

**THE  
OLD  
VIC**

**NSI** NUFFIELD  
SOUTHAMPTON  
THEATRES

**underbelly productions**



13 February 2020

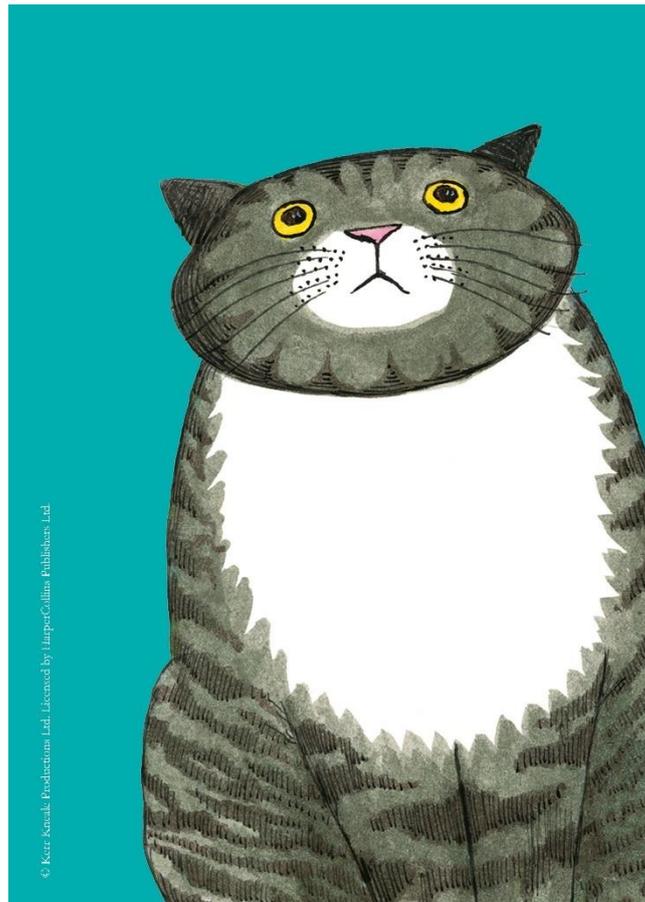
## **PRESS RELEASE**

The Old Vic, Nuffield Southampton Theatres, Underbelly Productions and Wardrobe Ensemble present the WORLD PREMIERE of

# **Judith Kerr's MOG THE FORGETFUL CAT**

Adapted by The Wardrobe Ensemble

Download images [here](#) #mogtheforgetfulcat



- **The fully-staged world premiere production will open at Nuffield Southampton Theatres (16 – 25 July) before heading to McEwan Hall with Underbelly at Edinburgh Fringe (5 – 30 August)**

- **Further dates to be announced**

The acclaimed Wardrobe Ensemble adapt **Judith Kerr**'s beloved and iconic stories in a first-ever stage version of Mog, the final author-approved adaptation by the late Judith Kerr, in a first-time collaboration between co-producers The Old Vic, Nuffield Southampton Theatres, Underbelly Productions and The wardrobe Ensemble.

**Nuffield Southampton Theatres Artistic Director Sam Hodges** said *'These are very special stories from one of this country's greatest writers for young audiences. We couldn't be more delighted to be working with the brilliant Wardrobe Ensemble and opening this world premiere here in Southampton, building on our growing reputation for family work.'*

'Bother that cat!'

Mog always seems to be in trouble. She forgets that she has a cat flap and she forgets that she has already eaten her supper. But sometimes, Mog's forgetfulness comes in very handy...

Helena Middleton of The Wardrobe Ensemble said *'I absolutely loved the Mog books growing up. We used to have a book fair at my school and I would literally race there to make sure I was the first to get my hands on a copy. I am so delighted to be part of the team which will bring Mog to the stage and honour Judith Kerr's gorgeous stories and illustrations.'*

With songs, live music and a whole menagerie of creatures little and large, these timeless tales of family and friendship are brought to life to allow a new generation of children to fall in love with Mog.

**Holly Reiss, Underbelly Executive Producer** said: *'We are delighted to be bringing the cherished story of Mog to life for audiences of all ages at the Edinburgh Festival Fringe this year, capturing the hearts and imaginations of the next generation of theatre-lovers. Family shows are an essential part of Underbelly's programme at the Fringe and we are thrilled to be bringing this much-loved story to the stage for the first time.'*

Join Mog and the Thomases on a journey through one year in the life of a really remarkable cat, as she catches a burglar, gatecrashes a cat show, goes to the vee-eee-tee and eats lots and lots of eggs.

Look out for further announcements of more dates coming soon.

Suitable for ages 3+.

**For more information contact Clair Chamberlain**  
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### **Listings information**

#### **Nuffield Southampton Theatres**

16 – 25 July

17 – 25 July 10.30am (no performance 19 July)

18 – 25 July 2pm (no performance 19 July)

16 & 17 July 4pm

**Press performance 2pm 20 July**

Tickets: Adult - £17.50; Child - £15.50.

Book by 29 February and save £1.50 per ticket  
Box Office 023 8067 1771 / <https://www.nstheatres.co.uk/whats-on/mog>  
Friends Priority bookings 19 Feb  
General On Sale 20 Feb

## Underbelly

Venue: Underbelly at the Edinburgh Fringe, Bristo Square - McEwan Hall  
5 – 30 August 11am (no performance 18 August)

**First review date 8 August 11am**

Tickets: Previews - £11.50 / £10.00

Mondays / Thursdays - £13.50 / £12.00

Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays - £14.50 / £13.00

Box Office: 0131 510 0395 / <http://www.underbellyedinburgh.co.uk/whats-on>

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### Notes to Editors

#### Judith Kerr

Judith Kerr was born in Berlin, but her family came to England from Germany in 1933 to escape the rise of the Nazi party. She studied at the Central School of Art and later worked as a scriptwriter for the BBC.

Judith married the celebrated screenwriter Nigel Kneale in 1954. She left the BBC to look after her two children, who inspired her first picture book, *The Tiger Who Came to Tea*. First published in 1968, it has sold many millions of copies throughout the world and has become a beloved classic.

Her other works include *Mog the Forgetful Cat* and *When Hitler Stole Pink Rabbit*. In 2012 Judith was awarded an OBE for her services to children's literature and holocaust education, and in 2019 she was named Illustrator of the Year at the British Book Awards. Judith died in May 2019. Her much-loved stories have delighted generations of children.

#### The Old Vic

The Old Vic aims to be surprising, unpredictable, ground-breaking, rule-breaking, independent, accessible and uplifting.

Today, Artistic Director Matthew Warchus is building on over 200 years of creative adventure.

The Old Vic is a not-for-profit theatre operating a breakeven budget in a historic, Grade II\* listed building with the help of £3.9 million of philanthropic support every year from our generous supporters. We produce and present five to seven diverse productions every Season, enhanced by a vibrant programme of One Voice monologues, Voices Off talks, Lates and day-time events for families. Off stage we engage with over 10,000 people a year from across the UK through our award-winning education, employability and community work.

We hold the belief that theatre needs to be supported and shared by as many people as possible. Our 1,000 seats are yours from £10 a ticket. Our productions are adventurous, new, epic, exciting. Our Education and Talent programmes allow students to explore and artists of tomorrow to create. Our building is open and alive day and night. Our theatre is yours.

#### The Wardrobe Ensemble

The Wardrobe Ensemble is a Bristol-based group of theatre artists working together to make and tour new plays. They explore the big ideas of our time through intimate human stories and bold imagery. They consist of nine core members, one producer and a constantly growing community of associate artists and work as a democratic devising ensemble wherein every member contributes to the research, writing, structuring, and performing of a show, creating a unique shared theatrical language and aesthetic from show to show. They have made a variety of shows for all ages and at the heart of all our work is a desire to tell a compelling story in a visually engaging and inventive way.

The Wardrobe Ensemble have made four shows for younger years; *The Star Seekers* ‘silly sparkling stuff’ \*\*\*\* The Stage, *The Time Seekers* ‘an absolute joy’ \*\*\*\*\* Bristol Arts Monster, *The Deep Sea Seekers* (developed at the National Theatre Studio) and *Little Tim and the Brave Sea Captain* ‘a seamless triumph of a show’ \*\*\*\*\* Children’s Theatre Magazine, and five shows for families; *Eliza and the Wild Swans*, *Edgar and the Land of Lost*, *Eloise and the Curse of the Golden Whisk* ‘inventive and engaging’ \*\*\*\* The Stage, *The Forever Machine* and *The Wind in the Willows*. In Summer 2018 *The Star Seekers* played at the National Theatre for 4 weeks.

The company has also made six full company shows for older audiences, *RIOT*, *33*, *1972: The Future of Sex*, *Education, Education, Education*, *South Western* and *The Last of the Pelican Daughters*. They are Associates of Complicité and Shoreditch Town Hall, and their shows have been performed at the National Theatre, Almeida, Bristol Old Vic, Northern Stage and abroad at Jack, Brooklyn, NYC.

[www.thewardrobeensemble.com](http://www.thewardrobeensemble.com)

### **Nuffield Southampton Theatres**

Nuffield Southampton Theatres is one of the UK’s leading professional theatre companies, led by Samuel Hodges. NST develops and produces work with some of the UK’s most exciting and dynamic regional theatres. NST won Best Director at UK Theatre Awards 2014 (*The Seagull*), Regional Theatre of the Year at The Stage Awards 2015, Best Design at UK Theatre Awards 2015 (*The Hudsucker Proxy*), the 2017 Renee Stepham UK Theatre Award for Best Presentation of Touring Theatre (*Fantastic Mr Fox*), and Best Show For Children & Young People at UK Theatre Awards 2019 (*Billionaire Boy The Musical*)

The company’s artistic associates include directors Blanche McIntyre, Natalie Abrahami and Michael Longhurst, playwright Adam Brace, choreographer Drew McOnie and poet Inua Ellams, and actors Samantha Bond, Laura Carmichael, Tom Hiddleston, Celia Imrie, and Harriet Walter.

Nuffield Southampton Theatres is an Arts Council National Portfolio Organisation and a registered charity, receiving additional core funding from the University of Southampton and Southampton City Council.

[www.nstheatres.co.uk](http://www.nstheatres.co.uk)  
**@NSTheatres**

### **Underbelly**

Underbelly is a UK based live entertainment company. Their events and festivals division operates one of the largest operations at the Edinburgh Festival Fringe, selling over 380,000 tickets for over 200 shows over 25 days in 2019.

2019 was the seventh year Underbelly produced Edinburgh’s Christmas for City of Edinburgh Council and their third year of producing Edinburgh’s Hogmanay also on behalf of City of Edinburgh Council.

2019 also marked the eleventh year of Underbelly Festival on the Southbank - one of the biggest multi-arts offerings in London and London’s original pop-up festival - with over 140 shows programmed over 6 months on the South Bank.

Underbelly also produces Christmas in Leicester Square, Underbelly Festival in Hong Kong, West End Live in Trafalgar Square for Westminster City Council and the Society of London Theatre.

In 2019, Underbelly sold 1.3 million tickets to their various events.

### **HarperCollins**

HarperCollins Publishers is the second-largest consumer book publisher in the world, with operations in 17 countries. With 200 years of history and more than 120 branded imprints around the world, HarperCollins publishes approximately 10,000 new books every year in 16 languages, and has a print and digital catalogue of more than 200,000 titles. Writing across dozens of genres, HarperCollins authors include winners of the Nobel Prize, the Pulitzer Prize, the National Book Award, the Newbery and Caldecott Medals and the Man Booker Prize.

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