



# Marketing Pack



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## THE COMPANY

Barnstorm Theatre Company was founded in Kilkenny in 1991 by current Artistic Director Philip Hardy. In the last 24 years Barnstorm has become synonymous with high-quality professional theatre for young audiences. It provides the widest possible access to this work by touring to theatres and arts centres throughout Ireland and in the United Kingdom.

Barnstorm believes that an audience of children has the same right to the highest standards of production as does an adult audience.

In evolving its artistic vision of theatre for young audiences, the company explores different styles and forms of presentation and working: creating an ensemble of actors who participate in the development of the work; engaging high-calibre professionals in the Irish theatre industry, such as Lighting Designer Mark Galione, Set Designer Carol Betera and composer Jack Cawley; and nurturing dynamic relationships with writers.

One such fruitful and exciting relationship has developed between the company and award-winning British playwright Mike Kenny – he of Olivier-award winning adaptation of E. Nesbits' *The Railway Children* – who is currently developing a new work with the company for 2016.

Following on from the tremendous success of *The Bockety World of Henry and Bucket*, Sarah Argent is collaborating on another production with Barnstorm. Sarah is renowned for her process of developing theatre for children and is an Associate at Theatr lolo in Cardiff.

Barnstorm runs a full Outreach programme with two youth theatres and serves the local community, using theatre and drama as a participative, personal development process. Barnstorm is a registered charity.

## CONTACT



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# BROCHURE COPY

What is friendship? What happens when it goes wrong?

What do you have to do to make it work?

Henry and Bucket are best pals, although sometimes you wouldn't think so! Like all good friends they have their ups and downs, their battles and reconciliations, their shared adventures and, at times, their need for their own space. But as long as these two friends are together, transforming their rusty, dusty, battered and bockety world into a place of wonder, their adventures can take them anywhere!

Through Henry and Bucket's relationship we can examine what friendship is, what happens if it goes wrong and how you fix it.

Poetic, humorous and rich in visual antics, this play explores friendship through a day in the life of two friends who have been likened to a modern-day Laurel and Hardy.

Running time: 45 minutes

Suitable for: Age 4 to 8 years / 4+ for Family Audiences.

\*\*

Note:

The word **bockety** is used in Ireland to describe something that is a bit broken or unsteady but that still works reasonably well. For example, your bicycle wheel could have a small dent in it but it will still go round. It is a **bockety** wheel.

## REVIEW EXCERPTS [links to full reviews]

“Bockety Brilliance” 4\*\*\*\* STARS! – [The Irish Times](#)

“a stand-out piece of children’s theatre” – [Irish Theatre Magazine](#)

“Barnstorm is...wickedly sure-footed with their Samuel Beckett meets Heath-Robinson two-hander...There’s touching humanity amidst the hilarity” 4\*\*\*\* STARS! – [The Herald Scotland](#)

“...achieved that rather amazing goal of being able to make a small and limited world as big as the sky through inventiveness and imagination, something children have the capacity to do and adults too easily forget. Their fantastical car journey is a joy to behold!” – [The Edinburgh Guide](#)

“Great fun and great theatre” – [The Edinburgh Guide](#)

“A fantastic show” – [Team Juice, Edinburgh](#)

“A touchingly humorous and thoughtful production that explores ways in which human beings overcome obstacles and difficulties in relationships with the people we care most about.” - [The Bath and Wiltshire Parent](#)

“...the production reflects and sanctifies children’s imaginative play, and the relationship between play and theatre for young audiences.” – [Children’s Theatre Reviews.com](#)

“Here is another brilliant, completely different, production which speaks to, and says as much about, married couples as four-year-olds.” – [Children’s Theatre Reviews.com](#)



# SAMPLE PRESS RELEASE

## **The Bockety World of Henry & Bucket**

by Sarah Argent, in collaboration with Barnstorm Theatre Company

Do you know what the word *bockety* means? If not, you might want to scoot along to [venue name and start date] to find out. Ireland's Barnstorm Theatre Company presents its acclaimed family play *The Bockety World of Henry & Bucket* at [venue name] from [performance dates].

The play has toured Ireland twice and was resoundingly well-received at Imagine Festival in Edinburgh in May 2015, prior to playing London in June. The production was subsequently picked by The National Celtic Festival in Australia and by Holden Arts & Associates for a North American tour.

*The Bockety World of Henry & Bucket* looks at friendship through a day in the life of two friends who live in a bockety world of discarded objects. The play was created especially for children aged 4 and older, their families and teachers.

Responses to this play have been roundly enthusiastic – one festival director described it as 'like Beckett for children.' A reviewer noted the two friends are a 'modern-day Laurel and Hardy',

Written and directed by Sarah Argent, based on a collaborative devising process with Barnstorm, *The Bockety World of Henry & Bucket* is humorous and rich in visual antics. Through Henry and Bucket's relationship we can examine what friendship is, what goes wrong and how you fix it.

Their friendship reflects the bockety world they inhabit - there are wobbles and shakes, and it's not quite level all the time but it works! How do friends reconcile when they've had their battles, got on each other's nerves, and even stooped to telling lies...?

This is an entertaining, thought-provoking exploration of friendship for young children and their families.

Barnstorm is Ireland's premier producer of theatre for children. Its most recent new production was UK-writer Brendan Murray's *Monday's Child* which toured in Ireland in 2015 and returned in Spring 2016 by popular demand.

# SAMPLE SCHOOL LETTER

## A play about FRIENDSHIP for children aged 4-7

Dear [ ]

We are delighted to enclose a brochure for the highly-acclaimed play for young children:  
**The Bockety World of Henry and Bucket.**

The play has been devised for children aged 4 to 8.

A **Study Guide** with drama-based games and activities that explore a range of themes from the play, is available. Topics explored include language development, storytelling, friendship, pets, and self-care. The activities are suitable for K to 4<sup>th</sup> Grade.

The play will be presented in [venue name], from [performance dates] at [performance times].

**The Bockety World of Henry and Bucket** explores friendship through a day in the life of two friends who live in a bockety world of discarded objects. With the rich imagination of children at play, they invent their world from the junk around them.

Henry and Bucket are best pals, although sometimes you wouldn't think so! Like all good friends they have their ups and downs, their battles and reconciliations, their shared adventures and at times their need for their own space.

But as long as these two friends are together, transforming their rusty, dusty, battered and bockety world into a place of wonder, their adventures can take them anywhere!

Through observing Henry and Bucket, you and the children in your care can explore many aspects of friendship, and examine the triggers which cause arguments and tactics for resolving disputes.

The play is poetic, humorous and rich in visual antics; an intriguing, thought-provoking exploration of friendship for children.

Please note that seating is strictly limited to [as per venue specs] per performance.

[ sign off ]

## CAST & CREW BIOS

### **Paul Curley – Actor**

Paul is a performer and writer with particular expertise in making theatre for young audiences. As an actor, deviser and collaborator he has worked with a range of companies in Ireland and the United Kingdom. Recent work include: *Happily Ever After* (Action Transport Theatre); *An Ideal Husband* (The Gate Theatre); *FARM* (WillFredd Theatre); *The Bockety World of Henry & Bucket*, *A Murder of Crows*, *Song from the Sea* (Barnstorm); *Assassins* (Rough Magic); *Mr Benn* (Tall Stories, London); *Bonjour Bon* (Theatre Alibi); *Jack* (Tutti Frutti). Paul has written and performed *BAKE!*, an interactive play for 4-6 year olds. Paul was a participant in the Irish Theatre Institute's resource-sharing initiative and is currently working alongside UK theatre artist Tim Crouch as part of Pan Pan Theatre's 3<sup>rd</sup> International Mentorship & Bursary.

### **Aidan Crowe– Actor**

Aidan is a native of Limerick. He began acting at the age of 12 with Spotlight Stage School and after completing the two year programme with Limerick Youth Theatre, he moved to Wales where he studied Drama and Theatre Studies at The University Of Wales, Aberystwyth.

He has most recently appeared as 'Jacko' in 'Click' by Michael Collier in The Civic Theatre, Tallaght; as part of the ensemble in The Abbey Theatre's, 'King Lear'; *Siege* (The Belltable Unfringed, Limerick); *Vanner* (Sidhe Film/Tree Light Pictures) which was an official selection for the Chicago Irish Film Festival, and *My Passenger* (Light Leak Films) which was an official selection for the Belfast Film Festival.

Aidan is currently performing in Barnstorm's newest play - *Me Too!*

### **Sarah Argent – Writer-Director**

Sarah is an award-winning director specialising in theatre for the very young. She is regularly commissioned to create and direct productions for children and young people for some of the UK and Ireland's leading theatres including Unicorn Theatre, Polka Theatre & National Theatre in London; Welsh National Opera, Sherman Cymru and Clwyd Theatr Cymru in Wales; Theatre Hullabaloo, M6 Theatre and Tam Tam/Half Moon Theatre, England; Barnstorm Theatre Company, Ireland. Since 2001, she has been an Associate of Cardiff's Theatr Iolo, devising and developing all their work for the under-fives. Her productions for the company have been performed across the UK and in Australia, Austria, Belgium, the Czech Republic, Finland and South Korea.

### **Carol Betera – Set Designer & Costume Designer**

Carol is a theatre, film, set, and costume designer and a children's book illustrator. She has been nominated for an Irish Times Theatre Award (Best Set Designer), has designed for the Abbey, the Gate and many of the major theatres in Ireland, and the UK. She has a long working relationship with

Barnstorm, having designed for Barnstorm productions since 1999; including *The Ice Child*, *A Murder of Crows* and *Song from the Sea*.

### **Mark Galione – Lighting Designer**

London-born Mark has been living in Dublin since 1995, and has worked with Barnstorm for many years. Mark was a technical manager for Sadler's Wells Theatre, London before becoming a full-time lighting designer. His designs include work for Nigel Charnock, Emilyn Claid, Ricochet, Small Axe, Gaby Agis, Sadler's Wells, The Royal Ballet, Sherman Theatre and Soho Theatre Companies. In Ireland Mark has designed for Irish Modern Dance Theatre, CoisCéim, Dance Theatre of Ireland, Peacock Theatre, Fibín, Hands Turn, Classic Stage Ireland, Barabbas, *Holocaust Memorial Day* at The Waterfront, Vesuvius, The Ark, Gúna Nua, The Lir, Gonzo Theatre, Civic Theatre, Peer to Peer, Theatre Lovett.

### **Jack Cawley – Composer**

Jack is a composer, musician and sound artist based in Dublin. He has composed theatre soundtracks for: *Jockey*, *Follow*, and *Farm* (Willfredd); *Monday's Child*, *The Ice Child*, *Song from the Sea* (Barnstorm Theatre Company); *Ferry Tale* and *Pigeon* (Carpet Theatre); *Pumpgirl* (Lyric Belfast); *Hamlet* and *Macbeth* (Second Age); *The Lonesome West*, *The Lieutenant of Inishmore* (Town Hall Theatre Productions); *Juno and the Paycock* (Cork Opera House/ART Northern Ireland); *Translations*, *Someone Who'll Watch Over Me* (Decadent Theatre). Sound Designs include productions with Brokentalkers; Calipo; Gúna Nua; Performance Corporation; Living Space/Bedrock; The Ark Children's Cultural Centre. Jack has an M.Phil in Music Technology from Trinity College Dublin.

### **Vincent Dempsey – Production Manager**

Vincent has been General Manager at Barnstorm Theatre Company since 1998. He is also Production Manager and Tour Manager on the professional productions for young audiences. Vincent is a Steering Group member in the NCFA (National Campaign for the Arts), a volunteer-led grass roots movement advocating for the arts in Ireland. Vincent was Schools Liaison Officer at TEAM Theatre, Ireland's foremost TIE (theatre in education) company for many years, and subsequently served on their Board of Directors.

### **Alé Mercado – Graphic Designer**

Illustrator and graphic designer Alé lives in Kilkenny, Ireland and has been designing graphics for Barnstorm productions since 2008. In his 20-year career as a graphic designer and illustrator, his work has been used extensively by Government agencies and event organisers.

Most of Alé's designs and illustrations are created digitally while retaining the expression of traditional media, namely pen and ink, screen printing and woodcutting.

## WHAT REVIEWERS SAY ABOUT BARNSTORM

### MONDAY'S CHILD (2014/15)

“A trip to *Monday's Child* is worth every second of the performance. Some gorgeous theatre for young and old.” - **KCLR ARTS SHOW**

“Pure magic! The play is whimsical, fun and full of adventure and allows children and adults to rediscover the mystery in everyday things. I highly recommend it!” - **KILKENNY PEOPLE**

“...a sophisticated piece of children's theatre that will engage young audiences on a variety of levels.” - **THE IRISH TIMES**

### THE ICE CHILD (2014)

a quirky thought-provoking modern fairy tale, it was undoubtedly a highlight of the Belfast Children's Festival” \*\*\*\* 4 Stars! - **BELFAST TELEGRAPH**

“Spellbinding performances. Visually stunning, evocative set, exquisite costumes.” - **KILKENNY PEOPLE**

### A MURDER OF CROWS (2011/12)

“...Barnstorm has achieved a combined strength through its small ensemble, reflected in the harmonies of their speech, the fluidity of their movement and their capacity to segue smoothly into doubling as both the crows and the human protagonists. ‘A Murder of Crows’ is rooted in story-telling but it upends the form in a satisfying manner.” - **IRISH THEATRE MAGAZINE**

### JACK (2009)

“The production owes much to Andrew Clancy's set design: he achieves clarity and simplicity with a humble cottage.” - **IRISH THEATRE MAGAZINE**

“The scale of the tale is the triumph. Director Philip Hardy has established a plain narrative thread through an economy of theatrical devices that work with the production and neither obscure nor confuse the story.” - **IRISH THEATRE MAGAZINE**

### THE BUS (2008)

“The dexterous negotiation of presenting a theme that children can recognise and, to varying degrees, identify with, while at the same time refusing to deliver a morally prescriptive coda the capacity to show an audience something of their lives without telling them how to live it is an impressive achievement.” - **IRISH THEATRE MAGAZINE**

“Well-developed characters that children can easily identify with. You will be hard pressed to find a more energised and boisterously funny show for children this year.” - **THE IRISH TIMES**

### **SILLY BITS OF SKY (2007)**

“The Barnstorm company is one of the best things in Irish theatre. Their shows for primary school children are neither preachy nor patronising and always have themes that are rooted in the everyday experience of children.” - **IRELAND ON SUNDAY**

“Using drama to air some of the complexities of children’s lives is what Barnstorm Theatre Company does best...” - **THE IRISH TIMES**

“Philip Hardy’s pacy direction whisks through the action. One feels he is conscious of the responsibility of bringing the watching children along with the story in what may well be the first experience of theatre for many. On this showing, they will be keen to return.” - **IRISH THEATRE MAGAZINE**

“Barnstorm Theatre Company has carved out a notable niche in theatre for children which is at once educational and enjoyable. ” - **THE IRISH TIMES**

### **PRE - 2007**

“...*Digger, Doc and Dee-Dee* is one of those children’s shows which empowers children while giving adults some cause for reflection.” - **THE IRISH TIMES**

“*Digger, Doc and Dee-Dee* is yet another innovative and energetic production from Barnstorm.... performed with excellent comic timing.” - **IRISH THEATRE MAGAZINE**

“The children were enraptured with *Martha*... they instantly grasped the story and the lesson to be learned from the performance.” - **IRISH FARMERS JOURNAL**

“Barnstorm Theatre Company in Kilkenny is a premier purveyor of children's theatre in this country. Their latest productions enhance their burgeoning reputation... This is fabulously high quality, moving and entertaining theatre. ” *Little Victories* - **THE IRISH EXAMINER**

“Refreshing and unpatronising... the audience are swept into a child's view of the world that is both fascinating and insightful” - **IRISH THEATRE MAGAZINE**

“Barnstorm has done it again, with bells on.” *Little Victories*- **THE IRISH TIMES**

## Download HIGH-RES IMAGES

Dropbox Link for high-res production images, brochure copy and Barnstorm's company logo:

[https://www.dropbox.com/sh/uq3b1lauh6h3x6n/AAAF5YAv\\_t0FibcooMOTrhGka?dl=0](https://www.dropbox.com/sh/uq3b1lauh6h3x6n/AAAF5YAv_t0FibcooMOTrhGka?dl=0)

Email: [vincent@barnstorm.ie](mailto:vincent@barnstorm.ie) to receive these images by email or for information on other ways to download the images, company logo and video.

## Download PROMO (Teaser) VIDEO

YouTube:

<https://youtu.be/zj-N-Ad7xVI>

Video is also available on the Barnstorm website post for the 2015 UK tour:

[Here](#)

## MINIMUM TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS

<b>Load In Time:</b>	4 hours (assuming full pre-rig)
<b>Crew Needs:</b>	2 crew for load-in and load-out; 1 House technician throughout.
<b>Min. Stage Size:</b>	W 22ft x D 20ft x H 14ft, with full black or traveller at back of set;
<b>Sound Needs:</b>	All sound is on Mac Q Lab; Hook up to House System; 2 x On-stage Speakers required. SM operates lighting and sound from control box.
<b>Load Out Time:</b>	2 hours



Set of *The Bockety World of Henry and Bucket*

## RELAXED / AUTISM-FRIENDLY PERFORMANCES

Barnstorm Theatre Company has presented relaxed/ autism-friendly performances of *The Bockety World of Henry and Bucket*. A pre-performance pack is available for this. If you would like more details about presenting a relaxed performance at your venue, please contact Barnstorm.