

Wizard  
presents

# NEW BIRTHDAY

BY JOHN AND DANYAH MILLER

A Wizard Presents, Orange Tree Theatre and Little Angel Theatre co-production



ILLUSTRATION BY FIONA MACPHERSON

“Unstoppably winning”  
TIME OUT

Education Pack

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### How to Use this Resource Pack

This pack has been written for teachers and students who have seen *Kika's Birthday*. Using the story and the theatrical storytelling of the production as its inspiration, this pack offers a range of activities that can be used to teach Literacy, SMSC and other subjects across the curriculum.

The age range for this pack is Early Years. The activities provided are a guide and a framework for teachers to adapt to their own teaching styles and to the needs and abilities of their students.

It is recommended that teachers read the pack in its entirety before using it, so that they can consider how they can best use the cross-curricular activities to support their teaching.

With thanks to Sarah Schofield - Schools Programme Manager for Little Angel Theatre - for content for this Education Pack.

Additional content by Danyah Miller.

## Meet the Creative Team

### **Danyah Miller - Performer / Co-Writer**

Danyah works internationally as a solo performer, including *I Believe in Unicorns* and *Why the Whales Came* both by Michael Morpurgo and *Perfectly Imperfect Women* - a biographical wonder tale. She is a storytelling trainer including being a course leader at The International School of Storytelling. She trained in drama, dance and English and later studied at Lecoq in Paris

### **Samantha Lane - Director**

Samantha began her tenure as Artistic Director at Little Angel Theatre in 2015. She was formerly Director of Projects at the Almeida Theatre where she made theatre for, by and with young people aged 14-25; and Education Manager at the Queen's Theatre, Hornchurch, where she created numerous Theatre in Education shows for primary and secondary schools, as well as directing community plays with casts of 60+ people. Her directing credits at Little Angel Theatre include *Let's Fly, Me...* and *The Singing Mermaid*.

### **Alison AlexUnder - Designer**

Alison is a Designer-Maker specialising in Puppetry. She trained at Wimbledon College of Art (UAL) in Design for Performance and later completed a year long arts council funded apprenticeship with Lyndie Wright in Puppetry. She has worked professionally with companies including Little Angel Theatre, Oily Cart, Kneehigh, Theatre-Rites, Goblin Theatre, Shakespeare's Globe and Tate Modern.  
alisonalexander.com

### **Will Dollard & Mary Erskine - Music & Lyrics**

Will Dollard and Mary Erskine have been writing and collaborating since 2009. They share a passion for creating high quality musical and artistic experiences for young children, and their shows have entertained audiences around the country, including *The Royal Exchange* in Manchester, *Southbank Centre* and *Little Angel Theatre*. They also share a delight in silliness.

### **Chris McDonnell - Lighting Designer**

Chris graduated from Imperial College London in 2015 with a degree in Maths before moving into theatre. He is a freelance Lighting Designer and Technician living and working in London. Recent theatre includes: *King Lear*, *Extra Yarn* (Orange Tree Theatre), *Mouldy Grapes* (White Bear Theatre), *Thirty Three* (Leicester Square Theatre), and *Misconduct* (Theatre N16).

### **Jennifer Jackson - Movement Director**

Jennifer trained at East 15 and is an actor and movement director. Movement direction includes: *Why The Whales Came* (Wizard Presents), *Parliament Square* (The Bush & Royal Exchange), *Our Town* (Royal Exchange), *The Mountaintop* (The Young Vic), *Roundabout Season 2017* (Paines Plough/Orange Tree/Theatre Clwyd), *Stone Face*, *Silent Planet* (Finborough), *Pericles* (Berwaldhallen), *The Future* (Company Three & The Yard), *The Act*, *Other-Please Specify*, *Atoms* (Company Three). As a performer Jennifer has worked with the NT, NT Studio, BAC, Shoreditch Town Hall, Bath Theatre Royal, Royal & Derngate Theatre, Sam Wanamaker Playhouse, Theatre503, Arcola, The Yard, Derby Theatre, and the Harold Pinter Theatre (West End).

## Synopsis

Kika's birthday is based on the book written by John and Danyah Miller. The book was inspired by their daughter, who loves to bake cakes, and a cheeky little mouse they watched nibbling seed from the bird feeder outside their home.

Kika, a little French mouse, is going to be 5 years old! Her family has planned a birthday surprise, with friends, songs and a grasshopper band. But who is that with his twitchy tail and shining eyes watching them closely? It's the Bright Orange Cat. Will she join the party, make some new friends and share some birthday cake, or does she have something else in mind?

A delightful, interactive story, with puppetry, for children aged 4+ and their families. Come and help this family of mice bake a special birthday cake for Kika and maybe you can even share a tiny piece with them all.

To find out when the show is touring to a venue near you please check on our website [www.kikasbirthday.co.uk](http://www.kikasbirthday.co.uk), or subscribe to our free newsletter via the link on [www.wizardpresents.co.uk](http://www.wizardpresents.co.uk).

*'A Sophisticated mix of movement, music, dance, mime, puppetry - and cake making'*  
PutneySW15.com



## Mouse Facts

There are five types of mice that live in the United Kingdom:

### Harvest Mouse

The harvest mouse is the smallest rodent in Europe, weighing in at up to just 6g.

It lives in long grass, woodland and hedges.

It is mainly vegetarian but sometimes eats insects.



### House Mouse

The house mouse can be found almost everywhere in the world.

It has grey/brown fur and a long naked tail.

Some people keep domesticated versions as pets.



### Wood Mouse

Also known as a field mouse, the wood mouse is the most common rodent in the UK.

It lives in woodland, grass and gardens. It stores berries and seeds in the autumn in underground burrows or sometimes in old birds' nests.



### Yellow Necked Mouse

The yellow necked mouse is very similar to the wood mouse. The main difference is it's yellowish coloured fur under it's chin and down onto it's chest.

Yellow necked mice live in burrows and make complicated tunnels to live in and store food.



### Hazel Dormouse

Although there are lots of different types of dormice across the world the hazel dormouse is the only type of dormouse in the UK.

In winter the hazel dormouse will hibernate in nests on the ground, in the base of old trees or under piles of leaves.



## Mouse Conservation and Quiz

Most mice species are considered a pest, with the exception of the dormouse, which is the rarest and most protected mouse species found in the UK.

The Hazel Dormouse is classified as a Priority Species in the UK Biodiversity Action Plan as its numbers are declining and it is at risk of becoming extinct. This is mainly due to its habitat being destroyed by farming methods.

Harvest mice are listed as an in danger species because they are thought to have become much scarcer in recent years and they require conservation plans to reverse the decline. Changes in habitat management and farming methods are thought to be the main cause for the loss of populations from certain areas.



### Mouse Quiz

1. Which type of mouse is the most common in the UK?
2. Which type of mouse hibernates in the winter?
3. Which type of mouse lives in tunnels in the ground?
4. Which type of mouse has been domesticated and people keep as pets?
5. Which two types of mouse are endangered in the UK?
6. Which type of mouse is also known as the field mouse?



## Literacy Ideas - Storytelling

We know that after our children are fed they feel better and happier, stories feed them on another level, an inner feeding.

When we share stories and songs with young children we have an opportunity to create a special time for stillness, listening and observing. Stories, songs and rhymes help our children to develop a sense of well being, wonder and place in the world. It is the beginning of a love for language, of words, of expression of self, of being able to communicate effectively in the world.

When we work with rhythm and repetition we help the child to feel secure in a fast changing world, slowing the pace down a little, so that they can breathe easily. We can guide them through the seasons stimulating and strengthening their imagination, so they can grow to be inventive, resourceful, lateral thinkers.

**Here are a few rhymes and storytelling games to share with the children:**

Up the tall white candlestick  
Climbed little mousey brown  
Right to the top  
But he couldn't get down  
So he called to his grandma  
'Grandma, grandma'  
But grandma was in town  
So he curled himself into a ball  
What a clever mouse!  
And rolled himself back down

One Finger clapping hardly makes a sound  
Two fingers clapping like feet upon the ground  
Three fingers clapping now we must be precise  
Four fingers clapping like lots of little mice  
Five fingers clapping, it's easy for us now  
All hands clapping, now we can take a bow

I have ten fingers (hold up both hands, fingers spread)  
And they all belong to me, (point to self)  
I can make them do things-  
Would you like to see?  
I can shut them up tight (make fists)  
I can open them wide (open hands)  
I can put them together (place palms together)  
I can make them all hide (put hands behind back)  
I can make them jump high (hands over head)  
I can make them jump low (touch floor)  
I can fold them up quietly (fold hands in lap)  
And hold them just so.

## Games

### Cat & Mouse Chase

One child is chosen to be Cat and another as Mouse. The rest of the children stand around the room, in groups of 2 as a 'house' with arms interlinked. The Cat needs to try and catch the Mouse, but the Mouse can go to a 'house' (a group of 2 children) at any time whilst the chase is on. The Mouse then links arms with one of the houses and the spare person on the end becomes the Cat. The previous Cat becomes a Mouse. And so it carries on. If the Cat catches the Mouse before s/he goes into the house, then the Mouse becomes the Cat and chases the previous Cat, who is now a Mouse.

### Cat & Mouse Chase 2

There is one Cat and all the other children are mice. The Cat stands in the middle of the room and the mice at one end. The mice want to get from one end of the room to the other.

The mice call out

“Cat, Cat, May I Cross Your Field?”

The Cat replies “You Can Try!”.

The mice begin to run from one side of the room to the other. The Cat tries to stop them by touching them. As the mice are touched they have to stand completely still. Once the Cat has captured an agreed number of mice (say 5) then the Cat chooses one of these mice to be the new Cat and so the game continues.

Another version of this game:

### May I Cross Your Golden River in Your Golden Rowing Boat?

Only if you are wearing ..... (colour/type of clothes).

Those people can travel over safely all the others have to dash across.

### In and Out the Dusty Bluebells

All the children are in a circle, holding hands and raising them in the air. One child then weaves in and out of the circle whilst everyone sings

In and Out the Dusty Bluebells  
 In and Out the Dusty Bluebells  
 In and Out the Dusty Bluebells  
 Who Will be my Partner  
 Little Pitter Patter on my shoulders  
 Little Pitter Patter on my shoulders  
 Little Pitter Patter on my shoulders  
 You will be my Partner

When the song reaches the sentence ‘Little Pitter Patter on my shoulders’ the child who is weaving in and out stops behind one of the children and ‘pitter patters’ with their hands on their shoulders. This child then steps into the circle and the child whose shoulders have been touched begins to weave and the song begins again.



## Games Continued

### Letter Game

All children sit in a circle except one child (A) who goes round the circle as everyone speaks/sings the following:

I sent a letter to my love  
And on the way I dropped it  
Someone must have picked it up  
And put it in their pocket  
Not you, not you, not you..... but YOU!

The child (A) drops the letter behind one child. This child (B) picks up the letter and A runs around the circle followed by B, trying to catch A. A needs to sit down in B's space before being caught. Child (B) then walks round the circle as the rhyme is repeated again.

### Find the Cat

The children sit together to hear a story of two Grasshoppers who are looking for their friend, Doormouse, who's invited to their party.

After the story 2 children (Grasshoppers) leave the room. One child then is chosen from those remaining to be the Doormouse - all the other children are different insects and small animals. The Doormouse hides underneath a large cloth. Once the child is hiding the Mice are invited back into the room by the other animals/insects. The Grasshoppers have to guess which of their friends is the Doormouse (which child is missing). They can ask Yes / No questions of the children. For example 'Do they have brown hair' or 'Are they a girl' or 'Are they tall' etc etc until they guess who is the Doormouse. The children dance and sing before the next 2 children leave room and it begins again.



## Literacy Ideas - Poetry

In the show we hear about the four seasons:

### **WINTER'S HERE, WINTER'S HERE**

CAN YOU HEAR THE WHISPER ON THE WIND?

TIME MOVES ON.

WHAT WILL THIS SEASON BRING?

FROSTY FINGERS, TINGLING TOES

CATCHING SNOWFLAKES ON YOUR NOSE

WRAP UP WARM WITH CHRISTMAS CHEER

TIME MOVES ON AND WINTER'S HERE

### **SPRING IS HERE, SPRING IS HERE,**

CAN YOU HEAR THE WHISPER ON THE WIND?

TIME MOVES ON.

WHAT WILL THIS SEASON BRING?

WAKE UP FLOWERS, SLEEP NO MORE,

TINY BUDS PUSH THROUGH THE FLOOR

BIRDS ARE SINGING, SKIES ARE CLEAR TIME

MOVES ON AND SPRING IS HERE

### **SUMMER'S HERE, SUMMER'S HERE**

CAN YOU HEAR THE WHISPER ON THE WIND?

TIME MOVES ON

WHAT WILL THIS SEASON BRING?

LYING STRETCHED OUT IN THE SUN

COUNTING CLOUDS JUST FOR FUN

KIKA'S BIRTHDAY IS SO NEAR

TIME MOVES ON AND SUMMER'S HERE

### **AUTUMN'S HERE, AUTUMN'S HERE**

CAN YOU HEAR THE WHISPER ON THE WIND?

TIME MOVES ON

WHAT WILL THIS SEASON BRING?

GOLDEN LEAVES ON THE GROUND

BUILD A BONFIRE GATHER ROUND

COLD WIND WHISTLES IN YOUR EAR

TIME MOVES ON AND AUTUMN'S HERE

Draw pictures to match these descriptions of the seasons.

Find words that rhyme at the ends of the lines and spot rhyming patterns.

Write a paragraph, poem or song of your own about your favourite season. Describe why it's your favourite season and what you do, see, feel and hear during that time.

## Bake Sofie's Cake

### Sofie's Chocolate Orange Birthday Cake!

#### Ingredients:

4oz/125g soft butter or margarine

4oz/125g caster sugar

2 eggs

4oz/125g Self raising flour

1 table spoon of cocoa powder

Juice and zest of half an orange



#### Method:

Don't forget to wash your hands before you start.

Ask an adult to help you especially when using the oven.

Heat the oven to 180C/350F/Gas 4.

Line a cake tin with baking paper.

Cream the butter and the sugar together until pale. You can use an electric hand mixer if you have one.

Beat in the eggs. Add the orange juice and zest.

Sift over the flour and cocoa and fold in using a large metal spoon.

The mixture should be of a dropping consistency; if it is not, add a little milk.

Scoop the mixture into the cake tins and gently spread out with a spatula. Bake for 20-25 minutes until an inserted skewer comes out clean. Allow to stand for 5 minutes before turning on to a wire rack to cool.

#### Now the fun part! Decorate however you like! You could use:

Orange segments or Seasonal Fruits

Melted Chocolate

Icing or dust with icing sugar

Cream

Jam/Marmalade

## Kika's Birthday Presents

### Kika's friends gave her some lovely presents

1. A Birthday Crown
2. A Spinning Top
3. Seed Biscuits
4. A Whipper Whopper



### What would you give Kika for her Birthday and why?

### Choose a friend or family member. What would you like to give them for their birthday and why?

Kika's friends made her breakfast and left a trail of flowers from her bedroom to the breakfast table.

### What would you do for your friend or family member to make their birthday special?

Kika's friends had a party for Kika with music, food, dancing and fun!

### What kind of party would you organize for your friend or family member?

The next few pages show you how to make some of the presents Kika was given on her birthday.

## Make a Birthday Crown

### Make a Birthday Crown using a Paper Plate!

#### What you need:

Paper plates (size depending on the size of the heads!)  
 Scissors  
 Paint if you want to colour the plate  
 Decorations and glue



#### What to do:

##### 1. Colour your plate.

If your plate is already coloured you are ready to start. If you are using white plates you can paint them before you make your crown. Leave them to dry before you follow the next step.



##### 2. Cut slits down the plate, as if you're slicing a cake.

Fold the plate in half and make three cuts with the scissors, dividing it into four triangles, but don't cut all the way to the edge of the plate! Stop about an inch or two from the edge. Open the folded plate out and make two more cuts along the folded lines that have been created down the middle, again do not cut all the way to the edge.



##### 3. With the plate face down, bend the eight slices upwards.

You'll now have triangles poking upwards, and you should be able to wear the plate so it looks like a crown.



##### 4. Decorate the crown!

For an added touch, cut out paper circles or diamonds and paste onto the tips of the triangles. Or go wild with craft supplies, and let each child's crown be an outlet for their artistic talent.



## Make a Spinning Top

### What you need:

Cardboard  
 (We used a paper plate but cereal boxes or similar work well)  
 Scissors, pencil, compass  
 (or something to draw around)  
 Coloured pens or pencils  
 Decorations and glue  
 BBQ Skewers



### What to do:

#### 1. Use a compass to draw a circle on the cardboard.

If you can use a compass then this helps to locate the centre of the circle. The size is up to you but 6cm diameter works well. If you draw around something use a ruler to locate the exact centre of the circle and mark it with a dot.



#### 2. Cut out your circle and make a hole in the centre using a skewer.

If your card is too thick to easily push the skewer through then place some blu tac or play dough under the spinner and press through with the skewer.



#### 3. Decorate your spinner.

You can do this however you want, but if you stick things on make sure they are light and evenly distributed as uneven weight can effect how well the spinning top spins! Felt pens are best for bright colours and patterns.



#### 4. Measure and cut your skewer.

6cm is a good length for a small spinning top. Cut the pointed tip off so it is blunt for better spinning!



#### 5. Insert the skewer into the hole.

It should be firm enough to stay in there by itself. If you keep taking the skewer in and out the hole will become loose and the spinning top won't work as well so resist the temptation!



Enjoy playing with your spinning top or give it to someone as a birthday gift!

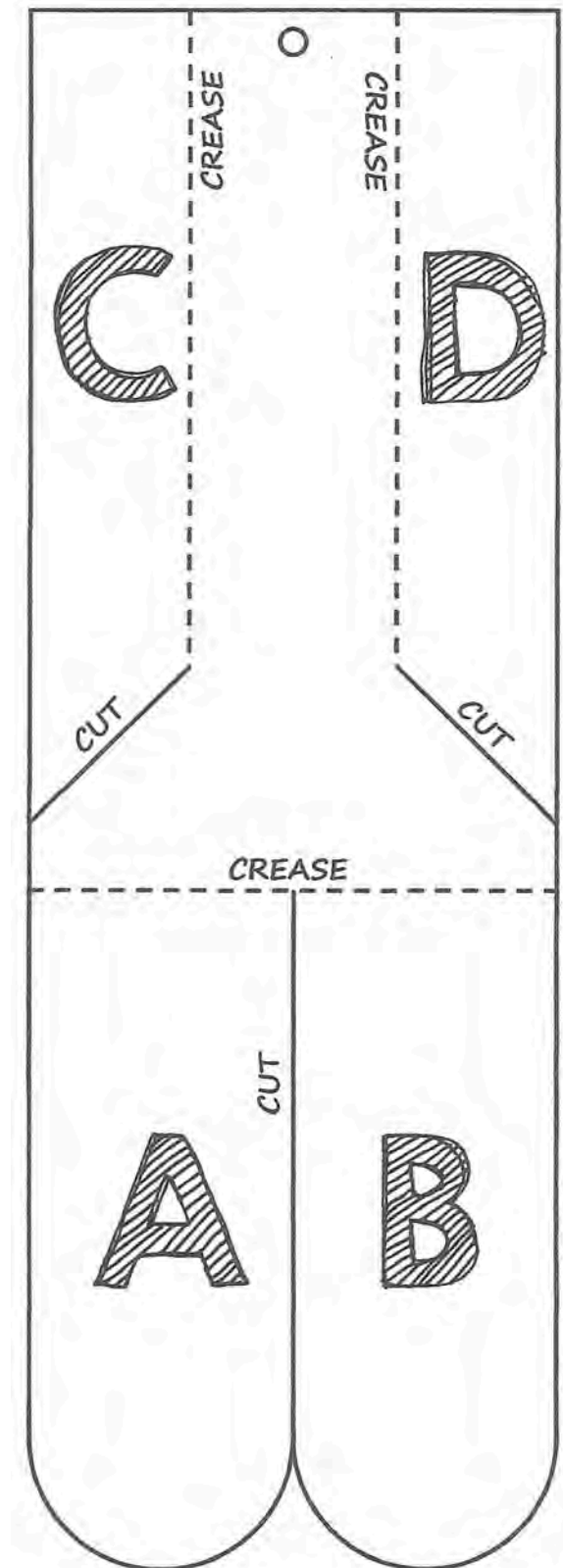
## Make a Whipper Whopper

### What you need:

Cardboard  
Pencil & scissors  
Coloured pens, pencils, decorations  
Hole punch or skewer  
Coloured wool or string  
A bead

### What to do:

1. Draw the template opposite onto cardboard and cut it out.
2. Colour and / or decorate the card on both sides.
3. Cut down the dotted lines and bend one arm (A) towards you. Bend the other arm (B) away from you. Bend along the crease lines.
4. Bend C and D towards you a little.
5. Punch a hole at the top end of the whipper whopper. Thread a length of coloured wool or string through the hole.
6. Tie the wool off and tie a bead to the other end. Hold the bead and spin the whipper whopper around above your head to play!



**Wizard Presents - Producer**

Wizard Presents was founded in 1999 by John Miller and Danyah Miller who, together with a range of practitioners and associates, create inspiring and compelling family shows and musicals for all ages. The Company has won a number of awards and was nominated for an Olivier Award for 'Soul Sister' in 2013.

[www.wizardpresents.co.uk](http://www.wizardpresents.co.uk)    [www.danyahmillerstoryteller.co.uk](http://www.danyahmillerstoryteller.co.uk)

**Orange Tree Theatre - Co-producer**

The Orange Tree aims to entertain, challenge, move and amaze with a bold and continually evolving mix of new and rediscovered plays in our unique in-the-round space; to change lives by telling remarkable stories from a wide variety of times and places, filtered through the singular imagination of our writers and the remarkable close-up presence of our actors. In the last three years, the OT has been recognised for its work with eighteen major industry awards, including ten Offies (Off West End Awards), three UK Theatre Awards (including Most Welcoming London Theatre 2016 & 2017), the Alfred Fagon Audience Award and the Peter Brook Empty Space Award. By the end of 2017, the Orange Tree's work will have been seen in 33 other towns and cities across the country since the start of 2016.

[www.orangetreetheatre.co.uk](http://www.orangetreetheatre.co.uk)

**Little Angel Theatre - Co-producer**

Little Angel Theatre is a home for puppetry. Since its doors first opened in 1961 the theatre has been dedicated to creating and sharing inspiring stories. Puppetry is at the heart of this innovative theatre, from igniting the imaginations of the youngest minds to equipping tomorrow's puppeteers with the tools they need to succeed. As well as an internationally recognised theatre with productions touring throughout the UK and across the globe, Little Angel Theatre also has its roots in Islington, and works with its local, diverse community to break down barriers to arts engagement so all can benefit and enjoy this remarkable art form.

[www.littleangeltheatre.com](http://www.littleangeltheatre.com)

Kika's Birthday CD (the poem, music and songs from the show) performed by Danyah Miller is available on sale via [www.kikasbirthday.co.uk](http://www.kikasbirthday.co.uk)

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