

THE NEW VICTORY THEATER 2016-17 SEASON

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The New Victory Theater Presents at The New 42nd Street Studios Teater Refleksion & Branar Téatar's



Based on the picture book by Oliver Jeffers

Imagination Takes Flight in Puppetry Performance for Preschoolers

U.S. Premiere March 10 – 26

New York, NY (January 31, 2017) -- Denmark's **Teater Refleksion** and Ireland's **Branar Téatar** bring to life the whimsical world of "The Way Back Home" by acclaimed artist, illustrator and writer **Oliver Jeffers**. An intimate puppetry performance full of physical humor and gentle, original music, **The Way Back Home** makes its U.S. Premiere with The New Victory Theater at The New 42nd Street Studios from March 10-26, 2017.

In **The Way Back Home**, a touching tale about friendship and the courage to conquer the unknown, a young boy discovers a single-propeller airplane in his bedroom and does what any adventurer would do: soars into outer space! When the plane begins to sputter and quake, our intrepid explorer must execute a daring landing on the moon. But never fear, he is not alone up there.... A study in simplicity, this wordless production for ages three to five reflects the "spare beauty" and "dreamlike quality" (*The Independent*) of Jeffers' work in picture books, which includes the "Huey" series, *The Incredible Book Eating Boy*, *This Moose Belongs to Me*, *The Day the Crayons Quit* and its sequel *The Day the Crayons Came Home*, and most recently, *A Child of Books*.

Published by HarperCollins UK, *The Way Back Home* was released in 2007 and received a Merit Award at the 2008 Bisto Book of the Year Awards. Teater Refleksion and Branar Téatar, in association with Barboró International Arts Festival for Children, adapted the book for the

stage in 2014. Since then, the show has toured throughout Denmark and Northern Ireland, and France, Norway, Sweden and Japan.

No stranger to the New Vic, Teater Refleksion (*Songs from Above*, 2013 and 2007) is known for telling universal stories through puppetry and animation. Nominated for Best Children's Show at Denmark's Reumert Awards for *Arthur and the Angel* (1999) and *The Prince and the Servant* (2001), Teater Refleksion creates high-quality theatrical productions for audiences of all ages.

Based in Ireland, Branar Téatar, which aims to "tell big stories for little citizens," strives for a "simple yet elegant" form of theater for young audiences. The company creates works that require few means, yet stimulate and challenge the imagination.

The Way Back Home is directed by Marc Mac Lochlainn and Bjarne Sandborg. The cast includes Nease Ní Nichuann, understudied by Sif Hymøller, and Aapo Juhana Repo, understudied by Bjarne Sandborg. Puppet and set design for ***The Way Back Home*** is by Mariann Aagaard, assisted by Malene Laurvig. Music is by Henrik Andersen, sound design is by Morten Meilvang Laursen and lighting design is by Morten Ladefoged.

The Way Back Home is supported, in part, by a Presenter's Grant from The Jim Henson Foundation and by an award from the National Endowment for the Arts. Learn more about ***The Way Back Home*** on the [New Victory website](#) at NewVictory.org.

Public Performance Schedule: 18 performances

Friday, March 10 at 1pm
Saturday, March 11 at 10am / 1pm / 4pm
Sunday, March 12 at 10am / 1pm
Friday, March 17 at 11am
Saturday, March 18 at 10am / 1pm / 4pm
Sunday, March 19 at 10am / 1pm*
Friday, March 24 at 1pm
Saturday, March 25 at 10am / 1pm / 4pm**
Sunday, March 26 at 10am / 1pm

*Oliver Jeffers is scheduled to participate in a post-show autograph signing after the 1pm performance on Sunday, March 19.

**sign-interpreted performance

The Way Back Home has a running time of 45 minutes with no intermission and is recommended for ages 3-5.

Ticket Information

Tickets for ***The Way Back Home*** 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 President Obama'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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