

14 December 2022 - 1 January 2023



JACK AND THE BEANSTALK

DIGITAL PROGRAMME

WELCOME

Welcome back to Jacksons Lane for our first home-grown Christmas show since the redevelopment of our 150 year-old building. I hope you like what you see and experience. I'm delighted to welcome back both writer and director Kaveh, as well as some familiar faces from the Jacksons Lane stage for this totally unique take on the classic children's tale.

Jack and the Beanstalk is normally seen in theatres as a pantomime, but this is our own modern circus take with a few nods to that famed tradition.

Have a great festive season and new year.

See you in 2023!

Adrian Berry
Artistic Director, Jacksons Lane



Photo: Alex Brenner, Illustration: Katie Gulson

A NOTE FROM THE DIRECTOR

I've been telling tall tales with circus for years so when thinking of ideas for this year's Christmas show, the offering of having a rope as a beanstalk to be climbed just couldn't be ignored! I'm keen on looking at stories from other angles and this year has been no exception. Framed by the central relationship between Jackie and her mother, the story unfolds to reveal mum's fear of the outside, fuelled by the stories she'd been told by her parents, and their parents. The giant looms large, but is he all she's been led to believe?

Pithy subject matter aside, I hope we've also filled the room with enough colour, stories, and physical dexterity to keep the kids – and their adults – entertained.

The process for making this show been truly collaborative and it has been an absolute privilege to have been involved with such a supportive, open, and creative team. I hope you enjoy watching it as much as we've enjoyed making it!

I'd like to dedicate the show to those connected to the cast and creative team who couldn't be here to see it. Your presence has been very much felt and appreciated throughout the process.

Kaveh Rahnama
Director



Photo: Alex Brenner



THE COMPANY

Mum Charmaine Childs

Jackie Jackie Le

Giant Sam Newton

Writer & Director Kaveh Rahnama

Set & Costume Designer Andie Scott

Sound & Music Designer/Composer Liam Quinn

Shadow Filmmaker & Puppetry Consultant Alison Alexander

Lighting Designer Kevin Millband

Stage Manager Joe Edwards

Trainee Reese Campbell

Trainee Shakira Crawford

Trainee Chloe Hosken

Produced by Jacksons Lane

FOR JACKSONS LANE

Executive Director/Joint CEO Hannah Cox

Artistic Director/Joint CEO Adrian Berry

General Manager Warrick Griggs

Front of House Manager Andy Martin

Hires and Events Manager Bilen Shifferaw

Marketing Manager Maxine Smiles

Marketing Assistant Alicia Bridge

Head of Creative Learning Natalia Cid Garcia

Youth Project Manager Chusi Amoros

Community & Volunteers Manager Joanna Ashmore

Community Project Manager Molly Wilson

Creative Engagement Assistant Maxime Singleton

Technical Manager Kevin Millband

Technician Joe Edwards



Supported using public funding by
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Photo: Alex Brenner

BIOGRAPHIES



Charmaine Childs Mum

In a magical land, far far away (aka Australia) Charmaine grew up to become a circus strong lady. As a performer and creative producer of Strong Lady Productions she has spent the past 20 years touring solo and ensemble works to outdoor arts festivals, theatres and variety shows around the world.

She was last at Jacksons Lane, as part of the 2022 London International Mime Festival programme.

Her next adventure is about to begin, as she dives into the role of Producer for Circa in 2023.

You can see more about her at strongladyproductions.com or on Instagram as [@strongladyproductions](https://www.instagram.com/strongladyproductions).



Jackie Le Jackie

Once upon a time, an unhappy Jackie worked 7am - 6pm Mon-Fri as an Office Manager for a Global Investment Fund. Jackie soon realised she disliked where her life was leading and tried many hobbies to kill the empty void, learning new skills such as Wing Chun Kung Fu, rock climbing and somehow stumbled across circus.

Jackie met some like-minded people, fell in love with the talent they had and ran away to join whichever circus that wanted her at the geriatric age of 25.

Jackie is now an accomplished dangler hanging from objects at height all across the globe. Not only does she depict extraordinary shapes with her apparatuses, Jackie sometimes can be found behind the scenes as a circus director and aerial coach.

This is her first time on stage using her voice. It's a new challenge but she's enjoying it!



Sam Newton Giant

Three decades ago, in a magical land called Birmingham, a young boy named Sam was born. He went on to become an actor, mover and voice actor.

He pursued this path in search of variety and adventure and has welcomed this chance to join the circus with open arms!

Since graduating from Central School of Speech and Drama in 2016, some of his credits include Christopher in *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time*, Ed in Tom Wells' *Big, Big Sky*, Nigel in Nigel Slater's *Toast* as well as appearing in sitcom *Newark, Newark* and BBC staples *Casualty* and *Doctors*.

Photo: Alex Brenner



Kaveh Rahnama
Writer & Director

Kaveh has been performing, directing, and producing circus theatre work for the past 15 years. He was joint director of So & So Circus until 2013, artistic director of Nearly There Yet from 2015-2022, and is currently project lead of Future Formed, a project set up to support Waltham Forest residents into creative careers.

His work has been performed across the UK – from village halls in the north of Scotland, to rural theatre in Wales and Ireland, to The Royal Festival Hall main stage and the Roundhouse. Jacksons Lane has supported his work throughout and he is proud to be writing and directing *Jack and the Beanstalk* this year. Enjoy the show!



Liam Quinn
Sound & Music Designer/Composer

Liam has been composing music and creating sound design for theatre, TV, games and trailers for over ten years. He has created music for previous shows at Jacksons Lane, as well as for performances at the Roundhouse, National Centre for Circus Arts, Arc Stockton and Little Angel Theatre, to name a handful. He has worked alongside Kaveh, the director, many times, and loves creating emotive and immersive sound to bring stories to life.



Andie Scott
Set & Costume Designer

Andie Scott is an international fine artist and award-winning designer for film and theatre and has exhibited in the UK, Paris, Hong Kong, New York, Prague and Moscow. She has created set and costumes for theatre, opera and circus with designs focused on being 95% sustainable and recyclable. She has worked extensively in creating community engaged exhibitions and environmental interventions, running workshops for children and partially sighted adults at the National Portrait Gallery, national touring exhibitions, Islington and the Whitechapel Gallery. Next year she is designing for a feature film in Poland using this cardboard set concept for all the interior scenes.



Alison Alexander
Shadow Filmmaker & Puppetry Consultant

Alison is a theatre designer specialising in puppetry design and making. After graduating from Wimbledon College of Art she was apprentice to Lyndie Wright at Little Angel Theatre and has since worked professionally on over 50 productions including designing for Little Angel Theatre, Goblin Theatre, Monstro Theatre and Tate Modern. Assisting at Knee High and Theatre Rites and mentoring in puppet design at Royal Central School of Speech and Drama, Guildhall and East15. Alongside design Alison has a passion for environmental sustainability and nature and tries to weave this through her work.

ABOUT FUTURE FORMED



POWERED BY

THE LONDON BOROUGH OF WALTHAM FOREST

The Future Formed Programme works to support and highlight pathways into the creative industries, with a particular focus on pushing broader representation across the arts. They have worked with Jacksons Lane to create opportunities for three young residents to shadow the creative process of *Jack and the Beanstalk*. They have helped create the set you see, and are working behind the scenes to make the live production happen. They have learnt about how a writing and directing process works and have also seen how other elements of the building – including front of house, box office, and Jacksons Lane’s creative engagement programme – all work together to make Jacksons Lane tick.

For more information on our supported projects, or how you can get involved in developing yourself and your career, email kaveh.rahnama@walthamforest.gov.uk, pop into one of our monthly surgeries, or give us a follow @futureformed_wf on Instagram.



Shakira Crawford
Trainee

Shakira is a Waltham Forest resident and has worked on many events this year. She has been given the opportunity to be a first time Assistant Stage Manager at Jacksons Lane for the live production of *Jack and the Beanstalk*.

Over the five-week funded placement, Shakira has been spending time with the cast and crew and learning all about the different roles that go into the theatre: partaking in script rehearsals and stage building, learning about puppetry, shadow puppets, wardrobe design, tech, lighting and sitting in on the performance rehearsals.



Reese Campbell
Trainee

After withdrawing from Queen Mary University (Film Studies BA), Reese joined the Future Formed programme as part of Waltham Forest, which provided her with opportunities within creative fields, such as video editing, and the programming and production of film events, most noticeably the Walthamstow International Film Festival (2021 and 2022) with E17 Films.

For *Jack and the Beanstalk*, Reese has worked on the design for the show, helping build the set and creating props.

Reese has been enjoying the small, close-knit community of people at Jacksons Lane, who help make a warm and relaxed environment, whilst still being professional.



Chloe Hosken
Trainee

Chloe is excited to be working on the production of *Jack and the Beanstalk*. Chloe has provided technical support and supporting artists at *Waltham Forest Pride* and other events at The Chequers Pub in Walthamstow.

Chloe has completed a Set Ready course which has led her to become a runner on film and TV sets. She has been working with the different members of the team to learn about the different roles that occur to help make the show.



Photos: Alex Brenner