

Fairy Tree

Written and directed by Rod Goodall

**Commissioned and 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 twelve 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!

Petal Pilley, Artistic Director

Writer and 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 Goodall

Writer and 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 Fooksbarn 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 and Jim Faulkner
Tree Design	Tommy Casby and 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 and Jason Scott**

Chief LX & Programmer_____ **Shannon Light**

Stage Technician_____ **Rory O'Regan**

Accessibility Consultant_____ **Mo Harte**

Sensory Tours_____ **Mo Harte and Dave Donovan**

Easy to Read Programme_____ **Ace Communications**

PR & Marketing_____ **Jane Hanberry, Lisa Regan
and Sonja Brodie**

Graphic Design_____ **Clair O'Brien**

Box Office Manager_____ **Jane Hanberry**

Photography_____ **Andrew Downes
Anita Murphy
Emilija Jefremova
Jason Scott**

Photography cont._____ **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 and Post Engagement Materials___ **Dr. Heidi Schoenenberger**

Evaluation_____ **Philip Isard and Caroline**
Gardner, Quality Matters

Evaluation Gathering_____ **Petal Pilley, James Flanagan,**
Rebecca Malone, Midie
Corcoran and 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_____Rebecca Malone

Workshop Training & Development____Lali Morris, Petal Pilley
and Rebecca Malone

Workshop Facilitators_____Kieran Coppinger

Michael Hayes

Grace O'Brien

Workshop Facilitators cont. _____ Paul Connolly

Charlene Kelly

Cormac Crawford

Jenny Cox

Pre and 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.

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.

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 and private. Your generosity and support go a very long way.



Rialtas na hÉireann
Government of Ireland



Arna chomhchistiú ag
an Aontas Eorpach

Co-funded by the
European Union



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government supporting communities

This project is co-funded by the Government of Ireland, through the Department of Social Protection, and the European Union.



Comhairle Cathrach na Gaillimhe
Galway City Council



Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe
Galway County Council

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 and 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