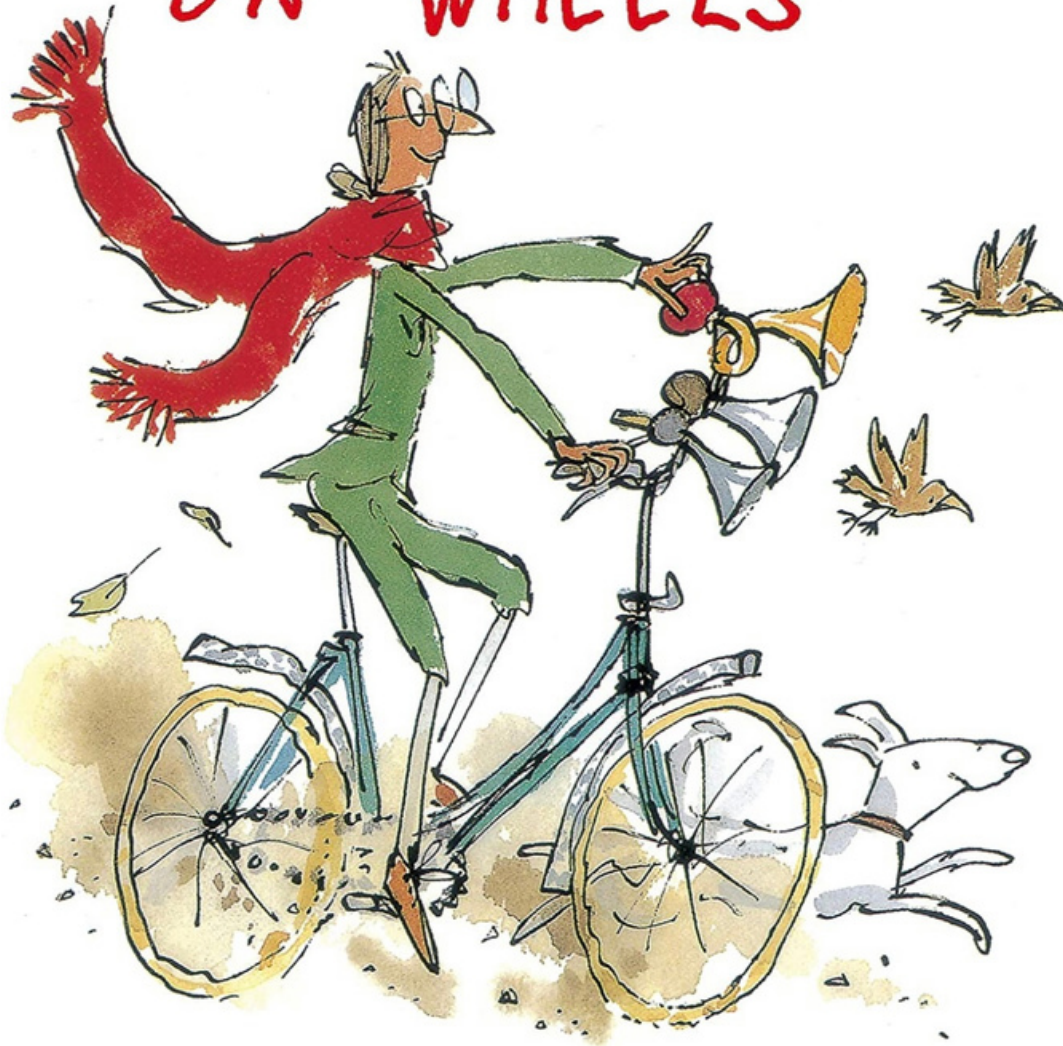


Quentin Blake
**MRS ARMITAGE
ON WHEELS**



An interactive, energetic family show, celebrating the joy of getting outside.

Adapted by Scoot Theatre
Directed by Nel Crouch
Produced by Farnham Maltings

tour pack

overview

When Mrs Armitage goes out for a ride with her trusty dog Breakspear, she decides her bicycle needs improvement. With a new horn, a picnic hamper...and a sail, will Mrs Armitage be able to keep her bicycle in one piece or will her crazy contraption prove too much to handle?

Adapted from Quentin Blake's classic tale, Mrs Armitage on Wheels, Scoot Theatre present a 40-minute fun, family show suitable for ages 3+ and particularly enjoyable to primary-aged children, featuring live music, puppetry and physical comedy. Mrs Armitage on Wheels celebrates the power of imagination, the importance of resilience and the joy of embracing the great outdoors. Co-produced by Farnham Maltings and supported by Arts Partnership Surrey.

press

praise for Farnham Maltings and Scoot Theatre

'One of the best evening's entertainment I can remember' - audience member on Brilliance, Farnham Maltings (2018)

'We can safely say that Scoot will surprise you... we're completely converted by their accessible adaptations which are unpretentious, silly fun' - The Family Stage on Scoot Theatre

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key words

- Family
- Fun
- Participation
- Creative
- Imagination
- Construction /STEM



Image: Design concept

the show

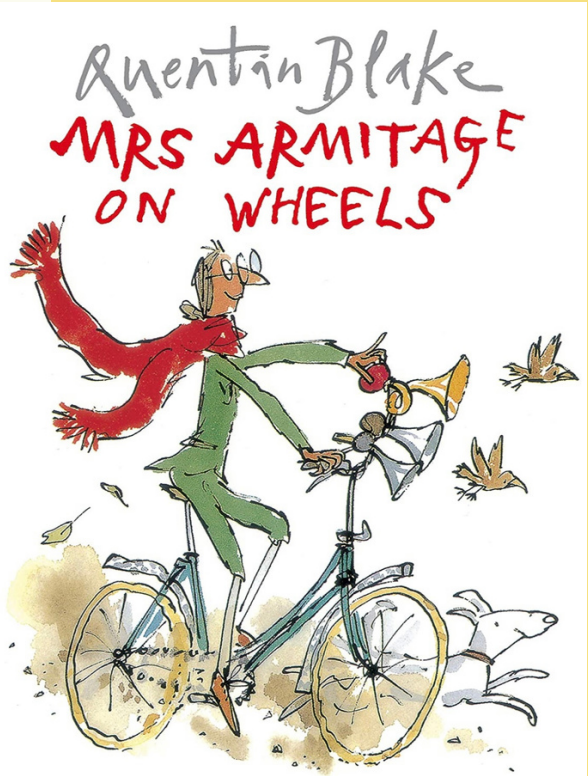
“What this bike needs...,” says Mrs Armitage.

If you could change anything on your bicycle, what would it be? A comfy new saddle? An ice cream maker? Rocket boosters?!

One day, Mrs Armitage sets off for a quiet cycle with her faithful dog Breakspear. But she just can't help thinking of ways to improve her bicycle! Before long she's added three very loud horns, a complete toolset and a bucket of water to wash her hands. By the time she's added a seat for Breakspear, two umbrellas, a cassette player and a mouth-organ, Mrs Armitage is riding a very eye-catching contraption. When she finally adds a mast and sail Mrs Armitage starts to run into trouble.

Scout Theatre have developed Mrs Armitage on Wheels as a touring production through collaborative theatre workshops in several Surrey schools and nurseries. Workshopping the story with early years and primary children has created a highly physical, almost non-verbal performance, drawing heavily on clowning and playfulness. The piece is accessible on many levels, with a wide audience appeal.

Scout Theatre love to perform in non-traditional spaces, engaging new audiences and are keen to work with local businesses to create or enhance community events. This co-production will extend the appeal of the show using Farnham Maltings' expertise in taking shows to non-traditional arts spaces like libraries, cricket clubs and community centres. New collaborations could include bike shops and cafes, youth and children's centres, nurseries and community fetes, who may wish to offer activities to wraparound performances.



music taster

[watch here](#)

watch the R&D trailer here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RkLysmWBqRk>

Mrs Armitage on Wheels has been adapted for the BBC, watch the animated special and others from 'Quentin Blake's Box of Treasures' on BBC iPlayer

scoot theatre

Scoot Theatre is a touring theatre company based in southeast England. We are passionate about inspiring young audiences to make a positive impact on the world.

We aim to achieve this through performance, engagement with schools and community groups, and our own Youth Theatre - Scoot Youth.

Max Hutchinson, Artistic Director

Max is an actor, writer, director and producer. He has performed in the West End in Harry Potter and the Cursed Child, The Woman In Black and One Man, Two Guvnors. With Scoot he has adapted and directed A Christmas Carol and is currently working on an adaptation of Oscar Wilde's short story The Selfish Giant. He also directed Scoot's 2021 production of The Comedy of Errors and the 2022 production of A Midsummer Night's Dream. He has recently become an associate artist of Farnham Maltings.

Nel Crouch, Director

Nel has been a BBC Performing Arts Fund Fellow and Director in Residence at Tobacco Factory Theatres. She was recently a Resident Director at the Almeida and an Assistant Director at the RSC. She has directed new writing by Sabrina Mahfouz and Chris Goode and regularly directs family shows with The HandleBards. Nel's company Bucket Club are an associate artist of Farnham Maltings.

'Never thought I'd see my children laughing hysterically to Shakespeare at such a young age... Absolutely hilarious... It was incredible. Thank you for making Shakespeare make sense.'

Audience member on A Midsummer Night's Dream



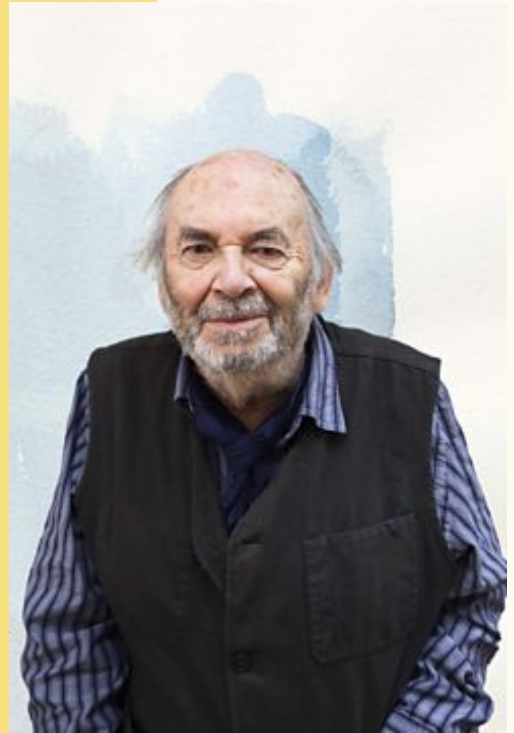
our partners

Sir Quentin Blake, Writer

Blake is one of Britain's most successful illustrators and children's authors. He has illustrated nearly 300 books, collaborating with writers including Joan Aiken, Michael Rosen and, most notably, Roald Dahl. He has written and illustrated his own award-winning books, starting with *Patrick* in 1968 and *Angelo*, adapted for opera. He is the creator of the much-loved characters Mister Magnolia and Mrs Armitage.

Awarded an OBE in 1988, and a CBE in 2005, for Services to Children's Literature, in 1999 he was appointed the first Children's Laureate, a post designed to raise the profile of children's literature. Blake was knighted in 2013 for Services to Illustration.

Melanie McDonagh, of the Daily Telegraph, writes, *'I've never met a child who didn't love Quentin Blake.'*



the venue

Mrs Armitage on Wheels is designed to take place in any village hall, community centre or outdoor space. This includes non-traditional arts spaces (nurseries, cafés, clubhouses etc).

as a local promoter, you will need to:

- provide a clean and tidy empty space with stacked chairs
- manage and sell tickets for the show
- organise the Front of House for the show, including refreshments and checking tickets

as the company, we will provide:

- marketing materials for the show, including posters, flyers, social media assets and short videos
- all of the set, props and costumes
- all of the technical equipment (we just need access to electricity)

the audience

we think Mrs Armitage on Wheels will appeal to:

- families with children from 3-9 years
- holiday/weekend activity goers
- school and youth groups
- families visiting the venue as part of a day out
- fans of dog walking, cycling and outdoor activities

key selling points:

Farnham Maltings has an excellent track record and a long-held reputation for touring high-quality contemporary theatre.

Mrs Armitage on Wheels is:

- fun for all the family
- playful and engaging with brilliant new live music
- full of exciting audience participation moments
- adapted from a story by one of the world's most famous illustrators
- true to Quentin Blake's quirky imagination and creativity
- perfect for engaging children's imaginations, promoting resilience and celebrating outdoor activity



requirements

space requirements

Indoor or outdoors, minimum of 5m x 4m, height minimum 2.4m

set

Provided by the company

audience

The audience will be seated throughout, but we can be flexible with configuration.

personnel

4 on the road (3 performers, 1 Stage Manager)

layout

flexible

number of performances

2 per day

get in

4 hours before first show

get out

2 hours

technical

The show requires access to electricity for an amp. This is the same for outside performances.

running time

The running time is 45 minutes with no interval.

food

We ask that the venue provide a light meal for the company ahead of the performance.

age guidance

Mrs Armitage on Wheels has a 3+ age guidance, fun for all the family.

raffle

The show is appropriate for calling a raffle! This can be done during the interval, or at the end of the show and the creative team are happy to get involved!



about farnham maltings

Farnham Maltings is a cultural organisation based in South West Surrey with a regional, national and international reach. We produce and tour theatre shows to village halls, community spaces, libraries and theatres around the UK and abroad.

Farnham Maltings' recent productions for families and children include:

- an in-house run of *Christmas Lobster*, written and directed by Bucket Club (2023)
- *Hibernation* (2023), written and performed by Olivier Award Winning, Little Bulb
- two touring shows to Surrey Libraries – *Angel Exit's Book Club for Super Spies* (2022), *PaddleBoat's Framed* (2022/23)

Farnham Maltings supports theatre makers, producers and programmers to make their best work. We develop innovative and inspiring theatre that reflects our belief in the restorative power of the arts.

farnhammaltings.com



The Christmas Lobster (2023)



Mountain Music (2023)



Syrian Baker (2022)

how to book

Mrs Armitage on Wheels is touring in Summer 2024.

For tour booking enquiries contact Maria Rayner:

maria.rayner@farnhammaltings.com
01252 745426

For more information about the show and how it could work in your venue, contact William Arnold:

william.arnold@farnhammaltings.com
01252 745429



The Band Back Together (coming spring 2024)