**Roald Dahl’s The Twits. Adapted for the stage by Tim Bray, songs by Marshall Smith. Auckland Tour: Takapuna, Manukau, Mangere, Glen Innes, 16-28 October**

**Roald Dahl** (1916-1990) was the author of Charlie and the Chocolate Factory, Matilda, The BFG and many more of the world’s best loved children’s stories. He remains one of the world’s greatest storytellers and is celebrated annually by the world’s biggest author-based event, Roald Dahl Day, which is recognised across the globe on 13th September. With 300 million books sold, and 1 new book sold every 2.5 seconds, The Roald Dahl brand continues to grow in popularity globally, attracting new audiences with innovative new developments in books, entertainment and beyond.

 The Roald Dahl Story Company protects and grows the cultural value of The Roald Dahl brand with its unique breadth of characters, stories and worlds. It has established a global reputation as a brand and entertainment business within the worlds of publishing, movies, products and events – and has earned a host of industry accolades along the way, including a total of 52 nominations for Oscars, Golden Globes, Baftas, Oliviers and Tonys.

**Haere Mai- Welcome**

First published in 1980, the idea for *The Twits* was inspired by Dahl’s peculiar suspicion of bearded men, which led him to create Mr. Twit - one of the most recognisable villains in all his published works. It remains one of his most popular books to this day. Roald Dahl’s *The Twits* is a sublimely silly family favourite, and this stage adaptation by Tim Bray is sure to be brilliantly entertaining for Roald Dahl fans of all ages.

Tim Bray Theatre Company is excited to bring this iconic story to the stage once more, after being one of the first stories Tim Bray Theatre Company staged in only their second year (1992). Our design team, Rachael Walker (set and props), Vicki Slow (costume and puppet design) and Steve Marshall (lighting design), have again created a great design concept to bring this show to life.

We are thrilled to say that nearly 4,000 children will be attending this show and accessible performances over its six-week tour around Tāmaki Makaurau thanks to Gift a Seat™. If you are a Gift a Seat™ donor, then thank you for your support.

Established in 1991, Tim Bray Theatre Company is Aotearoa’s longest-running professional children’s theatre company. We are dedicated to inspiring audiences through the power of imagination by making theatre for children aged three to ten years old and their families.

**Playwright and Director’s Note- Tim Bray QSM**

“Roald Dahl’s *The Twits* is one show that really took the blows during the pandemic. It was cancelled in 2020, again in 2021 due to the long Auckland lockdown and again in 2022 due to the Omicron wave. But the Roald Dahl Estate have stood by us and agreed to each new postponement, so we are thrilled to finally be presenting this funny and slightly wicked show after so long. Thanks so much for coming along today. I am sure you and your children will enjoy the delicious wickedness of Roald Dahl as much as we have all enjoyed finally bringing it to the stage. And if your friends have missed out on tickets, the show tours around Auckland until Saturday, 28 October,” says Tim Bray, QSM.

**Cast**

Mr Twit: Dylan Underwood

Mrs Twit: Martha Teleiai

Gas Meter Reader: Terry Hooper

Muggle-Wump: Jacinta Compton

Roly-Poly Bird: Isabella Temm

Alternate and other characters: Matilda Chua

Alternate and other characters: Francesca (Frankie) Browne

Audience Host and minor role understudy: Samantha Ellwood

**Creative and Design**

Director: Tim Bray, QSM

Set and Prop Design: Rachael Walker

Costume Design: Vicki Slow

Lighting Design: Steve Marshall

Soundtrack and incidental music: Marshall Smith, Marshmellow

Choreography and Movement: Tim Bray, Linda McFetridge and cast

Facepaint Design: Natasya Yusoff

Acrobatic Tutor: Geoff Gilson, The Dust Palace

Yoga Instructor: Dana Nie, The Yoga Pantry

**Kaiarahi Māori**

Tamati Patuwai, Mad Ave Studios

**Accessible performances**

NZ Sign Language Interpreters: Kelly Hodgins, Platform Interpreting NZ Ltd

Audio Described Performances: Kevin Keys and Nicola Owen, Audio Described Aotearoa

Sensory Relaxed Performances: Katie Querin – with support from our Sensory Experts

Accessible Online Resources: Katie Querin

**Production crew**

Production and Company Manager: Alana Hawkes

Stage Manager / Access and Inclusion Support: Katie Querin

Alternate Stage Manager: Chiara Niccolini

Set Construction: Grant Reynolds, Zorp Films

Costume Construction: Vicki Slow

Head of Lighting: Pilot Productions

Lighting and QLab Programming: Isaac Hansen

Technical Operators: Alylai Flynn, Tayla Britliff and Isaac Hansen

Technical Suppliers: Creative Ambiance Stage Technologies, Pilot Productions, Wireless Rentals

Photography: David Rowland / One-Image.com

Massage Therapist: Bryce Hatton

Teachers’ Resource Guide: Rosemary Tisdall Getting Kids into Books

Publicist: Elephant Publicity

Print Design: Benefitz

Front of House Manager: Alana Hawkes

Head Usher: Rebecca Ansell

Ushers: Volunteers

**Cast Bios**

Dylan Underwood has been performing professionally as a children’s theatre actor for the past six years. He studied at UNITEC and received a Bachelor of Performing and Screen Arts degree majoring in acting and has since performed in seven Tim Bray shows along with touring with the Duffy Books in Homes theatre show for four years. He’s very much looking forward to performing in Roald Dahl’s classic and hilarious tale, *The Twits*, as Mr. Twit (and pulling plenty of pranks on all the other characters).

Talofa. Martha Teleiai is a Samoan-European girl who was raised in the heart of Mangere East. As an only child, she considered the whole community her playground. From the schools scattered from Mangere to Papatoetoe to the KFC and netball courts around the corner, she was able to find family and friends to connect with and influence her into the person she is today. Performing arts were always a passion, and from a young age, she tried dancing and music before discovering theatre in high school. From that moment on, she knew she was meant to be onstage, in the limelight, where she could make everyone in the audience feel laughter and joy. She is very excited to make people laugh as Mrs. Twit

Terry Hooper is a professional actor and director. He trained at the accredited Rose Bruford School of Speech and Drama in London. Terry’s New Zealand directing highlights include Gary Henderson’s *Peninsula, Not About Heroes, Pride and Prejudice, Persuasion, My Cousin Rachel* and the performance art piece, *Mother is a Daughter is a* *Mother*. Acting highlights include *Art, As You Like It, God of Carnage, Hamlet, Birthrights* and the TVNZ show *Custard’s World*. Terry is the founder and artistic director for the theatre company Crossfade Productions and currently works as an actor and tutor in Tāmaki Makaurau.

Jacinta Compton is a writer, actor, and director, born and raised in Ōtepoti on Saddle Hill. She grew up riding horses and rearing calves before finding her heart in the theatre during high school. Jacinta went on to train as an actor at Toi Whakaari NZ Drama School, graduating in the class of 2020. Her artistry has taken her across forms of theatre, film, music, and performance art. Most recently, she directed her debut short film *The Girl, The Lamb & The Man* which earned her the title of ‘Best First Time Director’ at the Berlin Indie Film Festival 2022.

Isabella Temm spent four years studying performance overseas: three years at a drama conservatoire in Paris (Le Cours Florent), and one year in a master's programme in London (Mountview Academy of Performing Arts) where she received training in languages, accents and voice work, stage combat and physical theatre. Since returning to Aotearoa in 2020, Isabella has fostered close relationships with three major theatre companies across Tāmaki Makaurau. She has performed in two national tours with the Ugly Shakespeare Company (*Romeo and Juliet, A Midsummer Night’s Dream*), and earned her first professional writing credits when she co-adapted an original script (*Titus Andronicus*). Isabella also works closely with the National Youth Theatre and has co-directed their last three main stage musicals. Her passion for youth theatre continued with Tim Bray Theatre Company where she became a tutor for their weekly youth theatre programmes and directed their Hit the Stage school holiday programmes. Roald Dahl’s ‘*The Twits*’ will be Isabella’s third performance with Tim Bray Theatre Company.

Matilda Chua graduated from the BA (Hons) Musical Theatre programme at LASALLE College of the Arts, Singapore, and is represented by Karen Kay Management. Her love for theatre originated when she was cast as a munchkin in a school production of *The Wizard of Oz*. Credits include *Ashputtel, Flora & Ulysses*, and *Mr. Popper’s Penguins*. In 2019, she voiced the character of Fiyah in a Youth Olympic Games animation. Having recently moved back to Auckland, *The Twits* is Matilda’s first show with Tim Bray Theatre Company, and she is excited to be a part of bringing these beloved characters to life.

Francesca (Frankie) Browne is an actor, writer, director, theatre practitioner and youth theatre tutor. She was a member of Massive Theatre Company’s Nui Ensemble, performed in two national touring theatre shows and with the Duffy Books in Homes Company (*Romeo and Jules*). She co-adapted an original script for the Ugly Shakespeare Company in 2022 (*Titus*) and will be the upcoming director for their 2024 show. Francesca also co-runs her own improv company, “Improverished”, and has directed several of their long-form improv shows including the acclaimed, “*Can I Have an Underground Location and a Mythical Creature?*” which sold out at the 2021 International Comedy Festival and will be performed again this year in Pōneke at the National Improv Festival. Last year, Francesca took a break from performing to study at Clown School in Paris at Ecole Phillipe Gaulier, where she was told once that she was “not so bad.” Francesca is also a youth theatre tutor for Tim Bray Theatre Company and the theatre sports youth programme. *The Twits* is her second show with Tim Bray and she is excited to return.

**Creative team**

Design Team Rachael Walker (Set), Vicki Slow (Costume) and Steve Marshall (Lighting) Theatre design is a collaborative art, bringing together of people with specialist visual design skills (scenic, costume, lighting) who work together in the spirit of mahi kotahitanga to contribute to making a visual ‘world’ that serves the director’s vision, enables the actors to inhabit the story and to tell that story to the audience. Theatre design is also about whānau and is a sort of ‘family business’, with personal relationships playing a big part in the ability of the design team to collaborate and communicate with each other. This is done in the spirit of ngākau mahaki which enables deep respect at a level that is intuitive, and which allows the team to achieve the artistic goals of the production. The design team of Steve Marshall, Vicki Slow and Rachael Walker has been collaborating with Tim Bray Theatre Company for seven years and first met in 1999, 23 years ago, at Auckland’s Performing Arts School. Collectively and individually, they have created designs for 100s of professional theatre, dance, operatic, musical and event productions throughout Aotearoa New Zealand for more than two decades. Me mahi tahi tātou, mō te oranga o te katoa. We work together for the well-being of everyone.

**For The Operating Theatre Trust**

Trustees: Peter Winder (Chairperson), Rosemary Tisdall, Rachel Jefferies, Mike Tisdall, Tim Bray QSM Artistic Director: Tim Bray, QSM

Business Development Manager: Gail Rotherham

Production Consultant: Robert Hunte, Hunte Limited

Company Stage Manager / Access and Inclusion Support: Katie Querin

Production and Company Manager: Alana Hawkes

Front of House Manager: Alana Hawkes

Marketing Lead: Min-Siew Teo

Marketing Strategy: Taryn Davies

Marketing Co-ordinator: Anne Towns

Schools Engagement Co-ordinator: Diane Burnett

Grants Writer: Sally Warrender

Outreach (Youth Theatre) Manager: Madeleine Lynch

Youth Theatre Manager: Sara Dakin

Youth Theatre Tutors:Rachel Constantine, Lucy Dawber, Francesca (Frankie) Browne, Clementine Mills, Deirdre Landon, Dr Mark Hamilton, Lerato Islam, Samantha Ellwood, Rebecca Ansell, Millie Hanford, Isabella Pezza

Trust Bookkeeper / Treasurer: Lynn Toomer

Trust Accountant & Auditor Lynch & Associates

**A big thank Ytu to:**

You, for coming;

Roald Dahl for his story; Our partners, parents, families and friends for all their love and support; Our fantastic team of core sponsors and funding bodies and their representatives; Dean Agnew, Trillian Trust; Connie Lee and Jacqui Johnston, Foundation North; Sam and Ollie Wright, Wright Family Foundation; Aidan Bennett, Benefitz; Nicky Ranson and Emma Duffy, MORE FM; Our regular donors and Gift a Seat™ donors; Our volunteers, including our ushers, office volunteers, and others; James Bell and team, The PumpHouse Theatre; Morgan Darkwa and team, Due Drop Events Centre; Troy Tu’ua and team, Mangere Arts Centre; Justin Rodenas and Naeemah Lauvi, Te Oro, Arts Access Aotearoa; Go Media; Murray Lynch, Playmarket; Auckland Libraries; Dorothy Butler Children’s Bookshop, Mai FM

**Sponsorship Opportunities:**

Tim Bray Theatre Company is a charitable trust and is recognised as Auckland’s leading theatre company for children. We have an audience of 25,000 attending our shows per annum, plus we reach over 1,500,000 people via our digital channels and advertising. We are engaged with the community, and we would like to talk about how we could put you in front of our audience in a sponsorship opportunity. We offer various sponsorship options, each depending on the level of commitment that a business may wish to consider. Would your company be interested in an alignment with Tim Bray Theatre Company, a trusted brand, through sponsorship or in-kind contribution? We can work together on a unique arrangement tailored to your requirements. Not ready for sponsorship? There are many other ways you can be involved: • Buy show tickets as Christmas gifts for staff, clients, and business partners. • Make group bookings for staff and their families. • Book an exclusive show for a function. • Philanthropic donations. If you would like to help us develop great outcomes for children and young people all over the Auckland region through professional theatre productions, community events, accessible performances, and youth theatre programmes, please contact Gail Rotherham, Business Development Manager at Tim Bray Theatre Company at gail@timbray.org.nz

Next Show: The Santa Claus Show, By Tim Bray. Songs By Christine White. Takapuna-The Pumphouse Theatre 2-22nd December timbray.org.nz