

# BLUE THUNDER

BY PADRAIC WALSH

# Information Pack

Created by Sara Gannon



Kelly Phelan and Cathal Cleary Theatre are delighted to welcome you to this performance of *Blue Thunder* by Padraic Walsh.

We have put together some information that you might find useful for when you attend. In this pack, you will find some pictures to help you understand where you are going and what you will see, as well as a brief synopsis of the play so you know what to expect during the performance.

If you have any questions that are not answered by this pack, please contact the venue you purchased your tickets from.

We hope you enjoy *Blue Thunder*!

Blue Thunder is an immersive theatrical experience. This means that it does not take place in a theatre like traditional performances. In this case, the show takes place on a minibus. The actors will perform the show in and around the minibus and you will watch it from inside the bus. Though you are in close proximity to the actors, it is not an interactive performance so they will not address you or ask you to partake in the performance.

This is what the bus looks like.



When you arrive at the meeting point, you will be greeted by Sophie. Sophie will welcome you to the performance and she will show you to your seats.





There are 12 seats for audience members on the bus. Sophie will show you where you are sitting on a seating chart before you go on the bus. Each seat has an orange sticker with a number on it. This corresponds to the number on the seating chart.

When you step onto the bus to take your seat, you will notice that there is already someone sitting inside. This is Brian, the owner of the van. He is sitting in the driver's seat. You will hear the radio playing at a low level. It may sound crackly. You may notice the smell of chips on the bus. The lights will be low inside the bus as the windows in the back of the bus are blacked out. The middle lights inside the bus will be on as you take your seats. Depending on the time of day, there may also be light shining in from the front windows of the bus.

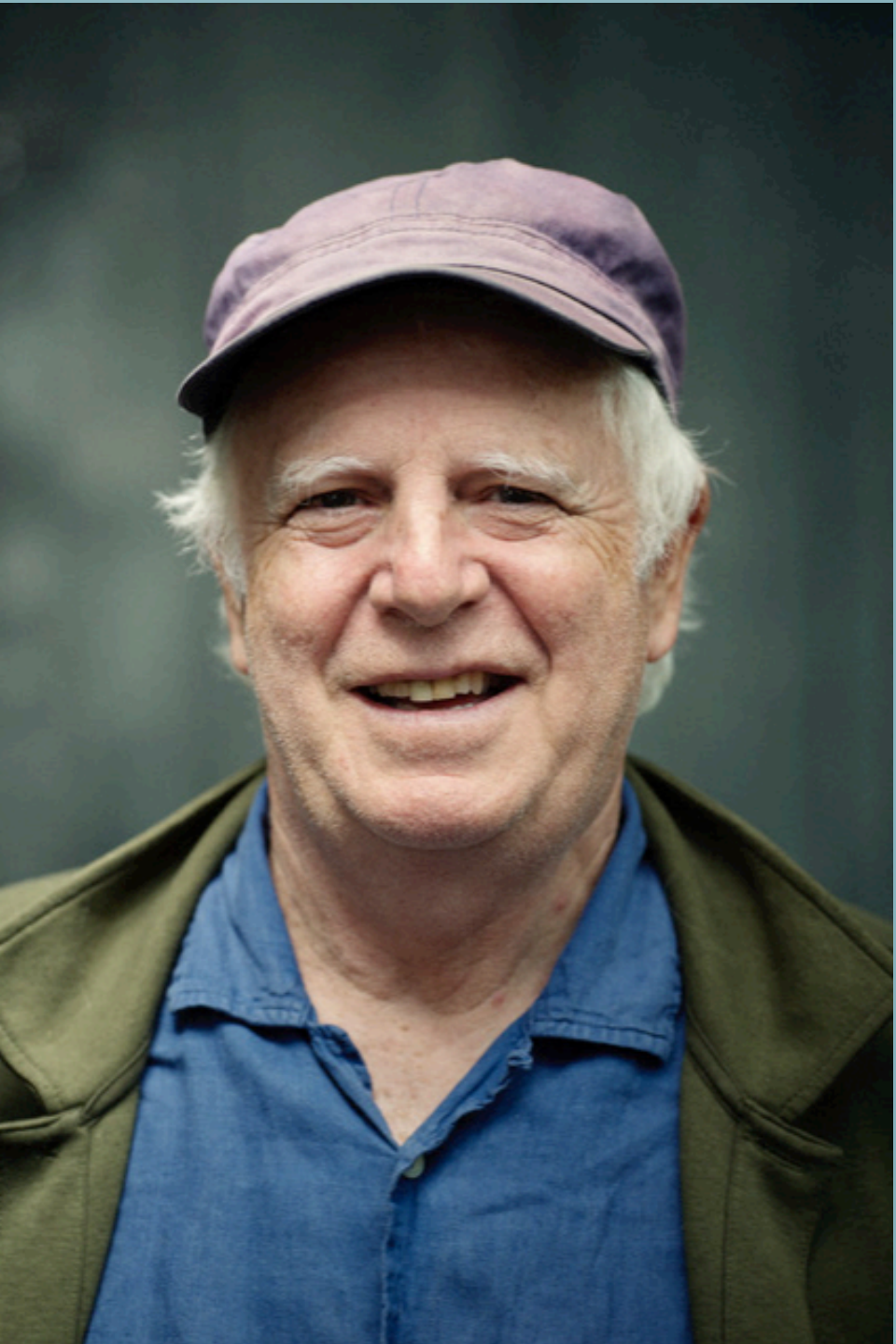
After everyone takes their seats, the bus door will slam shut. The lights in the back of the bus will turn off and the show will begin.

# About the show

- ★ Blue Thunder is 45 mins long.
- ★ There are three performers in the show.
- ★ As this is technically an outdoor performance, we advise you to dress for the weather.
- ★ There will not be much room for personal belongings, so we advise you to avoid bringing bulky items with you.

# The Cast





This is Gary.

Gary plays Brian. Brian  
is the owner of the van.

This is Seán.

Seán plays Ray. Ray is Brian's son.





This is Eoin.

Eoin plays Dara. Dara is also  
Brian's son.

# Content Awareness

# Smells

There may be a faint smell of chips when you get on the bus. During the show, a bag of chips is brought on the bus and the smell will become stronger then.

# Lights

When you get onto the bus first, the only lights that will be on are the lights along the ceiling of the bus. They cast a faint, warm glow. Depending on the time of day, there may also be light shining in the front windows.

When the doors in the van are shut, the middle lights turn off (after approx. 5 seconds).

During the show, two camping lantern tube lights are turned on. They cast a strong warm light over the performers.

There are two blackouts in the show. This is when all lights are switched off. This happens:

- When everyone has taken their seats and the show is about to begin.
- When Ray leaves the bus at the end of the show.

The lights only turn off after the side door has been closed.

# Sounds

There are some loud moments in the show. If you have headphones that you like to wear in noisy spaces you can bring them.

Whenever the side door is closed, it makes a loud slamming noise. This happens:

- once everyone has taken their seats and the show is about to begin;
- once Dara has sat in the front of the bus and Brian has moved the box to the back (approx. 7 mins in);
- after Brian gets out of the bus (approx. 33 minutes in);
- after Ray gets off the bus (approx. 40 mins in).

The three men argue during the show, and sometimes shout loudly. This happens (approximately) at:

- 12 mins; 25 mins; 31 mins; 34-36 mins.

# Other

There are other moments that you may like to be aware of:

- The bus shakes at approx. 12 mins, briefly.
- When Dara moves to the drivers seat at 34 mins approx., the bus will shake.
- Dara starts the engine of the bus at 35 mins. You will feel the bus move as the engine turns on, but the bus will not move from its parking space.
- At 36 mins approx. the doors of the bus are locked. They will be unlocked after approx. 3 minutes, when Dara opens the driver's door.
- Dara bangs on the steering wheel at 37 minutes approx. and the bus shakes.
- At 39 mins, Dara will rev the engine. You may feel the bus move a little with this, but it will not move from its parking space.
- The engine is turned off at 40 mins.



# The Story of Blue Thunder

The following pages contain a more detailed synopsis of the play. If you do not wish to know what happens in the play, stop reading now.

It is 3am in the world of the play. Brian is leaving a voicemail for someone when he realises the time. He hangs up, but then leaves two more voicemails. Suddenly his phone rings. It is someone looking for a lift. He directs them to where he is parked. After a moment or two, we can hear singing outside of the bus. The side door will open and two men get on the bus, singing. Ray and Dara are their names. They are drunk and carrying a bag of chips. The side door will remain open and, after a few minutes of talking, Dara will get back off the bus. He leaves our view and we hear the sound of liquid being spilt on the left hand side of the bus. Brian is angry and gets out of the bus. He marches Dara to the front seat of the van and sits him in there. He moves a box to the back of the van.



He realises they have brought chips on the bus. He is annoyed, food is not allowed in the van. Ray tells him that they will just eat a few chips and then they can get going. Brian relents and closes the side door again. Ray adds another warm light to the left side of the van.

Brian sits on the box in the back of the van. They chat. Something happened outside the chipper but Ray doesn't want to tell him what happened. Dara throws chips at Ray. Ray picks them up and throws them out of the front window. Dara is angry at Ray for not helping him with something. While they are arguing, Dara makes very loud chimp noises and shakes the seat he is sitting in. The bus will shake a little when this happens.

Brian is worried about what Dara wanted Ray to do. He asks if they were going to go robbing. Ray explains that Dara was going out with someone who is now with somebody else. They saw them at the chipper earlier in the night. Dara wanted himself and Ray to go to her flat to give her a scare. Ray wants Brian to bring Dara home. Dara begins jeering at Brian, suggesting that he come into the house when he drops him home.

Ray finds out that his mam has kicked Brian out of the house and he is now sleeping in the bus. Brian explains that he and his wife (Ray and Dara's mother) weren't happy. They thought life would be easier and better than it was. Ray is annoyed. He is worried about his mam.

Ray suggests that he could move home and himself and Dara could get a place together. Dara brings up breaking into the house again, but Ray shuts this down (loud). Tomorrow they'll have a proper chat and sort things out. Suddenly Dara is suspicious. He thinks that Brian and Ray are conspiring to get him out of the house. Ray explains that he is unhappy at work in Zurich and wants to come home. Dara doesn't believe that is all there is to it. He has been talking to the secretary at Ray's work, Alessia. Alessia and Ray were a couple and lived together, but recently broke up. This is why Ray wants to move home. There is some shouting during this discussion. Brian opens the side door and removes the light from it. Ray suggests that Brian and Dara go back to the hotel with him.

Dara refuses, he is insisting they go to his ex-girlfriend's flat. Brian and Dara argue. During this, Brian takes the chips to throw in the bin, opens the side door and takes off the light. He tells Dara that he is bringing him home. Dara insists that he isn't going anywhere. Dara moves to the driver's seat and threatens to take off. Brian hops into the front of the bus with him to talk him down. They argue. Dara switches the engine on. The argument continues, during it Dara revs the engine. Ray threatens to get out of the bus and, in response, Dara

locks the doors. Ray pleads with Dara to come up to the hotel with him, he doesn't want him to be arrested. Dara takes this as Ray threatening to call the guards on him. They continue to argue. During this, Dara has a fit of anger and bangs his hands on the steering wheel.



Brian tries to talk him down once again and tells him that, if Ray won't call the guards, he will. Dara seems to give in. He switches the engine off and unbuckles his seat belt. It becomes apparent that he is going to go through with his plan. He opens the driver door and runs off.



Ray tells Brian that they have to stop him. Brian feels there is no more to be done. Ray decides to go after Dara. He tells Brian not to call the cops, grabs the light on the right side of the bus and slams the bus door shut. We hear him run away. Brian is left alone in the van. The lights go to black. The show is now over.

Thank you! We look forward to welcoming you to  
Blue Thunder.

We hope you enjoy the show!