



# Touring and Digital Portfolio 2025



Professional theatre,  
spoken word and  
new writing for  
audiences aged 0-19

[halfmoon.org.uk](http://halfmoon.org.uk)



Supported using public funding by  
**ARTS COUNCIL  
ENGLAND**

Half Moon and Polka Theatre presents

# Soft or Spiky?

for babies aged 6-18 months



LIVE IN VENUE TOUR

## Discover a wonderful world of soft or spiky with your baby.

This playful and interactive new show is full of shapes, sounds, textures and words exploring different ways to connect and understand each other. Inspired by heartfelt conversations with new parents, this humorous production explores the multiple ways we communicate, ensuring that no one is left out.

What question would you want your baby to answer? What would you like them to ask you? In a world full of astonishing unknowns and surprising possibilities, how do you find the right answers or questions?

At the end of the performance there is a stay and play session where audiences can enter the sensory landscape of the production.

Devised and directed by Daryl Beeton, *Soft or Spiky?* is a Polka and Half Moon co-production: an exciting collaboration by two of the UK's leading children's venues and touring companies.

*Soft or Spiky?* tours in 2024/2025 across the UK following its opening at Polka Theatre in October 2024.

This show has very limited language. This makes it accessible to a range of people, including d/Deaf, hard of hearing and non-English speakers.

## Marketing Assets

Promotional images and a title treatment are available for the show at the Dropbox link below. Production photos will be released in October 2024.

<https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fo/6oe8h0cb8kdbyg3bm9v67/h?rlkey=jxf2vcp8qfrknhtdp0k7aroiw&dl=0>

## Performance Length and Audience Restrictions

- Performances last 30 mins (no interval), followed by a 15 mins play and stay experience
- Capacity 40 - 20 babies/20 adults

## Touring Dates

- **27 January-16 March 2025**

## Technical Requirements (venues)

- **Get-in:** 2.5 hours before half with pre-rig and performance space configuration completed prior to get in.
- **Get-out:** 90 mins following close of final show/play session.
- **Venue Configuration:** Flat floor / In the Round. Performing area 6m (wide) by 6m (depth) with minimum 3.5m (height). Audiences sit within and can move around the performance area.
- **Lighting:** A full lighting plan will be supplied. We will require the use of the venues lighting desk.
- **Sound:** We tour a Mac with QLAB but will need to plug this into the venues P.A. system.
- **Staffing:** On tour, there is 1 performer plus a company technical stage manager who will operate lighting and sound, but we do require 1 in-house technician to assist with get-in, focus, plot and the get-out.
- **Parking:** For a sprinter size van.
- **Facilities:** Dressing room/s for 1 performer.

## Technical Requirements (non-traditional spaces inc. rural touring spaces/libraries/schools):

Note that the piece can perform self-sufficiently without blackout as we can tour our own sound. All we need is 1 contact to help with get-ins. Set-up times are 90 mins, exit within 60 mins. This flexibility allows families/children to access the work where they live, go to school or spend their free time.

## We Provide

- Dedicated support from the marketing/PR and technical team at Half Moon including accessible formats and touring riders.
- Up to 500 A5 colour flyers and 20 A3 colour posters. Please note: overprinting will be at an additional cost, please enquire)
- High quality images, production photos and other digital assets.
- We can provide assets for venues/partners to make their own print etc. if that is preferred.

## Prices

- £900 + VAT per day
- Up to 3 shows per day.
- Please note: a minimum of 45 mins between the start and end of performance/play session is required: e.g. 10.30am, 12noon and 1.30pm.
- Gigs across 3 or more days is anticipated, although one-off days will be considered.

Note for venues at very long distances from London, an additional supplement of £100 per day may apply.

Venues that require a get-in the day before may be subject to a fee supplement. Please enquire.

Please note that these fees are subject to a small additional supplement if your venue makes a compulsory contra to us for your costs at the contracting stage (e.g. credit card/box office; get-in/out; marketing/brochure contributions).

## Creative Learning Activities/Workshops

On request at additional cost, bespoke workshops for groups on the themes of the performance and/or on the creation of original theatre, plus CPD workshops for teachers.

## About the Experience Offered

Very much inspired by the work of the director for this project, Daryl Beeton, *Soft or Spiky?*, like with all our productions, aims not to educate, as such, but to advocate instead that there are not always correct answers or solutions when talking about or addressing prejudice, social injustices, equality and social inclusion. Like any good story, we ask audiences to join up their own dots, think creatively and ask questions so they can discover their own answers to complex issues even at a very early age through experiencing a high-quality theatre adventure.

**For more details please contact:**

**Bradley Travis**

020 7709 8902 | [bradley@halfmoon.org.uk](mailto:bradley@halfmoon.org.uk)

Half Moon and Z-arts present

# Grandad Anansi

by Elayne Ogbeta

for ages 4-9

LIVE IN VENUE TOUR

## An uplifting tale of love, courage and letting go

Abi and her Grandad tell each other Anansi folktales. They play games as they work together in the garden among the beautiful flowers and tasty vegetables. As they plant memories, they share secrets and develop a bond that nothing can break.

Grandad is as smart and mischievous as the wily Anansi legend, a part human, part spider and the subject of many West African and Caribbean folk stories. Can he find a way to tell his granddaughter about his plans to return to Jamaica, his beloved homeland?

Join our intrepid characters as they step into the unexpected in this humorous and heartfelt Inter-generational adventure. With captivating songs and joyous dancing, *Grandad Anansi* is an uplifting tale of love, courage and letting go that celebrates storytelling and shines a light on Jamaican culture and the Windrush generation.

Written by award-winning children's author Elayne Ogbeta, *Grandad Anansi* is a Half Moon and Z-arts co-production: an exciting collaboration by the UK's leading small-scale young people's venue and touring company and Manchester's unique venue for children and families.

This piece was developed in partnership with the African Caribbean Care Group and schools in Hulme, Manchester.

*Grandad Anansi* won **BEST PERFORMANCE** at the Manchester Culture Awards 2023.

*Grandad Anansi* toured to over 30 venues and libraries in Autumn 2022 and is back due to popular demand.

## Marketing Assets

Production images and a trailer are available to advertise the show, which can be downloaded at the link below. Also available are video interviews with the show's author and director and review graphics.

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/lb3tcst6jgmaaic/AADaYb11ttVc76-tDdJEhKpHa?dl=0>

To view the full production via a professionally edited film of the 2022 production, please request.

You can access the script of this play via the British Library's MPS Modern Playscripts Collection. This play is also listed on the National Theatre's Black Plays Archive.

Fuller details of the original production can be accessed via this link: <https://www.stagesofhalfmoon.org.uk/productions/grandad-anansi>

## Touring Details

Available for booking for performances between **2 October – 16 November 2025**. Due to receiving a touring grant from Arts Council England, this tour is now taking firm bookings – those previously pencilled will be contacted to firm.

## Performance Length / Audience Capacity

Performances last 45 mins (no interval). 1 or 2 shows a day. If a 2-show day a minimum of 2 hours between the start of shows (e.g. 11am & 1pm) is required.

## Reviews and Audience Feedback

"A colourful, amazing production" - *The Guardian*

★★★★ "Elayne Ogbeta's warm, pleasing and thoughtful show...manages to pack in more layers than a good strudel.... Storytelling, and its extraordinary power, is at the centre of the piece." - *Sardines*

## Technical Requirements (venues):

- **Get-in:** 2.5 hours before half with pre-rig completed prior to get in.
- **Get-out:** 1 hour
- **Venue Configuration:** End on. Performing area minimum 6.5m meters (wide) by 5.5m (depth) with 3.5m (height).
- **Tech Pack:** Is available on request including a full lighting plan. We will require the use of the venues lighting desk. For sound, we tour a Mac with QLAB but will need to plug this into the venues P.A. system.
- **Staffing:** There are 2 performers plus a company stage manager who will operate lighting and sound, but we do require 1 in-house technician to be present throughout including assisting with get-in, focus, plot and the get-out.
- **Parking:** For a sprinter size van.
- **Facilities:** Dressing room for 2 performers.

## Technical Requirements (non-traditional spaces inc rural touring spaces):

Note that the piece is designed to be presented self-sufficiently and without blackout as we tour our own recorded sound. All we need is 1 contact to help with get-ins. Set-up times are 90 mins, exit within 45 mins.

## We Provide:

- Dedicated support from the marketing/PR and technical team at Half Moon.
- Up to 500 A5 colour flyers and 15 A3 colour posters. (NB: overprinting will be at an additional cost, please enquire).
- Images/production photos plus digital assets for use within venue brochures or broader usage.

## Prices:

- For 1 or 2 shows per day.
- £950 + VAT

Venue that are part of the Big Imaginations Consortium, please reference this when making enquiries.

Please enquire for prices when booking multiple consecutive days.

Note for venues at very long distances from the NW, an additional supplement of £120 per day may apply. Note venues that require a get-in the day before may be subject to a fee supplement.

Please note that these fees are subject to a small additional supplement if your venue makes a compulsory contra to us for your costs at the contracting stage (e.g. credit card/box office; get-in/out; marketing/brochure contributions).

## Creative Learning Opportunities

We are able to offer a range of bespoke creative learning activities for schools and family groups on request to complement the performance at additional costs. Please enquire for prices.

## About the Experience Offered

Our productions don't educate, as such, advocating instead that there are not always correct answers or solutions when talking about or addressing prejudice, social injustices, equality and social inclusion. Like any good story, *Grandad Anansi* allows the audience to join up their own dots, think creatively and ask questions so they can discover their own answers to complex issues even at a very early age through experiencing a high-quality theatre adventure.

**For more details please contact:**

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# DIGITAL ON DEMAND

## The Cat-Astrophic Adventures of Dollop and Crinkle

*A co-production from Apples and Snakes and Half Moon for ages 7-11*

This spoken word poetry show is heartfelt, provocative and full of quirky humour, telling the action-packed story of new friendships and adventures that go cat-astrophically wrong.

## Dust

*An award-winning Half Moon and Z-arts co-production for ages 4-9*

A visually stunning and quirky production by award-winning writer Laura Dockrill, with haunting music by Hugo White of The Maccabees. *Dust* uses puppetry and exquisite poetic language to explore a heartfelt story about love, loss, identity and memory.

\* Winner of the Off West End OnComm Award for **Best Theatre for Children Aged 5-11**.

## The House That Jackson Built

*A Justin Coe and Half Moon Presents production for ages 4-10*

A show celebrating the joy of reading and the power of books. This magical spoken word theatre show delights in family, recycling and the power of imagination.

## Paper Aeroplane

*A Lots of Odds Theatre and Half Moon Presents production for ages 3-7*

Lift-off on a journey full of music, physicality and zooming paper aeroplanes. The show sensitively explores loss and bereavement, the challenges we face when trying to move on, and how we can help one another along the way.

## Party

*A Half Moon production for ages 3-7*

Afonso wants to go to his best friend's birthday party, but where is his invitation – has it been lost in the post, or maybe he wasn't even invited? Heartfelt, provocative and full of quirky humour, let the warmth of a Portuguese summer take you to a place where difference is something to celebrate.

## Availability:

Available throughout 2025/26 for venues to purchase for their own online programming platform or live streaming events. Many are available in the following versions, please enquire:

- Film with **closed captions**
- **BSL interpreted** (and captions)
- **Audio Descriptions**

## Technical Information:

### For audiences to view at home via an online streaming platform, at a time that suits them:

Productions will be made available on a password protected Vimeo link, which will need to be passed onto bookers (link and password). Alternatively, the shows can be embedded onto the venue's website and the page link sent to bookers. Audiences will still need to enter the password to access the video. This will be available for your audiences to view for 14 days following the date of the last programmed online show. After this time the video will no longer be available to watch as the password will expire. Venues will not be sent a digital file of the booked show to download.

### For a live screening or at a specific date and time online experience:

Venues will be released the full MP4 file so that a venue can play it through their own playback or cinema system. Captions will be sent as a separate SRT file for you to upload to your platform. This is for 1 day (2 showings are permitted per day). Venues are required to delete the MP4 file after use and not distribute to anyone else.

Images and production photos and other digital assets for use by venues will be provided.



# A LIVE IN VENUE and ON DEMAND digital portfolio from HALF MOON



Half Moon is the UK's leading small-scale young people's venue and touring company.

Half Moon Presents is the producing arm of Half Moon, supporting the promotion and development of theatre for young audiences for national and international touring.

Our wide-ranging programme reaches 50,000 people annually and engages those who feel excluded from arts activity. Last year, we toured our live in venue and digital on demand productions to 150+ venues, festivals, libraries and community spaces.

Our portfolio covers work for audiences, aged 0-19, from a range of artists and companies drawn from the genres of theatre, spoken word, dance and new writing, reflecting the UK's contemporary and diverse communities.

For more details about the portfolio featured in this brochure or if you want a discussion about being part of this programme, please contact:

**Bradley Travis on 020 7709 8902 | [bradley@halfmoon.org.uk](mailto:bradley@halfmoon.org.uk)**

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