

Image credit: Basiel Debrock



GREAT DOWNHILL JOURNEY

OF

LITTLE TOMMY

By Jonas Vermeulen and Boris Vanseveren

FREE PROGRAMME



Theater-aan-Zee,
Richard Jordan Productions,
Big in Belgium & Theatre Royal Plymouth
in association with
Summerhall

GREAT DOWNHILL JOURNEY OF LITTLE TOMMY

**SPIEGELTENT,
NZ HERALD FESTIVAL GARDEN**

THURSDAY 17 – SUNDAY 20 MARCH, 7:00 PM

70 MINUTES WITH NO INTERVAL

ABOUT THE PLAY

Tommy leaves his safe town up on the hill to see the sea. On his way he meets everyone whom for some reason isn't allowed or doesn't belong in the city. A journey through music history that gives the floor to the outsiders of society.

Recipient of the Theater aan Zee 2015 Award, The Great Downhill Journey of Little Tommy is a coming of age performance told in songs and live drawings.

See it. Hear it.



CREDITS

Text, Concept	Jonas Vermeulen & Boris Vanseveren
Performance, Vocal, Guitar, Keys:	Jonas Vermeulen
Performance, Vocal, Guitar:	Boris Vanseveren
Bass Guitar:	Pieter-Jan Janssen
Drums:	Thomas Deckx
Live Drawings:	Yu Zeebroek / Maily Beyrens
Coaching:	Pieter-Jan De Wyngaert
Sound:	Jonas Castelijns
Light, Surtitles:	Tom De Roy

BIOGRAPHIES



JONAS VERMEULEN

CONCEPT & PERFORMANCE:

Jonas and Boris met each other at the Studio Herman Teirlinck Institute in Antwerp. As they were working on the same projects, they improved their skills as songwriters, performers, actors and text-writers and noticed they shared a lot of the same interests for music and theatre.

Throughout the course they became best friends and it was obvious to collaborate for their final exam. *The Great Downhill Journey of Little Tommy* started as an exploration: To what extent could a concert become a theatre performance and the other way around? Since they both felt the need to give the floor to the outsiders, the unheard and the oppressed, the journey was born.



BORIS VANSEVEREN



LIVE DRAWING: SARAH YU ZEEBROEK

Sarah was thrown on this world on a still lying boat at the border of the sea. Life wasn't easy as the daughter of an Ostend fisherman and a Chinese refugee mother fish. Every day could be a storm. Making her first drawings in the wet sand, Sarah didn't need much time to discover the magic of creating. There on that shore, she learned one of her most important lessons in life.

Every night, waves would wipe out her drawings. Sarah understood that every work was only a moment captured in time, and nothing was everlasting. At the age of 18 Sarah left her nest and flew to Amsterdam and took courses at the Rietveld Academy. After two years, leaving the Dutch waters and returning to Belgium as a full-grown fisherwoman, she finished high school in Ghent at the illustration faculty of Saint-Lucas. Next to painting and drawing, music is another passion. With her brother she plays in a band called Hong Kong Dong, where she can sing fisherman's songs, as much as she likes.



BASS: PIETER-JAN JANSSEN

Pieter is a bass player extraordinaire. Born in the most northern part of Belgium, he was raised by 2 bulls to become the most pulsating musician who ever lived among these regions. You could say that there is a before and after Pieter-Jan Janssen era (BPJJ and APJJ).

Rumour has it he wandered around Edinburgh last summer. His presence was noticed by the Scottish paparazzi, calling him an extremely solid bass player. Heaven knows what he's got in store for the near future, so buckle up!



DRUMS: THOMAS DECKX

Thomas is a former forest ranger born in the Republic of Belarus. To track down Eurasian Beavers he started hitting trees with sticks. That went quite well, so after a while he started hitting other things with other types of sticks. This is how he, by chance, invented the noble art of drumming. Rumour has it he wandered around Edinburgh last summer.

His presence was noticed by Scottish paparazzi, calling him a consistently excellent drummer. And we all know Scottish paparazzi are always right!



LIGHT, SURTITLES: TOM DE ROY

Tom is an ancient light designer, born 1053 years too late near Brussels, saw the 'light' when he had to work as a captured Viking in a R&R-venue (that he later took over from the Romans after a small battle). Tommy keeps light design to the basics, bright and straight into your face. He likes the old school PAR cans as much as his Iron Horse.

After a raid last summer on a Saxon island Tommy found a true Noisemate, a few very good musicians and an exotic draughtswife with whom he will conquer the world! The press on this small island is still speaking and writing about...We shall reach New Zealand! So hoist the sails and beware!



SOUND: JONEAS CASTERLIJNS

From very early on Jonas has had an interest in music, sound and rock'n roll. This project is right up his alley, so needless to say, he'll follow the collective wherever they go and will get their message to the crowd!

Richard Jordan Productions Ltd

Richard Jordan Productions is an Olivier and TONY Award-winning production company based in London under the artistic leadership of producer Richard Jordan. Founded in 1998, his company has produced over 190 productions in the UK as well as 21 other countries, including 70 world premieres and 81 European, Australian or US premieres enjoying associations with many of the world's leading theatres, arts organisations. For previous Auckland Festivals, he produced: *en route* and *Othello: the Remix*; This year at the Festival Richard Jordan Productions also produces *BigMouth*. Described by *The Stage* newspaper as "one of the UK's most prolific theatre producers", Richard has been at the forefront of developing and presenting works by a diverse range of established and emerging writers and artists. He has been named seven times in the Stage Top 100 UK Theatre Professionals. In 2010 for his work in UK and international theatre, Richard was selected for lifetime inclusion in A & C's Black's annual publication, *Who's Who*. Richard's productions have won over 30 award including: the TONY Award for Best Play; the Olivier Award for Outstanding Achievement at an Affiliate Theatre; the EMMY Award for Best Feature Section; eleven Scotsman Fringe Firsts Awards; two Herald Angel Awards; six Total Theatre Awards; The Spirit of the Fringe Award; Drama Desk; Drama League; New York Critics; Broadway.com and Outer Critic Circle Best Play Awards; three Helen Hayes Awards; the Adelaide Festival Award; the US Black Alliance Award; Obie Award; Jeff Award; the Lucille Lortel Award and the John Gassner Award for Best New American Play.

FOR ALL PRODUCTION ENQUIRIES, PLEASE CONTACT:

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Theater-aan-Zee

Theater-aan-Zee (or TAZ, Theatre by the Sea) is a 10-day music and theatre festival that takes place in a range of extraordinary locations in and around Ostend, Belgium. An important platform for young professional theatre-makers and musicians, TAZ offers a diverse programme of literature and family theatre.

CO-PRODUCERS

THEATRE ROYAL PLYMOUTH

The Theatre Royal Plymouth is the largest and best attended regional producing theatre in the UK and the leading promoter of theatre in the South West. We produce and present a broad range of theatre in our three distinctive performance spaces - The Lyric, The Drum and The Lab - including classic and contemporary drama, musicals, opera, ballet and dance. We specialise in the production of new plays and have built a national reputation for the quality and innovation of our programme. Our extensive creative learning work is pioneering and engages young people and communities in Plymouth and beyond. Our award winning waterfront production and learning centre, TR2, is a unique building with unrivalled set, costume, prop-making and rehearsal facilities.

BIG IN BELGIUM

Now in its fourth year, Big in Belgium provides a platform for Flemish theatre during the Edinburgh Festival Fringe. Every year a selection of five Flemish plays are translated into English and presented, aiming to create a greater visibility for Flemish theatre on the international scene.

SUMMERHALL

Open to the public all year round, Summerhall is a cross-cultural village where arts, sciences, and high tech meet. Visitors will find theatre, music, gallery spaces, libraries, small museums, educational and research programmes, studios and workshops. If that isn't enough, Summerhall runs from the unique buildings of what was the Edwardian veterinary college of the University of Edinburgh – so simply exploring our spaces, and our atmospheric bar The Royal Dick, is an experience in itself. *"One of the world's great art venues", Mark Cousins, Guardian, 2014.*

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