IMAGINALITY
PRODUCTIONS

BEAR LEFT

A Christmas Anthology...



BEAR LEFT

THE ROAD TO PINKERFORD
A note from Co-creator and composer, Ollie Mills

What do you get if you cross a service station with a cast of 15, a live band, 5 writers and a bunch of musical theatre songs...no, it's not the set up for a Christmas Cracker joke, but the recipe for "Bear Left: A Christmas Anthology."

But what is this show? A musical? A play? A vignette piece? ...well, it's sort of all of the above. Originally set on a train, I pitched the idea of a show made up of vignettes (10-minute, stand-alone scenes), but delivered by an ensemble cast.

We've all experienced that feeling of seeing a stranger in a crowded place and for a moment considering what their life is like; who they are and where they're heading. Where else is this felt so profoundly than at a motorway services? With Simon igniting the engine, the world of Pinkerford was born.

Based on an outline created by the both of us, our team of superb writers - Emma, Hannah, Mohammed and Steph - have created beautiful dialogues that delve into the lives of our characters. My daunting task was to craft the cross-over, with scenes and songs that would unite our disparate travellers.

It's both an unconventional and experimental approach to a new musical piece for sure, but rather than a case of too-many-cooks in the carpool canteen, "Bear Left" has proven to be a well-oiled engine of creativity, each person a different valve or piston bringing their own corner of Pinkerford to life.

Where better than to carry out this road test than the arches of 53two? The daily hubbub here is the perfect parallel for Pinkerford, while the dedicated team are built to solve any problems and rise to any challenge. My huge thanks must go to them, to our phenomenal cast and crew, to Maestro Joe, to ever-supportive families and, of course, to my co-pilot Mr Simon Naylor, who has driven this show with unwavering passion.

Following last year's "Realms Of Glory," we knew we had to come back with something bigger and bolder; a contemporary story for here, for now and for Manchester. We hope "Bear Left" is just that.

Enjoy the ride, travel safe, and have a Merry Christmas!

The Company

Aliyaan Asif



Aliyaan is still in training at Rose Bruford Wigan and recently performed in The Trials as a part of his final year shows.

He is delighted to be making his professional debut beneath the arches.



Rob Bowden King

Rob Bowden King is an actor and singer from Manchester. An established concert singer and cabaret artiste across the UK, Rob is no stranger to Imaginality Productions, having appeared in Mallory On The Mountain as Sandy Irvine (workshop 2021 and concert 2022). Theatre credits also include Sinderella Adult Panto Tour (Prince Charming, 2020 UK tour) and The Last Five Years (Jamie Wellerstein, 2023). TV credits include BBC Radio 1's Big Weekend (headline act Florence + the Machine, 2010), All Together Now seasons 1 & 2 (BBC One, 2017-2019) and Britain's Got Talent (ITV, 2019 semi-finalist).

Rob can't wait to make his 53two debut and spend Christmas under the arches in Bear Left!

Bear Left at 53two

STARBARKS COFFEE

13th DECEMBER

Daniel Brennan



Theatre includes: Mr Bennet in 'Pride and Prejudice' (UK Tour); Ford in 'The Merry Wives of Windsor' (UK Tour); Landlord in 'Two', Ethelred in 'Silence', Hardcastle in 'She Stoops to Conquer' (all at Jack Studio, London); Bad Penny in 'Passing Time' (Oldham Coliseum). TV: 'COBRA: Rebellion', 'Emmerdale', 'Coronation Street'. Film: 'Looking for Vi'; 'Seat 25' and the upcoming 'Remembering the Future'. He is also co-creator and curator of The Off Cut Short Play Festival.



Abdul Rahman Chunara

I’m an Actor and Writer based in Manchester and continue to train with Both Feet Actors.

Recently, I’ve had the exciting opportunity to write and perform my own work as a short play ‘The Job’ that explored themes of race and social class barriers, which was subsequently commissioned by the Happy Festival as a short film and showcased at the Bury Arts Festival. I’m keen on continuing this journey to tell stories that give voice to underrepresented parts of our society and am currently working on a writing project that I have secured funding for that will explore citizenry and what it means to belong.

When I’m not acting and spending time with my little nephew, I love to travel, enjoy outdoor swimming and love a good crime series. Currently seeking representation.

Kenton Craig



Originally from Oldham, Kenton moved to Blackpool in childhood. His previous careers took him across the World and much of the UK but eventually led to a mid-life change of course when he found himself at drama school. He is now working on establishing himself as an actor in order to help repay some of the acting school fees and is very grateful to Ollie and Simon for the opportunity to perform at 53Two!

Other work includes a very long audiobook (on audible if you have 8 hours to spare) and the voice of “Old Tony” in the play 14% (Contact Theatre 2023). Kenton is proud to work as an Arts Practitioner for the inclusive Tramshed Theatre Company in Blackpool and is also writing an radio drama called Bonney Street (Episode 1 - live on All fm radio in Manchester this December).

Alicia Ellis



Alicia trained at Italia Conti Academy of Theatre Arts, where she graduated in 2021 with a BA(Hons) in Acting. Since graduating she has worked in theatre with companies such as ‘See her Potential’ and ‘Draft 99’, with whom she spent last summer at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival performing ‘Artorigus’. She is also a Grade 8 Distinction level singer and member of ActUpNorth. Alicia is originally from sunny Cleethorpes and now lives in Manchester after spending 4 years in London for drama school.

Linford Johnson



Linford Johnson's Theatre work includes: The Glee Club for Out of Joint/Stockroom The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe for The Bridge Theatre, The Girl Next Door at the Stephen Joseph Theatre, As You Like It for National Theatre Public Acts; War Horse (UK and international tour), Pinocchio for the National Theatre; Much Ado About Nothing for Northern Broadsides; The Rise and Fall of Little Voice at Park Theatre; The Tempest and Macbeth for Iris; Hair at the Hope Mill Theatre; Showboat at Sheffield Crucible and in the West End,Territory at the Lowry; and Macbeth for Out of Joint.

His television credits include: Emmerdale for ITV, The Reckoning for BBC, Significant Other for ITVX, and Odd Squad for the BBC.



Kelsea Knox

Kelsea is a Manchester based actor originally from Ireland. Graduating in 2020 from The Arden School of Theatre. As well as being in front of the camera and on the stage she has started her own company “So It Is Productions”, focusing on showreels. Kelsea has just wrapped up filming in Ireland on an exciting feature film and a BBC series. Kelsea can’t wait to spend Christmas under the arches along side a cracking cast and company

Hannah MacDonald

Hannah MacDonald is a working-class actor and writer from Manchester. Recent acting credits include The Departure from my body with Peripeteia Theatre and short film Denmark Road with Kollab Kreate Productions.

Writing credits include The Independent, Take Back Theatre and Peripeteia Theatre. Hannah is also the co-host of A Pair of Bookends podcast where she interviews various authors about their work.





Rebecca McAuley

Warringtonian actor Rebecca trained at Liverpool Theatre School. Recent credits include Mrs McGregor/Jemima Puddleduck (puppetry) in 'Happy Birthday Peter Rabbit' (Old Laundry Theatre), Mavis Snow in 'Realms of Glory' - 53two (Imaginality Productions), and Amanda in 'Marriage of Kim K' - Lowry/Tour (Leo&Hyde). Becca is buzzing to be back under the arches this Christmas as Denise, Marcus, and the ever present, coffee shop barista!

Jasmine McIvor

Jasmine is an actor/singer from Cheshire. Beginning her training at The Hammond School in Chester, Jasmine soon joined East 15 Acting School and graduated in 2021. Since graduating, Jasmine has worked on multiple stage works and this past year she's ventured onto screen.

Her recent credits include: D'Artagnan, "The Three Musketeers", Storyteller/Composer, "The Drag Nativity" & "The Drag Christmas Carol", Fairy Flustered, "Cinderella"

Her upcoming film credits include: Film adaptation of Broadway musical, "Wicked" and indie feature, "Another Turn of The Screw"



Jasmine is thrilled to be joining the cast of Bear Left in her first production at 53Two.



George Miller

George is a Manchester based Actor & Musician, originally from Lancashire. He graduated from The Arden School of Theatre in 2021. Recent credits include: Pornography (Red Brick Theatre), Some Masterchef Sh*t (Offcut MCR), We Found A Monster (Little Rat Skull), The BBC's First Homosexual (BBC 100/Inkbrew Productions) & The Dumb Waiter (Red Brick Theatre). George is thrilled to be back performing under the arches this Christmas. He considers 53two his second home, along with the best team of people in Manchester.

Morag Peacock



Morag is a Salford based actress with Scottish roots and an English accent. She's been acting for about 10 years now and has experience in theatre, TV, commercials, radio and voice-over.

She's been particularly blessed with adverts and voice-over work, working for Sharwood's, Batchelors, Angel Delight, Bisto, Ambrosia, Blu-tack and BBC Radio.

Morag loves new writing and has played an array of characters, loving both comedy and straight roles. She loves a challenge and relished taking part in this year's Act Your Age Duelling Monologues.

Morag is well chuffed to be back on stage again and wishes you a blessed Christmas and 2024 (ugh, we're there already?!).



Eilidh Pollard

Eilidh is an actor/musician who trained at the University of York and is now based in Manchester. Her previous roles include Deb in ‘Ordinary Days’ (Green Room Theatre Wilmslow), Kaa in ‘The Jungle Book’ (Altrincham Garrick Playhouse), Vera Edgeley in ‘The Tree of War‘ (Imaginality Productions), and Ellie in ‘One Play One Day’ - The Kings Arms (Reload Theatre). Eilidh is thrilled to be performing in ‘Bear Left’ this Christmas at 53Two!

Ifeoma Uzodinma

Ifeoma is a Manchester Based Artist. She has previously been a part of Save Me A Seat. Acting credits include: Much Ado About Nothing (Shakespeare North Playhouse); Brick by Brick (Red Brick Theatre, All the Rage (53two)



Behind The Scenes

Created by
Ollie Mills and Simon Naylor

Music
Ollie Mills

Written by
Mohammed Barber
Emma Hinds
Steph Lacey
Hannah MacDonald

Art Work/Set Dressing
Kelsea Knox

Musicians
Joe Clayton - MD/Keys 1
George Miller - Guitar
Ollie Mills - Drums/Keys 2
Eilidh Pollard - Violin

Crew
George Miller - Lighting Design
Maddie Maycock - Operator
Jack Flemin - Stage Manager

Special Thanks

Peter Gunn
Sally Dynevor
George Bukhari
Anna Chell
Graeme Hawley
Karen Henthorn
Cherylee Houston
Alicia Forde
Joe Gill
Ian Puleston Davies
Grandad Dave
Kate McAuley
Dave Howell
Miles Moss
53two Staff
Nick Dickins



Access Sponsorship from

AutoTrader

Bear Left

The Scenes



'Bear Left' features:

"A Chance Meeting"
By Steph Lacey

"Turkey Samosas" and "Jump Leads"
By Mohammed Barber

"The World's Worst Hen Party"
By Emma Hinds and Hannah Macdonald

"I Never Live Alone Now"
By Emma Hinds

"Bargain Bucket"
By Ollie Mills



