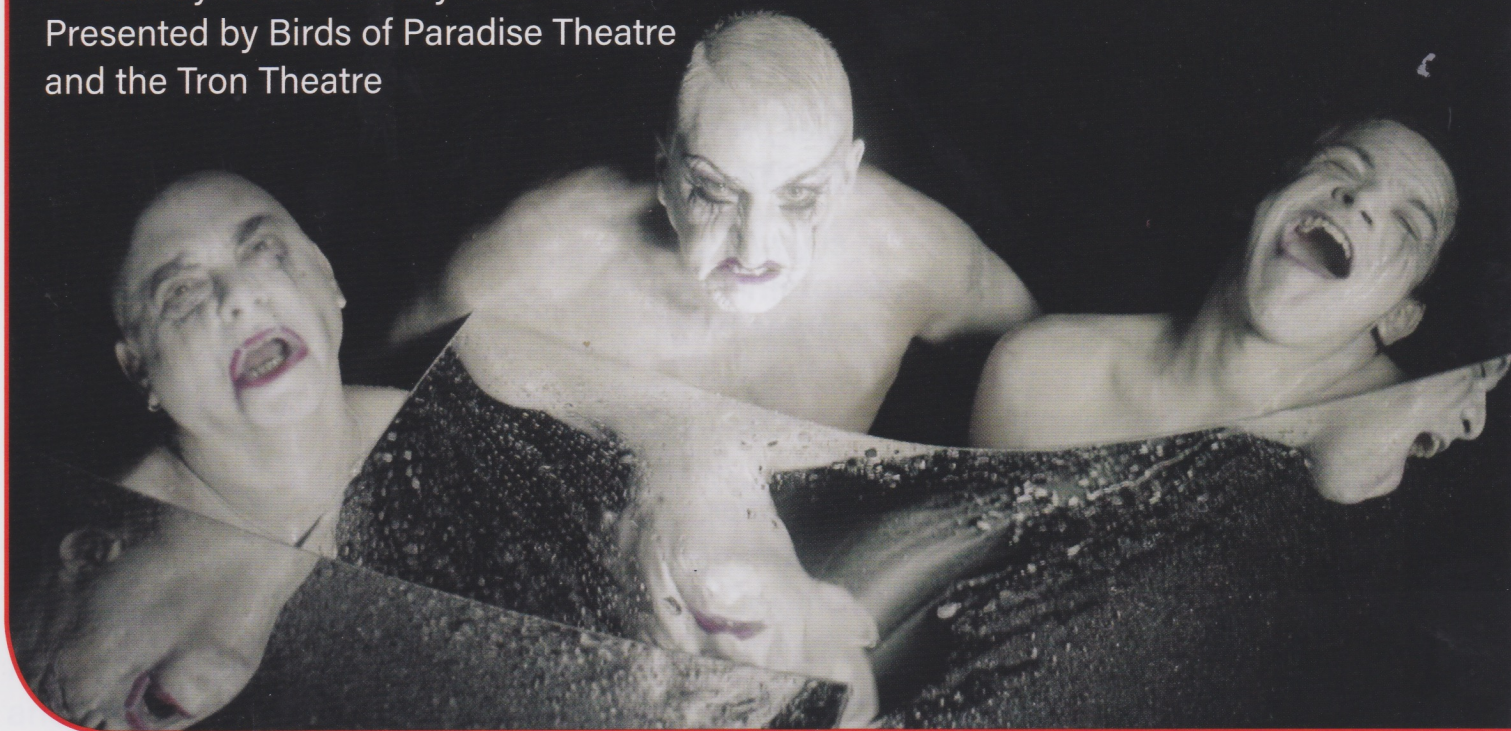


BLANCHE & BUTCH

Written by Robert Softley Gale

Presented by Birds of Paradise Theatre
and the Tron Theatre



CAST

Robert Softley Gale
Garry Robson
Kinny Gardner
Amelia Cavallo
Amy Cheskin
Cara Ballingall

Blanche
Butch
Bette
Keys
BSL Interpreter
Wendy



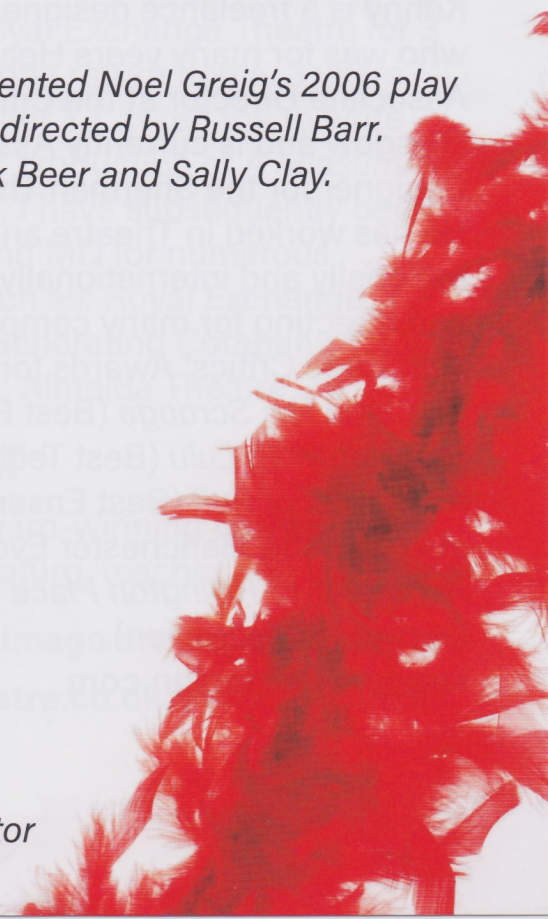
BIRDS OF PARADISE
THEATRE COMPANY

Blanche and Butch were originally characters in the late lamented Noel Greig's 2006 play with songs Heelz on Wheels produced by Fittings MMA and directed by Russell Barr. The original production featured Garry and Robert with Mark Beer and Sally Clay.

CREATIVE TEAM

Robert Softley Gale
Kenny Miller
Tayo Akinbode
Amelia Cavallo
Philip Osment
Grant Anderson
Darren Brownlie
Fraser Macleod
Jennie Lööf
Amy Cheskin
Christopher McKiddie
Philippa Clark

Writer & Lyricist
Director & Designer
Composer
Musical Director
Dramaturgy
Lighting Designer
Movement Director
Assistant Director
Wardrobe
BSL translation
Audio Description Writer
Cabaret Development Facilitator



PRODUCTION TEAM

Colin Bell
Avalon Hernandez
Daniel Thompson
Sophie Wall
Cassie Dickson
Jamie Rae
Glenda Carson

Production Manager
Stage Manager
Technical Stage Manager
PA to Amelia Cavallo
Rehearsal Assistant
BSL Trailer presenter
Captioning consultant

BOP THEATRE

Robert Softley Gale
Garry Robson
Mairi Taylor
Michelle Rolfe
Callum Madge
Joy Parkinson

Artistic Director
Artistic Director
Executive Producer
Assistant Producer
Projects Officer
Press Coordination

BOP THANKS

James Collins for use of "I don't do drag" | Outspoken | Everyone at Tron Theatre | Amble Skuse | National Theatre of Scotland | Mark Cameron | Carol Chambers | Eamonn McCarron | Kevin Murray | Scottish Youth Theatre | Royal Conservatoire of Scotland | Lyceum Theatre | Dundee Rep | Steve Mackluskie | Colin Stephen | Sean Clark | Matic Media | Citizen's Theatre | Amy Sinead Moran

KENNY MILLER

Kenny is a freelance designer and director who was for many years Head of Design/ Associate Director at the Citizens' Theatre, Glasgow and is currently Associate Artist: Designer for the Sherman Theatre, Cymru. He has worked in Theatre and Opera both nationally and internationally, designing and directing for many companies. He has won three Critics' Awards for Theatre in Scotland for: *Scrooge* (Best Production), *Smoking With Lulu* (Best Technical), and *A Little Bit of Ruff* (Best Ensemble). He has also won the Manchester Evening News Award for *10 Rillington Place* (Best Designed Production).

kennymillerdesign.com

ROBERT SOFTLEY GALE

Robert is an established figure in the Scottish arts scene. His professional acting debut was in 2002 and since then he has appeared in many productions – including co-writing and performing in *Girl X* for National Theatre of Scotland. His award-winning solo performance - *If These Spasms Could Speak* - was a hit of the 2013 Made in Scotland programme and has subsequently toured internationally to countries including Brazil, Estonia, the USA, Ireland and India. For BOP he has directed the smash-hit sex comedy *Wendy Hoose* and *Purposeless Movements*, for which he was nominated for a CATS Best Director award.



GARRY ROBSON

Garry has directed over 40 professional productions here and abroad receiving awards including a Manchester Evening News Theatre Award and a Herald Angel. He was Artistic Director of DaDaFest International 2008 & 2010, establishing DaDaFest as one of the key International Festivals for Deaf and Disability Arts and performance worldwide. He has performed in numerous roles on TV and Radio in many of the major theatres in the UK in a range of classics and new works. He's looking forward to donning a frock once more in the never ending story that is *Heelz on Wheels*.

KINNY GARDNER

Kinny is from Leith, is Hard of Hearing and is 58 years old. Studied Classical Ballet and at The Martha Graham School with Graham herself. West End credits: *Godspell, The Rocky Horror Show, The Mousetrap & Chicago*. Kinny is a principal guest solo artist with The Lindsay Kemp Company and retains the honour of being the only person permitted to re-create a Kemp company work outside of Kemp's own. Artistic Director of Krazy Kat Theatre Company and an Adviser to Cbeebies. Awards: BBC Community Hero Award, British Citizens Award, British Empire Medal for services to Theatre and Disability (Queen's Birthday Honours List). kinnygardner.com

AMELIA CAVALLO

Amelia is a blind performer, multi-instrumentalist, composer and musical director from the USA with experience in acting, singing, dancing, aerial circus and burlesque. Recent performances include *Tommy* (Ramps On The Moon) *Into The Woods* (Royal Exchange Manchester) *A Winter's Tale* (Taking Flight Theatre),

Beauty and The Beast (Theatre Royal Stratford) and *The Threepenny Opera* (Graeae Theatre Company). She has also composed, MDed and performed in original works called *Sailing Through The Dark* (Liberty Festival) and *I Breathe* (Flying Diplodocus). ameliacavallo.com

AMY CHESKIN

Amy is an experienced Performance Interpreter. Having studied SL P&L at UoB (2008) she has performed at venues across Scotland and is delighted to re-join BOP after *Purposeless Movements*.

CARA BALLINGALL

Cara's credits include: *Young Chekhov: Ivanov* (Royal National Theatre), *Alice's Adventure's Underground* (Les Enfants Terribles, Olivier-nominated) and *Lost at Sea* (Finborough Theatre). She trained at Guildford School of Acting & with NYT.

TAYO AKINBODE

I was born in London to Nigerian parents and discovered theatre at the Royal Court's Activists Youth Theatre. At 18 I went to Manchester to work on the stage crew at the Royal Exchange Theatre for 3 months but didn't return home. 3 years later, Manchester YT asked me to write music for their production of *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. I have subsequently been a composer and MD for numerous companies such as: Royal Exchange Theatre, The Generating Company, OCT East, Shenzen, Almeida Theatre...

PHILIP OSMENT

Philip is an award-winning playwright, director, dramaturg, teacher and facilitator.

Full bios and image credits available at
www.boptheatre.co.uk/blanche-butch/

WANT SOME MORE?

Join us at our Cabaret on Saturday 14th October at Summerhall Edinburgh 9-11pm. BOP, in partnership with Luminate and LGBT Age, presents an outrageous, accessible inter-generational cabaret featuring a cast of artists and performers who have taken part in our cabaret development project. Compered by Kinny Gardner and with performances threatened from the whole cast! BSL interpretation, live text and audio description. Booking essential. www.summerhall.co.uk



AND NOW FOR SOMETHING COMPLETELY DIFFERENT...

Winter 2017 BOP presents *The Tin Soldier* at The Studio, Festival Theatre Edinburgh. An award-winning creative team bring you a magical re-telling designed for 5-9 year olds but open to all dreamers. Directed by Garry Robson, written by Mike Kenny and designed by Russian artist Victor Nonenko.



BIRDS OF PARADISE
THEATRE COMPANY

ABOUT BOP

Next year BOP is 25 years old! Over the last 25 years we have worked towards an artistic vision of a culture where disabled artists are recognised for the excellence of their work, celebrated for the stories that they bring to the stage and are a vital part of the artistic landscape of Scotland. We would be thrilled if you would join us in celebrating this achievement by giving £25 for 25!

BOP has influenced theatre in Scotland and changed the lives of many disabled people - your help will take our vision forward for another 25! In this special year, we are asking you to donate £25 to help us create more opportunities for young disabled people to get involved in the arts, bring more unique stories to the stage and support others to embrace creative access - we are excited for the challenge and change of the next 25 years!

Donate **£25** to
celebrate **25 years**

Everyone that donates will be invited
to all our 2018 celebrations
www.boptheatre.co.uk/donate

www.boptheatre.co.uk



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