

Friday 22 May
Sadler's Wells Digital Stage



TOM

Wilkie Branson

Set in a hinterland between the civilised world and the wilderness, TOM tells the story of one man's journey to rediscover who he really is. Will he find the answers he needs, or is the real TOM lost forever?

Created by award-winning choreographer, filmmaker and Sadler's Wells New Wave Associate Artist Wilkie Branson. TOM explores storytelling using the hip hop language of b-boying, bringing it together with cutting-edge technologies including animation, projection mapping, sound design and film installation. Playing with negative space and the projection of the work to create a depth of field, TOM is a unique and innovative dance for camera installation.

Rendering the handcrafted 3D world physically in space, TOM is an experience that borrows from cinema, immersive technologies and traditional physical animation to create a world which is like no other.

Commissioned and co-produced by Sadler's Wells. Co-Produced by Pavilion Dance South West

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Special thanks to Andrew & Anne Branson, Kate Haywood, Edna Pretty.



TOM © WILKIE BRANSON

Artistic Team

Created by

Wilkie Branson

Dramaturg

Adam Peck

Composer

Benji Bower

Projection Artist

Barret Hodgson

Sound Designer

Mat Clark

Costume Designer

Cristiano Casimiro

Production Manager

Andrew Hammond

Producer

Luisa Hinchliff

Cast

Wilkie Branson & Eben Haywood

Music

Kathleen Frances

Will Bower

Stuart Mathews

James Travascus

Jeff Barrow

Invada records



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ENGLAND**



TOM © WILKIE BRANSON

Wilkie Branson

Creator & Choreographer

Wilkie Branson is an interdisciplinary dance artist and film maker. Self-taught in both dance and film, which form the main focus of his work, the roots of his practice lie in b-boying. Wilkie's practice has developed into a unique fusion, with the meeting point between dance and cinematic forms, lying at its heart. TOM is a dance-for-camera installation and received the Theatre & Technology Award for Outstanding Production in 2019.

His previous shows at Sadler's Wells include Varmints, White Caps and Boing! Wilkie's films have screened internationally, receiving several awards, including the IMZ awards for Best Film and Best Animation for his previous work Little Dreams.

He is a recipient of last year's John Brabourne Award and received the Arts Foundation Choreographic Fellowship in 2012, and was most recently the recipient of several awards for his latest dance animation Little Dreams. Wilkie is a New Wave Associate at Sadler's Wells.

Adam Peck

Dramaturg

Adam Peck is a playwright and dramaturg, and has been an Associate Artist at Bristol Old Vic since 2013. In 2019, his devised adaptation of A Monster Calls won an Olivier Award.

Dance includes Varmints at Sadler's Wells; Fagin's Twist for Avant Garde Dance and The Place; Upload/Unplug for Pell Ensemble; the My First Ballet series (2014-17) for English National Ballet.

Theatre includes The Lion, The Witch & The Wardrobe at The Bridge Theatre and Leeds Playhouse; A Monster Calls at the Old Vic and UK Tour (Olivier Award for Best Family and Entertainment); Cinderella: A Fairytale at Tobacco Factory Theatres, The Other Palace, Unicorn and MAC (OFFIE Award for Best Production for Young People and Olivier Award nomination for Best Family and Entertainment); 101 Dalmatians and The Last Voyage of Sinbad the Sailor at Tobacco Factory Theatres; Bonnie & Clyde at Tobacco Factory Theatres and Theatre 503; Igloo, Sleeping Beauty, Medusa, The Boy Who Cried Wolf, Minotaur and Only at Bristol Old Vic; Father Christmas at the Lyric Hammersmith, Leeds Playhouse and Warwick Arts Centre; Septimus Bean & His Amazing Machine and Minotaur at the Unicorn.



TOM © WILKIE BRANSON

Benji Bower

Composer

Composition credits include TOM (Sadler's Wells); The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe (Bridge Theatre London); A Monster Calls (Old Vic, London); The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe (West Yorkshire Playhouse); Jane Eyre and Peter Pan (National Theatre); Outpost (Green Ginger); Hetty Feather (tour / Vaudeville); Romeo and Juliet (Rose Theatre Kingston); Varmints (Sadler's Wells); Sleeping Beauty, Jane Eyre, The Boy Who Cried Wolf, Peter Pan, Treasure Island, Papa Please Get The Moon For Me, Strong Case and Aesop's Fables (Bristol Old Vic); We're Going on a Bear Hunt (KW & NB Ltd); 101 Dalmatians, Cinderella, Ali Baba and the Forty Thieves, Bob The Man on the Moon, Lost and Found and Ugly Duckling (Tobacco Factory & Travelling Light); Orpheus and The Furies and Table of Delights (Damfino Theatre); Pirate Gran, Tiddler and Other Terrific Tales and Stick Man (Scamp Theatre); Very Old Man With Enormous Wings (Little Angel/Kneehigh).

Television and film credits as a Composer include Panorama, Natural World, Country File, Panorama, Faster Harder Stronger, History of Olympics, Rude Britannia, Comics Britannia, The Wonder of Animals, Castles and Country File (BBC); Cult of a Suicide Bomber, Hollyoaks and Wind Farm Wars (C4); Weekend Retreat (O Region).

Musician credits include Bonobo, Alice Russell, 100 Strong, Kneehigh Theatre, Mark Pritchard and Jermaine Clement. Other credits include Sulston Connection, Pacific Heights and New World Disorder (Kudos Records); Fingers and Thumbs (Tru Thoughts); Return of the Wob (Wob Recordings).

Barret Hodgson

Projection Artist

Barret is an award-winning video artist and digital projection specialist. His company Vent Media creates and stages visual media for live performance including theatre, dance and music events, gallery installations, film productions and architectural projection. Clients and collaborators have included the BBC, DreamThinkSpeak, Hetain Patel, Game City, Tom Dale Company, Warp Films, DJ Yoda and Fat Boy Slim.

Mat Clark

Sound Designer

Mat is a producer and sound designer with a background in film, animation, TV and games. He also works as a sound artist, usually in collaboration with installation, dance and sculpture practitioners. BAFTA nominated and GANG winner for music, he has produced many bands, designed audio for the likes of Apple, Amnesty International, Honda and INTEL and acted as sound supervisor on a number of feature films and animation series. Mat is the owner of Sonica Studios in London, SW4. Projects include Dr. Who and The Walking Dead.



Cristiano Casimiro

Costume Designer

Cristiano is a London-based costume designer. He graduated in Fashion Design in Lisbon and designed costumes for Portuguese television until 2012. He moved to the UK in 2013 where he has been working in theatre, film, dance and opera.

His credits include ENB Choreographics, Unicorn Theatre, Sadler's Wells, Royal Academy of Dance, ETO, Capital Films, Lazarus Theatre Company, Trinity Laban, Essay Pictures and LFS and LFA amongst others.



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Creation & Process

Over 80% of TOM was created using handmade models which were digitized using photogrammetry. It took 9 months to build over 100 models that were used to create the environments in the film. The photogrammetry process took a year to complete with a quarter of a million photographs being used to reconstruct the models digitally.

All the performers in the film were shot on a homemade green screen stage in the garage, using a treadmill and revolve to match the perspective of camera moves from the film. There are over 400 different versions of Wilkie in the film who is joined by his three-year-old nephew, Eben, to complete the cast.

The project was completed using Cinema 4D and Redshift, taking 4 months to render bringing the total duration of the project to 2 years. With the full-length film running at 50 minutes the project took approximately 130 man-hours per minute to make.



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TOM explores themes of loneliness and mental health, which may be distressing for some viewers. If you have been affected by any of the themes in this work, the following organisations may be able to provide help and advice:

If you are struggling, the Samaritans helpline is available 24 hours a day – call 116 123 for free, or visit [samaritans.org](https://www.samaritans.org).

Mind provides a text service for support on 86463.

The Campaign Against Living Miserably (CALM) provides a webchat option at thecalmzone.net.

