

PRESS CONTACTS:

Press@TheWallis.org

Libby Huebner, 562.799.6055

Laura Stegman, 310.470.6321

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**Wallis Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts
Presents
Red Bridge Arts & Traverse Theatre Company's
*BLACK BEAUTY***

*Created by Andy Manley, Andy Cannon and Shona Reppe,
This Re-telling of Black Beauty Blends Storytelling, Music and Puppetry*

**Friday, April 26 – Sunday, May 5, 2019,
Lovelace Studio Theater at the
Wallis Annenberg Center for Performing Arts**

(Beverly Hills, CA March 18, 2019) — Red Bridge Arts & Traverse Theatre Company's ***BLACK BEAUTY***, a "five-star triumph" (*The Guardian*), gallops into the **Wallis Annenberg Center for Performing Arts** with a story of hope, friendship and courage from Friday, April 26 to Sunday, May 5, 2019, in The Wallis's Lovelace Studio Theater. Created by Andy Manley, Andy Cannon and Shona Reppe, this re-telling blends storytelling, music and puppetry, offering fun and adventure for fans of the book, the UK's classic TV show and those brand new to the tale. From the cozy horsebox they call home, Andy and Andy take the bit firmly between their teeth to weave the classic tale, as it has never been seen before. The production, which includes audience engagement, is recommended for families with kids ages 5 and older.

According to critics, *Black Beauty* is "fun, joyful and touching... a worthy recipient of the *Black Beauty* baton," (*The List*) and "very funny and deliciously unique" (*Sunday Herald*).

"We are fortunate to welcome back the talented *Black Beauty* team that delighted our audiences several years ago with *White*, their winner of three Edinburgh Fringe Festival awards," says The Wallis' Artistic Director Paul Crewes. "They are among Scotland's most experienced makers of theater for young audiences, having produced highly regarded and internationally renowned work."

Tickets, \$25, are on sale now and, available at TheWallis.org/Beauty. The Wallis Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts is located at 9390 N. Santa Monica Blvd, Beverly Hills. To purchase tickets and for more information, please call 310-746-4000 or visit TheWallis.org/Beauty.

About the Artists:

ANDY MANLEY (Wee Andy, Co-Creator and Co-Writer) is a theater artist based in the U.K. who specializes in creating theater for young audiences. He creates performances largely through devising, though he has also worked on several written projects. He directs or performs depending on what feels right for the show. His work for young audiences includes: *Stick by Me* with Red Bridge Arts; *Night Light* with Teater Refleksion (Denmark) and Red Bridge Arts; *White, Martha, Kappa, The Ballad of Pondlife McGurk* with Catherine Wheels Theatre Company; *Potato Needs a Bath* and *HUFF* with Shona Reppe; *Little Light* and *My House* with Starcatchers; and *Rudolf and Mikey and Addie* with Macrobert Arts Centre. His directing credits include work for Catherine Wheels, Scottish Opera, Glyndebourne, Macrobert Arts Centre, M6 Theatre Company, Polka Theatre Theatre, Barneteatret Vart (Norway), Theater o.N (Germany), and Theater Junge Generation (Germany). Manley has previously been seen at The Wallis in *White*.

PAUL CURLEY (Older Andy) As an actor and deviser, Curley has collaborated with a wide range of companies in Ireland and the UK and has toured extensively throughout Europe, Australia, New Zealand, North America, and South East Asia. Some recent work includes: *White* (Catherine Wheels); *Black Beauty* (Red Bridge Arts); *Creating Gods* (Mingo Rajandi); *Happily Ever After* (Action Transport Theatre); *The Bockety World of Henry & Bucket, Jack, Boy with a Suitcase* (Barnstorm); *How to Keep an Alien* (Sonya Kelly & Rough Magic) *CARE* and *FARM* (WillFredd); *An Ideal Husband* (The Gate Theatre); *Assassins* (Rough Magic SEEDS); *Plaza Suite* (Rough Magic); *Snow Mouse* (Travelling Light/The Egg); *Mr Benn, Monster Hits, Twinkle Twonkle* (Tall Stories, London); *Bake!, The Dig* (Paul Curley & Ger Clancy). Originally from the West of Ireland, he is an alumni member of Six in the Attic, an Irish Theatre Institute resource-sharing initiative.

ANDY CANNON (Co-Creator and Co-Writer) is a writer, performer and professional storyteller based in Scotland. He founded Wee Stories Theatre for Children in 1996 and during his time as Artistic Director of the company, he was the lead or co-artist of many acclaimed productions—including the award winning productions of *Labyrinth* and *Arthur*. Since leaving Wee Stories in 2012, he has been creating and performing his own work, *Scota-land* for the 2012 Imagine Festival and the London 2012 festival, *Tales of a Grandson, Black Beauty* and *Space Ape*. In 2014, he was the Creative Performance Director of the Glasgow 2014 Commonwealth Games Opening Ceremony.

SHONA REPPE (Designer and Co-Creator) studied Theater and Art History at Glasgow University, followed by a postgraduate degree in Stage Design at the Welsh College of Drama in Cardiff (1992). In 1994 she attended The London School of Puppetry Summer School and established Shona Reppe Puppets in 1996. Shona's own work for young audiences includes *Cinderella* (winner of the Total Theatre Award and IPAY's Victor award), *Potato Needs a Bath* and *The Curious Scrapbook of Josephine Bean* (nominated for a Total Theatre award and winner of the TMA Theatre U.K. Award for Best Kid's Theater Show). Collaborative work includes designing the show *White* with Andy Manley and Catherine Wheels and co-creating *HUFF*, (winner of Herald Angel and a Critics Award for Theatre Award 2014).

IAN CAMERON (Creative Collaborator) trained as a visual artist at Central School of Art and Design in London before going on to study in the field of physical theater and puppetry with teachers including Lecoq, Gaulier, Monique Pagneaux, Pierre Byland, Théâtre du Mouvement and Desmond Jones. He has been a director, co-creator and performer in various award-winning productions such as Shona Reppe's *Cinderella*, Magnetic North's *A Walk At The Edge Of The World* and Catherine Wheels Theatre productions of *White* and *The Voice Thief*. Most recently he co-directed Magnetic North and Traverse Theatre's co-production *Our Fathers* and directed and co-created *Stick by Me* with Andy Manley.

DAVID TROUTON (Composer and Sound Designer) is a musician and composer best known for his work in theatre for young audiences. His long-standing collaborations with Wee Stories, Catherine Wheels, Visible Fictions and many other independent theatre companies have resulted in numerous award-winning shows, many of which tour internationally. David is also well known for his work in music education, exploring emotional literacy through music with pre-school and primary pupils,

designing and delivering cross-curricular learning projects and developing creative resources for teachers. His most recent books *Music and Me* and *Music in Transition* set out to develop pre-reading and emotional literacy skills in the nursery using music and creative play.

SIMON WILKINSON (Lighting Designer) designs lighting for theatre, opera and dance in all shapes, sizes and locations. For Robert Lepage and Ex Machina, Simon lit *The Magic Flute* as part of the Quebec City Opera Festival. For the National Theatre of Scotland, he lit *The 306: Dawn, Dragon* (with Vox Motus and Tianjin People's Art Theatre, China), *The Day I Swapped My Dad for Two Goldfish*, *Roman Bridge*, *Truant* and *A Sheep Called Skye*. For Vox Motus, his designs include *Flight*, *Dragon*, *The Infamous Brothers Davenport* (with the Royal Lyceum, Edinburgh), *The Not-So-Fatal Death of Grandpa Fredo*, *Bright Black* and the multi-award winning *Slick*. Simon has won the CATS Award for Best Design three times — for *Flight* in 2018, *Black Beauty* in 2017 and *Bondagers* in 2015. Over the years, his lighting has created a Guinness World Record, brought 30,000 people to a windswept Highland Forest, and caused reports of an alien invasion. For details of Simon's other work visit his website: www.simonwilkinson.net/biog

RED BRIDGE ARTS (Producer) is a producing company with a focus on creating work for young audiences and supporting artists' development. The company's mission is to nourish creativity and encourage curiosity. Since its establishment in 2015 Red Bridge has worked with some of Scotland's most exciting and experienced artists to develop, create and present performances for audiences of all ages. Performances include: *Black Beauty* in co-production with Traverse Theatre; *Night Light* created by Andy Manley and Teater Refleksion; *Stick by Me* by Andy Manley and Ian Cameron; *Tales of a Grandson* by Andy Cannon; *Mikey and Addie* by Andy Manley and Rob Evans, and *Titus* (English version) by Oliver Emanuel (winner of Victor Award).

TRAVERSE THEATRE (Producer) is Scotland's new writing theatre. Formed in 1963 by a group of passionate theatre enthusiasts, the Traverse was founded to extend the spirit of the Edinburgh festivals throughout the year. Today the Traverse nurtures emerging talent, produces award-winning new plays and offers a curated program of the best work from the United Kingdom and beyond, spanning theatre, dance, performance, music and spoken word. The Traverse has launched the careers of some of the UK's most celebrated writers — David Greig, David Harrower and Zinnie Harris — and continues to discover and support new voices — Stef Smith, Morna Pearson, Gary McNair and Rob Drummond. Traverse frequently tours internationally and engages in exchanges and partnerships— most recently in Quebec, Turkey and South Korea.

About the Wallis Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts:

Since opening its doors in October 2013, The Wallis has produced or presented more than 250 dance, theatre, opera, classical music, cinema and family programs to an ever-expanding audience. Located in the heart of Beverly Hills, California, The Wallis brings audiences world-class theater, dance and music, performed by many of the world's most talented and sought-after artists. Featuring eclectic programming that mirrors the diverse landscape of Los Angeles and its notability as the entertainment capital of the world, The Wallis offers original and revered works from across the U.S. and around the globe. The mission of The Wallis is to create, present and celebrate unique performing arts events and educational programs that reflect the rich cultural diversity of our community. Nominated for 48 Ovation Awards, seven L.A. Drama Critic's Circle Awards and the recipient of six architectural awards since opening in 2013. The Wallis is a breathtaking 70,000-square-foot venue that celebrates the classic and the modern and was designed by Zoltan E. Pali, FAIA, of Studio Pali Fekete architects. The building features the restored, original 1933 Beverly Hills Post Office (on the National Register of Historic Places) that serves as the theater's dramatic yet welcoming lobby, and houses the 150-seat Lovelace Studio Theater, GRoW at The Wallis: A Space for Arts Education (a gift of Gregory Annenberg Weingarten and Family and the Annenberg Foundation) and the contemporary 500-seat, state-of-the art Bram Goldsmith Theater. Together, these structures embrace the city's history and its future, creating a performing arts destination for L.A.-area visitors and residents alike.

For more information about The Wallis, please visit: TheWallis.org.
For downloadable photos, please visit: TheWallis.org/Press.
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EDITORS PLEASE NOTE:

WHAT:

Red Bridge Arts & Traverse Theatre Company's
BLACK BEAUTY
Created by Andy Manley, Andy Cannon and Shona Reppe

Cast

Andy Manley and Paul Curley

Credits

Co-creator, co-writer & performer Andy Manley
Co-creator & co-writer Andy Cannon
Designer & Co-creator Shona Reppe
Creative Collaborator Ian Cameron
Composer & Sound Designer Dave Trouton
Lighting Designer Simon Wilkinson
Production Manager Suzie Normand
Technical Supervisor and Relighter Renny Robertson
Costume Assistant Elspeth Chapman
Scenic Artist Caroline Doney
Set Builder Luke Oldfield
Assistant Set Builder Tamlin Wiltshire
Filmmaker Sandy Butler
Red Bridge Arts Producers Alice McGrath and Jennifer Cummins
Originally funded by Creative Scotland

WHEN:

Friday, April 26 – Sunday, May 5, 2019
Fridays, 7 pm; Saturdays and Sundays, 2 pm and 5 pm

RUN TIME:

90 minutes including a 15 minute intermission

WHERE:

Wallis Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts
Lovelace Studio Theater
9390 N. Santa Monica Boulevard
Beverly Hills, CA 90210

TICKET PRICES AND INFORMATION:

\$25 (prices subject to change)
TheWallis.org/Beauty
310.746.4000
Box Office – Wallis Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts Ticket Services
9390 N. Santa Monica Blvd, Beverly Hills, CA, 90210

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