



Baba Yaga

Visual Story



Baba Yaga

Baba Yaga is a new fairytale adventure based on the Slavic folk tales about a witch called Baba Yaga that have been used for generations to scare children into being better behaved. This new version of the stories has been created by leading children's theatre companies, Theatre Hullabaloo and Theatre Porto, who wanted to reimagine the stories so that they demonstrated how brave and clever children can be.

In our story, two children – GIRL and BOY – have been forced to leave their homes and they come across the Baba Yaga's house in the forest. When they realise who she is – and the fact she wants to eat them – they must defeat her and escape to safety.

Is the show scary?

Our version of Baba Yaga is an adventure story and yes, like all good fairy tales, there are a few bits where it gets a bit tense, but Theatre Hullabaloo & Theatre Porto are experts in making theatre for children and when we toured it before the feedback from audiences is that they really wanted more scary bits! Audiences have told us that they really enjoy it when it starts to get a bit tense and then the show undercuts the tension with humour.

The important part of any story that deals with threat and evil is that the evil is overcome at the end and the children escape and triumph. You'll be pleased to know that this is the case in our version of Baba Yaga!

Lots of children's literature, such as the Harry Potter series, Series of Unfortunate Events by Lemony Snicket, deal with elements of jeopardy – we believe it's an important part of growing up.



This is what the set looks like for Baba Yaga.

Everybody will sit on the seats in the theatre facing the stage.

When everyone is seated, the show will begin.

It is fine to talk to the people you are sitting with about what is happening on stage. There is recorded music in the show which has been written to help to tell the story.

If it feels too loud for you, you can cover your ears or put your ear defenders on.

If you need to leave the performance at any point, it is fine for you to come back when you are ready.

The show is approximately 60 minutes long with no interval.

If you are coming to see the show at The Hullabaloo on Saturday 14th October at 11am, you can come into the theatre at 10.30am when all the lights will be on so you can have a look at the set and meet the actors before the show.

There are two performers in the show. Their characters are called BOY and GIRL and sometimes through their storytelling they act out other characters in the story too.



GIRL is played by Fran. GIRL likes gymnastics and bees.



Boy is played by Ben. BOY likes doing magic tricks.

In our production, we never actually see the Baba Yaga, but we know she is in the house because of the way BOY and GIRL tell the story, the soundtrack and sound effects and through the way they move on stage.

We made this decision because it was clear that the witch that people imagined was much more exciting than an actor in a costume.

The story starts when we meet BOY and GIRL and they tell us that they are going to tell us all about this amazing adventure that they have been on where they have defeated the Baba Yaga.



They explain that they had to leave their old home because it wasn't safe and journey to a new place. They had lost all their belongings trying to cross a river.



When they had arrived at a town, they had met a Watch Woman who told them to go away because there was no room for them within the town walls. The town was terrified of the Baba Yaga that lived in the forest and didn't want outsiders to come in.



The children were forced to continue their journey into the dark forest. Soon, they came across a very unusual house on chicken legs and they went inside to find food and shelter for the night.

BOY and GIRL settled in and ate the soup on the stove but then the homeowner appeared and they tried to explain that they weren't being rude, but were just alone and hungry and wanted somewhere to stay.



BOY and GIRL entertain the homeowner and she makes up beds for them to stay for the night.



As time goes on, BOY and GIRL start to notice odd things about the homeowner and the way she behaves. They start to realise that she isn't a nice old lady at all, and they try to escape but realise they are locked in.

They piece together clues that they find in the house and realise that this is, in fact, the house of the Baba Yaga and they are in terrible danger.



The witch tries to capture them so she can prepare them for her lunch and grabs BOY and puts him in a cage. She ties GIRL up too.



Using his magic string trick, BOY manages to release GIRL so that she can free him and there is an exciting chase before GIRL and BOY destroy the witch and escape to freedom.

The play ends with GIRL and BOY going off to find a new home together.



At the end of the show, the audience may clap to show that they have enjoyed watching. You can join in if you want to.

We hope you enjoy Baba Yaga.

Effects in the Performance

During the performance, the oven which is part of the set occasionally puffs smoke onto the stage. This isn't real smoke, its special stage haze which doesn't make people cough but does add atmosphere.

There are a couple of loud bangs when exciting things happen in the story. These come from objects on the stage and you don't need to worry about them.

If you are concerned about the bangs, please talk to a member of staff at the theatre and they can make you aware when they are coming up so you can be prepared or choose to leave the theatre.

Trigger / Content Warning

In Baba Yaga, the children – GIRL and BOY - are forced to flee from their homes to find safety. We are aware that for some children and adults who have experienced something similar, this story may be triggering. We advise adults to prepare in whatever way they find suitable.

Teachers / parents / carers may wish to discuss the story with children before the performance and it may be appropriate to mention the above. A full synopsis of the story is available from our websites.

It may also be useful to draw attention to the fact that whilst the children do face some difficult challenges in the story, there is also: humour, excitement, ingenuity, fear and adventure.

We suggest that, if there are individuals who have experienced conflict situations leading to displacement or lack of safety at home, they may be given the option of support during and/or after the performance.

In school settings it may be appropriate to inform their parent/carer about the content of the play, in advance. These decisions are obviously up to the discretion of individual teachers, considering the needs of the child or young person concerned. After seeing the play, there are several ways in which the issues can be followed up with the class, and we suggest teachers refer to their individual PSHE curriculum.

For more information about the show and for answers to Frequently Asked Questions, please visit www.theatrehullabaloo.org.uk or www.theatreporto.org