dragon', 'My Brother the Robot', 'Twinkle Twonkle', 'How the Giraffe Got its Neck', 'Monster Hits', and 'Does A Monster Live Next Door?' Will also works extensively as an educator, teaching Lighting Design at institutes such as Rose Bruford and Guildford School of Acting.

LEARN MORE



PRODUCTION TEAM

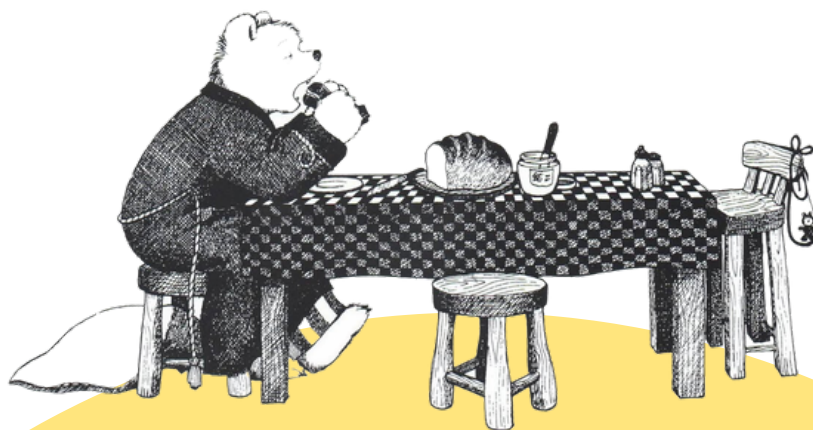
ORIGINAL PRODUCTION - ROBIN NORTON-HALE

REHEARSAL PIANIST - MARIA STRUCKOVA

PRODUCTION MANAGER - CALLUM FINN

COMPANY STAGE MANAGER - TRACY BENNER

TECHNICAL STAGE MANAGER - PHOEBE BUTCHER



TOUR SCHEDULE



SUNDAY 22 OCTOBER

CHICKENSHED THEATRE, LONDON

11AM, 12.45PM & 2PM



SATURDAY 28 OCTOBER

MAST, SOUTHAMPTON

11AM & 2PM



SUNDAY 29 OCTOBER

THE LANDMARK THEATRE, ILFRACOMBE

11AM & 1PM



SUNDAY 05 NOVEMBER

MANSFIELD MUSEUM

2PM & 4PM



OUR PARTNERS

CHICKENSHED

THEATRE CHANGING LIVES

Chickenshed is a theatre company for absolutely everyone. For fifty years, we've created bold and beautiful work from our limitless belief in each other. Through our productions, our performance training, our education courses, and our outreach projects, our mission is to create wonder out of chaos and change out of challenge. We succeed together or not at all. This is our vision of how the world should be - a society where everyone can flourish. We're here to shake things up by sharing our experience with each other, with those who hold power and with those who feel they have none. We do this on stage, off stage and wherever people come together. Chickenshed, theatre changing lives.



Southampton and Isle of Wight Music Hubs is a network of local and national organisation that work collaboratively to provide a range of musical activities for all children and young people in Southampton and the Isle of Wight. These activities include music lessons in the form of weekly instrumental and vocal tuition, concerts, special events, family music making, workshops and holiday courses.

THANK YOU

We are enormously grateful to all our friends and supporters whose generosity and endorsement makes our work possible.



Supported using public funding by
**ARTS COUNCIL
ENGLAND**

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Foundation**



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Peace At Last commission and original production supported by:



Supported using public funding by
**ARTS COUNCIL
ENGLAND**



**Newham
Music**

**PRS
Foundation**

**THE
Agoda
FOUNDATION**



**GALLIONS
MUSIC TRUST**



WHO WE ARE

OperaUpClose is a national touring opera company, rooted in theatre with partnership and innovation at its heart. Newly based at the dynamic cultural hub MAST, Southampton, we make opera of the highest quality with and for everyone. We work at an intimate scale as an active creative choice, distilling the essence of classics into new, contemporary works with their own artistic integrity and excellence. We are committed to breaking down barriers between pit, stage and audience by giving all performers equal agency as storytellers, extending the reach and relevance of the artform with cross-disciplinary and co-creative commissions performed alongside bold re-inventions of established material. OperaUpClose are engaging a new generation in the power of musical storytelling with our operas made with and for very young children, and we actively support new voices within the art-form through our paid Young Associate Artist Scheme for emerging producers, directors, conductors, writers and performers.

FOR OPERAUPCLOSE

ARTISTIC DIRECTOR – FLORA MCINTOSH

EXECUTIVE PRODUCER – ALLISON ROSSER

EXECUTIVE PRODUCER (MATERNITY COVER) – BRIDGET FLOYER

COMPANY MANAGER – JANE RYAN

FUNDRAISING - REBECCA REDCLIFT

MARKETING & PROGRAMME DESIGN - JENNIFER LE ROUX

TRUSTEES

JOHN ANDREWS

JOE MCFADDEN

GWENETH ANN RAND

CAROLYN WARD

AMANDA ARISS OBE

JOHN WARD

CHARITH CABRAAL

CLARE WILLIAMS

MATTHEW LYONS

SUPPORT US

1 TELL US WHAT YOU THINK

Our mission is to make opera with and for everyone. Help us learn more about everyone watching our productions and understand your experience. Fill out our survey using the link below

FEEDBACK >

2 BECOME A REGULAR SUPPORTER

Become a supporter of OperaUpClose from just £3/month. Get close to our work, support the next generation of opera makers and theatrical innovators. Learn more via the link below.

SUPPORT US >

FOLLOW US
@OPERAUPCLOSE
& KEEP WATCHING!

3



