

The New Victory Theater Presents
Windmill Theatre Co's
Grug and the Rainbow
at The New 42nd Street Studios



**Playful Puppetry Performance for Preschoolers Based on the
Celebrated Picture Book Series by Ted Prior**

New York Premiere May 13 – 21

New York, NY (April 20, 2017) -- The beloved burrawang-born bloke from Down Under returns in the all new colorful tale, ***Grug and the Rainbow***. Leaping from the pages of Ted Prior's celebrated series of picture books, Grug enlists the help of his friends, Cara the carpet snake and Snoot the echidna, on a quest to capture a rainbow that he can call his very own. Featuring playful puppetry and imaginative storytelling for kids ages three to five, ***Grug and the Rainbow*** makes its New York Premiere with The New Victory Theater at the New 42nd Street Studios from May 13-21, 2017.

Created by Australian author Ted Prior in the early 1970s, the popular children's picture book series has experienced a revival in the past decade. Prior's first *Grug* book was published by Hodder & Stoughton in 1979, followed by the release of more than 20 popular and much-loved book in the series. Due to Grug's lasting popularity, the original series was republished by Simon & Schuster in 2009 and, since then, has added ten new titles. In 2010, Windmill created the original stage show *Grug* which played to over 50,000 children and families all over the world, including a run with The New Victory in 2013.

"It was an exciting privilege to create the first *Grug* show and, now, the sequel ***Grug and the Rainbow***. Grug is this really naive creature discovering the world around him, and it's lovely for this age group because they are just discovering the world too," says director Sam Haren. For Windmill, Haren has directed *Plop!* (New Vic 2012), *Escape from Peligro Island*, *Grug and Grug and the Rainbow*, as well as the interactive experience *My Room*.

Based in Adelaide, South Australia, Windmill creates and tours (across Australia and internationally) unique, contemporary theater and films for children, teens and families. Windmill has won several prestigious awards, including this year's Australia Council Theatre Award honor for artistic director Rosemary Myers, and an Australian Film Critics Association Best Film Award for *Girl Asleep*. Collectively, the company has won or been nominated for 3 Sydney Theatre Awards, 14 Helpmann Awards and 5 Ruby Awards, among others, for their productions of *Pinocchio* (New Vic 2014), *Big Bad Wolf*, *Grug* and their trilogy for teenagers: *Fugitive*, *School Dance* and *Girl Asleep*.

Grug and the Rainbow is created by Sam Haren (director), Jonathan Oxlade (designer) and Chris Petridis (technical manager). The cast includes Matt Crook, Tamara Rewse and Ellen Steele. Lighting design is by Chris Petridis and original compositions by DJ TR!P creates a magical soundscape that completes the show.

Performance Schedule: 12 performances

Saturday, May 13 at 10am / 1pm / 4pm

Sunday, May 14 at 10am / 1pm / 4pm

Saturday, May 20 at 10am / 1pm / 4pm

Sunday, May 21 at 10am* / 1pm / 3pm

*sign-interpreted performance

Grug and the Rainbow has a running time of 40 minutes with no intermission, and is recommended for kids ages 3-5.

Grug and the Rainbow is supported, in part, by a Presenter's Grant from The Jim Henson Foundation.

Learn more about ***Grug and the Rainbow*** on the [New Victory Website](#) at [NewVictory.org](#)

Ticket Information

Tickets for ***Grug and the Rainbow*** at the New 42nd Street Studios (229 West 42nd Street) are \$13 for Members and \$20 at full price. Tickets are available online (**NewVictory.org**) and by telephone (**646.223.3010**). The New Victory Theater box office (209 West 42nd Street) is open Tuesday through Saturday from 12pm-7pm.

Theatergoers who buy tickets for three or more New Victory shows qualify for free Membership benefits, including locked-in discount ticket prices, free unlimited exchanges (up to 48 hours in advance) and access to a first-look purchase period for newly added performances.

About The New Victory Theater

The New Victory Theater brings kids to the arts and the arts to kids as New York City's premier theater devoted to the highest quality performing arts for kids and families. Serving the city in all its diversity, The New Victory Theater on 42nd Street presents theater, dance, circus, opera and music from around the world at affordable ticket prices. In addition to its public performances, the New Vic is also the largest provider of live performance to NYC school kids, serving 40,000 students in grades PreK-12 from more than 200 schools, after school programs and day camps each year. The New Victory Theater's contributions to the cultural landscape of the city have been honored by the President's Committee on the Arts and the Humanities with the National

Arts and Humanities Youth Program Award, a national Arts Education Award from Americans for the Arts and a Drama Desk Award for "providing enchanting, sophisticated children's theater that appeals to the child in all of us, and for nurturing a love of theater in young people."

About The New 42nd Street

Founded in 1990, The New 42nd Street is an independent nonprofit organization charged with the continuous cultural revival of 42nd Street between 7th and 8th Avenues. Committed to the transformational power of the arts, The New 42nd Street builds on the foundation of seven historic theaters to make extraordinary performing arts and cultural engagement part of everyone's life. The New 42nd Street fulfills this purpose by ensuring the ongoing vibrancy of 42nd Street's historic theaters; maintaining and fully using the New 42nd Street Studios and The Duke on 42nd Street to support performing artists in the creation of their work; and through The New Victory Theater, New York's premier theater for kids and families.

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