

EXETER PHOENIX AND QUIRK THEATRE PRESENT

11-28
DEC
2025

THE FESTIVE
SHOW FOR
ALL THE
FAMILY

ERNIE

AND THE SEA OF ICE

mostly

THE ^TRUE STORY OF SHACKLETON'S *epic*
ADVENTURE TO THE SOUTH POLE!

Quirk

exeter phoenix

EXETERPHOENIX.ORG.UK

THE COMPANY & BACKSTORY

At Quirk, we make witty, playful and anarchic theatre for all generations and we are proud to offer a fun and meaningful alternative to pantomime. We have built up a loyal following of family audiences and school groups over the years and are proud that close to four thousand people come to see our Christmas show every holiday season- and this year, we are thrilled to be presenting our 22nd show!

This winter, we've returned to one of our most beloved productions: Ernie & The Sea of Ice. First created nine years ago, this much-loved Quirk show has been beautifully revived and revamped for a whole new generation. Inspired by the incredible true story of Sir Ernest Shackleton and the Endurance expedition, we wanted to celebrate a tale of courage, teamwork and resilience that continues to astonish more than a century later. But we have also been inspired by another incredible true story, this time a more modern one! The character of Ernie's mum is based on Cat Cameron, a real scientist and adventurer who set off on the Antarctic Quest in 2021 to investigate microplastics in the South Pole ice.



In the programme, we have included photos of Shackleton himself and the ship Endurance taken by photographer Frank Hurley, images that remain as powerful today as when they were first taken, documenting one of the most extraordinary survival stories in history. We've also included an image of the Antarctic Quest 21 and you can read more about this epic expedition on their [website](#).

Shackleton's real-life adventure - a ship trapped in the Antarctic ice, a crew who refused to give up hope, and an epic journey to bring everyone home safely - has long captured imaginations. In Ernie & The Sea of Ice, we explore that spirit of perseverance through the eyes of Ernie, a young person discovering a story from the past that still has something vital to say about courage, kindness and what it means to lead.

We continue to craft every Quirk show from scratch: composing original music, building our own sets, and devising the story in the room with our brilliant creative team. Through playful storytelling, larger than life characters and bags of imagination, our aim is always to leave a lasting impression on audiences (especially the younger ones!); nurturing curiosity, creativity and a lifelong love of theatre. We want to say a huge thank you to the original cast & creative team of Ernie & The Sea of Ice (2014); Ruth Webb (designer), Ben Simpson & Marie Kelsall (cast), and thank you for joining us for this reimagined adventure across the ice. We hope Ernie & The Sea of Ice warms your hearts this festive season.

THE CAST AND CREW



**GEORGE
WILLIAMS**



**SIMON
HALL**



**TAYLOR
BOND**

CAST

Ernie

George Williams

Worsley/ McNish/ Ernie's
Dad

Simon Hall

Crean/ Blackborrow/ Ernie's
Mum

Taylor Bond

CREATIVE TEAM

Artistic Director

Katie Villa

Creative Director

Simon Hall

Writing Team

Katie Villa, Simon Hall
*with additional devised
material by cast and crew*

Original Concept Design

Ruth Webb

Set Redesign/
Costume & Props
Designer

Fi Russell

Lighting Designer

Nathan Benjamin

Composer

Seamas Carey

PRODUCTION TEAM

Producer

Naomi Turner

Production Manager

Abi Jones

Set Construction

Simon Hall

Scenic Painter

Sophie Land

Sail Maker

Ruby Yardley

Costume Assistant & Maker

Lucy Secchi

Set Assistant & Prop Maker

Kayla Rudd

Design Assistant

Ash Villa

Design Assistant
(FOH installation)

Julianne Harvey

MARKETING

Poster Designer
& Illustrator

Nia Gould

Marketing & PR
support

Hattie Collins

Rehearsal &
Production
Photography

Craig Fuller

Trailer
& Production Filming

Preston Street Films

ACCESS

BSL interpreter

Siobhan Green

EXETER PHOENIX TEAM

Exeter Phoenix
Tech Operator

Dan Ball

Marketing & Press

**Emy Mordue &
Nóirín Evans**

Social Media

Scout Winsor

Graphic Design

Darren Shaddick

Visitor Services
Manager

Anna-Ruth Peel-Cusson

Box Office Supervisor

Lucy Caine

Front of House

Daniel Kuling



SUSTAINABILITY

Theatre Green Book
we're making theatre sustainable

The Theatre Green Book is an initiative by the whole of theatre to work in more sustainable ways. This production is part of a Theatre Green Book trial of shows that use less resources, recycle more, and control energy in all aspects of the production.

THANK YOU

We would like to say a very big thank you to:

The original cast & creative team of Ernie & The Sea of Ice (2014)

Theatre Alibi

Theatre Green Book

Exeter Sustainability Arts Network

Jamie Andrews (Backdrop Design) for lots of paint

Hugh Borthwick and Theatre Royal Plymouth for lino/support

Le Navet Bete for prop hire

Stuart Crewes

Benny Fowler for the Banjitar

Philip Pip Robinson for guitar case

Paddleboat Theatre for oars and paint



Quirk

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