

4 September, 2006

First Ever Swedish Cultural Season For Children Opens In London

..five plays, seven films, six authors, two ministers, nine rehearsed readings, three seminars..

Philip Pullman, Henning Mankell, David Lammy, Jacqueline Rose, Tony Graham, and Suzanne Osten are among the British and Swedish cultural leaders participating in **Small Feet Go Far**, the first ever Swedish cultural season for children which takes place at venues across London from 11 – 29 October 2006.

Small Feet Go Far (www.smallfeetgofar.com), provides unparalleled opportunities for children, families, schools and arts practitioners to see the very best Swedish culture for children and engage in a wider debate exploring culture for children as part of Sweden's Year of Young Culture in 2007.

The theatre productions, films and books in Small Feet Go Far have helped transform the Swedish cultural landscape and been influential around the world. It is the first time that many of them have been shown in the UK. Many of the events are free.

Small Feet Go Far overview:

- **Theatre:** Five productions at the **Unicorn Theatre** and nine rehearsed readings of specially translated plays at **Unicorn, National** and **Polka** Theatres. **RADA, Hampstead Theatre** and **Company of Angels** are also involved.
- **Film:** Two-day film festival and family workshop on film in partnership with the **Swedish Institute** and the **BFI** at the **National Film Theatre**. Two Swedish films screened as part of **National Schools Film Week**.
- **Literature:** Two-day festival with public readings from six of Sweden's best authors
- **Seminars:** Three seminars with British and Swedish authors and cultural experts.
- **IKEA:** Transforming the foyer of the Unicorn Theatre, into an installation that reflects ideas about active children, play and creativity for the season.
- **VisitSweden:** Running a competition for a weekend break to Gothenburg for a family of four.

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UK Culture Minister **David Lammy MP**, **Philip Pullman**, **Henning Mankell**; **Kristina Rennerstedt**, Director General, The National Swedish Council for Cultural Affairs; **Tony Graham**, Artistic Director, The Unicorn Theatre and Professor **Suzanne Osten**, Director, Unga Klara Theatre Company are among a range of high profile speakers taking part in a series of free seminars at the Unicorn Theatre to explore culture for children. The Swedish Minister for Education, Research and Culture is also expected to take part.

Small Feet Go Far has been initiated by the Swedish Embassy in London to provide a unique opportunity for British children, families, schools and arts professionals to see some of Sweden's finest work for children and participate in debate with authors, film makers and playwrights about what children's culture means.

Small Feet Go Far is a precursor to 'Young Culture '07' an initiative from the Swedish Government to spark national debate on the provision of culture for children in Sweden. Small Feet Go Far provides a starting point for this debate, gathering thoughts and exchanging ideas with British culture providers and audiences of all ages.

Leif Pagrotsky, Swedish Minister for Education, Research and Culture said: *"Young Culture '07 will be a national debate on how we develop the best cultural framework for our children and our country. Exchange and collaboration with leading arts providers in other countries and listening to foreign audiences will help us develop our policies, as well as showcase Swedish culture for children. Small Feet Go Far will add a new dimension to our dialogue and creative possibilities by seeding the debate with views and ideas from British audiences and arts professionals."*

Staffan Carlsson, Ambassador of Sweden, said: *"I hope Small Feet Go Far will be an exciting experience for children, families and schools and provide an insight into the way we work with children and culture in Sweden. The three week season sees us working with some of London's most important cultural institutions. It enables us to build on the already strong bonds with the arts and cultural sector in the UK and explore and share ideas about culture for children to the benefit of both our countries"*.

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Tony Graham, Artistic Director of Unicorn Theatre, said: *“Small Feet Go Far is one of the most important events to take place at the Unicorn. It is built around the important idea that children’s culture matters. That Sweden values its children can be seen in its approach to child development, culture and education. Sweden has been a trend-setter in children’s theatre for over 30 years. There is much we can all learn from this experience. This Festival will encourage us to look at how we see our own children. We look forward to welcoming Small Feet Go Far to the Unicorn. It promises to be a powerful provocation of the sort we need right now.”*

Olle Wästberg, Director-General, Swedish Institute, said: *“A child’s right to culture is a high-profile issue in Sweden. The fact that we attach such importance in public debate to the child’s perspective in our provision of culture has generated a great deal of interest internationally. One of the plays being performed is The Girl, the Mother and the Rubbish, which is a good example both of how the child is placed at the centre of a play and of our faith in children and their ability to embrace artistic experience.”*

Small Feet Go Far’s website www.smallfeetgofar.com provides full public information on the season and ticket details.

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THEATRE PRODUCTIONS

Five plays for children from Sweden's leading playwrights and the most forward thinking theatre companies are being presented at the Unicorn Theatre, the UK's only purpose-built theatre for children, during October. The three-week season of Swedish theatre for children at the Unicorn Theatre is the heart of Small Feet Go Far. The selected plays are among Sweden's finest work for children. They have helped transform the Swedish cultural landscape and been influential around the world.

Location and tickets

All productions are performed at the Unicorn Theatre, 147 Tooley Street, More London, Southwark, London, SE1 2HZ. Tickets can be booked at the Unicorn Theatre box office: 08700 534 534. Small Feet Go Far's website: www.smallfeetgofar.com carries full information on each play and links to buy tickets online.

Theatre productions:

- **The Girl, the Mother and the Rubbish (11 – 15 October)** *For everyone aged 7+.*
Presented by the groundbreaking theatre company Unga Klara and its artistic director Suzanne Osten, The Girl, the Mother and the Rubbish opens the season and flags up many of the issues that will be discussed throughout – primarily what is suitable theatre for children? Trapped in a world where household rubbish dominates their lives, eight year old Ti and her mother go about their daily chores hampered by the ever-present demons of Messrs Polter and Geist. Performed to great acclaim all over the world, this is a bittersweet play about how you can't choose your family.
- **Snopp & Snippa (11 – 15 October)** *For everyone aged 7+*
The National Touring Theatre (Riksteatern) brings Snopp & Snippa to London. Is it OK for girls to burp and boys to like cute cuddly things? What is really acceptable to do if you are a girl? And what does it mean to be a boy? Full of music, Snopp and Snippa is a humorous show that turns our often very conventional ideas about what is suitable for boys and girls upside down.

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- **The Ocean is Blue (18 – 22 October)** *For everyone aged 4+.*
Zebradans will perform The Ocean is Blue, a celebrated dance performance. Dag and Magda have a goldfish in a bowl. Magda knows what a white shark looks like and she practices swimming in her living room. She longs for the sea all the time. Dag spends most of his day thinking of slimy seaweed.

- **Perseus (18 – 29 October)** *For everyone aged 10+*
Teater Barbara is a newly founded company that has already achieved great acclaim. We follow the young Perseus as he is tricked into going on a highly dangerous mission. Challenges and temptations come his way and he is forced to fight for his life....Based on the Greek myth and with dance, mime, acrobatic humour and warmth, Perseus explores a young man's journey from childhood to maturity.

- **The Cat's Journey (25 – 29 October)** *For everyone aged 2+.*
Teater Tittut will perform The Cat's Journey which has been performed all over Europe and served as the first night performance at the opening of a new theatre in Minneapolis, USA, in 2005. Based on a much-loved Swedish children's book, this is the story of a little girl called Lillan who goes on a journey riding on the back of a cat. Using shadow-puppetry and digital technology, the magical journey of Lillan, the cat and the friends they meet along the way is brought to life for the very young.

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LITERATURE FESTIVAL

A two day literature festival will take place on 19 and 20 October at The Unicorn Theatre, Tooley Street, London SE1 2HZ. 19 October is for the publishing industry and 20 October is for children, families and schools.

- **Publishing Industry Day: Contemporary Swedish Children's Fiction in Translation**
19 October, 0930 – 1600hrs, Unicorn Theatre.

A free event for Swedish and British publishers to establish constructive ways of solving problems relating to language and translations and present new Swedish children's books. Attendees will learn how British and Swedish public organisations, such as **Arts Council England, The Book Trust** and **Swedish Institute**, can help publishers from both countries to publish more fiction in translation. Highlights include: A special exhibition of Swedish picture books will also be on display.

- Presentation from **Jan Hansson, Director, The Swedish Institute for Children's Books**, Stockholm on the Current trends in Swedish literature for children and young adults.
- Round table debate featuring The Book Trust, The Swedish Children's Book Institute and The Swedish Institute on contemporary fiction in translation. **Gary McKeone, Director of Literature, Arts Council England**, will chair.
- Presentation of six new works by Sweden's best children's authors. A presentation of picture books will also be on display. (Authors detailed below).

Tickets

This event is for publishing industry and press only. Tickets are free but must be booked in advance from, Karin Altenberg, Cultural Affairs Officer, Embassy of Sweden: 020 7917 6465 or karin.altenberg@foreign.ministry.se

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- **Children's Literature Festival. A free public day for children, families and schools celebrating and exploring Swedish literature for children. 20 October, 1000 – 1700hrs, The Unicorn Theatre.**

Six highly acclaimed Swedish authors will be reading from their books (specially translated for Small Feet Go Far) and talking to children about their work. Children will have the opportunity to dive into another world of literature, with new characters, plots and possibilities to explore a foreign land.

Location and tickets

The day takes place on 20 October at the Unicorn Theatre, 147 Tooley Street, More London, Southwark, London, SE1 2HZ. Tickets are FREE but must be booked in advance from the Unicorn Theatre box office on 08700 534 534.

Authors taking part and books being presented

The authors taking part (on 19 and 20 October) and the books being presented are detailed at www.smallfeetgofar.com and overviewed below.

Children's Literature Festival Timings:

10:00 – 11:00hrs:

- **ÅSA LIND**

Book: The Book About the Sand Wolf

Illustrator: Kristina Digman

Target age group: 5-8

Åsa Lind sees her writing as a way of examining reality and trying to understand a part of it by examining the language itself. "This is surely one the finest literary experiences on offer to younger readers this autumn." - Jan Hansson in Svenska Dagbladet. The Book About The Sand Wolf is part of a series about Zackarina and the Sand Wolf. The Sand Wolf is 6 year old Zackarina's imaginary friend, yet he represents a lot more than that. Nobody can cheer up Zackarina like the Sand Wolf. He is full of ideas and fun, and knows about absolutely everything!

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- **MECKA LIND**

Book: Dojjan and Mozart in Rio

Target age group: 6-9

Mecka Lind lives in southern Sweden but has travelled widely in order to write about how children live in different parts of the world. This is her third book in the series of Dojjan and Mozart. Dojjan and Mozart in Rio: Dojjan's grandmother wins a trip to Rio, but she doesn't know who to take with her. Dojjan, Dad and Mozart all want to go to the capital of football, so off they set. However, nothing is ever straightforward when Dojjan is involved.

11:15 – 12:15hrs:

- **PERNILLA STALFELT**

Book: The Death Book

Target age group: 4+

Pernilla Stalfelt's first book, The Hair Book, was awarded the 1997 'Elsa Beskow Award'. Since then, her books have attracted great interest and acclaim from media and the general public. With her refreshing approach to the frequently avoided subject of death, award-winning author and illustrator Pernilla Stalfelt addresses children's natural but often unanswered questions in The Death Book. Where did Grandpa go when he died? Why do people have to die? Do ghosts exist? What's a funeral? What does God look like?

13:15 – 14:15hrs:

- **JOHANNA THYDELL**

Book: A Dice Missing

Target age group: 12 – 15

In 2003, Johanna Thydell was awarded the prestigious "August Prize" for her first novel The Stars Shine in the Ceiling (I taket lyser stjärnorna). The novel has been translated into eight languages and is currently being made into a film. A Dice Missing is a book about Puck, a sixteen year-old girl who will do anything she can not to lose control, not let anyone come too close, not show who she really is. It addresses what it is like to be scared of angry voices, scared that people may disappear. It is a story about deceit and anger, but also about friendship, love and atonement.

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- **YLVA KARLSSON**

Book: If Your Name Is Robin

Target age group: 12+

Ylva Karlsson has been described as Sweden's next Astrid Lindgren by German newspaper Die Zeit. Her first novel, published when she was only 20 years old, won the "Slangbellan" prize for best first novel for juveniles in 1998. If Your Name is Robin: Robin is 12 years old and has a difficult time at home. On top of this, it's an exceptionally rainy summer holiday and Robin's family can't go anywhere nice because they don't have the money. Robin is bored but one day he notices a girl in the park. When Robin comes out of the house she has disappeared without a trace. Who is she? What does she want? And why is it only Robin who can see her.

14:30 – 15:15hrs:

- **MARTIN WIDMARK**

Book: The Blue Mirror Bookshop

Target Age Group: 9-12

Martin Widmark is considered one of the giants of contemporary Swedish children's fiction. He has worked as a middle school teacher for many years and currently teaches Swedish to immigrants. Widmark writes stories with a scientific element, aimed at a slightly older age group. The characters are drawn into adventures that bring up questions about life, death, growing older, time and morality. In the first book, 13 year-old David has just moved in with Melkior, a family friend, who owns The Blue Mirror, a bookshop. One day the quiet routine at the bookshop is disturbed when Melkior suddenly disappears without a trace. David and his friend Larissa find a coded message, which starts an exciting adventure

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FILM FESTIVAL

Small Feet Go Far has joined forces with the **Swedish Institute**, the **British Film Institute** and **National Schools Film Week**, to bring the very best of Swedish Cinema for children, young people and families to screens around London.

These acclaimed and award winning films range from the uplifting to the challenging and enable viewers of any age to explore Swedish culture and creativity. Some films explore contemporary social issues and are frequently used in Swedish school cinema programmes to enable pupils and teachers to examine and discuss the issues they address.

The Swedish Embassy will be hosting a one-day seminar for teachers, culture providers and film industry professionals on the use of films in children's education, on 12 October.

- **SMALL FEET GO FAR, BFI FILM FESTIVAL 14, 15 October**

Three Swedish feature films for children and families will be screened on 14 and 15 October at the National Film Theatre. A family film workshop will also take place.

Location and tickets

All screenings take place at the National Film Theatre, South Bank, London. Tickets for the film screenings and family workshop can be booked at the National Film Theatre (NFT) box office: 020 7928 3232.

- **Elina – As If I Wasn't There (14 October, 1300hrs, NFT2)**

Sweden 1952. Elina is nine years old and lives with her mother and two younger siblings in a village in northern Sweden. She misses her dead father. When Elina comes back to school after a long illness she gets into a fight with the strict teacher when she defends another pupil. This epic drama about a teacher's unjustified behavior and the solidarity among children is based on a novel by Kerstin Johansson i Backe. Director Klaus Härö (born in Finland 1971) made his feature film debut with this film for which he received the Ingmar Bergman Award in 2003. Elina – Som om jag inte fanns. Sweden 2002. **77 minutes.**

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- **Immediate Boarding (14 October, 1615hrs, NFT2)**
 The weekend is finished and all children with divorced parents pack their bags. Julia and Martin, both eleven years old, are tired of constantly travelling between their respective parents. When they meet at the airport they decide to take the opportunity of a lifetime. They exchange identity and destinations. Behind this comedy drama there is a provocative story questioning gender stereotypes. The set up for this film is borrowed from a Norwegian short film called "In Transit", but the idea has been extensively developed by director Ella Lemhagen (born 1965), acclaimed director of "Tsatsiki, Mum and the Policeman (1999). Tur & retur. Sweden 2003. **89 minutes.**

- **Film Workshop For Families (14 October, 1500hrs, NFT2)**
 Why watch films from other countries? Particularly ones in other languages? The British Film Institute invites families to participate in an interactive session which gives children and parents tools to think critically about films and engage in "active viewing". Many foreign language films for family audiences can appear intimidating and this session uses short films to provide an introduction to viewing and thinking about more challenging cinema. Some short films from Sweden, such as **Little Pig is Flying** and **Ballerina Frog**, will be screened in this workshop about visual storytelling and used in a conversation where the children are encouraged to talk about and interpret them. **45 minutes.**

- **Strong as a Lion (15 October, 1600hrs, NFT2)**
 Nine year old Simon has a make-believe lion as his constant companion. He is bullied at school by older boy Alex. One day Simon's mother meets a new man, who seems to offer a new hope for Simon. Everything changes when it turns out that his mother's new man is the father of Alex, and that the plan is for them all to live together. A suspense thriller, dealing with emotions young people meet in everyday life. The script for this film was developed during six months in a workshop with six young talented scriptwriters and completed by Niklas Rockström The film is the first feature film directed by Manne Lindwall (born 1975). Lejontämjaren. Sweden 2003. Directed by Manne Lindwall. **92 minutes.**

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- **NATIONAL SCHOOLS FILM WEEK**

The Swedish Film Institute will present two feature films, the animated movie **Dog Days** and the teenage drama **Show Me Love** as part of National Schools Film Week (www.nsfw.org). National Schools Film Week is a programme of **free screenings and events for teachers and pupils (tickets must be booked in advance)** to promote the use of film in education. The programme of films is researched and chosen to offer a unique selection of popular and classic films. National Schools Film Week is initiated and run by Film Education, funded by the UK film industry and the British Film Institute.

- **Dog Days (11 October, 1000hrs, Haymarket Cinema)**

An animated feature film, made as an homage to the classic Agatha Christie crime stories. Sture the dog borrows his master's car and sets off on a road journey together with his friend, Picasso, a dachshund. They intend to travel to Paris, but instead they end up in an eccentric hotel near Dartmoor. The hotel turns out to be filled with mysterious characters and strange events begin to happen. Sture and Picasso's holiday turns into a hilarious adventure. The film is written and directed by one of Sweden's best known animators, Per Åhlin (born 1931). In 1968 he set up his own animation studio and among several animated television serials and shorts he has produced the animated feature films, *Thundering Fatty* (1974) and *Voyage to Melonia* (1989).

Tickets: Haymarket Cinema box office - 0871 200 2000

- **Show Me Love (19 October, 1000hrs, Cuzon Soho Cinema)**

14-year old Elin and her teenage friends are growing up in small town Åmål. Nothing ever happens until Elin goes to the wrong party. She meets 16-year old Agnes and the two girls fall in love. This comical and heart-breaking film tells a universal story of what it means to be growing up, and the courage it takes to be different. The film is written and directed by Lukas Moodysson (born 1969). He published several collections of poems before he made his feature film debut in 1988 with *Show Me Love*, which became a major hit with audiences and critics alike. The film has been followed by a number of films which have become increasingly more challenging, *Together* (2000), *Lilya 4-ever* (2002), *A Hole in My Heart* (2004) and *Container* (2006).

Show Me Love will be introduced by Nick Scudamore, film studies lecturer at Birkbeck College, University of London.

Tickets: Curzon Soho Cinema Box office - 0870 756 4620

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○ **CHILDREN AND CINEMA IN SWEDEN, 1000-1600hrs, 12 October, Swedish Embassy.**

A one day seminar for distributors, cinema programmers, teachers, school administrators and others with an interest in children and cinema to learn more about the film education movement in Sweden, share experiences and develop networks with Swedish representatives.

Opening speeches will be given by **Cissi Elwin, CEO for the Swedish Film Institute**, and **Amanda Neville, Director of the British Film Institute**. Film producer **Charlotta Denward** will share some personal remarks on her role as a producer of children's films and the challenges she has confronted in producing the successful and pioneering films **Elina**, **Immediate Boarding** and **Just Bea**. She will highlight questions about which issues and genres are suitable in films for children and young people. Charlotta worked as a commissioner for the production of children's films at the Swedish Film Institute from 1996 to 1999 and has experience of children films as a film distributor, art house cinema manager and film educator. **Klas Viklund, Head of Education at the Swedish Film Institute**, will give an overview of the Swedish national approach to film education and show some examples from distribution projects and teaching experiences in Swedish schools. The presentation will focus on media education as a responsibility for all teachers and the importance of linking film screenings for schools at local cinemas to media education as well as the significance of the pupils having the possibility to create their own films in video workshops. There will be a forum for the exchange of ideas, teaching experiences and creating and developing networks for future co-operation. Representatives from distributors, film festivals and film education organisations will be available in a panel. **Justin Johnson, Children's Film Programmer for the National Film Theatre and the London Film Festival at the British Film Institute**, will moderate.

Location and tickets

The event takes place at The Embassy of Sweden, Reception Suite, 5 Upper Montagu Street, London, W1. Tickets are free, but must be booked in advance to gain entry to the Embassy, from Klas Viklund, The Swedish Film Institute: phone - 0046 8 665 11 00, email: education@sfi.se. Refreshments and lunch will be provided.

REHEARSED READINGS

Ten Swedish plays have been specially translated and are being performed as rehearsed readings at theatres across London. The readings offer theatre lovers a unique insight into the varied depth and creativity of Swedish Theatre for Children. This is the first time these plays have been presented in the UK. All the readings are double bills except for **Children of the Medea** and **The Dreamed Life of Nora Schahrazade**.

Location and Tickets

The readings take place at theatres across London. Tickets for each are free but must be booked in advance with each venue. Contact numbers for each venue is provided below.

- **THE CHILDREN OF MEDEA (12 October, 1845 - 2100hrs, Unicorn Theatre)**

Writers: Per Lysander and Suzanne Osten

Translator: Ann-Charlotte Hanes Harvey

Producer: Unicorn Theatre

Director: Tony Graham

The play: A deeply moving, often funny, exploration of children torn by their parents' divorce. It's an easy description to say that Medea's Children is the classical legend seen through the children's eyes. But there is no expectation of familiarity with the original; it stands on its own, as a journey into the real world of children, how they think, and what they talk about late at night.

The reading will be followed by a discussion on child psychology. With Suzanne Osten, Writer and Director of Unga Klara Theatre Company, Jacqueline Rose, writer and academic.

Tickets: Unicorn Theatre Box Office: 08700 534 534

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- **BLASTING (13 October, 14.30 – 17.00, Cottesloe Theatre)** Paired with **The Unscrupulous Murderer Hasse Karlsson Reveals the Gruesome Truth of the Woman Who Froze to Death on a Railway Bridge.**

Writer: Mats Kjelbye

Translator: Helena Johansson

Publisher: Draken Teaterförlag

The play: Ed encircles disaster with a big D. The play is about dreams, connected thoughts and growing up. Adrenaline rushing to a clenched fist and tears streaming down a bruised cheek. About victims and perpetrators. The intoxication of power and degradation. But also about love and regret. About tenderness in your heart and in your jaw and how it hurts.

Tickets: National Theatre Box Office: 020-74523000

- **The Unscrupulous Murderer Hasse Karlsson Reveals the Gruesome Truth of the Woman Who Froze to Death on a Railway Bridge (13 October, 14.30 – 17.00, Cottesloe Theatre)** Paired with **BLASTING.**

Writer: Henning Mankell

Translator: May Brit Akerholt

Publisher: Colombine Teaterförlag

The play: Hasse Karlsson is on his way to his mother's death bed. During a break in his journey he tells the story of their long-standing disagreement. It is told from the perspective of a bleak childhood landscape where two boys, Hasse and Svalan meet on the doorstep to another world - and how they practice being adults. To be grown up, is, according to Svalan, to expose the deserving to terror and revenge. Hasse reluctantly becomes ensnared by Svalan's thoughts and is guided towards crimes he does not want to commit. **Tickets: National Theatre Box Office: 020-74523000**

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- **TRALALA (16 October, 1300-1500hrs, Unicorn Theatre).** Paired with **ANGEL AND BLUE HORSE.**

Writer: Tomas Tidholm_

Translator: Gabriella Berggren

Publisher: Draken Teaterförlag

Producer: Polka Theatre and Company of Angels

Director: Roman Stefanski

The play: Hilda and Arnold are building a kingdom in the shade under a climbing frame. The children test their identities through play.

Tickets: Unicorn Theatre Box Office: 08700 534 534

- **ANGEL AND BLUE HORSE (16 October, 1300-1500hrs, Unicorn Theatre).** Paired with **TRALALA.**

Writer: Ulf Stark

Translator: Frank Perry

Director: Roman Stefanski

Producer: Polka Theatre and Company of Angels

Publisher: Colombine Teaterförlag

The play: Angel and God are best friends. One night Angel dreams about a horse so wondrous God must create it - blue with a long soft muzzle and a tail flowing in the wind. God does so - unwillingly - he is jealous - will he not have his Angel to himself anymore? And God's fears come true - Angel and Horse can not bear to be apart. During the hours of darkness God secretly sends the beautiful blue Horse to paradise. But Angel says that love is to always want to be together and braves darkness and danger to fetch his beloved Horse. At last God too understands that they can be friends - all three.

Tickets: Unicorn Theatre Box Office: 08700 534 534

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- **FALLEN FROM THE MOON (16 October, 1600-1800hrs, Unicorn Theatre).** Paired with **THE ALCOHOLE.**

Writer: Lucas Svensson

Translator: Frank Perry

Director: Anna Östergren

Producer: RADA

Publisher: Colombine Teaterförlag

The play: Rosa lives with her mum in a basement. Mum cleans the loos in a hospital and calls herself Cinderella. She dreams about Rosa becoming a brilliant piano player so that they both can be rich and famous. But Rosa would much rather play pinball than piano and to escape the recital at the library her mum has advertised all over town, Rosa runs away with her friend Edwin. A funny, quirky, bright story about a strong girl fighting bravely and creatively for her own space in the bleak landscape surrounding her.

Tickets: Unicorn Theatre Box Office: 08700 534 534

- **THE ALCOHOLE (16 October, 1600-1800hrs, Unicorn Theatre).** Paired with **FALLEN FROM THE MOON.**

Writer: Christina Gottfridsson

Translator: Eivor Martinus

Producer: RADA

Director: Anna Östergren

Publisher: Colombine Teaterförlag

The play: This is a play about how Nickan copes with life when mum drinks and little sister mucks things up. By her side is Doris the velvet crocodile. Doris entertains when life is boring, hollers when needed, comforts when Nickan is sad and takes a knock or two when her anger has to be directed somewhere. Because as Nickan says "you can't get by on a crocodile fart when you are 11 years old."

Tickets: Unicorn Theatre Box Office: 08700 534 534

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- **NIGHT ON THE RUN (16 October, 19.00-21.00hrs, Unicorn Theatre).** Paired with **MONDAY IS FISHCAKES**

Writer: Martina Montelius

Translator: Ann Henning Jocelyn.

Publisher: Colombine Teaterförlag

Director: Anthony Clark

Producer: Hampstead Theatre

The play: Karin Helander writes: "Night on the Run has the feeling of the wild stories children love to invent. Maria Montelius' expressive text is a wonderful mix of bizarre word combinations, linguistic whims, razor sharp imprints of feelings and breakneck absurdities. It is crazy and poetic, wise and freaky, hurtful and longing, consoling and sympathetic. It is a runaway play about a charging night in an abandoned girl's life. In a department store closed for the night she searches for her omniscient storyteller."

Tickets: Unicorn Theatre Box Office: 08700 534 534

- **MONDAY IS FISHCAKES (16 October, 1900 – 2100hrs, Unicorn Theatre)** Paired with **NIGHT ON THE RUN**

Writer: Anders Duus

Translator: Charlotte Barslund

Publisher: Colombine Teaterförlag

Director: Anthony Clark

Producer: Hampstead Theatre

The play: Ritva and Irene are practically invisible. They belong to those who serve too much, or too little. Ritva has been a dinner lady since they invented primary school. She hates children and she hates change. Irene is new. She is full of ideas. She wants the children to see her, she wants to please and surprise. Monday is fishcake day, full stop. And has been since Queen Victoria's time. But the Local Education Authority has to cut spending and an efficiency consultant is called in. Of course, such a small school only needs one cook? Suddenly, working in the dining hall turns into a competition. Monday is Fishcake Day is a play about a low income occupation most children experience first hand. A political play for children, of our time.

Tickets: Unicorn Theatre Box Office: 08700 534 534

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- **THE DREAMED LIFE OF NORA SCHAHRAZADE (20 October, 10:35 – 1335hrs Polka Theatre)**

Writer: Mia Törnqvist.

Translator: May Brit Akerholt

Producer: Polka Theatre and Company of Angels

The play: A popular Swedish play for young people, this moving script tells the tale of a couple broken by grief at the death of their daughter, Nora. A mystery girl whose imagination knows no bounds comes into their life and together they play out the life of Nora Schahrazade throughout her childhood, until she is old enough to marry and go on a honeymoon far, far away.

Tickets: Polka Theatre Box Office: 020 8543 4888

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PUBLIC AND ARTS INDUSTRY SEMINARS

Small Feet Go Far will host three free seminars to discuss key areas of children's culture and theatre and examine how both Sweden and the UK can develop in these areas, share ideas and explore new territory. The seminars are primarily for arts and culture for children practitioners, creators and decision makers. Tickets for the public will also be available

Location and Tickets for ALL seminars

All seminars take place at the Unicorn Theatre, 147 Tooley Street, More London, Southwark, London, SE1 2HZ. Tickets are free but must be booked advance via the Unicorn Box Office: 08700 534 534

- **Child development and psychology in theatre. (12 October, 1845 – 2100hrs)**
The discussion follows the rehearsed reading of **The Children of Medea** and features **Professor Suzanne Osten**, co-writer of *The Children of Medea* and director of Unga Klara Theatre Company; **Jacqueline Rose**, writer and academic.
- **Taboos in Children's Theatre (14 October, 1630 – 1800hrs)**
What makes suitable drama for children? Should children be challenged? Or should a trip to the theatre be pure entertainment – an escape from the pressures of every day life? This discussion draws together pioneering writers from Sweden and the UK including **Philip Pullman**, **Henning Mankell** and **Professor Suzanne Osten**.
- **Cultural Policy for Children (23 October, 1700 – 1900hrs)**
What is cultural policy for children? **David Lammy** MP, Minister for Culture; **Kristina Rennerstedt**, Director General, The National Swedish Council for Cultural Affairs and a representative from **Arts Council England** discuss. The discussion is linked to the Swedish Government's national debate initiative 'Young Culture '07'. Sweden's Minister for Education, Research and Culture is also expected to take part.

END

More..

About Small Feet Go Far (www.smallfeetgofar.com)

Small Feet Go Far has been initiated by The Swedish Embassy in London to provide a unique opportunity for British children, families, schools and arts professionals to see some of Sweden's finest work for children and participate in debate with authors, film makers and playwrights about what children's culture means. Small Feet Go Far is a precursor to the Swedish Year of Young Culture in 2007, an initiative from the Swedish Government to raise national debate on the provision of culture for children in Sweden. Small Feet Go Far provides a starting point for this debate, gathering thoughts and exchanging ideas with British culture providers and audiences of all ages.

Partners and sponsors

Small Feet Go Far would not be possible without the assistance of British and Swedish companies providing financial and other support. The Swedish Embassy in London is supremely grateful to all those involved:

Partners:

- Unicorn Theatre
- IKEA
- Arts Council England
- Swedish Film Institute
- Swedish Institute
- Anglo Swedish Literary Foundation
- Swedish National Council for Cultural Affairs
- British Film Institute
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- Lisbet Rausing and Peter Baldwin
- Roger Gifford and SEB

More...

Further Information

Public

All Small Feet Go Far details for all events, including show description and ticketing is at www.smallfeetgofar.com

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END TO ALL