



Press & Media Information Pack

White

By Andy Manley

Directed by Gill Robertson

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ONLINE MARKETING MATERIALS

For further news and all our marketing materials see catherinewheels.co.uk

Images and Video

For access to all images (print images and production photos), and video clips of *White* sign up as a promoter here

catherinewheels.co.uk/signup/?a=promoters

If you have already signed up, the *White* page is here

www.catherinewheels.co.uk/productions/white/marketing/#page-content

Social media

[Facebook/CatherineWheelsCompany](https://www.facebook.com/CatherineWheelsCompany)

[Twitter/CWheelsTheatre](https://twitter.com/CWheelsTheatre)

Marketing & Press Enquiries

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CATHERINE WHEELS THEATRE COMPANY (CWTC)

(Company information - copy for programmes and websites)

Catherine Wheels Theatre Company is Scotland's most prolific producer of work for children and young people, with 27 inspirational and original productions presented in 23 countries since the company was created by Artistic Director Gill Robertson in 1999.

Catherine Wheels is also Scotland's most well-travelled theatre company, touring nationally and internationally taking productions to theatres, festivals and schools in communities and cities across Scotland, England, to London's Southbank and Barbican, and across the globe from Europe to New York, Canada, Mexico, Hong Kong, Macau, China, Taiwan, Singapore, Japan, New Zealand and Australia.

Such has been the critical acclaim, awards and demand from promoters that many of the Company's productions have stayed in repertoire, including *Martha*, which has performed to audiences of over 100,000 across four continents; *Lifeboat*, the first Scottish theatre production to appear at the Sydney Opera House and *White*, the Company's most well-travelled production which has been seen by children across Europe, America, Asia and Australia.

Catherine Wheels has received 15 prestigious theatre awards and 20 nominations in the last 18 years: from Barclays Theatre Awards, Critics' Awards for Theatre in Scotland, Drama Desk Awards on Broadway, Manchester Evening News, Primary Times Children's Choice, Shanghai International Children's Theatre, The Stage, TMA Awards, Total Theatre Awards, Victor North American Showcase as well as an Edinburgh Festival Fringe First and a Herald Angel and two from the prestigious Drama Desk Awards for a Unique Theatrical Experience on Broadway and a Helpmann Award (Australia's version of the Tony Awards).

Whether performing at home or abroad, the company is delighted to create and share its imaginative and inspirational stories with young people wherever they are.

Catherine Wheels is grateful for support from Creative Scotland who help make all this possible, and East Lothian Council who provide the company with office and rehearsal space at the Brunton in Musselburgh, near Edinburgh.

Please use the following logos where appropriate:



COMPANY NEWS 2016 - 2017

- **NEWS: Catherine Wheels - part of new national theatre in schools' scheme**

“Every child in Scotland will have the opportunity to experience at least one piece of performing arts per year as part of their core education.” That’s the vision of *Theatre in Schools*, an exciting new initiative launched in June 2016 by the National Theatre of Scotland and Imagineate, in partnership with Catherine Wheels, Starcatchers and Visible Fictions, to explore different and best ways of taking theatre to children in schools. As part of the pilot, Catherine Wheels Theatre Company’s first production *Martha* visited 30 primary schools in 22 local authorities last autumn. *Martha* has performed more than 300 times to audiences of over 100,000 in Canada, New York, Scotland, England, Netherlands, China, Singapore and Australia. This year Catherine Wheels will support Up to Speed by Rosalind Sydney to tour into primary schools across Scotland.
- **JUST COMPLETED: Martha**

Last year Catherine Wheel’s first ever show, *Martha*, was restaged and taken on a tour of Scottish schools as part of the inaugural Theatre in Schools Scotland initiative, run in partnership with NTS and Imagineate. In autumn 2018 the show will tour to Scottish theatres and rural venues. More recently, the creators of this much-loved worked with artists in Shanghai to create a Chinese version. This new version debuted at the A.S.K Shanghai at the beginning of July.
- **COMING UP: The Story of the Little Gentleman**

Spring 2016 saw a reimagining of much loved production *The Story of the Little Gentleman*, which toured 112 performances to 11,000 children in 78 Scottish schools in 13 local authorities, culminating with a run at Imagineate Festival in Edinburgh in May. The show will tour to Scottish theatres and rural venues in autumn 2017.

WHITE – THE COMPANY

(Credits - please list show credits as follows)

WHITE

By Andy Manley

Cast

Cotton

Michael Dylan

Wrinkle

Sean Hay

Creative Team

Creator

Andy Manley

Director

Gill Robertson

Designer

Shona Reppe

Composer

Danny Krass

Lighting Designer

Craig Fleming

Collaborator

Ian Cameron

Catherine Wheels Theatre Company

Artistic Director

Gill Robertson

Programme & Planning Director

Louise Gilmour-Wills

Production and Operations Director

Craig Fleming

Schools Development Manager

Anna Derricourt

Touring Manager

Hannah Putsey

Company Stage Manager

Suzie Normand

Communications and Fundraising Manager

Helen Shutt

WHITE – HISTORY

AWARDS

Winner: Fringe First; Herald Angel; Total Theatre Award; Best Production for Children and Young People, Best Design (Set, Costumes and Lighting) and Best Technical Presentation – Critics' Awards for Theatre in Scotland; Best Production for Children and Young People - Theatre Awards UK

Nominated: The Stage Best Ensemble Award; Broadway Drama Desk Award for Unique Theatrical Experience (USA) and Helpmann Award (Australia)

TOURING HISTORY

White is Catherine Wheels most travelled production.

2010: Edinburgh Festival Fringe & Scottish Tour

2011: Imagine Festival & ASSITEJ world Congress; New Victory Theater, New York; Southbank Centre, London

2012: Australia; New Zealand; UK; Asia; Europe

2013: Europe; Southbank Centre, London

2014: Beverley Hills, USA; Europe; Taiwan; Traverse Theatre, Edinburgh

2015 was a milestone year for *White* as it reached its 1000th performance on Broadway in New York after visiting Denmark, Macau, Hong Kong, Japan, New Zealand, Australia, France, Denmark, Spain, Germany, Luxembourg, UK, the Netherlands, Belgium, Mexico and Beverley Hills, USA.

2016: UK, Spain and France

2017: France and Luxembourg

WHITE – STORY

(Copy for marketing brochures and websites is as follows)

White

A performance for 2-4 year olds

Created by Andy Manley

Welcome to the beautifully strange world of *White*. Full of birdsong and birdhouses, it gleams and dazzles and shines in the night. Two friends look after the birds and make sure the eggs stay safe. We watch, we help. The world is bright, ordered and white. But high up in the trees, all is not white. Colour appears. First red... then yellow... then blue...

White is a playful, highly visual show for very young children and is a perfect first time theatre experience.

WHITE – CREATOR AND DIRECTOR'S NOTES

Creator's Note

The original inspiration for *White* came from an image I saw in an interior design magazine. It was a house made of white muslin. Inside were two white chairs and a bare bulb. It was beautiful, but a question came to me. How would the introduction of colour change this white world? I showed it to Shona Reppe who I was working with at the time and we quickly explored lots of ideas. Two things became clear. Firstly, there was a bin, as anyone with a white house knows it is notoriously difficult to keep clean. Secondly the colour red would be a kind of character in the show. I sat with the basic idea for a few months and realised that the two main protagonists would need a job to do. At the time I was fascinated by bird boxes, so quite soon the basis of *White* was clear – two characters looking after eggs in a world, which they try to keep entirely white, but colour arrives. And the white muslin house? Well, thanks to Shona's trip to Glastonbury Festival it became smaller and changed shape to become the white tepee that Cotton and Wrinkle live in . . . simple really.

Andy Manley

Director's Note

White has been one of Catherine Wheels' most loved shows and I think it is one of the loveliest experiences you can offer an audience whether they are 2 or 80. The show was a pleasure to work on and even though I have seen the show many times I am as charmed by it as when it was first performed at the Edinburgh Fringe in 2010.

Gill Robertson

WHITE – FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What's it about?

White is about a white world where colour keeps appearing

Who created the show?

White is a devised show, created by Andy Manley

What is the show like?

The story: White is about a white world which is filled with white birds and beautiful birdsong. There is a clearing in the woods where two people take care of the white birdhouses and keep the world white and clean. But high up in the trees all is not white. Colour keeps appearing. First red... then blue... then yellow...

The set: White will be performed in a large white structure, and the audience will sit within the space.

How long is it?

35 minutes (no interval)

Who is it for?

White has been created specifically for age 2 – 4 year olds

Who is performing it?

Catherine Wheels Theatre Company is Scotland's most prolific producer of work for children and young people. It has produced 27 new productions in 23 countries over the last 16 years. Catherine Wheels creates shows for schools and family audiences that are consistently praised for original ideas, intelligent storytelling and imaginative design.

WHITE – THE CAST

Michael Dylan – Cotton

Biog tbc

Sean Hay – Wrinkle

Sean Hay has worked extensively in Scottish theatre as a professional actor for over twenty years. Companies he has worked with include The Arches, TAG, Traverse, Royal Lyceum, Comunicado, Catherine Wheels, Benchtours, Borderline, Grey Coast, Boilerhouse, Licketyspit, The Tron, Vanishing Point, Plutôt La Vie, National Theatre Of Scotland, Dogstar, Janis Claxton Dance, Lung Has, Grid Iron; winner of CATS Award Best Ensemble 2010 for Huxley's Lab. Beyond Scotland his work encompasses Soho Theatre, London, Walk The Plank, Manchester, as well as radio, film and TV productions.

WHITE – THE CREATIVE TEAM

Andy Manley – Creator

Andy is a Theatre Artist based in the UK. He has been involved with many of the children's theatre companies in Scotland and has worked extensively as an actor, director and deviser. With Catherine Wheels Theatre Company, he has performed and co-created *Martha*, *Pondlife* and the multi award winning production *White*. His directing credits include work for Scottish Opera, Glyndebourne, Shona Reppe, Polka Theatre and Starcatchers. Internationally he has created work for theater junge generation (Germany), Theater o.N (Germany) and Barneteatret Vart (Norway). He is currently creating a new version of *Black Beauty* for Red Bridge Arts/ Traverse Theatre.

Gill Robertson – Director

Gill Robertson founded Catherine Wheels Theatre Company in 1999, since then creating 27 productions for children and young people, winning audiences and awards across the world.

Such has been the critical acclaim, awards and demand from promoters that many productions have stayed in the Company's repertoire including *Martha*, which has performed to audiences of over 100,000 across four continents; *Lifeboat*, the first Scottish theatre production to appear at the Sydney Opera House and *White*, the Company's most well-travelled production performing to children in Europe, America, Asia and Australia.

Gill was one of ten directors invited by the National Theatre of Scotland to mark its launch in 2006 by creating a site specific piece in East Lothian on the theme of *Home*, which was renamed as *Hansel and Gretel* and taken to the Barbican in London before going on to the New Victory Theatre in New York where it was nominated for two prestigious New York Drama Desk Awards including Unique Theatrical Experience.

In 2010 the Company won its first TMA Theatre Award for Best Show for Children and Young People for *Pobby and Dingan*. In the same year Gill collaborated with Andy Manley to produce *White*, winning a Fringe First, a Herald Angel, a Total Theatre Award, a TMA Best Show for Children and Young People and four CATS Awards. In 2015, *White* reached its 1000th performance in New York and is the Company's most performed show.

More productions and awards have followed. Gill created and directed *The Voice Thief*; directed new versions of *The Story of the Little Gentleman* for schools and [*The Ballad of*] *Pondlife McGurk* for theatres and created a Catherine Wheels production *Lost at Sea*, commissioned by the Edinburgh International Science Festival.

Gill has also created new shows with students at the Rose Bruford College of Theatre and Performance in London and with ThinkArts in Kolkata, India. She regularly works with Shona Reppe and directed *The Curious Scrapbook of Josephine Bean* winning a TMA Best Show for Children and Young People.

Shona Reppe – Designer

Shona studied at Glasgow University (1988) before completing a post-grad diploma in stage design at the Welsh College of Drama in Cardiff (1992). Shona Reppe Puppets was established in 1996 and has been dedicated to creating highly visual theatre for children ever since. With her production *Cinderella*, Shona has toured extensively throughout the UK and Ireland as well as Japan, Belgium, France, Canada and the United States. *Cinderella* has won a Total Theatre Award (Edinburgh Fringe 2002) and a Victor Award (Montreal 2003). The show has just returned from Sydney Opera House, where Shona also performed *Olga Volt the Electric Fairy* (co-created with Charlot Lemoine of Velo Theatre, France). Her show *Potato Needs a Bath* was co-created with Andy Manley, and has toured in Scotland, Netherlands and to the New Victory

Theatre in New York. HUFF, a theatre installation, was created with Andy Manley and produced by Catherine Wheels. It opened at the National Galleries of Scotland (Modern One) in 2013, and then was at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival 2014. The show was nominated for a Total Theatre Award, three CATS awards and won the CATS Best Show for Children 2014. Her most recent new show *Magic Sho* toured Scotland in 2015. Shona has also collaborated with Catherine Wheels, Visible Fictions, Wee Stories, Tabula Rasa and Puppet Lab. She has designed a new show, *Black Beauty*, with Andy Manley and Andy Canon, for Traverse Theatre Christmas 2016.

Danny Krass – Composer

Danny has been working as a composer and sound designer since 2001. He began working in his native Sydney through his association with Australian Theatre for Young People. Since he first came to Scotland he has worked with Starcatchers *My House*, Catherine Wheels on *Pondlife McGurk*, macrobert on *Littlest Christmas Tree*, & *Rudolf*, Lu Kemp & Abi Docherty *1000 Paper Cranes*, Forward Role *Changing Times*, The Tron *Diffusion* and National Theatre of Scotland Learn *Project Macbeth*. He is currently developing *A Little Epic* with Rosalind Sydney and working on the *Sound Story Project* with BBC Radio Scotland.

WHAT THE PRESS HAVE SAID – please see website for full press reviews

Catherine Wheels Theatre Company

An innovator in children's theatre. **The Guardian**

World class work for children and young people. **The Herald**

One of Scotland's top theatre groups for children. **The Scotsman**

The high wire act of Scottish children's theatre. **Times Educational Supplement**

A style of theatre that is frequently more engaging, imaginative and transformative than adult theatre. . .

Robertson is one of the most internationally successful theatre practitioners in Scotland

Scotland on Sunday

Andy Manley

Manley is a shaman . . . in (his) hands the tale is mesmerising

The Ballad of Pondlife McGurk Mark Fisher, Hi-Arts

Shona Reppe

the radiant Scottish puppeteer whose one-woman Cinderella has been dazzling the world since 2001... such visual flair and deadpan wit

The Scotsman

Shona Reppe enchants and enthralls children and grownups alike

Theatre Review, Thom Dibdin

Danny Krass

Danny Krass' original compositions and sound design are a wonderful support both to the presentation of the concepts and the safe, playful atmosphere

My House, nytheatre.com

WHAT THE PRESS HAVE SAID – WHITE

The Guardian (4 stars)

This is a beautifully acted and neatly thought-out show, as cleverly executed as a conjuring trick – and a reminder why this Scottish company is an innovator in children's theatre

www.guardian.co.uk/culture/2010/sep/01/white-edinburgh-review

The Times (4 stars)

'an utter delight no matter what your age'

Donald Hutero

The Herald (4 stars)

This truly beautiful show crafts its ideas with a light, but sophisticated touch – you really can't suss how the all-white world suddenly blooms into vibrant technicolour, but you can, whatever your age, engage with the joy and wonderment as bird-houses open up in a new-found radiance of rainbow brightness.

Mary Brennan

www.heraldscotland.com/arts-ents/stage-visual-arts/bestest-bits-that-even-the-grown-ups-will-love-1.1047390

The Scotsman (4 stars)

Full of joy' ...the idea is perfectly pitched, simple, clear, witty, and gorgeous to look at.

Joyce McMillan

www.edinburgh-festivals.com/viewreview.aspx?id=1376

The Stage (A Must See)

A palpable hit

Thom Dibdin

www.ed.thestage.co.uk/reviews/755

Scotland on Sunday (4 stars)

One of the best in town

Mark Fisher

The Public Reviews (5 stars)

One of the most touching pieces of theatre this year

John Roberts

www.thepublicreviews.com/index.php?s=White

What's on Stage (4 stars)

An enchanting play'

Margaret Scott

www.whatsonstage.com/reviews/theatre/edinburgh/E8831281110273/White.html

Huffington Post

A sense of wonder wrapped in quiet charm'

Fern Siegel.

www.huffingtonpost.com/fern-siegel/stage-door-ithe-agony-and b_1016860.html

New York Press Online

Effortless chic'

Mark Peikert

www.nypress.com/article-22818-wringing-variations-out-of-white.html

New York Times

Ingeniously designed

'...abounds in visual surprises'

Laurel Graeber.

Time Square Chronicles

Bravo, this is what theater is about

Suzanna Bowling.

<http://t2conline.com/2011/10/30/take-your-children-to-see-white-and-discover-the-color/>