

Antarctica!



Presented by:



Show Copy

Antarctica!

By Phillida Eves and Amélie Bal

Produced by Elaine Donovan

Special School audiences with Moderate Learning Disabilities/Autism
- Senior students 12-18 years

Family audiences

- 5-8 years (TBC - testing in a mainstream school in January and February 2025)

This theatrical experience brings the audience on an immersive sensory expedition through the icy world of Antarctica! The performance, told through music and movement, is inspired by Shackleton's Antarctic expedition which was struck by disaster when his ship, Endurance, became trapped in the ice and ultimately sank.

Join our crew as they set off on a unique adventure across ice and water, overcoming harsh conditions and unknown perils. It is a journey of survival, with teamwork and comradery becoming much more important than their original goal. Will everyone make it back safely?

Original commissioned by Baboró International Arts Festival for Children

Key selling points and messages

- Created by one of Ireland's most experienced sensory theatre makers for children with additional needs, sensory artist Phillida Eves, and one of Ireland's most exciting emerging sensory artists, and circus performer, Amélie Bal.
- The story is an emotional journey that captures the interest of the audience as they engage with the adventure.
- Although the expedition ultimately fails, this isn't a story about failure. Instead, it is a story about survival, teamwork, comradeship, determination and friendship.
- For **Special School audiences**, there are invitations to participate in many elements of the show, if they choose to.
- Opportunity for **families** to share the joy and the wonder of the arts together.

Commissioned by Baboró, world renowned Children's Theatre Festival.

Production Overview

Performance length:

- Special School audiences - 45 minutes
- Family audiences - 45 minutes: 30 minutes plus sensory engagement time after show of an additional 15 minutes.

Age recommendation:

- Special School audiences with Moderate Learning Disabilities/Autism - Senior students 12-18 years
- Family audiences - 5-8 years (*TBC - testing in a mainstream school in January and February 2025*)

Cast and company - 7 total: 3 Performers, 1 Stage Manager, 1 Audience Facilitator/Performer, 1 Producer/Production Manager and 1 Sound Technician/Musician

Capacity:

- The show was created for performances in a suitable Special School or venue setting for one class (of 6 students) attending per show. These students participate in the performance. The class is usually accompanied by 2-6 staff depending on the needs of the students. We can usually facilitate 6-8 (depending on needs, which we discuss with each school).
- The show is adapted for family audiences as a non-participatory 30 minute performance with an additional 15 minutes of sensory engagement with the set and performers after the show. We can cater for approximately 20 children and their parents/carers per show up to a total of 60 (*TBC - testing age and audience size in a mainstream school in January and February 2025. It will also depend on the venue.*)

Get-in: We require 4 hours before the first performance

Get-out: The get-out will happen straight after the last performance and will take approximately 1 hour

Performance style and themes:

Special School audience: one class plus staff

- Very little spoken language.
- Dance and physical movement with soundscape and live music.
- Opportunities to engage and participate in sensory and performative elements at various stages throughout the show. The audience is invited to participate and engage when, and in whatever way, they choose to.
- The show and set is created to be safe for audience members who need to move around throughout the performance.
- Performers are very skilled in working with children with additional needs.
- Themes of hardship, peril, adventure, comradeship, resilience and resolution.

Family audience: children with parents/carers

- Very little spoken language.
- Dance and physical movement with soundscape and live music.
- Sensory playtime for the children after the show.
- Themes of hardship, adventure, comradeship, resilience, and resolution.

Company requirements:

- Minimum play area of minimum 8m x 8m (ideally 10m x 10m).
- White/Off-white/Grey dance floor.
- Black out drapes, where possible. For a Special School audience the drapes need to be secure.
- Maximum 2 performances per day.
- Suitable changing area/warm-up/cool-down room for the cast.
- Power point supply for sound equipment and speakers.

- One venue technician on site for the get in, and available for the run of the shows.
- Lighting technician if applicable (we have lighting built into our set, but will be adding a basic lighting design for suitable venue spaces)
- Access to ice for each performance (we source this from local supermarkets or fish shops!). Access to a freezer/icebox to keep ice intact for 2 shows per day.

Touring Model for Special School audiences:

- We connect with the school and the class that will be attending a performance a few days before the show.
- We meet the class in costume, introduce the story to the students and staff, and explain that at the performance they will be IN the story.
- The class takes part in the show as part of the crew, led by our performers.
- After the show we share a post-engagement activity sheet with each school (included at the end of this pack).

Creative Team

Artistic Director: [Phillida Eves](#)

Co-created by: Phillida Eves and Amélie Bal

Producer: [Elaine Donovan](#)

Circus Artist/Performer: Amélie Bal

Choreographer/Performer: Fionnuala Doyle-Wade

Musician/Performer: Inés García Montero

Underscore and Sound Design: Alan Preims

Set Design: Orla Clogher

Stage Manager/Assistant Prop Maker: Karina Nachbar

Mentor: Nicole Arkless, Bamboozle Theatre

Rosán - Background information

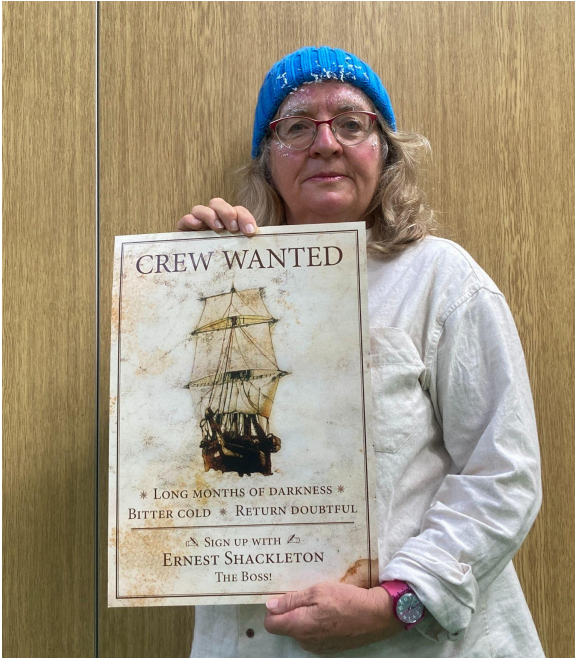
Rosán (Rus-awn): a favourable wind and gentle sea.

Rosán Sensory Adventures, led by Phillida Eves, makes work with multidisciplinary artists, creating and presenting accessible, immersive, musical, movement and theatrical experiences with and for Autistic children and young people with intellectual learning disabilities.

Phillida Eves, the Artistic Director of Rosán Sensory Adventures, is a creative sensory artist and educator who is passionate about giving the audience a voice in the creative process and agency in expressing themselves through the creative arts. Phillida, and the artists she works with, develop the work with the children and young people, who are at the heart of the collaborative process.

Website: www.rosan.ie

Instagram: [@rosan_sensory_adventures](#)



Phillida Eves is a very experienced sensory artist and director who creates interactive, immersive, sensory theatre for children and young people with additional needs.

She works collaboratively with multi-disciplinary art forms and artists. Phillida was a teacher in special education for 16 years and has been creating sensory performances for the last eight years.

Phillida plays the character of the Australian photographer, Frank Hurley, in the story. He is always with the audience/participants during the show.



Amélie Bal is a French national living in Ireland for 20 years. Amélie is both a circus and performance artist. She always enjoys challenges and loves mixing unlikely disciplines.

Working with Phillida Eves has really anchored and enriched this interest in the sensory world. Amélie is longing to continue to discover and learn, and is excited about the journey.

Amélie plays the character of Shackleton in the story. He likes to be called 'The Boss'. He will lead the crew and give orders.



Inés García is a Spanish circus artist, musician, creative, and educator based in Galway. She began her artistic journey with the transverse flute, later expanding to strings and drums.

She teaches with Music Generation Galway, collaborates with Galway Community Circus, and works with Aoife's Clown Doctors. Inés is constantly exploring new ways to engage with the inner child in everyone.

Inés plays the flute and also plays the role of Irishman Tom Crean in the story. He likes to have fun and do well.



Fionnuala Doyle Wade is a dance artist from Seattle currently based in Galway. She is a highly physical, energetic, and joyous performer. She has worked in a diverse number of settings and communities including: dance in site specific contexts, theatre, film, young people, and people with special needs.

Fionnuala has a deep curiosity about the potential for dance to communicate what written and oral language cannot.

Fionnuala plays the role of John Vincent in the story. He likes to go on treks and worries a bit.



Karina Nachbar is originally from a seaside town in Germany and is now based in Galway. She is a stage manager, prop maker, and illustrator. She holds a BA in Design of Playing and Learning and graphic design.

Karina is passionate about creating meaningful moments for and with children and young people that engage, delight and nurture their natural creativity. This belief guides all her work.

Karina helps the crew/performers and organises everything they need in Antarctica.



Alan Preims is originally from Italy and is a musician, composer, and producer.

He is the business owner of Soundtrack & Podcast in Galway City, where he produces and creates spoken word content, music soundtracks and sound designs for theatre, podcasts, audio poetry, and audio books.

Alan also works regularly as a studio and stage musician.

Alan is in charge of all the wonderful sounds of Antarctica that you hear during the show.

Audience Responses

“I liked the ice! It was real ice and sooo cold!”

“Throwing the boxes was fun.”

“I want to go again tomorrow!!”

School Staff Responses

“There was something in the show for everyone. Each of my students engaged in their own way. The actors were very skilled in including every child but not at all pushy. I was surprised at the level of engagement from my students. They usually lose interest quite quickly but they all loved the show and didn't want to leave!”

- **Special School Class Teacher**

“We loved having the week-long residency of Antarctica in our school during Baboró. It created a wonderful sense of togetherness and occasion. One of our senior students had the task of welcoming the delegates to each show and giving them an introduction using his speech device.

Rosán is genuinely inclusive, because they even invited the junior classes to an installation on the set of Antarctica so that they could experience and engage with all the sensory elements too.

Antarctica! was created in collaboration with our Senior 5 class members and we are very proud to have been so involved from the start.

Phillida and her team are very responsive, sensitive and genuine with each member of the audience. They brought joy and excitement to our school and we feel very fortunate to have shared this amazing adventure with them.”

- **Special School Principal**

Industry Reviews

“Phillida Eves and the Rosán Sensory Adventures team have created a stunning work for their very special audience of young people. Antarctica! is an uncompromising story of adventure, risk and perseverance in an icy environment that gently invites participation from its audience, on their own terms. Great care was taken in developing the story and accompanying design and soundtrack. The company's depth of experience shows in a confident and adaptive delivery to create an engaging, immersive experience full of joy and hope. Our Baboró audiences loved it!”

- **Aislinn Ó h'Eocha - Artistic Director**
Baboró International Arts Festival for Children

“It was a vibrant Antarctic adventure, full of music and theatricality that engaged the audience and allowed room for them to comfortably explore the story.”

- **Marc Mac Lochlainn - Artistic Director/Stiúrthóir Ealaíne, Branar**

“...the young people were skillfully drawn into the world of the narrative by being recruited as crew members... Each young person’s presence was valued and celebrated...the world of Antarctica was created using rich and dynamic soundscapes and minimal mountainous icebergs that glowed mysteriously in the landscape...range of interactive multi-sensory experiences along with superb set pieces that mixed dance, music and impressive acrobatics which captured and held the audience’s attention and kept them rapt in the narrative...emotional moments too, particularly the depiction of the psychological strain experienced by Shackleton’s crew which was represented in a frenetic dance sequence... There was a feeling of real jeopardy as some of Shackleton’s crew embarked on their mission to try and reach help and... joy and relief of reaching civilization and returning to save the rest of the team...

Throughout the show the company took great care to ensure that the audience were comfortable in the performance space and included in as much of the action as they wanted to be. Invitations and offers were made for interactions but audience members were free to choose whether and how much they wished to engage. The young people were free to move around the performance space when it was safe for them to do so and were gently guided back to their seats during set pieces. The show was perfectly pitched for the audience and it looked like both audience members and performers had enjoyed themselves enormously.”

- **Nicole Arkless**
Associate Director – Education & Training
Bamboozle Theatre Company Ltd.

“Antarctica! was a really sophisticated and transformative piece of sensory interactive theatre. The performers expertly worked with the young people as collaborators and engaged them with warmth and genuine curiosity throughout the show. The mix of circus skills, high quality design and interaction made this an all-round delightful theatrical feast. The young people clearly loved the show - they felt agency and joy in that space which was wonderful to see as an observer. Rosán Sensory Adventures are making really high quality work for a much neglected audience and any specialist school or theatre would be lucky to work with them.”

- **Alison Garratt - Tours Producer**
Oily Cart

“A thoughtful and aesthetically beautiful exploration of the highs and lows of Shackleton's crew, with some lovely moments of audience participation throughout”

- **Andrew Madec - Director**
That's Life (Arts organisation working with adults with intellectual disabilities)

Antarctica! and Rosán - Assets and material

Video

- [Show Trailer](#)
- [Pre-show video for Special Schools](#)

Images

- [Production Images - credit Anita Murphy](#)
- [Production Images - credit StationHouse Media](#)

Logos

- [Rosán Sensory Adventures](#)
- [Baboró International Arts Festival for Children](#)

Special School Packs:

- [Pre-engagement pack for Special School Staff](#)
- [Pre-engagement visual story for Special School students](#)
- [Post-show activity sheet for Special Schools](#)