

The Wind in the Willows

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Booking for Summer 2022

A family-friendly outdoor production



About the Show

"There's a world outside and I want to see it!"

Mole has been stuck inside for far too long. Finally escaping their underground home they team up with good friends Ratty, Badger and the loveably roguish Toad on an adventure to blow away the quarantine cobwebs. Mole and the gang must go head-to-head with a motor-car, Her Majesty's Constabulary and a legion of Weasels, Ferrets and Stoats taking up residence in Toad Hall. Can our plucky band of heroes save the day?

Find out in Paperback Theatre's charming open-air adaptation of *The Wind in the Willows*.

"fun, funny and utterly charming"

Brum Hour

The *Wind in the Willows* was first produced as part of Paperback's own Little but LIVE! festival in Moseley Park. Before touring to the Assembly Festival Gardens at Coventry City of Culture. Enjoying sold out shows at both venues, this charming adaptation has proved a hit with families and wider audiences.

As a company passionate about sharing our work with regional audiences we are now booking dates across the UK for **Summer 2021.**

About the Company

"A fresh young company, with wit, imagination and unshakeable confidence. Their shows are equally hilarious and touching."

Neil Reading, Arena Theatre, Wolverhampton

Paperback Theatre is a West Midlands based company. We're interested in the stories we tell now, those we choose to remember and why we keep telling them again and again. Our work is playful, challenging and accessible to as wide an audience base as possible.

Paperback Theatre was formed by University of Warwick graduates in 2016. We toured our hit show "We Need to Talk About Bobby (off EastEnders)" (**** Broadway Baby) to the Edinburgh Fringe, The King's Head Theatre and the Space Arts Centre, London. In 2020 we were due to tour our new satirical Rom-Com, Me and My Doll, but this was cancelled due to the pandemic. In our usual resilient way we responded by creating an online version with Arena Theatre, Wolverhampton and later toured the show to Alphabetti Theatre in Newcastle and Coventry City of Culture.

Alongside this in the summer of 2020, we set up our own socially distanced open-air festival Little but LIVE! and began to create outdoor theatre with a greater focus on family audiences. After the success of our hour long adaptation of Romeo and Juliet (**** Behind the Arras), we returned in 2021 with our raucous and sweet production of The Wind in The Willows.

Paperback is run by director Lucy Bird (a Leverhulme Arts Scholar and JMK Bursary Recipient) and actor and writer, George Attwell Gerhards, with the assistance of producer, Emily Horn.

**"Wind in the Willows was incredible! Just pure joy! Thank you for a magical weekend."
@alicefrcham**

**"Really enjoyed watching #WindintheWillows. So clever, funny & brummie!"
@rozlaws**

**"Loved Wind in the Willows today. Really funny and engaging"
@lornaemeehan**





Target Audiences:

Families, theatregoers, and literature lovers

We have found *The Wind in the Willows* considerably easier to market than precious productions, due to its renown as one of Britain's favourite texts.

Audiences have largely been made up of families, however we have also welcomed many older audiences from a range of backgrounds. Generally, these are those who are already engaged in theatre, or are avid readers and are intrigued to see how this famous text will be brought to life on stage.

The show will appeal to those who enjoy:

Family theatre

Literary adaptations

Comedy

Marketing & Engagement

Marketing Assets

We will provide the following for our venues:

- A pre-agreed quantity of posters, flyers & stickers
- High-resolution digital production shots
- A sample press release, which can be sent to local press & other interested organisations
- Links to all existing press coverage (reviews, features & interviews)
- Sample Social Media posts
- An e-programme which can be printed by the venue if desired

Engagement

We can also offer workshops, pre-show talks & post-show Q&As if you feel these would be suitable for your audiences.

We are more than happy to talk about new ways to market the show! We would like to use your venue's local knowledge to ensure that as many people are able to enjoy the show as possible.

Technical Specifications

Age Guidance 4+
Running Time 60mins
Cast Size 4
Warnings n/a

Space Our ideal space is a large outdoor area with raised staging at the front and the ability create a central performance space through the centre of the audience. However, we are flexible to whatever is available.

Lighting The show has no lighting specifications. If programmed for an evening performance, flood lighting may need to be provided.

Sound We use a variety of music and sound effects throughout the show; however these are all provided by the actors and their kazoos. No sound equipment is required.

Set Fabric, buckets, spades, fabric caravan with two long poles. If performing over a number of days we will require a small amount of space to store our props and costumes between shows.

Vehicles Two cars

Get In Four Hours (to allow for reblocking)

Get Out One Hour





To discuss booking this show please email paperbacktheatre@gmail.com or call us on 07794640222

For more information about the company and our previous work, please visit paperbacktheatre.com