

Sat 7 - Sun 22 Dec 2024

# Blitzen

On The Tyne

live  
theatre



A Wintry Tales Adventure  
for all the family!

Blitzen On The Tyne is generously supported by The Gillian Dickinson Trust

[www.live.org.uk](http://www.live.org.uk)

# Blitzen On The Tyne: The Characters



## Jackie

A tatty looking pigeon/puppet wearing his favourite checked flat cap and tufted waistcoat. A grumpy, slightly stinky, disheartened Geordie pigeon. He doesn't see the good in anything and he certainly doesn't believe in Christmas.

## Blitzen

A curious, brave, enthusiastic yet slightly wonky, funky and clumsy reindeer. She comes from a long line of successful reindeer who have all pulled Santa's sleigh. BLITZEN is the only one who hasn't managed to fly the sleigh...

## Head Elf

In charge of all of the elves. He holds a lot of responsibility in the North Pole and takes his job very seriously!

## Twinkletoes

Head Elf's no.1 helper. She is a great organizer and helps Head Elf run all of his daily errands.

## Butch

Butch wears a trench coat and flat cap. Owner of Butches Pest control. In a staple villain uniform she's a meanie with a motive.

## Rutch

Butch's side kick Rutch also wears a trench coat and flat cap. A lover of trains and metros. Rutch doesn't really have what it takes to be a pest exterminator but is easily led.



## Flake

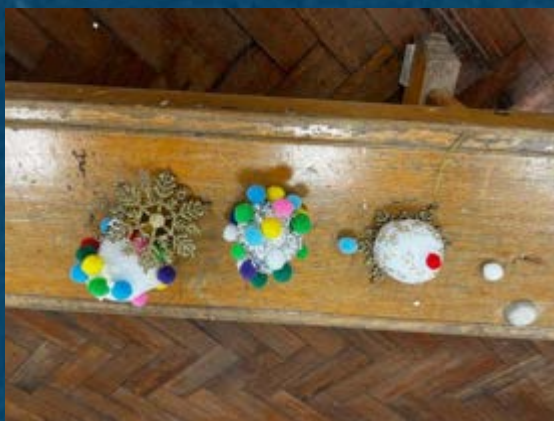
Flake is a sparkly peach and white puppet/creature with circular spectacles and a jolly little face. A snow worm, Flake is Blitzen's best friend and biggest cheerleader in the North Pole.



# The making of *Blitzen On The Tyne*

*Blitzen On The Tyne* was created with pupils from three schools: Northern Counties/Percy Hedley, St John's Primary and High Spen Primary.

Over eight months pupils from these three schools have supported the creative team in shaping *Blitzen On The Tyne*. During these workshops the imaginations of these wonderful pupils have inspired the story, costume design, and their mini Lego designs have shaped the set you see on stage today. Pupils have helped create the music, their voices feature throughout the play.... These children have been a pleasure to get to know and work alongside, and we are so grateful for their fantastic imaginations and creativity. A massive thank you to ALL of the staff in Northern Counties, St Johns and High Spen for saying YES to this project, for being great champions of creativity and for supporting children's access to arts and culture.



**Blitzen On The Tyne was created with pupils from three schools:  
Northern Counties/Percy Hedley, St John's Primary and High Spen Primary.**

**Northern Counties/Percy Hedley:**

Ewan, Joshua, Molly, Sophie, Kieran,  
Molly, Ruby, Zak, Emily, Archie,  
Muzamil, Harrison, Oliver, Travis.

**High Spen Primary School:**

Isla, Amber, Charlie, Isabelle, Millie,  
Alfie M, Olivia, Harry, Jamie-Leigh,  
Evie, Jack, Oscar, Ella, Daisy, Archie,  
Lucy, Minul, Leela-Leigh, Alfie C,  
Eleanor, Max, Daniel, Emily, Florence,  
Nancy, Ashley.

**St. Johns Primary School:**

Walid, Alhiber, Alhaj, Ehsan, Rebecca,  
Anthony, David, Edivaldo, Nuca,  
Archie, Riley, Amelia, Madison,  
Swazilene, Leanna, Ashton, Vildan,  
Maya, Evelyn, Precious, Rawezh,  
Nnenna, Faith, Dominik, Din, Kesia,  
Chloe, Gurpreet, Thomas, Ashaz,  
Godswill.



# Blitzen On The Tyne: Cast & Creative Team



## Karen Traynor

Karen is a Scottish actor and theatre director living in Whitley Bay and working in the region for almost 3 decades! During that time, she has enjoyed working across theatre, radio and television, with companies such as The RSC, Northern Stage, Curious Monkey, The Young Vic, BAC, Lyceum Edinburgh, Open Clasp, Theatre By The Lake, Hull Truck and of course, here at Live Theatre.

She has devised and collaborated on new writing, classic texts and family theatre alike, and in recent years has been inspired to direct through working with acclaimed theatre directors Erica Whyman, Rachel O'Riordan, Kirsty Housley and Rebecca Frecknall.

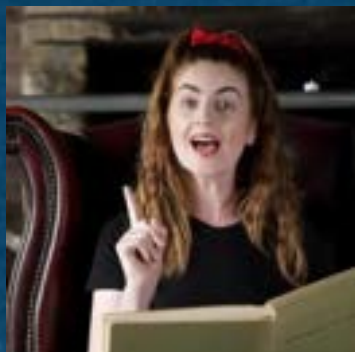


## Micky Cochrane

Micky is an actor, singer with the band This Ground Moves and occasional stand-up comedian. In 2023 he performed in the award-winning stage version of 'I, Daniel Blake' (Tiny Dragon, Northern Stage, UK Tour). In 2022 he performed at Curve Theatre, Leicester in the award-winning revival of 'Billy Elliot'. Other theatre credits include 'Reiver: Tales from the Border' (Elysium Theatre), 'Pitmen Painters' (Oldham Coliseum), 'Floorboards' (OddManOut, Alphabetti), 'A Nightingale Sang' (Live Theatre) and one man show 'Carrying David' (Wisecrack Productions).

TV and film credits include 'George Gently', 'The Dumping Ground' and 'Man Down' with Greg Davies.

## Danielle Slade - writer



Danielle Slade is a children's playwright and creative writing facilitator (New Writing North, Live Theatre, Mortal Fools and more) working mainly for and with young people or in community-based settings. Her passion is to use her storytelling to address the complexities of mental health and wellness for little minds to help them understand, relate and come away with techniques and coping mechanisms to make their journeys through life that little bit more manageable.

Danielle's writing credits include the award winning 'Melva' (Play, film and online game: Mortal Fools), 'Peggy Pearpot' (The Customs House), 'Orville' (Northern Stage, Stockton Christmas Festival, Nightfall festival), 'Dolly' (Woodhorn Museum), 'Raven' (Alphabetti Theatre, Northern Stage and schools tour 2024) and 'Now We are Here' (ACE funded children's animation about refugee children, out Nov 2024).

# Blitzen On The Tyne: Creative Teams

Writer - **Danielle Slade**

Blitzen & Butch- **Karen Traynor**

Jackie, Flake, Rutch & others- **Micky Cochrane**

Director - **Becky Morris**

Set and Costume Designer - **Molly Barrett**

Music, Lyrics and Sound - **John Dawson**

Lighting Designer - **Drummond Orr**

Technical Production Support - **Si Cole**

LX Programmer & Operator - **Taylor Howie**

Stage Manager - **Craig Davidson**

Illustrator and Animator - **Jim Spendlove**

Creative Associate Work Experience - **Issac Smith**

Design work experience – **Ash**

Voice overs – **Amy Foley & Chris Foley**

**And Special Thanks to BIG DAN BURN**

## Workshops Creative Team

Northern Counties Lead Facilitator - **Hannah Parsonage**

Northern Counties Mentors - **Josephine Fagan, Roger Haydon, Peter Rogers**

High Spen Lead Facilitator - **Rosie Bowden**

High Spen Mentor - **Helen Parker**

St Johns Lead Facilitator - **Corrie Ann-Burton**

St Johns Mentors - **Claire Mullane & Lisa Craig**





# Blitzen On The Tyne: Moment Map

An Approximate guide to the loud noises, bright lights and big feelings in our show!

Start

7 Minutes

10 Minutes

15 Minutes

25 Minutes

29 Minutes

31 Minutes

33 Minutes

49 Minutes

55 Minutes

60 Minutes

End

Starts with earie music with booming voice over which ends on a thunder rumble

Blitzen enters to a crash, bang and wallop

Another thunder rumble and head elf walks off.

Blitzen makes a wish and a big storm breaks out.

Blitzen gets shouted at by a Greggs worker and another crash bang wallop

Blitzen shouts bird really loud.

Jackie the pigeon shouts at Blitzen

Back to the north pole and it's a little chaotic and we hear thunder cracks.

Rutch captures Jackie

Sound of fireworks to celebrate Jackie

Back to the north pole and a smash sound.

Finishes with a booming (jolly) voice!

## Map Key:



Loud Noise



Bright Light



Big feelings

# What's On



Give the gift of theatre this Christmas.  
Buy online or at Box Office.

## What Did You Think?

It's important to find out what audiences really think so we can improve the Live Theatre experience.

After the show, please take a couple of minutes to complete a feedback card or email [feedback@live.org.uk](mailto:feedback@live.org.uk) or join in the conversation on social media using #BlitzenOnTheTyne.