JOSS ARNOTT DANCE 15



Meet the Hatter

STUDY GUIDE

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LOTTERY FUNDED

Commissioned by

Lincoln Arts Centre

Supported by

Abderrahim Crickmay Charitable Settlement

Northern Ballet

arts

University of Salford MANCHESTER

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CHILDREN'S CAPITAL OF CULTURE.

THE GOLSONCOTT FOUNDATION

Supported by Unity Theatre Trust

ABOUT THE SHOW

Welcome to Meet the Hatter, a playful, imaginative dance show presented by Joss Arnott Dance.

Combining powerful dance with new storytelling and mesmerising visuals, complemented by an emotionally charged original score, this dance and multimedia show is an epic retelling of the iconic Hatter from Lewis Caroll's Alice's Adventures in Wonderland – but with a twist.

Brought to life through projections and immersive animations, you'll marvel at his breathtaking make-believe world and the amazing characters he meets along the way.

For audiences aged 5 – 105, Meet the Hatter takes you on a journey through a new world that celebrates the importance of play, whilst highlighting how self-belief can create opportunities you've only ever dreamed of.

Watch the trailer

Full Recording

Supported using public funding by the National Lottery through Arts Council England.

Commissioned by Lincoln Arts Centre. Supported by Abderrahim Crickmay Charitable Settlement, Z-arts, Northern Ballet, University of Salford, Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council, Children's Capital of Culture, Bradford Arts Centre, Barnsley Civic, The Golsoncott Foundation and Unity Theatre Trust.

ABOUT JOSS ARNOTT DANCE

Based in the North of England, Joss Arnott Dance (JAD) produce ambitious, excellent and relevant dance productions, that are grown from classical techniques, inspired by music and shaped by a modern aesthetic. We hold our communities and audiences at our core, creating relevant productions for a variety of people in a variety of spaces.



Yue Ying Ho, Dominic Coffey and Charley Mitchell "TIN MAN" (2022-23)

The company's productions consist of an athletic, technically brilliant cast of extraordinary performers, aiming to excite and inspire audiences regardless of their dance experience and knowledge, through Arnott's stunning and dynamic classical contemporary choreographic style.



Charley Mitchell, Shannon Kate Platt, Yue Ying Ho and Dominic Coffey "RUSH" (2023)

The company prides itself on bringing new audiences to contemporary dance with its bold, choreographic language that has been described as "exquisite to watch" The Stage and "Masterful" Varsity. JAD understands the power of the arts to influence and we hold education, participation and our communities at the core of all our activity. We are committed to innovating world class collaborations, mutual respect and support in everything we do – Not I, but We.



Emily Pottage "V" (2015)
© Brian Slater

ACTIVITY 1

Map the Hatter's Journey

The Hatter visits many different places in the show. As a greoup, create a giant map showing where he visits.

Children could add:

- Oceans
- Deserts
- Snowy landscapes
- Forests / Woodlands
-

Then ask them to invent one additional place that the Hatter could visit.

What would it look like?
What would it feel like?
Who would he meet?
What would he have to do there?



ACTIVITY 2

Create your own Hatter

This a movement activity encouraging children to explore the physicality of their character. It prompts them to use their imagination, In an open space gather the children in a circle (seated if required to build confidence).

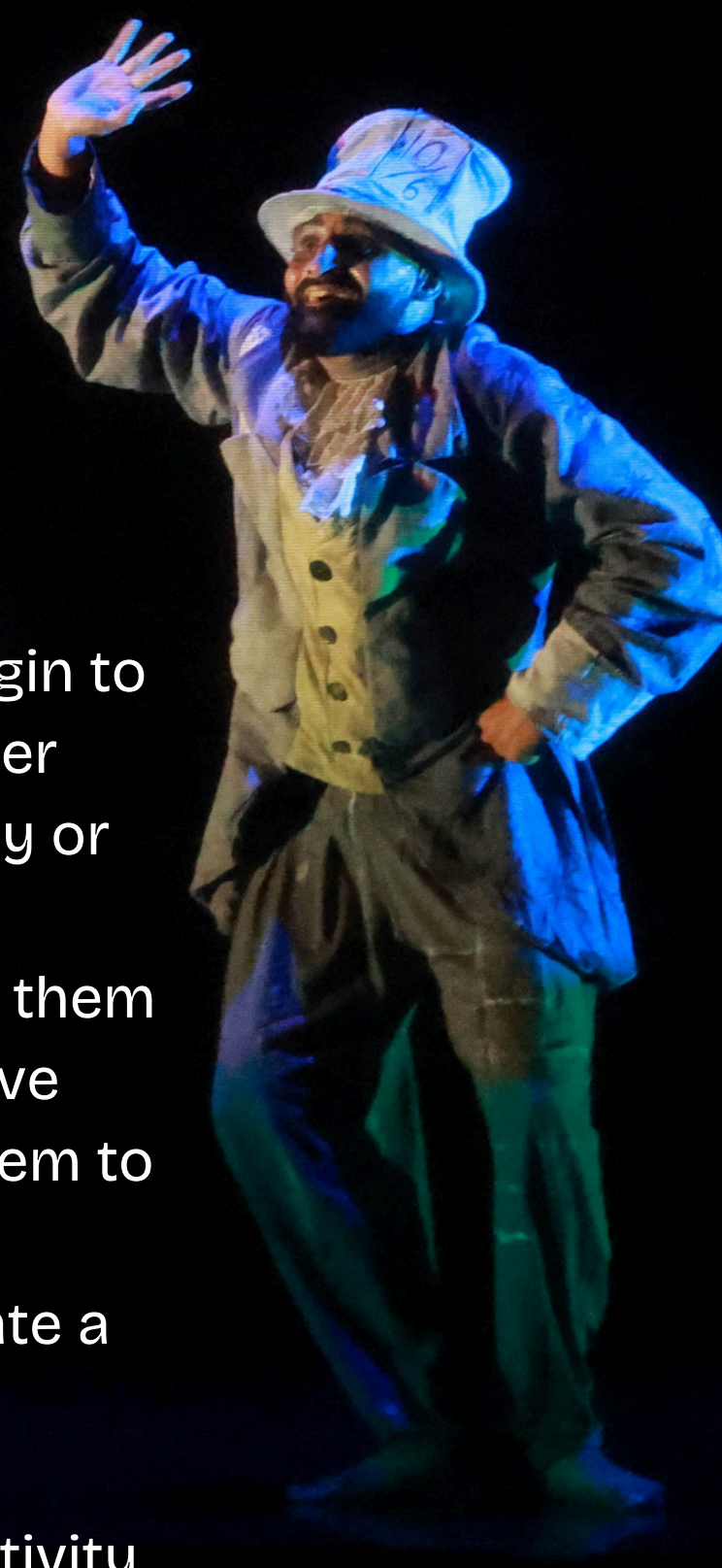
Stage 1

Ask the children to:

1. Hold a pose that your character might do (repeat three times with three different poses)
2. Choose one pose and make it into a movement.
3. Pass your movement around the circle. Children could either do their movement one at a time, or everyone could repeat the movement before it moves onto the next person.

Stage 2

It's time to start moving around the room. Choose 4 actions associated with numbers 1-4. For example:
1 – jump, 2 – touch the floor, 3 – change direction,
4 – freeze in a pose.



Ask the children to:

1. Get on your feet and walk around the room – begin to walk in character. Think about how your character moves – how fast or slow, jerky or smooth, twisty or straight.
2. Introduce the different number instructions. Get them used to responding to each number. When they've mastered what each number means, now ask them to do it how their character would move.
3. For number 4, build up to doing it in pairs to create a scene, then in threes, then in groups etc.

This activity could also be delivered as a drawing activity – with just a blank piece of paper and some coloured pens.

ACTIVITY 3

Themed Discussion

This activity is good for slightly older children, using performance to think about their own feelings and experiences.

The Hatter is searching for friends to invite to his tea party.

- Why do you think the Hatter wants friends?
- What makes someone a good friend?
- Have you ever had to be brave and try something new?
- How might you feel if you were travelling somewhere different?
- What might the Hatter learn about himself during his journey?

In the show there are no words, everything that happens is just shared through movement.

- How did you know what the Hatter was feeling?
- How did the dancer show excitement, fear or curiosity?
- How did the movement change in different places?
- What moments happened in the show that you understood even without anyone saying it?
- How did the music help?
- How did the lighting help?
- How did the projections help?

This section could also be an opportunity for them to try it out physically, so after each prompt/discussion you could ask the children to get up on their feet and show how they might physically show their own excitement, fear, different places (and temperatures) etc.
You could play different styles of music to show how it might affect emotion – something upbeat might make them move faster with bigger movements, something melancholy might prompt them to move slowly.



CREATIVE TEAM

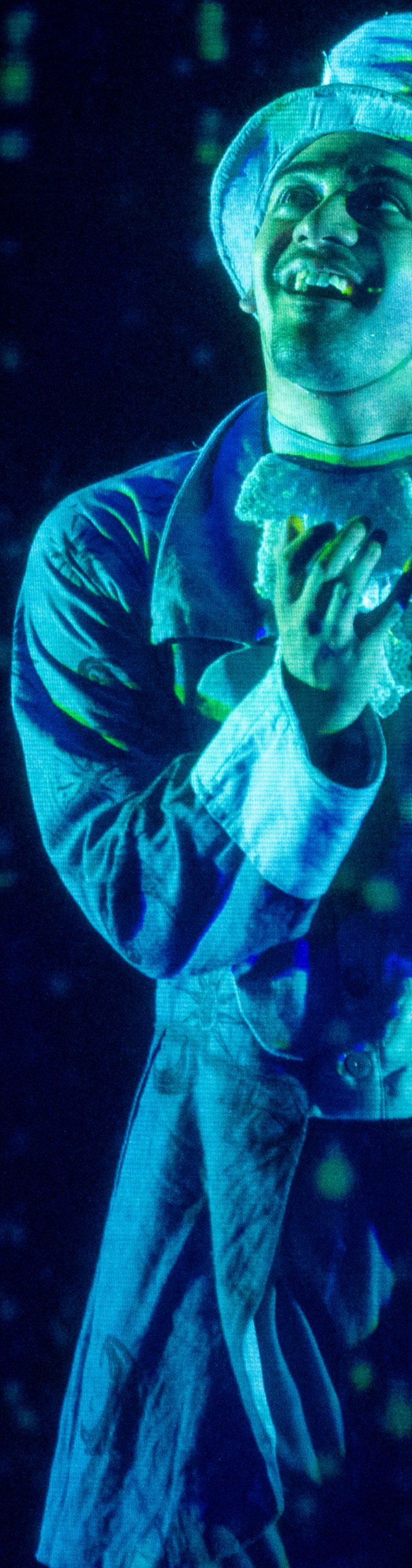
Artistic Director **Joss Arnott**
Choreography **Joss Arnott in collaboration with the dancers**
Dancers **Dominic Coffey, Robbie Ordoña and Kadafi Mulala**
Booking Agent **Tara Bailey, Bailiwick Booking Agency and Arts Management**
Dramaturg **Sue Buckmaster, Theatre-Rites**
Multimedia Artist **Urban Projections**
Composer **Oleta Haffner**
Lighting Designer and Production Manager **Josh Tomalin**
Movement Consultant **Miguel Altunaga**
Costume Designer **Maisie Drewery-Harris**
Assistant Costume Designer **Ellie Nicholas**
Rabbit Animation Artist **Alexandros Savvides**
Beatboxer **Jack Hobbs (Hobbit)**
Audio Description **Vicky Ackroyd**
Dance Artist **Maiya Leeke**
Branding and Artwork **Hand Drawn Pixels**
Photography and Film **Hawk Photo Film and Josh Tomalin**

For Joss Arnott Dance

Executive Producer **Phil Hargreaves**
Senior Producer **Chloe Stott**
General Manager **Karen Parry**
Marketing Manager **Jennie Gentles**
Fundraising Consultant **Joanne Peters**
Press and Communications **Caroline Ansdell**

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MORE INFORMATION

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