



PERTH
theatre

ROALD
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Helen Milne Productions, Perth Theatre and The Roald Dahl Story Company
present the World Premiere of

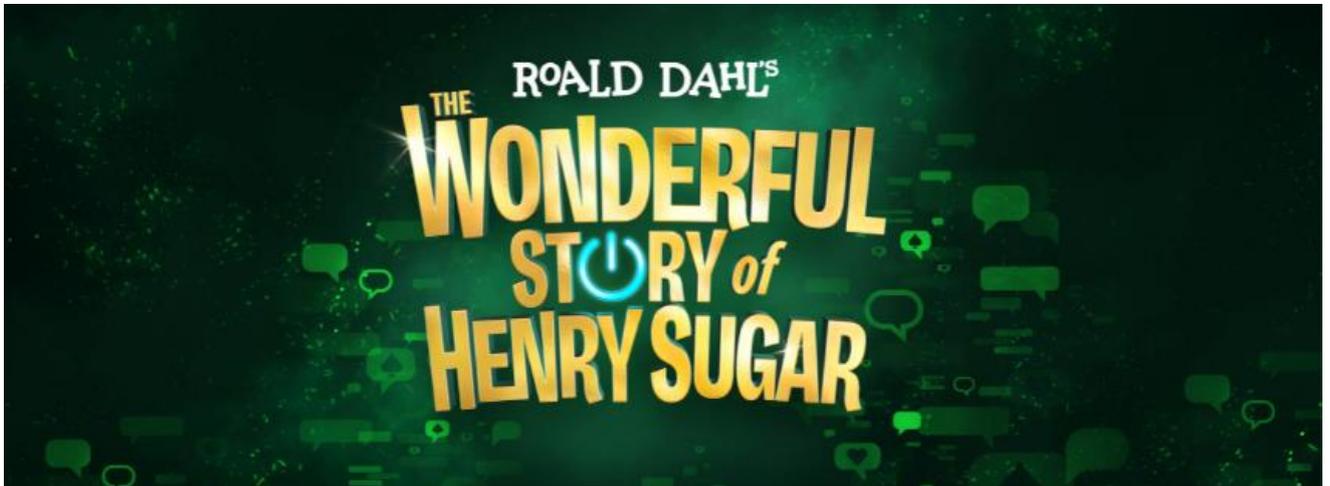
Roald Dahl's The Wonderful Story of Henry Sugar

Adapted for stage by Rob Drummond
Directed by Ben Harrison

Perth Theatre, Perth | 24 March – 2 April | tickets from £13 available [here](#)

Macrobert Arts Centre, Stirling | 7 – 10 April | tickets from £15 available [here](#)

Eden Court, Inverness | 15 – 17 April | tickets from £12 available [here](#)



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Helen Milne Productions, Perth Theatre and The Roald Dahl Story Company are proud to announce their collaboration on *Roald Dahl's The Wonderful Story of Henry Sugar*, adapted for stage by Rob Drummond and directed by Ben Harrison. This is the first time that the story of Henry Sugar – taken from the collection of seven short stories, *The Wonderful Story of Henry Sugar and Six More* (1977) by Roald Dahl – will be brought to the UK stage.

Imagine a Roald Dahl Magic Show...

From the master of the uncanny comes a comic, disturbing and delightful tale of the obsessive hunt for power. From the slums of Bombay to the glamour of international casinos to the pinging, all-consuming world of social media, our characters discover the dangers of actually getting what you want.

an idle playboy who longs for even more money...

a teenage girl who longs for online fame...

a conjuror who longs to be believed...

Expect magic. Expect illusion. Expect the unexpected.

“You asked to hear my story. Whether or not there is an explanation, I do not know. All I know is that real magic exists. And I found it.”

Helen Milne said: “We're so delighted to be working with co-producers Perth Theatre and The Roald Dahl Story Company, along with some of Scotland's finest creative talent to bring this thrilling new production to stage. The show retains the mischief, darkly comic genius and sprinkling of magic for which Roald Dahl stories are known, while injecting a clever modern twist which is sure to resonate with audiences.”

Lu Kemp, Artistic Director at Perth Theatre said: “Roald Dahl short stories are thrilling, a little disturbing and get under your skin so the perfect material for theatre. In the hands of this team, we are confident that the show will be funny, magical and full of wonder.”

The Roald Dahl Story Company said: “When ground-breaking producer Helen Milne came to us with the idea to reimagine *The Wonderful Story of Henry Sugar* as a Roald Dahl Magic Show, we found the combination of producer and concept to be equally irresistible. With the brilliant team of writer Rob Drummond and director Ben Harrison, working alongside Helen, we are confident that audiences are set to experience a show which delivers magic at every level.”

Director Ben Harrison said: “I'm so pleased to be finally bringing this show to the stage after a long period of development. When Helen Milne approached me to direct it five years ago, I remembered my folks giving me the first edition of *The Wonderful World Story of Henry Sugar (and Six More)* in 1977 and being so intrigued by the story, more grown-up and sophisticated than *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory* or *James and the Giant Peach* but still accessible for a younger reader. Its darkly funny and dangerous edge really appealed to me then and now I still love its irresistible mix of magic, yogic powers and global travel. I knew that Rob Drummond would be the perfect playwright to connect this tale with our time through his brilliant use of magic in previous work. It's the Roald Dahl Magic Show. What's not to like?”

Writer Rob Drummond said: “I'm delighted to be working on a show that combines two of my oldest childhood passions - Roald Dahl stories and magic.”

The production of *Roald Dahl's The Wonderful Story of Henry Sugar* is supported by Creative Scotland and the Stage One Bursary Scheme.

/ENDS

Notes to editors:

Perth Theatre, Perth | Thurs 24 March – Sat 2 April at 7.30pm; also Thurs 31 March & Sat 2 April at 2.30pm | tickets from £13 available [here](#)

Macrobert Arts Centre, Stirling | Thurs 7 April – Sat 9 April at 7.30pm; also Sat 9 April & Sun 10 April at 2.30pm | tickets from £15 available [here](#)

Eden Court, Inverness | Fri 15 April at 7.30pm; Sat 16 April at 2.30pm & 7.30pm; Sun 17 April at 11am & 2.30pm | tickets from £12 available [here](#)

Please note tickets will be available to purchase from 10am on Thurs 18th November.

Age guidance: 11+

PRESS KIT, incl. IMAGES:

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/fzjrf439ho8nluw/AADyBdZalvtKmcjPKgS2p6j4a?dl=0>

Helen Milne Productions

Helen develops new work which is fearless, strives to push boundaries and challenges audiences by bringing them out of their comfort zone to experience the unexpected. Helen trained as part of the Creative Scotland Producers' Project before joining Theatre503 as Resident Assistant Producer. She is currently supported by the Stage One Bursary Scheme. Her credits include multi-award winning musical Islander, smash-hit fringe show At The Illusionist's Table (2013 -2017) which she conceived, co-created and produced and a virtual tour of digital hybrid production Distance Remaining in 2021.

www.helenmilne.com

Perth Theatre

Perth Theatre celebrated 120 years at the heart of cultural life in Perthshire in 2020. The restored and redeveloped venue features a fully restored Edwardian auditorium, a 200-capacity studio, dedicated community rooms, and spacious and welcoming public areas.

As well as creating and touring its own productions, Perth Theatre collaborates with theatre companies and visiting artists to bring the best of local, national and international work to its audiences.

Perth Theatre and sister venue Perth Concert Hall are managed by creative organisation and registered charity Horsecross Arts. Together, they play a lead role in the culture and community of the area, and on the wider Scottish stage, with an exciting mix of theatre, music, dance, comedy, events, and community and conferencing activities.

www.horsecross.co.uk

The Roald Dahl Story Company

The Roald Dahl Story Company protects and grows the cultural value of The Roald Dahl stories with its unique breadth of characters and worlds. With 300 million books sold and 1 new book sold every 2.6 seconds, Roald Dahl stories continue to grow in popularity globally, attracting new audiences with innovative new developments in book, entertainment and beyond. The Roald Dahl Story Company is committed to sharing the positive messages at the heart of all Roald Dahl stories - messages of the strength and possibility of young people and of the power of kindness. A belief in the growing relevance of this message and its positive impact is at the heart of everything RDSC does. Ten percent of the operating profit of The Roald Dahl Story Company Ltd goes to charities such as Partners in Health and Roald Dahl's Marvellous Children's Charity who provide medical support to those who need it most.

www.roalddahl.com

Rob Drummond – Writer

Rob Drummond is a playwright, performer and director and an associate artist with the Traverse Theatre in Edinburgh. Rob's wide-ranging work includes two CATS award-winning plays for young audiences, Mr Write (National Theatre of Scotland) and Uncanny Valley

(Borderline Theatre and Edinburgh International Science Festival), Rob Drummond: Wrestling (The Arches), for which Rob trained as a professional wrestler, The Majority (National Theatre); the multi award-winning Bullet Catch (The Arches), CATS award-winning Quiz Show (The Traverse), acclaimed thriller Grain In The Blood (The Traverse), the first ever stage adaptation of beloved Scottish comic strip The Broons (Selladoor), and dating show In Fidelity (HighTide) in which Rob helped audience members find love (resulting in at least one real life wedding).

As well as theatre, Rob is currently developing film and TV with various companies in Scotland and England.

Ben Harrison – Director

Ben formed his first company Stomping Feet in 1988, and first brought it to the Fringe in 1989. He has directed over 75 professional theatre productions. He has been Co-Artistic Director of Grid Iron from 1996, since when the company has won over 30 awards for its work. He has directed 29 of the company's productions. Highlights for Grid Iron include: The Bloody Chamber, Gargantua, Decky Does A Bronco, Those Eyes, That Mouth, The Devil's Larder, Roam, Barflies, Spring Awakening, Crude, Jury Play, South Bend, The Brunch Club and Doppler. He directed the only live theatre event to take place in the UK in February 2021, Chalk Walk. He was Associate Director of the Almeida Theatre London 2000-2002, for which he created the acclaimed Participatory Projects programme and directed seven productions. From 2001-2004 he was a Fellow of the National Endowment for Science, Technology and the Arts which supported his research and development of site-based work. He was Director of the Dutch company Muztheater 2004-2008, for which he directed five productions. His show Peter Pan for 360 Entertainment was seen by more than a million people in London and across the USA 2009-2015. Recent freelance work includes Chalk Walk for Ben Harrison Productions, The Park for the National Theatre of Scotland, A Game of Death and Chance and Enlightenment House for the National Trust, The Buke of the Howlat for Findhorn Bay Arts, The Tailor of Inverness for Dogstar and Let's Inherit the Earth for Dogstar/Profilteatern.

Future projects include the return of Peter Pan for 360 Entertainment in 2022 (Australia and global tour) as well as several to be announced projects with Grid Iron, and Undertow Overflow, an exciting collaboration as a performer with the singer and multi-instrumentalist Amy Duncan, which marks his return to being onstage after 25 years.

www.benharrison.info

For more information, please contact Magda Paduch at The Corner Shop PR:

magda@thecornershoppr.com | 0758 316 4070