

PHOTO BY ROBERT DAY



CAHOOTS NI, BIRMINGHAM REPERTORY THEATRE, AND PRIME THEATRE:
PENGUINS

Tuesday, March 10, 2020, at 6:30pm
Studio Theatre

PROGRAM

CAHOOTS NI:

PENGUINS

Paul Bosco Mc Eaneay, creator and director

Sabine Dargent, set and costume designer

Carlos Pons Guerra, choreographer

Simon Bond, lighting designer

Garth McConaghie, composer and sound designer

Caroline Mirfin, costume maker

Cast

Olivia Van Niekerk

Dom Coffey

Osian Meilir

Penguins is a delightful new theatre production for young audiences. This co-production between Cahoots NI, Birmingham Repertory Theatre, and Prime Theatre is based on the true story of Roy and Silo, two male chinstrap penguins who lived at Central Park Zoo; together, they hatched an abandoned egg and raised a chick.

Join us for a warm and engaging story about friendship, acceptance, and the ever-changing definition of what makes a family. Featuring original music, dance, and magic, this is a unique experience not to be missed.

Cahoots NI appears by arrangement with:

Holden & Arts Associates, Inc.

PO Box 49036

Austin, TX 78765

512.477.1859

www.holdenarts.org

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PROFILES

CAHOOTS NI CHILDREN'S THEATRE COMPANY

Cahoots NI is at the forefront of Northern Irish theatre and is the leading professional theatre company producing work for children. Since beginning operations in November 2001, Cahoots NI has produced original, boldly innovative work for children, some staged in conventional theatre venues and some in purpose-designed sites or specific locations, including schools and healthcare settings. Its work concentrates on combining the visual potential of theatre with the age-old popularity of magic and illusion. For more information, please visit the company's website: www.cahootsni.com

OLIVIA VAN NIEKERK (cast) completed her professional training at Central School of Ballet in London and graduated in 2018. While there, she danced all over the United Kingdom with the graduate touring company Ballet Central, performing pieces by choreographers such as Wayne McGregor, Christopher Marney, Jenna Lee, and Matthew Bourne. Van Niekirk also played the title role of Cinderella, originally choreographed by the late Christopher Gable for Northern Ballet. Upon graduating, Van Niekirk has worked as a soloist dancer with Ballet Pécs in Hungary, performing regularly in Budapest as well as touring to countries such as Russia and Bosnia. Most recently, Van Niekirk was featured as a lead dancer in a short film titled *ManMade* commissioned by the BBC. She is now looking forward to performing in Birmingham, Belfast, and the United States with Cahoots NI in *Penguins!*

DOMINIC COFFEY (cast) was born in Chorlton, Manchester, and found his interest in dance whilst attending Chorlton High School. He started training in contemporary dance at the age of 16 while studying at Pendleton College from 2010-12. After leaving college, Coffey completed his degree at Northern School of Contemporary Dance in Leeds. Upon graduating, Coffey gained a place on the Jasmin Vardimon Professional Development Course where he had the opportunity to tour with a company called JV2. During his time there, he performed work by Jasmin Vardimon herself. Coffey has worked professionally with Gary Clarke, Hawk Dance Theatre, Carlos Pons Guerra, and Joe Garbett. He is also an educational facilitator for Jasmin Vardimon.

OSIAN MEILIR (cast) is originally from Pentre'r Bryn on the west coast of Wales. Meilir went on to train at Trinity Laban Conservatoire of Music and Dance in London, attaining a first-class degree before continuing his studies and completing his MA in dance performance as part of Transitions Dance Company in 2017. Since graduating, Meilir has worked as a rehearsal assistant for Lizzi Kew Ross as she choreographed a piece for third-year students at Trinity Laban. He has also worked on the creation of his own solo for Cwmni Theatr Arad Goch—"Palmant/Pridd" (Pavement/Pasture), which was performed at Opening Doors Festival in March 2019 and at the National Eisteddfod of Wales last August. Meilir's very early experiences and background of Welsh folk dance has led him to appreciate dance from all different cultures and to enjoy how dance can build meaningful bridges between people from around the world. He is very excited to be back working on the production of *Penguins* which shares a story that he holds quite close to his heart.