



## PRESS RELEASE

### LITTLE ANGEL THEATRE ADAPTS TIM HOPGOOD'S *MOON RIVER* AND *WHAT A WONDERFUL WORLD*



Little Angel Theatre are thrilled to be adapting two stories from **Tim Hopgood's** classic songbook collection, *Moon River* and *What a Wonderful World*. The performances will be broadcast for **free** on the **Little Angel Theatre YouTube channel** on consecutive weekends in July.

Hopgood is an award-winning picture book author and illustrator. His books *WOW! Said the Owl* and *WOW! It's Night-time* have previously been adapted by Little Angel for the stage and toured across the UK. His classic songbook collection is designed to bring iconic song lyrics to life for a younger generation.

*Moon River* received an Academy Award for Best Original Song for its performance by Audrey Hepburn in *Breakfast at Tiffany's* in 1961. In

Hopgood's illustrated edition, a little girl goes on a magical journey along the Moon River, which flows from her bedroom out into the big wide world.

*What a Wonderful World* brings to life the much loved song in a story which encourages little ones to see the beauty of the world and to love other people. Huffington Post said of the book, 'Hopgood does the impossible and makes a song as ubiquitous as *What a Wonderful World* feel fresh again'.

Hopgood's illustrations will be brought to life with design by **Alison Alexander**, and new recordings of the songs by **Barb Jung** and **Jenny Carr**. The team will be working together to create the shows remotely, following social distancing guidelines. *Moon River* will be broadcast for free on the Little Angel Theatre YouTube channel on **Sunday 5 July at 11am BST**, and *What a Wonderful World* will follow on **Sunday 12 July at 11am BST**. Both will be free to watch and available until 30 September 2020.

This latest release follows on from the success of the Little Angel Theatre's first five online puppetry performances, including adaptations of Ross Collins' *What Does an Anteater Eat?* and Jon Klassen's *Hat* trilogy, which have collectively had over 200,000 views to date and been watched in over 70 countries worldwide.

**Little Angel Theatre's Artistic Director, Samantha Lane**, said:

"We've loved working with Tim on our live shows in the past and are thrilled to be working with him again to create this work for an online audience. We've been touched by how families have come together to make an occasion out of watching our shows. We hope that these performances provide a meaningful intergenerational connection for people, so parents, grandparents and other family members can introduce these beloved songs to their little ones."

**Author Tim Hopgood** said:

"I'm over the moon that Little Angel Theatre are creating two new online productions based on my songbooks - *Moon River* and *What a Wonderful World*. Both songs are all-time favourites of mine and the lyrics seem to hold even more meaning during these uncertain times. Seeing my book illustrations brought to life through puppetry is a magical treat and one that I'm sure will enchant audiences of all ages."

## ENDS

For all press and image enquiries, please contact **Sophie Waddy, Marketing and Communications Manager:**  
[sophie@littleangeltheatre.com](mailto:sophie@littleangeltheatre.com)

### NOTES TO EDITORS:

### CREDITS:

A Little Angel Theatre Production

Designed by Alison Alexander

Performed and filmed by Alison Alexander and Chris Mason

Directed by Samantha Lane

Music performed by Barb Jungr and Jenny Carr

Recordings mixed by Jonathan Lee

*What a Wonderful World*

Composed by George Weiss and Robert Thiele

By permission of Concord

*Moon River*

Composed by Henry Mancini and Johnny Mercer

By permission of SONY/ATV Music

Artwork © Tim Hopgood, published by Oxford University Press.

You can buy the books here:

*What a Wonderful World* <https://bit.ly/3ORqpHg>

*Moon River* <https://bit.ly/2N54WCG>

### Broadcast dates and times:

**MOON RIVER** Sunday 5 July 2020, 11am BST (and available until 30 September 2020)

**WHAT A WONDERFUL WORLD** Sunday 12 July 2020, 11am BST (and available until 30 September 2020)

Little Angel Theatre YouTube channel: <https://www.youtube.com/thelittleattheatre>

### Samantha Lane, Director:

Samantha began her tenure as artistic director at Little Angel Theatre in 2015. She was formerly Director of Projects at the Almeida Theatre where she made theatre for, by and with young people aged 14-25; and Education Manager at the Queen's Theatre, Hornchurch, where she created numerous Theatre in Education shows for primary and secondary schools, as well as directing community plays with casts of 60+ people. Her directing credits at Little Angel Theatre include *The Bed*, *The Slightly Annoying Elephant*, *The Flying Bath*, *Let's Fly, Me...*, *The Singing Mermaid*, *Kika's Birthday*, *Junk* and *Finding Santa*.

### Alison Alexander, Designer:

Alison is a Designer-Maker specialising in Puppetry. She trained at Wimbledon College of Art (UAL) in Design for Performance and later completed a year long arts council funded apprenticeship with Lyndie Wright in Puppetry. She has worked professionally with companies including Little Angel Theatre, Oily Cart, Kneehigh, Theatre-Rites, Goblin Theatre, Shakespeare's Globe and Tate Modern. [alisonalexander.com](http://alisonalexander.com)

### **Barb Jungr, Music:**

Barb Jungr is an award-winning jazz and cabaret solo artist and writer with numerous CDs and recordings released internationally for Linn, Naim and Kristalyn Records. Her musical theatre work includes *The Fabulous Flutterbys* (book, music and songs), co-adapting and writing songs and music for *We're Going On A Bear Hunt* and *The Singing Mermaid* for Little Angel Theatre, and *How to Hide a Lion* and *Michael Rosen's Chocolate Cake* for Polka Theatre. In 2018 she was lyricist and co-writer of *Liver Birds Flying Home* for The Royal Court, Liverpool. [www.barbjungr.co.uk](http://www.barbjungr.co.uk).

### **Jenny Carr, Music:**

Jenny is a London-based pianist, arranger, musical director and educator whose musical influences and career have spread from classical roots, through jazz, blues, soul, folk, country and pop. She has been performing, recording and touring with Barb for many years and this collaboration has continued into the wonderful world of children's theatre.

### **Jonathan Lee, Music Mixing:**

Jonathan Lee has had an international career as a drummer with many jazz, blues and soul artists. He has played with Richie Cole, Allen Toussaint, and Plas "The Pink Panther" Johnson, and recorded seven albums with James Hunter. As a producer he has worked with Jeb Loy Nichols and Duke Baysee. He loves puppetry and has enjoyed collaborating with Barb and Jenny on several of their previous productions for Little Angel Theatre.

**Little Angel Theatre** is a home for puppetry. Since its doors first opened in 1961 the theatre has been dedicated to creating and sharing inspiring stories. Puppetry is at the heart of this innovative theatre, from igniting the imaginations of the youngest minds to equipping tomorrow's puppeteers with the tools they need to succeed. As well as being an internationally recognised theatre with productions touring throughout the UK and across the globe, Little Angel Theatre also has its roots in Islington, and works with its local, diverse community to break down barriers to arts engagement so all can benefit and enjoy this remarkable art form.

"Little Angel is nothing less than an icon of north London childhood" **Time Out, 2016**

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## **CONTACT INFORMATION**

Little Angel Theatre, 14 Dagmar Passage, London, N1 2DN

**Website** [littleangeltheatre.com](http://littleangeltheatre.com) | **YouTube** [youtube.com/TheLittleATheatre](https://www.youtube.com/TheLittleATheatre)  
**Facebook** [facebook.com/LittleAngelTheatre](https://www.facebook.com/LittleAngelTheatre) | **Instagram** [@littleangeltheatre](https://www.instagram.com/littleangeltheatre) | **Twitter** [@littleatheatre](https://twitter.com/littleatheatre)

### **General Enquiries & box office**

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