

# fairy tree



**WRITTEN & DIRECTED by ROD GOODALL**

**Commissioned & Produced by Blue Teapot Theatre Company**

Fairy Tree explores the tradition of bringing a Spruce tree into our homes at mid-winter but only for 12 days! Why is that? This is a warm-hearted tale that reminds us of the importance of our relationships with each other and nature.

**It is a celebration and acceptance that we are all different.**

## **THE BACKGROUND**

The impetus for the Fairy Tree project came from conversations with our actors to inform a strategic arts plan and capture their artistic ambitions. Several expressed they wanted to create theatre for children with one actor saying that he had never seen anyone like him on stage as a child. Not long after, I read a short story by Rod Goodall about the presence of the fairy realm in our everyday lives and saw the spark for a new piece of children's theatre. This led to the commission of the story in to a play.

*We hope you enjoy it with sparkles on!*

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Petal Pilley".

*Petal Pilley, Artistic Director*



# Writer & Director's Note



Five years ago, I wrote the Fairy Tree story as a Christmas present for my Grandson Julo. Little did I imagine that this tale would be transformed into a theatre production with the expertise of Blue Teapot Theatre Company. It has been a journey with many contributions from many talented individuals. Thank you one and all, especially Stephen Johnston for his music and support. It has been a joy working with the actors, we've had a lot of laughs.

'In all societies, it is important  
How we relate to each other  
It's important how we respect each other, even if we disagree  
If a man does not keep pace with his companions, perhaps  
It is because he hears the beat of a different drummer'

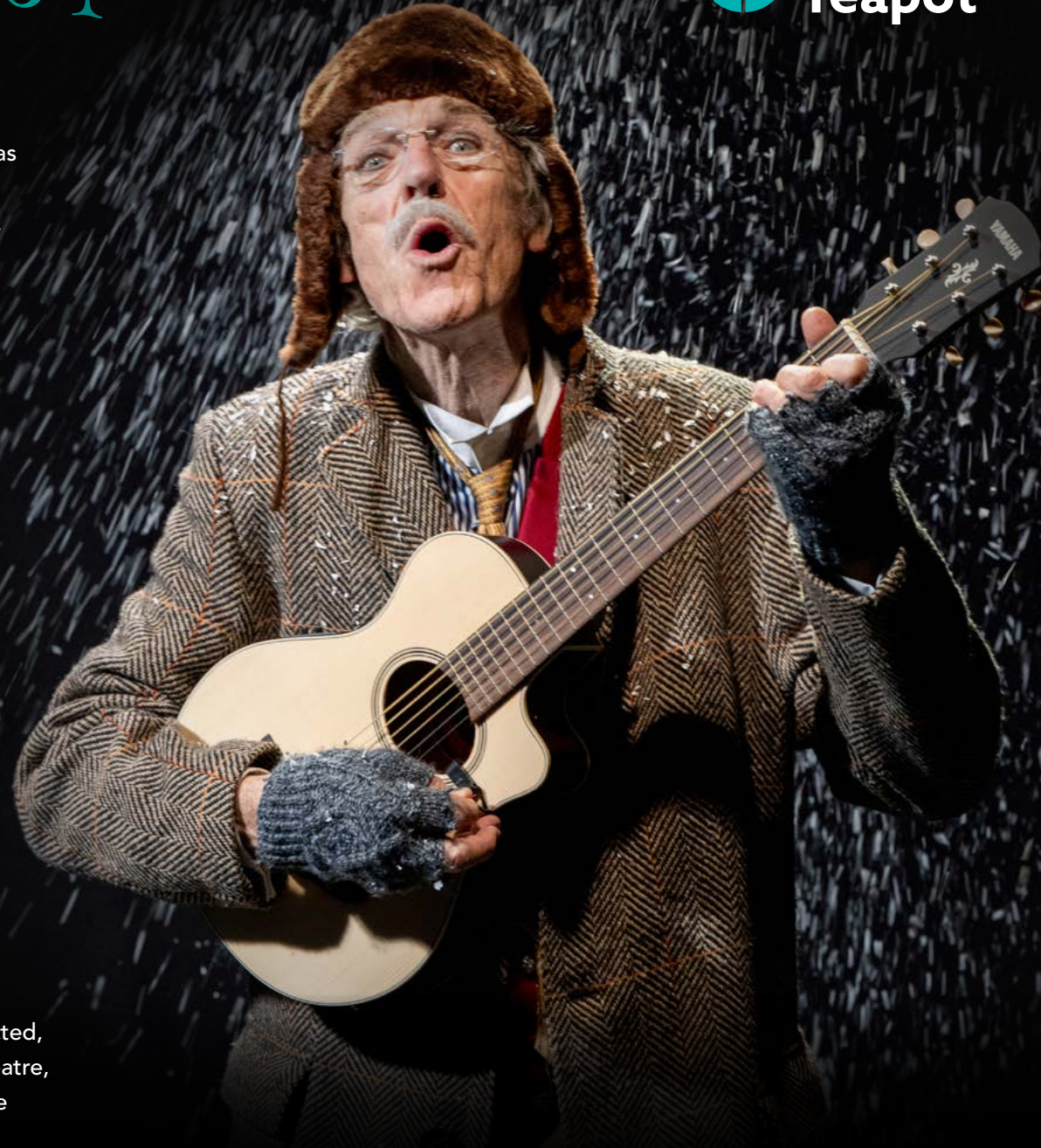
*Henry Thoreau 1854*

Fairy play for coming  
We hope you enjoy the show  
Do you believe in Fairies?  
Perhaps not,  
But I do.  
Abú,

*Rod*

*Rod Goodall*

Writer & Director Rod Goodall is a regular collaborator with Blue Teapot, with his career in theatre spanning over six decades. Throughout, he has directed, acted, written and produced. A founding member of Footsbarn Travelling Theatre, Goodall became Artistic Director & Performance Director of Ireland's premiere spectacle theatre company Macnas (1987 – 1997) to international acclaim.



# Cast and Crew



## Fairy Tree Cast

Ruthgar.....Paul Connolly  
Mr Mayor.....Kieran Coppinger  
Jess.....Jenny Cox  
Mrs Mayor.....Valerie Egan  
Cyril.....Rod Goodall  
King of the Fairies.....Michael Hayes  
Rachel.....Grace O'Brien  
Rosie.....Cathal Scott Reynolds

## Fairy Tree Creatives & Crew

Writer & Director.....Rod Goodall  
Costume & Puppet Design.....Charmian Goodall  
Music & Songs composed by.....Stephen Johnston  
Sound Design.....Jason Scott  
Lighting Design.....Órla Kelly-Smith & Jim Faulkner  
Tree Design.....Tommy Casby & Rod Goodall

Production Manager.....Niall Barrett  
Stage Manager.....Orla Kelly-Smith  
Assistant Stage Manager.....Barry Ryan  
Sound & Lighting Operator.....Jason Scott  
Tree make.....Tommy Casby  
Costumes & Puppets make.....Charmian Goodall  
Props.....Barry Ryan, Órla Kelly-Smith,  
Rod Goodall & Jason Scott

Chief LX & Programmer.....Shannon Light  
Stage Technician.....Rory O'Regan

Accessibility Consultant.....Mo Harte  
Sensory Tours.....Mo Harte & Dave Donovan  
Easy to Read Programme.....Ace Communications

PR & Marketing.....Jane Hanberry  
Lisa Regan  
Sonja Brodie

Graphic Design.....Clair O'Brien

Box Office Manager.....Jane Hanberry

Photography.....Andrew Downes  
Anita Murphy  
Emilija Jefremova  
Jason Scott  
Midie Corcoran  
Hillary Kavanagh

Front of House.....Judith Wolf  
Ana Alvarez  
Dave Donovan  
James Flanagan  
Grace Hannon  
Maria Hannon  
Caoimhe McMahon  
Andrew Quinn  
James Wallace  
Jack Walsh

Pre & Post Engagement Materials.....Dr. Heidi Schoenenberger

Evaluation.....Philip Isard & Caroline Gardner,  
Quality Matters

Evaluation Gathering.....Petal Pilley, James Flanagan,  
Rebecca Malone, Midie Corcoran  
& Jane Parsons

Project Co-ordinator.....Rebecca Malone

Producer.....Hillary Kavanagh



# Fairy Tree Project

## Companion Workshops for Children



Fairy Tree is a multi-phase initiative combining theatre and inclusive workshops, led by our actors, to schools across Galway City and County. It is an interdependent project that fosters creativity and collaboration between our actors and children with/without disabilities and those who are neurodivergent. In the city, we enjoyed rolling out this pilot project with the involvement and support of inspiring students, teachers and principals from Scoil Nicoláis Naofa Claddagh, Scoil Iognáid and Scoil Bhríde, Shantalla. In November we 'popped out' to bring Fairy Tree show and companion workshops to our County Schools - Scoil an Chroí Naofa, Ballinasloe, St. Oliver's & Tuam ETNS and Scoil Mhuire, Clifden. Our most sincere thanks to the wonderful students and their teachers for their participation in and dedication to Fairy Tree.

### WORKSHOP TEAM

Schools Liaison & Actors Support  
Workshop Training & Development

Rebecca Malone  
Lali Morris, Petal Pilley  
& Rebecca Malone  
Kieran Coppinger  
Michael Hayes  
Grace O'Brien  
Paul Connolly  
Charlene Kelly  
Cormac Crawford  
Jenny Cox

### Workshop Facilitators

### PRE & POST ENGAGEMENT MATERIALS

We had the pleasure of working with Dr. Heidi Schoenenberger, who specialises in engaging children and their caregivers in the performing arts. Heidi has written a pre and post engagement package for the schools and this is on display in the foyer. We hope the children who engage with the performance can continue to be creative with these activities, while being inspired by the performance they saw. If you have a moment, read through the suggested activities and let us know how you get on!

We would love to see any activities you have completed; please do share them with us, email [admin@blueteapot.ie](mailto:admin@blueteapot.ie).

# About Blue Teapot



Blue Teapot is a bold, diverse, Irish theatre company working with artists with intellectual disabilities.

The core group of professional actors are inspired by the practices of a diverse range of contemporary artists from Ireland and internationally. Blue Teapot works to achieve their artists' potential through world-class theatre, storytelling and providing a guiding model for accessibility in the arts and cultural sector.

Blue Teapot works consistently to radically transform theatre practices by telling stories through the lens of disability, paving the way for inclusive practices to become the norm. Artistic achievements in theatre include *Sanctuary*, *Dancing At Lughnasa*, *Into the Dark Woods*. Twice nominated for an Irish Times Theatre Award for 'long-standing' creative work with artists with intellectual disabilities.

[blueteapot.ie](http://blueteapot.ie)



# Funders



Fairy Tree has been made possible with funding from The Arts Council.  
Our sincere thanks to the council for their essential support of our work.



*Blue Teapot Theatre Company sincerely thank our funders both public & private.  
Your generosity and support go a very long way.*



Rialtas na hÉireann  
Government of Ireland



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Comhairle Cathrach na Gaillimhe  
Galway City Council



Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe  
Galway County Council

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# Gratitude

Galway Salthill Rotary Club | Baboró | Doreen McKenna | Cillian O'Donnachadha | Pete Ashton, Town Hall Theatre

Greg Healy, The Roisin Dubh | Fibín | Gemma Carney | Planet Retro | Peadar Óg | Kieran Egan | Pauline Devane | Peter St. John Nelson

The Educators, your engagement & support has been invaluable.

Michelle Smyth, Anne Gilligan, Principal Christine Connor, Emily Walsh, Acting Principal Fiona Feeney, Principal Dara McAleer,  
Secretary Laura Lacey, Deputy Principal Matt O'Connell, Aoife Ni Mhaolain and Principal Laoise Breathnach.

For more information about the work we do visit [blueteapot.ie](http://blueteapot.ie)