



Untied Artists present The Boy Who Bit Picasso

An interactive theatre show for children of 4 years and up

Inspired by the book by Antony Penrose, Originally co-produced with Oxford Playhouse

About the show (80 word copy)

When Picasso comes to stay anything can happen!

Come and play on the farm with Tony and Picasso. We'll have loads of fun, make crazy pictures and tell the true story of how a young boy became friends with one of the greatest artists who ever lived.

Storytelling, music and puppetry combine with chances to make your own art in this hands-on and hilarious interactive family show for 4 years and up.

***"Channels the spirit of the artist"* The Guardian**



***"Every child is an artist. The problem is how to remain an artist once you grow up."* Picasso**

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Some background information

Tony is the son of photographer and model Lee Miller and surrealist artist Roland Penrose. During the 1950's their home at Farley Farm in Sussex was a magnet for many leading artists (Joan Miró, Man Ray, Richard Hamilton to name a few). It's there, at the age of 3, that he left a toothy reminder on Picasso's arm. It was a friendship that lasted many years, and Tony (all grown up) now runs his parents house as an art gallery, archive, museum and working farm!

His book 'The Boy Who Bit Picasso', was published in 2010, and uses his mothers' photographs and a selection of Picasso works to tell the story. Taking inspiration from the book, Untied Artists bring the story to life, encouraging young audiences to have a go at creating their own masterpieces along the way.

Production details

- The show premiered at Oxford Playhouse's BT Studio in March 2015. It is the company's second collaboration with OP, following the hugely successful site-specific show '**The Story of the Four Minute Mile**' in 2012.
- The show is **designed to work in a variety of contexts and settings**. In Spring 2015 it toured to small-scale theatres, libraries, village halls, schools, contemporary art galleries and children's theatres. It received **great feedback from venues, critics and audiences** young and old.
- There are 3 performers onstage (plus 1 technical manager in theatre venues)
- We can be **technically self sufficient** in all venues, but use lights and sound in venues which have them. **Get in min 2.5 hrs. Get out min 1 hour.**
- The **stage set up is intimate**, young audience sat around a floorcloth, with parents/carers behind them. Capacity for the show is dependent on venue and staff support

Audience Capacity

The following audience size and space guidelines are crucial to the smooth running of the show and the audience experience. Please take special note of these.

	Recommended	Maximum
For Schools	30 children (1 class plus support staff)	60 children (2 classes + support staff)
For Families	30 children / 30 Adults	45 children / 35 adults

- **Ideal dimensions (including audience) 10m long x 8m wide x 2.5 high**
- **Absolute Minimum dimensions 7.5m long x 6m wide x 2.5 high**
- **For larger audiences we must have the larger size or above**
- The recommended age range is **4-8 years, but children up to 11 years will enjoy** the content and relate to the 'going to big school' narrative elements. There is plenty to enjoy for adult audiences, indeed some of the most successful shows of the Spring15 run were those with the widest age range.
- A **free teachers pack** is available to aid wraparound learning for KS1 Arts curriculum.
- We **aim to attract mid-week audiences** by working closely with education and marketing teams to target schools. By offering the education pack to schools well in advance of the performances, children can engage with weekly arts activities that build up interest and draw focus to their forthcoming trip to the theatre. We are confident it is an offer schools will want to take up.

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About the company

Untied Artists' create performance that is characterised by its' **singularity, intimacy, musicality and heartfelt storytelling**. The company is run by **Jake Oldershaw and Jo Carr** from Birmingham UK. For this show they collaborated with **Gary Winters of Lone Twin**, Puppet pioneers **Creature Encounter**, and a host of other fantastic creatives.

Press Quotes

'Channels the spirit of the artist...a sweet little tale'

Andrew Pulver, The Guardian on The Boy Who Bit Picasso

'Intensely intimate cabaret...a delightful nugget of theatrical waywardness and invention.'

Lyn Gardner, The Guardian on Intimate History

'You won't find any more original'

Joyce McMillan, The Scotsman on Fringe First winner 'For Their Own Good'

Audience feedback on The Boy Who Bit Picasso

"We saw the show at St Barnabas School, Tunbridge Wells. It was by far the best children's theatre I have ever seen! The interaction with the children was wonderful from the start - the actor talking to the children on the floor level even before the play started. It was so well, cleverly produced. Everyone at the end had a big grin on their faces (young and old). Real quality.

We look forward to the next production from this group .We do go to all your offerings that we can - this was by far THE BEST."

'Our school is a special school, we have been studying the book all term and the kids absolutely loved it. They have not stopped talking about the show since and really enjoyed the work we have done in class since seeing the show. So, a massive thank you from us to you!'

"We LOVED the show! The kids said "I want to see it again! Because it was so funny and I liked Pablo Picasso.". They keep asking if they can watch the trailer over and over again. It's really inspired them - we've been looking at lots of Picasso paintings this week and they've been telling me "Whatever you can think of is real"

"We all had a great time and I thought it was a fantastic introduction to abstract art for young children, as well as a good story. You all interacted brilliantly with the kids and, because you limited the size of the audience, it felt really intimate. I also really liked the way you left the children with the idea that anything they see lying around can become something else with imagination. Alice (aged 3) particularly loved the art activities and has been pretending to be a bull since we came home!"

"I brought a family with me whose children had never been to the theatre before. Both Chinedu and Oluchi loved it and Chinedu (aged 6) particularly liked the drawing on Perspex. I thought that idea was inspired by the way!"

"We just wanted to say a big thank you for the wonderful time we had at "The Boy Who Bit Picasso" Love from KS1 children and staff from Edenham School, Bourne"

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