

Great Big Tiny World

Welcome to this great,
big, tiny world

OilyCart

Audience Booklet

Inspired by *When the World Turns*, a collaboration between
Oily Cart (UK) and Polyglot Theatre (AUS)

Welcome to Great Big Tiny World

Our Artistic Director Ellie wrote **Great Big Tiny World** during her maternity leave. Six weeks after the birth of her baby, they went on their first walk alone outside together. The trees felt like they were luminous green, there was time to notice all the birdsong and smells of the ferns and pine needles beneath their feet. The ants and insects that would usually be rushed by...

Seeing the **world anew through her baby's eyes** made Ellie slow down and become aware of all the tiny life around them. In that moment (a sleep-deprived, post-partum haze), she had a sense of her new baby's place in this eco-system. Connected to the whole world.

A few months later, Ellie's baby joined her in the rehearsal room as Co-Director. The performers followed his lead and looked for his non-verbal feedback as a guide to how the show should be done.

In this booklet, you'll find a **visual guide** of what's going to happen in the show, as well as some ideas for **sensory activities** to try at home together.

Great Big Tiny World is made for you and your baby to enjoy together, as part of an eco-system of other new families, who have all had a very big year!

It's okay to move and make noise, leave and come back in, feed or change your baby at any time during the show.


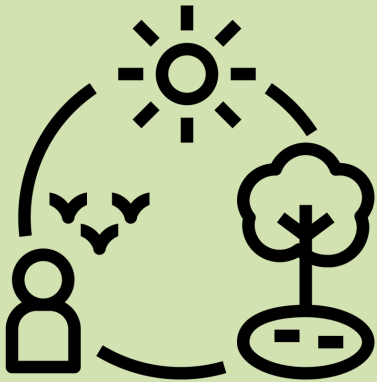


We are so happy to welcome your new family. This world is different now **you** are here.

The Oily Cart team x



Photo: Roswitha Chesher

Great Big Tiny World Visual Guide

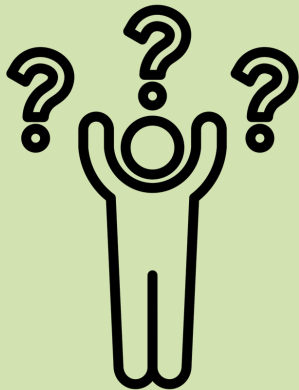
 A black silhouette of a person with their arms raised, holding a globe of the Earth above their head.	<p>You are coming to Great Big Tiny World.</p>
 A circular diagram representing an eco-system. At the top is a sun with rays. On the right is a tree. At the bottom is a recycling symbol. On the left is a person icon. Arrows connect the sun to the tree, the tree to the recycling symbol, the recycling symbol to the person, and the person back to the sun.	<p>The show is about being part of the eco-system of the world.</p>
 A black clock face with white tick marks. The hour hand is between 9 and 10, and the minute hand is pointing at 9, indicating 45 minutes.	<p>It will last for 45 minutes.</p>
 A black silhouette of a person's head in profile, facing right. Their mouth is open in a wide 'O' shape, and there are three small circles next to it, representing sound or noise.	<p>You can make noise at any time in the show.</p>



You can **breastfeed** or **bottle feed** during the show.



If your **baby needs changing**, you can use the changing table just outside the space.



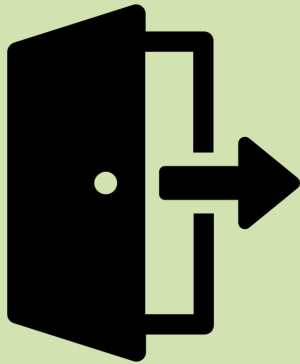
If you need **help**, you can raise your hand.



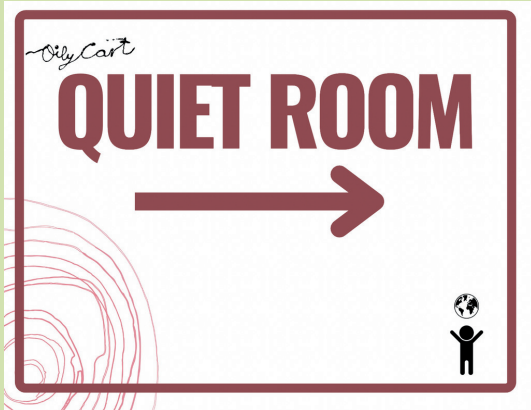
The cast will **interact** gently with you and your baby.



You are **allowed to say or sign 'No'** if you do not want something near you or baby.



You can **leave** at any time and **come back** when you feel ready.



If you need a quiet, private space, you can go to the **Quiet Room** in the theatre.



If you are enjoying the show, but the sound is a bit too loud, you can use **ear defenders**.



In the show, you will meet **Kim.**



You will meet **Ed.**



You will meet **Nisha.**



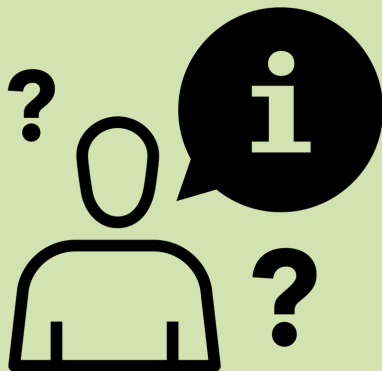
They bring
Great Big Tiny World
to life.



The **show starts in the foyer**. You will be given a **story book** to read with your baby before you go into the theatre.



Inside the theatre, the show will happen under a **canopy**, surrounded by plants.



There will be **people who can help** you and your baby during the show.



They will be wearing **blue overalls** or a **black Oily Cart t-shirt or hoodie**.



Inside the space, there will be **many plants**.



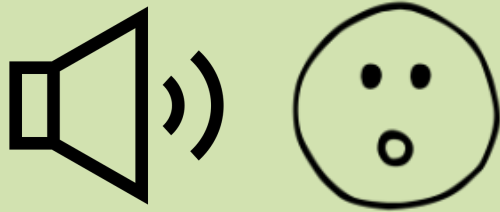
Please be **gentle** with the plants, they are living beings.



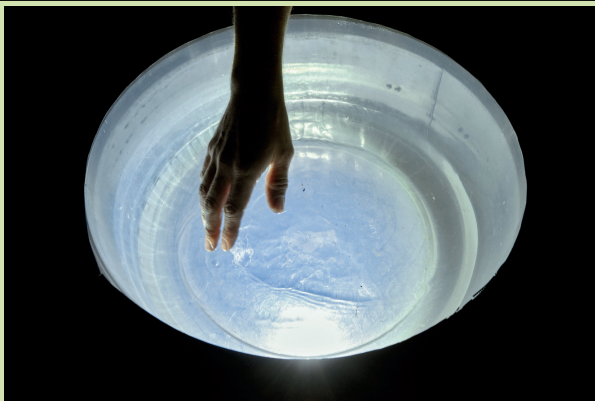
You will sit on **cushions and chairs** next to other people.



You will hear many different **sounds and music**.



You will hear soft or **sudden noises** from different parts of the room.



There will be a big **bowl of water** that you can play with and make shadows on the canopy roof.



There will be **different lights** in the space. They will change during the show.



After playing with water, there will be **soft flashing lights** that are like lightning.



The flashing lights are **not** **strobe** lights.



You will meet **puppets** made of objects.



The performers will **move** **the** **puppets**.



The **puppets** will **come** **near** you and your baby.
You can **touch** them freely.



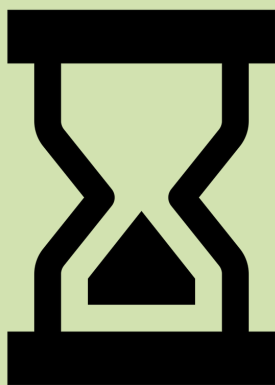
At one point, a **shelter** made of paper will appear around or above you.



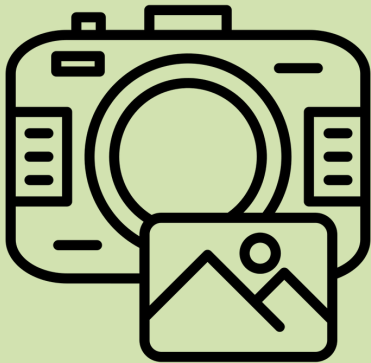
When you are in the shelter, the performers will **spray the smell of trees and fruits** into the air.



The **scents** used are **juniper** and **vetiver essential oil**.



The lights will go down when the show has **finished**.



You can take **photos** in the show.



Please respect other babies' and parents' privacy and **take photos of your baby only.**

At Home Activities

Shadow Play

What you'll need:

- Plant mister filled with warm water and a few drops of essential oil. (We recommend Juniper berry or rosemary, but you can use any smell you like)
- Torch / phone torch
- Plants, or small branches collected from outside
- Optional: coloured cellophane (like sweet wrappers)



Activity:

- Turn off the lights
- Spray the plant mister
- Use the torch to make shadows of plants or branches on the ceiling and walls. By slowly and smoothly moving the torch, you can make it feel like you're moving through the undergrowth
- You can also have great fun making shadows that include your baby's body
- Add colour by putting coloured cellophane onto your torch
- It's great to accompany this with music, or nature sound effects

Top tip:

- You can bring the shadows closer to your baby using white fabric or paper that can be held close-up

At Home Activities

Loud and Proud

Mirroring vocalisations, or the language your baby speaks without words, is a powerful way of making them feel important in the world and like their voice is heard. It's a simple technique that can be a really amazing tool to develop confidence and connections.



Activity:

You can find opportunities throughout the day to mirror vocalisations.

Alternatively, you can make it into a focused activity:

- Start with 5 minutes of sound. This could be an upbeat song or piece of music
 - When this stops, its important you stay still, and leave a very, very, **very** long pause
 - During this, you might find your baby start to vocalise. You can start to echo or mirror these sounds as a way of affirming their contribution.
- Top tip:
- Let go of words and resist the urge to narrate or comment on what is happening.

At Home Activities

Sensory Walks

Activity:

- Go on a walk in nature, and try to let go of words for a bit (even the monologue in your head)
- Focus on your sensations. What do you smell, feel, hear and see around you as you wander?
- See if you can let your senses guide you, rather than sticking to the path
- When you, or your baby, notices something interesting, like a bright flower or leaf, pause to really get the best view and take this in before you carry on



Top tips:

- This simple shift of focus can transform a mundane activity into a really special and beautiful time to share with your baby
- It's important that you are very strict on the adults not talking, and slowing down so you can really notice your own sensations, as well as the things your baby seems to be responding to
- Going on regular sensory walks can have a great impact on the wellbeing and co-regulation of both the adults and baby



We'd love to know what you thought

Thank you so much for coming to
Great Big Tiny World

Our mission is **equal access to the arts** for everyone. By completing a short survey, you are supporting our work to deliver high-quality, inclusive theatre experiences, and make change across the cultural sector.

Your honest feedback about the show will help us understand what works and what could be different. We'll take all that on board when we're making future shows, so that they're as accessible, joyful and magical as possible.



**Scan the QR code
to access the survey**

By sharing your experience, we can also capture how our work is impacting audiences. We can use this to evidence the value of Sensory Theatre to funders and programmers.

Inspired by *When the World Turns*, a collaboration between
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Great Big Tiny World

Rehearsal Director

Rhiannon Armstrong

Original Co-Directors

Ellie Griffiths & Orin Edelman-Griffiths

Designer & Eco-scenographer

Andrea Carr

Original Design Concept

Dr Tanja Beer

Composer and Musical Director

Max Reinhardt

UK Performing & Devising Team

Nisha Anil

Kim Heron

Ed Yelland

Sound Designer

Max Reinhardt

Assistant Sound Designer/Multi Channel Programmer

PJ Davy

Lighting Designer

Marty Langthorne

Puppetry Director

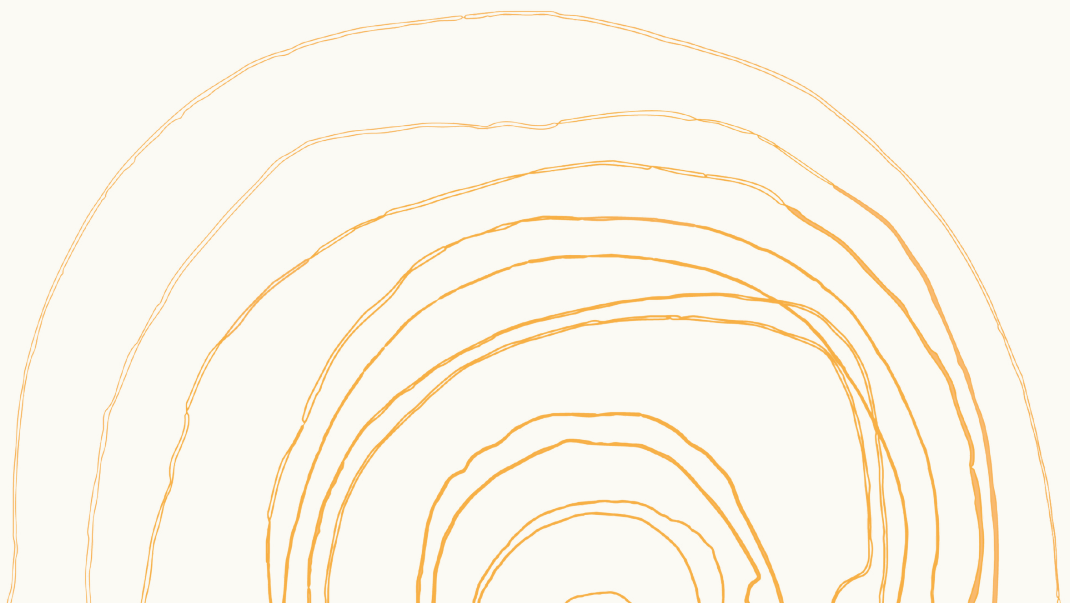
Steve Tiplady

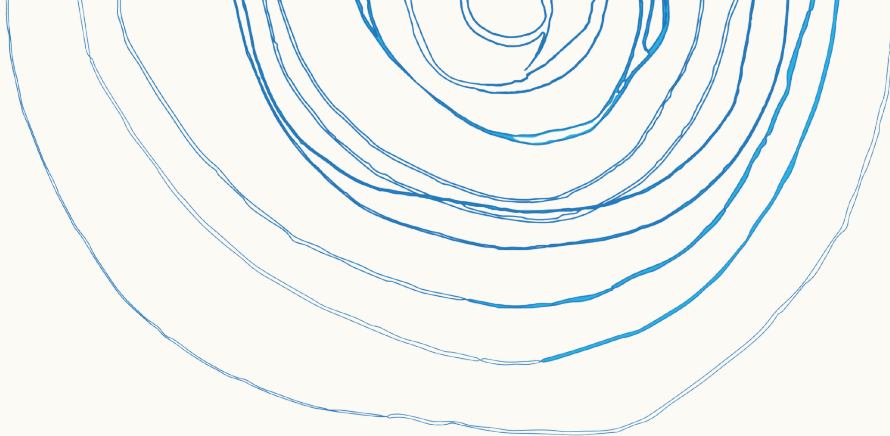
Writing Adviser

Steve Lally

Dramaturg

Sue Giles AM





Musicians on soundtrack: **Bruno Guastalla (cello & loutar), Lauren Spicely (violin), Max Reinhardt (keyboards), Jo-anne Cox (cello), Kyllah Dyer (cello)**

Plus samples of **Rhodri Davies** on harp from his album *Dwa Dni*

Real sound recordings of **birds, animals, insects, trees, leaves, undergrowth, wind, rain; including field recordings made by Mike Challis**

Soundtrack mixed and recorded by **Max Reinhardt** with recordings of **the live musicians by Christopher Jarman, Nicholas O'Brien and Max**

Company Stage Manager

Laide Sonola

Technical Stage Manager

Amirul Azmi

Production Manager/Company Stage Manager Cover

Bea Galloway

Crew

Amirul Azmi, Brent Tan

Set Construction

Tadeusz McCarthy Budzyhski

Carpenters

Aubrey Dor & Alice Friend

Costume & Textile Props Makers

Caroline Ip & Malgorzata Walasek

Specialist Props / Set Items Maker

Eyal Edelman

Touch Map and Puppet Maker

Amy Nicholson

Murmuration Puppet Maker

Helen Ainsworth

Assistant Maker for Touch Maps

Charlotte Ball

Props & Shelters Maker

Paula Hopkins

Aromatherapist

Stephen Smallwood

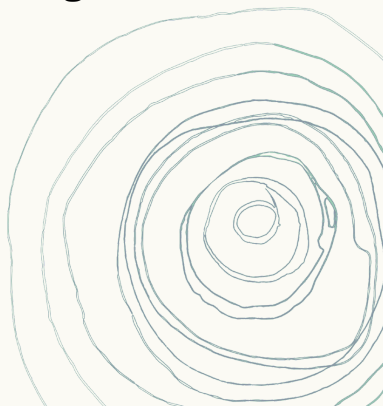


Artistic Director & Joint CEO	Ellie Griffiths
Executive Director & Joint CEO	Zoë Lally
Tours Producer	Alison Garratt
Communications and Advocacy Officer	Flossie Waite
Access and Wellbeing Officer	Maka Marambio de la Fuente
Development Officer	Zhaolin Zhou
Administrator	Romica Sharma
Placement	Nuria Cano Lorente
Graphic Design	Valerie Reid
Photography	Suzi Corker
Filmmaker	Paul Williams
PR	Binita Walia, The Space inBetween

With thanks to all the babies and adults who were part of the show's development, including from **FALA (Feminist Assembly of Latin Americans)**.

Thanks to everyone whose voices appear in the **Great Big Tiny World** soundtrack: **Shahid Abbas Khan, Oti Bennett Downes, Eyal Edelman, Orin Edelman-Griffiths, Laila El Balouti, Alison Garratt, Frank Garratt, Aine Garratt Kitson, Eabha Garratt Kitson, Ellie Griffiths, Evelyn Lally, Maka Marambio de la Fuente, Rita Ray, Edina Ritter, Sheema Mukherjee, Students from Endeavour Academy in Oxford.**

Thanks also to **Kuljit Bhamra** and **Sara El Minawy** for assisting in gathering voices for us.



Oily Cart (UK)

For over 40 years, Oily Cart has been creating remarkable, accessible shows that connect with babies, children and young people, and their families. In this time we have pioneered a whole new artform: Sensory Theatre. By pushing theatre beyond words – using not just 5, but all 33 senses – we create immersive wonderlands that never tell children how they should watch theatre, but learn from them what theatre should be.

An Oily Cart show can happen in your local theatre, hydrotherapy pool or school hall; on a trampoline or online; at home or even up in the air. Each sensory experience is a space to be who you are and to be together: the magic happens somewhere between us. We collaborate with disabled and non-disabled artists of all ages, always considering those who experience the most barriers first. With each show, we fight for a world where theatre welcomes everyone.

oilycart.org.uk

Acknowledgments

This tour has received support from Arts Council England, The Belstead Ganzoni Charitable Settlement, The Chivers Trust, The National Lottery Community Fund, The Patrick Trust, Paul Hamlyn Foundation, Wandsworth Council, funders that wish to remain anonymous and individual donors.





Supported using public funding by
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phf Paul Hamlyn
Foundation



Inspired by When the World Turns, a collaboration between Polyglot Theatre (AUS) and Oily Cart (UK).

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