



Belgrade Theatre  
Coventry

ONLINE  
PANTO



BELGRADE THEATRE, COVENTRY PRESENTS

# JACK AND THE BEANSTALK

BY IAIN LAUHLAN

1 - 31 December 2020

[www.belgrade.co.uk](http://www.belgrade.co.uk)



# An Introduction from Iain Lauchlan

In the theatre world, it hardly needs saying that Covid has written off most of our year.

When the decision was made to postpone this year's planned pantomime, *Beauty and the Beast*, we were naturally all devastated – not least because we'd already done a lot of work on it. For those of us in the business, panto isn't just for Christmas, but all year round!

As well as being hugely important to the theatre and everyone who works there, the Belgrade panto is an annual tradition for many families across Coventry and Warwickshire – Christmas just wouldn't be Christmas without it! It was obvious to us that, somehow, we were going to have to find another way to share the magic of panto.

That being said, one of the positive things about this year is the shared experience of lockdown that has brought us all together. We've all been getting used to queueing, social distancing, Zoom calls, PPE and online shopping – not to mention P.E. with Joe Wicks! So, as soon as we got the go-ahead to create the Belgrade's first online pantomime, we knew that these were all things that we wanted to include.

*Jack and the Beanstalk* is the perfect choice for a filmed pantomime, because the story gives us so much to play with on screen. We can do things that we wouldn't be able to do in the theatre, like make characters appear and disappear before your eyes, show the beanstalk growing up towards the sky, have lots of fun with the Giant and add all sorts of other magical effects.

There have of course been challenges too, but we've done our best to make a feature of them and use them to our advantage. One of the first things you'll notice is that we have a smaller cast than usual this year. Covid meant that we couldn't bring as many people together as we normally would. The result is that, between us, Craig and I play most of the parts, jumping between all sorts of different characters, goodies and baddies alike! We hope that this will give audiences a bit of a giggle.

The other major difference, of course, is that we won't be there in the room with you. What this means is that you'll need to make sure that you clap and laugh and join in with all the shouting and singing **extra loud** to make sure that we can hear you from all the way out in my studio in Banbury, where we've been busy making the film.

Despite the difficulties of this year, it's been a joy to create *Jack and the Beanstalk Online* for you. This will be my 26th Belgrade panto, and I almost couldn't imagine a year without it. I'm so glad we found a way to get the team together – myself and Craig; my co-director, Paul; our choreographers Jenny and Vicki; Steve, our musical director; Mark, our designer – plus a few other familiar faces!

We've had a wonderful time together, and we hope that you enjoy watching the show as much as we've enjoyed making it.

Merry Christmas!

# Cast and Production Team

## Cast

Iain Lauchlan .....	Dame Trott, Fairy Fluff, Giant Blunderbore
Craig Hollingsworth.....	Simon Trott, King, Fleshcreep
Morna Macpherson .....	Jack Trott
Trish Adudu .....	Mrs Blunderbore
Arina li .....	Princess Alyssa
Ayden Morgan.....	Ensemble
Ayden Morgan & Vicki Stevenson.....	Daisy the Cow
Rachel Fuller .....	Chaperone

## Junior Chorus

Evie Carroll  
Zayleigh Stevenson  
Keavy Stevenson  
Orla Hynes  
Thea Pargetor  
Darcie Pargetor  
Holly Boden  
Kiera-Leigh Kavanagh

## Production Team

Iain Lauchlan .....	Writer & Producer
Paul Gibson .....	Director & Additional Material
Jenny Philips .....	Choreographer
Vicki Stevenson .....	Assistant Choreographer
Mark Walters .....	Designer
Steve Etherington .....	Musical Director
Dawn Outhwaite .....	Wardrobe Supervisor
Additional Dame costume made by Belgrade Production Services	

## With special thanks to

Toby Nunnally of Sugarswell  
Business Park, Shenington.  
Imagine Theatre  
Glitter Pantomimes Ltd.  
Tom Edmondson  
Steve Boden



## Cast



### Iain Lauchlan

**Dame Trott/Fairy Fluff/Giant Blunderbore/Writer/Producer**

Iain has been involved in the entertainment business for 45 years, during which time he has had extensive experience as an actor, director, writer and producer.

As an actor, he worked on many dramas and television series such as **Plays for Today**, **The Camerons**, **King's Royal**, **Hannay** and **Taggart**. He has also presented on **Playschool** (BBC) for eight years; the very successful **Fingermouse** series (BBC); **Playdays** (BBC); **Storytime** and **Fun Song Factory**.

His writing partnership with Will Brenton spanned 17 years and produced a number of successful programmes, the most successful of these being **Playdays** (BBC); **Fun Song Factory** (Universal and ITV); **Tweenies**, **Boo** and **BB3B** (BBC). Iain and Will run the very successful Tell-Tale Productions and Wish Films and are BAFTA TV Award-winners and TV Society Award-winners.

Iain was series producer and script editor on the very successful BAFTA Award-winning children's series **Tweenies**; producer on **Boo**, **BB3B**, **Fun Song Factory** and **Jim Jam and Sunny** for ITV, and was responsible for delivering top-quality programmes such as **Wibbly Pig**.

Iain also directed all of the live theatre and arena shows that the partnership wrote. These included: **Playdays Live**, **Tweenies Live!**, **Thomas the Tank Engine**, **Noddy**, **Bob the Builder**, **CBeebies Live**, **Bratz** and **Zig Zag Live** for Portugal.

Iain has also written and directed six years of Santa shows at the Belgrade Theatre to introduce pre-schoolers to live theatre. He also, as you will probably know, writes and directs the panto and performs in it each year.

Iain continues to create, develop and write for new ideas and projects but on a freelance basis.

Over the last few years, he has set up his own internet television platform for children called Cheeky Chimps TV. Iain also runs his own TV studio called Sugarswell Studios, in which he creates internet and television programmes for third parties and has also filmed the digital panto for this year called **Jack and the Beanstalk** which everyone can stream.



### Craig Hollingsworth

**Simon Trott/King/Fleshcreep**

Craig would have been returning to Coventry for his ninth year running after having eight very successful years playing comic in titles such as **Jack and the Beanstalk**, **Aladdin**, **Beauty and the Beast**, **Dick Whittington**, **Cinderella**, **Sleeping Beauty** and last year's **Puss in Boots**.

Craig was born at an early age, and grew up in a small city called Lincoln. He started dancing at five and was finished by half past six! He went on to train in musical theatre at college, during which time he played many roles such as MC in **Cabaret**, the Dentist in **Little Shop of Horrors**, Mickey in **Blood Brothers** and Baby John in **West Side Story**.

Craig has been lucky enough for his job to have taken him all over the world, performing in beautiful places such as Jamaica, the Caribbean and Canada. When Craig isn't on stage, he writes, directs and produces for various brands, including Butlin's and Away Resorts. He recently produced an online TV programme called **Play Go Show**, which will launch in 2020.

Theatre credits include: the presenter of **High School Hits**, **Magic You Can Do**, **Horror Behind the Screams**, **Spooky Science** and **Boys Vs Girls - the Ultimate Challenge!** Craig has also been seen in **Aladdin** (Crewe Lyceum); **Cinderella** (Theatre Royal Lincoln); **Horrible Histories** (Blue Peter Roadshow); **Misery** (UK tour) and **You're Only Young Twice** (UK tour).

He would like to thank all of his friends and family for their constant support and dedicates his performance to his little boy Rex, and the late Bobby Ball. Finally, Craig would like to wish you all a very merry Christmas and a happy New Year, and hopes that you all stay safe during these trying times. We'll be back better than ever!!

You can follow Craig on Twitter @**Craig\_Olly**, or follow Simon on Instagram at **simontrott**.

## Cast



### Morna Macpherson

**Jack Trott**

Morna was born in Perthshire in Scotland but has lived most of her life in England. Since graduating from LAMDA in 1999, Morna has done a variety of roles and costume characters, notably **Gigi**; Mum in **Jim Jam and Sunny** (ITV); and Doodles and Izzles in the **Tweenies** on TV, film, and in arenas around the world. Morna has also played a variety of characters in the National Arena tour of **Thomas the Tank Engine**, fulfilling a lifelong ambition of playing Wembley Arena.

On film, Morna has played Clare in a sitcom pilot called **Amdram** and has recently been involved with **DrewForYou Productions**, in their award-winning horror film **Evil Bread**; **Kim** and their latest short **Shadows**. Morna then played the role of **Panox aka Six Eyes** in **Solo**, a Star Wars story.

Morna was also a senior fabricator within Neal Scanlan's Oscar-winning creature effects team working on motion pictures such as **Prometheus** and then the new **Star Wars** trilogy **The Force Awakens**, **The Last Jedi** and **The Rise of Skywalker**. Also **Rogue One** and **Solo**.

She has also worked on the Olympics opening and closing ceremonies and recently designed the set and costumes for the children's tour of **How the Lion became King** and **Santa's Dizzy Day**.

Working on the latest **Jurassic Park** film was certainly a dream come true, but she decided to interrupt her career to start a family.

Most recently Morna has been involved with **Cheeky Chimps TV** presenting a pre-school craft show called **Make It**, combining her love of performance and design.

Her love of theatre has given her the chance to play several Principal Boys in panto so she is thrilled to be playing Jack in her first ever digital panto.



### Trish Adudu

**Mrs Blunderbore**

It was through sport that Trish embarked on her broadcasting career. After representing England in Netball and Warwickshire in Tennis, Trish completed an MA in Sport, Media & Culture at the University of Warwick. After which, she started at BBC Sport as an Assistant Producer on **Grandstand** and **Match of the Day**.

Wanting to pursue an on-screen career, Trish reported on BBC2's **Reportage**, became a VJ for Channel One before working as Breakfast and Sports Anchor at Five News- alongside appearing on shows such as **Loose Women**.

Currently, Trish presents the BBC Coventry & Warwickshire **Breakfast Show** as well as working for Midlands Today and reporting on **The One Show**. Her passion is formats and many of her ideas have aired on terrestrial TV **'So You Think You Can Teach/Nurse/Be a Single Parent'** (Five), **Sports Shack** (ITV2), **Child Snatchers** (ITV/Living), **Your Shout** (BBC Midlands) and an idea she took to BBC2 won an RTS Award (**Fighting Back**, **The Michael Watson Story**).

At present, Trish is developing digital interactive ideas, documentary ideas around gender identity and being widowed and has a film idea in at BBC Films called **Cashpoint**, a true story of a family that stole £200,000 from a broken ATM! Trish lists chasing OJ Simpson at Heathrow airport and getting an interview with him as one of her craziest achievements!

Aiming to become a late-night chat show host, she's already got the name **How do you Adudu!**... she's not resting on her laurels anytime just yet!







## Cast

### Arina Li

#### Princess Alyssa

Arina's theatre credits include: **Avenue Q** (UK Tour); **25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee** (Harlow Playhouse); **Aladdin** (Belgrade Theatre, Reading Hexagon, and Royal Spa Centre); **Cinderella** (Crewe Lyceum) and **The Importance of Being Earnest** (International Tour).

Her voiceover credits include: (Video Games) **Lego Marvel Super Heroes II**; **Xenoblade Chronicles 2**; **Mass Effect Andromeda**; (Documentaries) **Animal Babies: First Year on Earth** (PBS); **Harry and Meghan - a Royal Baby Story** (TLC); (Adverts) **Air Wick Canada**; **Baileys US**; (Audiobooks) **Before the Coffee Gets Cold** by Toshikazu Kawaguchi and **Dark Tales** by Shirley Jackson (Penguin).

Arina is currently working as a puppeteer in the film industry.



### Ayden Morgan

#### Ensemble/Daisy the Cow

Ayden was professionally trained at Urdang Academy.

Professional Ensemble credits include: **The Lion King** (West End – Disney Productions, Julie Taymor); **Andrew Lloyd Webber Gala** (Midas Entertainment); and **Peter Pan** (R.Marsden – also understudy for Captain Hook and Mr. Darling).

Featured Dancer credits include: **Saturday Night Fever 40th Anniversary** (BBC); **Grenfell Tower West End Tribute Concert** (Giles Terera / Danielle Tarento); **The Lion King** (West End, Thea Burns) and a Sonia Stein music video (Marathon Artists – also Model).

Ayden has also appeared as a dancer in **ERYKA** (Strike Co., Dean Lee), and was the Choreographer for Wiley's music video **Sorry** (SMB Productions, Shan Brown).



### Vicki Stevenson

#### Daisy the Cow

Vicki trained full time at Pattison Theatre Arts, Coventry and Bojangles Dance, Lichfield. Her training has been followed by a varied career professionally performing, choreographing and Teaching Performing Arts.

Performing Credits include: **Bring it all Back** (Leicester Square Theatre, London & UK Theatre Tour); **The Polar Express** (Warner Bros/Vintage Trains); **Cinderella** (Belgrade Theatre, Coventry); **Dick Whittington** (Core Theatre); **Aladdin** (Core Theatre); **Cinderella** (Solihull Arts Complex); **Bang – The Ultimate Pop Show** (UK Theatre Tour); **Jack & the Beanstalk** (Solihull Arts Complex); **Tapping through Time** (UK Theatre Tour); **Tweenies** (Alton Towers/Imagine Theatre); **Kicks & Tricks** (UK Tour) and **Dancer** (Marriott Hotel, Mumbai India).

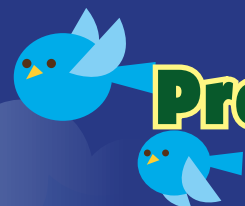
Choreography credits include: **Alice in Wonderland** (Gary Starr pantomimes); **Breakin Pointe** (Ballet Theatre UK); **Bring it all Back** and **Bang the Ultimate Pop Show** (Performance Productions) and **Spooktacular** (Performance Productions).

In February this year, Vicki also had the pleasure of assisting producer Tom Gribby with the West End premiere of Boubil & Schonberg's **The Pirate Queen** at The London Coliseum.

Vicki owns & manages her own Centre of Performing Arts in Hinckley Leicestershire, where she is Principal to Eloquent Dance Academy & holds the position of Head of Dance on the full time Musical Theatre course at ASA Theatre Arts.

Vicki has enjoyed being a part of the amazing digital pantomime Jack & The Beanstalk for the Belgrade Theatre this year. She hopes everyone enjoys watching, and wishes you all a safe and Happy Christmas.





## Production Team

### Paul Gibson

#### Director/Additional Material

Award-winning director of stage and screen, Paul is never happier than when he's immersed in the glitter and splendour of a good old Christmas panto.

Training originally at film school, Paul went on to direct factual and entertainment at the BBC, where he spent five happy years surrounded by antiques, crumbling property and MDF.

He then made the leap into drama and since then has directed over 100 hours of serials and soap including **Holby City**, **Doctors**, **Land Girls** and **Shakespeare & Hathaway**. He is also the lead Director on the BBCs internationally acclaimed period crime drama **Father Brown** for which he is also the proud recipient of three RTS Awards. Paul also claimed 'Scene of the year' at the ITV Soap Awards for a Bollywood musical in 2017.

As well as directing for television, Paul has either produced, written and/or performed in 38 pantomimes over the last 28 years and, for 21 of those years, he has donned boots and boobs as one of the Midland's cuddliest panto dames. It is of course Paul's love of panto that has bought him back to the Belgrade Theatre for the last 8 years but when it was suggested that this year's panto offering could well be on the small screen it seemed too good an opportunity to pass up.

"It has been an enormous challenge trying to capture the warmth, wit and energy of a traditional panto and then squeezing it down the lens but we hope that we've created something everyone can enjoy for a long time to come."

PS. If it's not very good it was all Lauchlan's idea!

### Jenny Philips

#### Choreographer

Over the past nine years, Jenny has choreographed and performed for Imagine Theatre's pantomimes.

Her stage credits include: **Aladdin** (Porthcawl Grand Pavilion and Leamington Spa Centre); **Sleeping Beauty** (Porthcawl Grand Pavilion); **Mother Goose** (Leamington Spa Centre); **Beauty and the Beast** (Belgrade Theatre, Coventry), **Peter Pan** and **Aladdin** (the Hexagon, Reading).

As a choreographer, Jenny has worked with Pixie Lott on **Inspector George Gently** (BBC One), Andy Day on his workout and rap videos, the Hey Duggee team for their very popular YouTube channel, **Mister Maker** on many live shows across the world and Justin Fletcher on his theatre and festival tours.

Recently, Jenny has been performing in her own pirate show, **All Aboard**. She has loved taking it back out on the road, across the three Butlin's resorts, and looks forward to continuing the pirate adventure soon.

She loves working alongside Iain Lauchlan and continues to present his shows on **Cheeky Chimps TV**. Check out the channel at **CheekyChimpsTV.com**.

Jenny is thrilled to have been able to choreograph for the online pantomime - Jack and the Beanstalk this year, and hopes everyone enjoys it!

## Production Team

### Mark Walters

#### Designer

Mark is a British theatre set and costume designer who trained at Rose Bruford College, London.

In 2005, Mark was appointed Head of Design at the Queen's Theatre in Hornchurch, working alongside Artistic Director Bob Carlton on over 30 productions. During his time here, he has also worked with writer and director Chris Bond on his play **Sweeney Todd: the Demon Barber of Fleet Street**, the Heather Brothers on their new musical **Camp Horror**, and was nominated for Best Set Design on a new actor-musician version of **The Rocky Horror Show**. Other set and costume designs include: **Wait until Dark**, **Hay Fever**, **Two, The Tempest**, **Pump Boys and Dinettes**, **Twelfth Night**, **Dick Barton: Special Agent**, **A Slice of Saturday Night**, **Neville's Island**, **Curses**, **Gaslight**, **From a Jack to a King**, **It's a Fine Life**, **Up on the Roof**, **The People Are Friendly**, **The Hot Mikado**, **A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum**, **Satin 'n' Steel**, **Chatroom**, **Run for Your Wife**, **Godspell**, **Lend Me a Tenor** and, recently, **The Elephant Man**. Mark has also designed nine in-house pantomimes to date.

In 2008, Mark was also appointed resident designer at the Royal Court Theatre in Liverpool. During his time here, he worked closely with writer Willy Russell on his shows **Shirley Valentine**, **Stags and Hens: the Remix** and a new version of **Our Day Out - the Musical**. Other designs include: **Merry Ding Dong**, **A Fistful of Collars**, **Scouse Pacific**, **A Nightmare on Lime Street**, **Reds and Blues**, **Lucky Numbers**, **You'll Never Walk Alone**, **Little Scouse on the Prairie**, **The Salon**, **Sons of the Desert**, **Sex in the Suburbs** and, recently, **Mam I'm 'Ere**.

Mark started his design career as an associate designer at the Courtyard Theatre in Hereford, where he spent over five years working with Artistic Director Jonathan Stone. Designs include: **Fiddler on the Roof**, **Macbeth**, **The Diary of Anne Frank**, **Guys and**

**Dolls**, **They Shoot Horses, Don't They?**, **One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest**, **The Sound of Music** and **Not About Heroes**.

Mark has a close association with Wakefield Theatre Royal and has worked with writer and director John Godber on **All the Fun of The Fight** and **The Sculptor's Surprise** (tour). Other designs include: **Boogie Nights**, **West Side Story**, **Fiddler on the Roof**, **Footloose**, **Les Misérables**, **High School Musical**, **Flashdance** and six pantomimes.

Other set and costume designs include: **Hot Flush!** (UK tour); **Our House** (UK national tour); **Little Shop of Horrors** (Birmingham Rep); **Hormonal Housewives** (UK tour); **Twinkle Little Star** (York Theatre Royal UK tour); **At the Gates of Gaza** (Birmingham Rep UK tour); **Jack and the Beanstalk** (Nottingham Playhouse); **Little Shop of Horrors**, **Mods** and **Rox and Jack and the Beanstalk** (New Wolsey Theatre, Ipswich); **Straight and Narrow**, **Simply the Best** and **Aladdin** (Oldham Coliseum Theatre); **Krapp's Last Tape** (UK tour); **Empty Bed Blues** (UK tour); **A Different Way Home** and **A Visit From Miss Prothero** (Lakeside Theatre, Nottingham); **I Do** (Blue Eyed Soul Dance Co/ UK tour); **Park Avenue Cat** (Arts Theatre, London) and **Mother Goose**, **Sleeping Beauty** and **Jack and the Beanstalk** (Belgrade Theatre, Coventry). Mark has also designed 10 pantomimes for the Adam Smith Theatre in Kirkcaldy.

Mark has become well known for his pantomime designs up and down the country. Over the past 15 years, Mark has designed set and costumes for over 40 pantomimes. In 2010, Mark formed Glitter, a new pantomime set, costume and prop hire company. This unique company has a vast portfolio of Mark's designs, now supplying to theatres and theatre companies throughout the UK. [www.glitterpantomimes.co.uk](http://www.glitterpantomimes.co.uk)

Mark is currently working on designing the pantomime at the London Palladium for 2021.







## Production Team

### Steve Etherington

#### Musical Director

Steve is a multi-instrumentalist, composer, arranger, producer and vocalist. His vast career spans across West End shows, music festivals, TV appearances and pop music charts globally.

In 2019, Steve had three number one singles in the USA dance charts, two of which he co-wrote. Hailed as a musical chameleon, Steve is heavily viewed on YouTube and social media.

He records, sings and plays live with many bands, including the **Rubettes**, **Hot Chocolate** ('You Sexy Thing') and **Modern Romance** ('Best Years of Our Lives'). He is also co-creator and co-owner of **Symphonic Ibiza Orchestra**.

Other live recording work includes: Diane Charlemagne, Angie Brown, Jaki Graham, Cutting Crew, Shane McGowan, Glen Matlock, Mungo Jerry, P J Proby, the Drifters, the Temptations and Lee John.

Playing keyboard, guitar, bass, drums and tuba, Steve is in high demand as a voice coach, a music arranger and a musical director, and also has his own busy recording studio, Landmark Recording Studios.

He is the director of music for all Butlin's resorts, and is musical rat in the 'elite' show business fraternity the Grand Order of Water Rats, which raises money for charity.

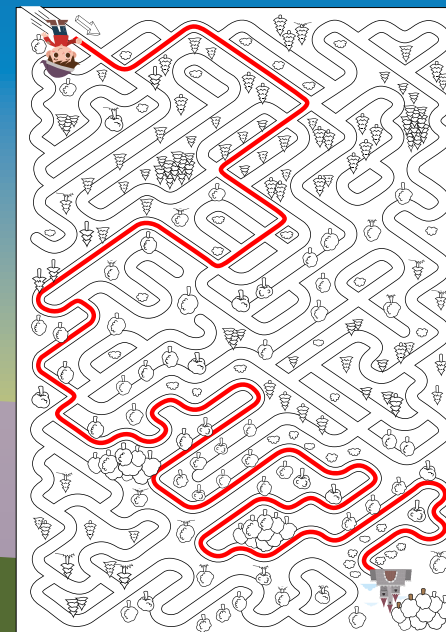
## Colour me in



## A large, complex maze with a castle at the entrance and a knight at the exit. The maze is set against a dark blue background with various green trees and bushes. The entrance is at the top left, marked by a castle with two towers and a red roof. The exit is at the bottom right, marked by a knight in a red tunic and a purple hat, standing next to a red arrow pointing towards the entrance. The maze consists of many winding paths and dead ends, designed to challenge the player's navigation skills.

A	A	S	H	W	O	C	S	E	L	T	S	A	C
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P	O	O	R	A	B	E	I	A	X	E	R	D	E
B	D	A	E	R	B	E	E	O	S	P	A	E	G
C	L	I	M	B	E	D	A	S	D	N	I	R	G
P	N	F	R	L	I	K	O	N	G	P	L	A	R
P	R	A	H	D	A	I	S	Y	S	H	B	N	E
M	E	N	L	E	P	A	S	A	G	T	T	P	G
R	E	E	A	E	F	E	K	F	E	E	A	O	G
R	S	D	F	L	T	D	Y	A	K	P	E	L	D
F	N	L	E	E	A	S	A	R	C	W	I	L	K
O	C	O	N	A	E	E	A	M	L	P	R	I	O
P	A	G	G	R	T	M	C	H	O	P	P	E	D
R	S	M	M	A	G	I	C	B	E	A	N	S	P

BEANSTALK  
POOR  
GOLDEN  
MAGIC BEANS  
AXE  
SKY  
HARP  
CHOPPED  
MARKET  
COW  
FEE  
GIANT  
DAISY  
GRIND  
CASTLE  
TOPPLE  
FARM  
CLIMBED  
BREAD  
EGG





# Behind the Scenes...





# Support Us



**The Belgrade Theatre Trust** is a registered charity (number 219163). This means that all the money given, raised or earned is not distributed as profit but kept and reinvested in the work that we do. We are reliant on the valued support of our donors to ensure we can continue to develop our artistic, participation, community and talent development work and remain central to the communities we serve.

You can support our work in many different ways including: making a donation online, becoming a member, and/or sponsoring an event. Each year, the collective support of individuals and local businesses means we can reach more people and offer more life-changing workshops and activities. To find out how you can support our work, please [click here](#)

## Making Memories

For children and adults alike, experience of live theatre at Christmas is a magical experience and often a treasured memory. However, for many local families facing significant challenging situations, this is a luxury they simply can't afford. Therefore, our Making Memories campaign will provide opportunities to access theatre at the Belgrade, for those families in need. However, we can only do this with your help. Your donation really does make a difference, as the more we raise the more people we can help – including NHS/care workers and their families in 2021.

**You can donate, and find out more about Making Memories here.**

The Belgrade gratefully acknowledges the following for their support of our charitable work:



**To find out how businesses can support our work, please [click here](#).**

# How is the Belgrade preparing for City of Culture in 2021?

In September 2019, we were delighted to announce the appointment of three Co-Artistic Directors who would take the helm of the Belgrade's producing programme for Coventry's year as City of Culture in 2021.

The Belgrade's Deputy Artistic Director **Justine Themen** has been joined by theatre-makers **Corey Campbell** and **Balisha Karra**, who have taken over the planning and programming of the Belgrade's home-produced work for the City of Culture year from Artistic Director **Hamish Glen**.

Since September 2019, Justine, Corey and Balisha have been working alongside Senior Producer **Sâmîr Bhamra**, to bring a unique perspective to the Belgrade Theatre. They have collaborated with members of the local community to unleash the creative power of the city and celebrate its diversity, driving positive change as they explore new ways of working for a 21st century theatre.

The concept of new ways of working was relevant at the time of announcement, but seems even more relevant now as the theatre scene has changed dramatically since March this year. Digital projects are fast becoming the norm, and theatres across the country are all exploring and experimenting with new ways of working in response to the Covid crisis.

The Belgrade's Artistic Director Hamish Glen took inspiration for KEYS from Coventry's Ira Aldridge story. Coventry has a long-standing reputation for offering both welcome and opportunity to all. Back in 1828 this spirit was truly captured when Ira, an African American actor, travelled to England and made such an impression on the community that he was made manager of the Coventry Theatre. He had not even reached the age of 21 and became the country's first theatre manager of colour at time when slavery was still widespread throughout the British Empire.

Our hope is that the Co-Artistic Directors will provide a model for lasting change across the theatre industry. Whilst the theatre landscape has changed since the Keys project was conceived some years ago, with more opportunities for diverse theatre-makers becoming available, and in the wake of the Black Lives Matter movement, it would be remiss to say that we have come as far as we can. There is



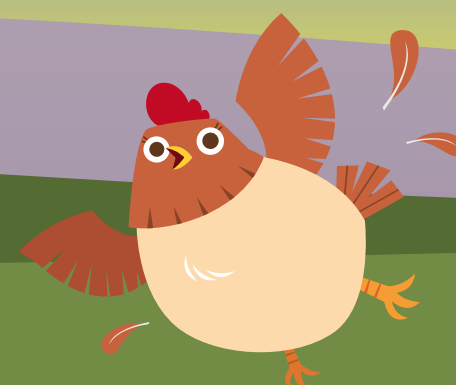
L-R Joanna Reid, Corey Campbell, Balisha Karra, Justine Themen, Hamish Glen

still progress to be made. In this ever-changing landscape, we are always learning and always making the effort to be better.

Due to the effects of the pandemic, the official City of Culture year will now begin in May 2021, continuing through to May 2022. Last month, we were delighted to unveil the first few projects led by the Co-Artistic Directors. The Spring season will include the Belgrade Young Company play **Like There's No Tomorrow**, which was the last show on our B2 stage before lockdown began in March. It has since been accepted as part of the National Theatre's NT Connections programme, and will be performed by schools and youth theatres across the UK, with one production selected to be performed at the National Theatre as part of the NT Connections festival.

We can also look forward to the exciting and innovative digital TV series **SeaView**, led by Corey Campbell, a **UK Asian Film Festival** led by Samir Bhamra, and Paines Plough **Roundabout!**

Check out the Our Stories section of our website or more information on the Co-Artistic Directors and their plans for





# Our 2020 Redevelopment Project



The arts play a vital role in the social, economic and mental health and well-being of communities and, as a registered charity, we are immensely appreciative of all those who chose to support our charitable

work – keeping the power of theatre alive and well, particularly for those who need it most. Our **2020 Redevelopment Project** enables us to significantly increase our community/education, catering and hospitality facilities, and these will play an important part in securing financial income over the coming years. With a collaborative effort and support, we are using the capital project as a springboard to earning our way through the catastrophic effect of Covid. This will enable the Belgrade to become a sparkling cultural gem for 2021 and ensure that we continue to provide a vital service for the communities we serve. A key development of the project is that the new community and café “end” of the building will be able to operate independently of the Theatre. It is necessary to both continue reaching out to our communities and generating income, especially whilst our physical doors are either temporarily closed or we are unable to offer a full programme or activities.

To date, we have raised just over £458k of our £600k target – thanks to the generous support of individuals, local businesses and trusts and foundations. To find out more about the project, or to make a donation, please visit the project page on our website **here** or email **playyourpart@belgrade.co.uk**



Corstorphine + Wright Architects - Artistic Impression

## Our Staff

Chairman ..... Stewart Fergusson  
Artistic Director ..... Hamish Glen  
Executive Director ..... Joanna Reid  
2021 Co-Artistic Director ..... Corey Campbell  
2021 Co-Artistic Director ..... Balisha Karra  
2021 Co-Artistic Director ..... Justine Themen  
2021 Senior Producer ..... Sâmir Bhamra

Director of Production ..... Adrian Sweeney  
Director of Communications ..... Nicola Young  
Communications Manager ..... Ray Clenshaw  
General Manager ..... Vera Ding  
Head of Commercial & Operations ..... Mark Verhofstad  
Financial Controller ..... Paul Newsome  
Head of Development ..... Helen Hotchkiss