

Flights, fights and fairydust as Never Land comes to North Staffordshire!

The New Vic Theatre presents

Peter Pan

By J M Barrie

Adapted by Theresa Heskins

Sat 20 Nov – Sat 22 Jan

An ingenious new adaptation featuring aerialists, award-winning actors and a former lion tamer is flying into Staffordshire this Christmas, as the New Vic sprinkles some fairy dust over J M Barrie's *Peter Pan*.

Celebrating the 150th anniversary of the author's birthday, New Vic Artistic Director and dramatist, Theresa Heskins, returns to Barrie's original play to recreate the magic of the beloved children's classic.

In planning for over a year, the premiere will also bring a unique in-the-round approach to one of *Peter Pan*'s biggest boasts – flying. Dazzling aerial sequences and mid-air swashbuckling are being realised thanks to a team of circus performers, aerialists and the talents of ex-tiger tamer and aerial consultant, Vicki Amedume.

Heskins, who wrote and directed last year's critically-acclaimed adaptation of *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*, said: "*It's hugely exciting to be able to bring J M Barrie's magical story to life on stage – and the space above our heads!*"

"Last summer, Vicki taught us how to fly for our production of The Wicked Lady. Immediately afterwards we teamed up again to plan our biggest adventure yet – Peter Pan.

"We are really letting our imaginations run riot on a play we've always thought couldn't be done in the New Vic auditorium."

A cast of 13 performers features *Hollyoaks*' Andonis James Anthony as Hook, Northern Broadsides and New Vic favourite Michael Hugo (*The Canterbury Tales*) as Peter Pan, award-winning actor Amy Loughton (*Nation*, National Theatre) as Wendy, and aerialist Ali Robbins as Tinker Bell, whose credits include tours with the Spice Girls and Ringo Starr.

The creative team includes the talents of award-winning TV and film composer James Atherton, Leek's TMA award-winning designer Daniella Beattie (Best Lighting Design, 2009), and director and dramatist Theresa, whose adaptation of *Wives and Daughters* is due to air on Radio Four's *Women's Hour* at the end of November.

Peter Pan runs from Sat 22 November 2010 – Sat 22 January 2011. Tickets, which cost £8.50 – £18.50 (Family-of-four ticket £54.00), can be booked by calling the New Vic's Box Office on 01782 717962 or online at www.newvictheatre.org.uk.

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For further press information please contact Clare Hargreaves on 01782 717954 ext 317 or e-mail chargreaves@newvictheatre.org.uk

Notes for Editors

Useful links:

[Peter Pan – production information](#)

[Artistic Director named 'Woman to Watch'](#)

Peter Pan Company:

Hook	Andonis James Anthony
Gentleman Starkey/Rigger	Graeme Clint
Nibs	Meline Danielewicz
Smee/Mr Darling	Morgan George
Peter Pan	Michael Hugo
John	Philip Labey
Wendy	Amy Loughton
Slightly	Luke McConnell
Mrs Darling/ Cecco	Dido Miles
Bill Jukes	Al Orange
Tinker Bell	Ali Robbins
Michael	Paul Sandys
Tootles	Mitesh Soni

Director	Theresa Heskins
Set Designer	Laura Clarkson
Costume Designer	Lis Evans
Lighting Designer	Daniella Beattie
Sound Designer	James Earls-Davis
Composer	James Atherton
Fight Director	Kate Waters
Aerial Consultant	Vicki Amedume
Choreographer	Beverley Edmunds
Assistant Director	Paschale Straiton
Casting Associate	Anji Carroll CDG

Theresa Heskins:

Since joining Staffordshire's producing theatre in January 2007 Theresa Heskins has adapted and directed many successful productions for the New Vic, including the hugely popular *Great Expectations*, *The Wicked Lady* (by Bryony Lavery) and *Bleak House*. Last Christmas, Theresa's new adaptation of *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe* became the theatre's most successful ever production and is being produced by two other professional theatres this winter.

Before coming to the New Vic, Theresa was artistic director of Pentabus Theatre, establishing its reputation as a centre for innovative new writing. Productions there included Bryony Lavery's outdoor epic *Precious Bane*, acclaimed by The Guardian as one of the ten best site-specific shows ever.

Theresa writing credits include work with The Royal Court Young Writers' Festival, ITV, Midlands Arts Centre and BBC Radio. She has recently adapted *Wives and Daughters* for Radio 4's *Women's Hour*.

Sat 20 Nov – Sat 22 Jan: Monday to Saturday, 10.30am, 2.15pm, 7.30pm
(please check [calendar](#) for specific performances)

Captioned performances: Sat 11 Dec, 2.15pm & Tues 14 Dec, 2.15pm

Audio Described performances: Sat 18 Dec, 2.15pm & Weds 12 Jan, 10.30am

Sign Language performance: Weds 1 Dec, 10.30am