UPSWING

# TOUR PACK



# THE PRINCESS AND THE PEA

CO-PRODUCED WITH: NEW VIC THEATRE UNICORN

# ABOUT UPSWING

***"UPSWING DEMONSTRATES THE REAL POSSIBILITIES THAT EMERGE WHEN CIRCUS, DANCE AND THEATRE MEET AND MELD."***

Lyn Gardner

Upswing is a bold, joyful contemporary circus company creating extraordinary shows that surprise, delight and spark big ideas. Multi-award-winning, proudly diverse and female-led, Upswing tells new stories in ways you might never expect, mixing jaw-dropping circus with imagination, play and heart.

Upswing's work celebrates different voices and experiences, especially those from Black and Global Majority communities, and invites young audiences to see the world from fresh perspectives. Every production is an adventure: breaking the rules of traditional circus, experimenting with form, and finding fun, truthful ways to tell stories that really matter.

You won't always find Upswing in a theatre (though we love those too!). Our work pops up in all sorts of surprising places – from libraries and parks to rooftops, care homes and digital trails, meeting audiences wherever they are and turning everyday spaces into places of wonder.

Recent work includes *Showdown*, outdoor spectacle *Bloom* (co-produced with Bradford City of Culture 2025), award-winning films *Common Ground* and *Circus Flavours on Screen*, and much-loved family favourites *The Ramshackle House* and *Bedtime Stories*.

www.upswing.org.uk



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# SHOW INFO

★★★★★

***"A JEWEL-BRIGHT, ENERGETICALLY ACTIVE JOY OF A SHOW FOR TINY PEOPLE THAT WILL SURELY LEAVE EVERYONE BOUNCING ON THE BED!"***

Everything Theatre

Tumble, toss and turn the page in this nimble twist on Hans Christian Andersen's timeless tale. A reimagined version of the classic story ***The Princess and the Pea*** *is* full of acrobatics and physical comedy. This fairy tale is a co-production between Staffordshire's New Vic Theatre, contemporary circus company Upswing, and Unicorn Theatre, the UK's leading professional theater for young audiences.

*The Princess and the Pea was nominated for two awards in the 2024 Offies, in the Production and Performance categories.*

**WATCH THE TRAILER**



# ENGAGEMENT

***"TELLING A STORY THROUGH CONTEMPORARY CIRCUS IS A FEAT ATTEMPTED BY MANY, BUT ACHIEVED BY REGRETTABLY FEW. UPSWING MAKES IT LOOK EASY."***

The Stage

If you'd like to bring The Princess and the Pea into your community as well as onto your stage, we can create tailored engagement programmes that connect the themes of the production with local families through hands-on circus and creative activity.

Our approach is collaborative and responsive. We work closely with your programming team to develop an engagement offer with local partners such as schools, youth services, and community organisations, shaped around your venue's priorities. Activity might include family circus workshops for carers and their children, school or youth group workshops, and post-show talkbacks with the artists.

Whether the aim is to reach families who have never visited your venue before, support children and young people's creative development, or open up contemporary circus to communities who rarely see themselves represented on stage, programmes are shaped around the people you want to reach and the outcomes that matter most to you.

We'd be happy to discuss what would work best for your venue and community.

To talk through touring and engagement opportunities, please contact:
**celine@upswing.org.uk**
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**WATCH OUR FAMILY CIRCUS SKILLS ACTIVITY**



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# SHOW INFO

**Available From:** 2027

**Show Length:** 50 mins

**Age:** Suitable for 3+

**Accessibility**:
The show is non-verbal

**Venue size:** Midscale

**Stage Dimensions:** Total playing space: 10m wide x 8m deep x 6.5m high

**Company:**
Touring Company of 8 (4 performers, 1 production manager, 1 stage manager, 1 lighting associate, 1 director/producer)
We may engage 2 local understudies depending on the length of the run/tour.

**Partners:**
Co-produced with the Unicorn and New Vic Theatre

**Previous Touring:**
**2024:** Unicorn Theatre (London), New Vic Theatre (Stoke-on-Trent), the New Victory Theatre (New York)
**2026:** Southbank Centre (London)

**Transport / Freight:**
For UK or European touring the set would travel in a 1 x LWB transit van
For International touring beyond Europe the set would travel in a 20ft shipping container for sea freight

**Further info:**
Please see **here** for full technical specifications



★★★★

## "CHARMING REWORKING OF THE FAMILIAR FAIRYTALE WITH THRILLING CIRCUS SKILLS"

The Stage

*"The play is packed to the rafters with comedy, slapstick, acrobatics, fun and I will use the word again – absolute delight! Definitely a FIVE STAR Production!"*

The Hit Mix

*"The Princess and the Pea was a huge success at the New Victory. It was a very strong collaboration between Upswing, the New VicTheatre (UK), and the Unicorn. This co-production really knocked it out of the park. I can't wait to see what they all do next."*

Mary Rose Lloyd, Artistic Director
New Victory Theatre

*"My 10-year old has been lucky enough to see quite a bit of theatre and told me this production was one of his favourites."*

Stoke-on-Trent Live

*"Incredibly Imaginative"*

Curtain Call Reviews

*"We had the most incredible time today! I had goosebumps on goosebumps."*

Audience Member



## LONG SHOW COPY (108 WORDS)

### A CLASSIC FAIRY-TALE, JOYFULLY REIMAGINED

Slapstick silliness and fairytale mischief tumble together in this playful new take on The Princess and the Pea.

In a lavish palace lives a pampered princess who has everything her heart desires. Each day, three loyal servants leap and scurry to meet her every wish, until one dark and stormy night, when she ventures beyond the palace walls and everything changes.

A delightfully daft feast of mattress-springing acrobatics and visual comedy, The Princess and the Pea bounces into life with queen-sized charm, a towering pile of mattresses and one very pesky pea.

A co-production by Upswing, the Unicorn Theatre and New Vic Theatre.

## SHORT SHOW COPY (50 WORDS)

Disheveled from a rainstorm and forced to prove herself to her faithful servants, a pampered princess learns a lesson in humility—with the help of one pesky pea! A marvel of mattress-springing acrobatics and physical comedy, The Princess and the Pea leaps to life with queen-sized charm and nary a word.



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## CONTACT US

**For more information please contact celine@upswing.org.uk**

**For USA/ Canada enquiries please contact sonia@unicycleproductions.com**