



**REVIEWS!**

## The Stage

Two children are playing make-believe in an adventure, based on Oliver Jeffers' engaging picture book, which takes them to the moon - from which they eventually find "the way back home".

The piece includes imaginative sequences, first with an aircraft and then a spaceship. The play is performed against a set consisting of a large bedroom, with cupboards and drawers in which are found the various items which bring 'oohs' and 'aahs' from the very engrossed children in the audience.

Charlotte Cooper is good value as a wide-eyed, innocent, pig-tailed girl, and Adam Carpenter has some nice moments as her companion. I especially liked their sung numbers (excellent music by Shock Productions). Nicely tuned lyrical singing in harmony evokes the otherworldliness of flight, and a jolly square dance number accompanies the repairing of the spaceship. The production is well paced and full of the variety a very young audience needs.

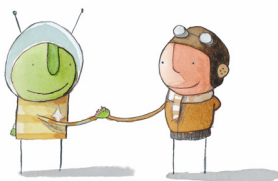
## Halifax Courier

Colourful, imaginative and simple Oliver Jeffers new play for children is a unique collaboration between two companies; Big Wooden Horse and Theatre Royal Winchester. The Way Back Home follows the story of a young boy that finds a plane in his cupboard. He flies the plane until he runs out of petrol and eventually lands on the moon. He is frightened, lost and alone until a passing Martian lands there too.

This quirky and loveable story really captures the imagination of the young audience, with an original score of music and a fantastic simplistic set this performance is a good example of modern story telling. The minimal staging allows the audience to use their imagination to create the various backdrops and the clever use of suggestional props added to the simplistic theme that ran throughout.

Performed by an energetic cast of two Charlotte Cooper and Adam Carpenter work hard at keeping the audience engaged, singing, dancing and playing the narrative with ease and dedication. Various scenes required the audience to replicate sounds and solve individual character's predicaments and the young audience loved every moment shouting and communicating with the cast on stage.

A really delightful matinee performance that offered its audience so much entertainment for the ticket price, I strongly recommend this play to any family in search of a live interactive theatre experience. An extensive tour is scheduled throughout 2011.





## Press Release



Big Wooden Horse and Theatre Royal Winchester present  
**The Way Back Home** by Oliver Jeffers

**An inter-galactic adventure tale for children 3 and up!**

Oliver Jeffers, award-winning author of *How to Catch a Star* and *Lost and Found*, returns with an inter-galactic tale about a little boy seeking adventure.

One day a boy finds a plane in his cupboard. He flies his plane higher and higher until he runs out of petrol and lands on the moon. He is frightened, lost and alone until a passing Martian lands there too! Who is the strange alien? Can they be friends? And how will they find their way back home ?

This exciting new production for families and young children has been created by the team behind the hit shows *Don't Let the Pigeon Drive the Bus!* and *Pigeon Party!* and is presented as a co-production with *Theatre Royal Winchester*.

Writer and director Adam Bampton-Smith said: "Oliver Jeffers' fantastic picture book is perfect for adapting into a live stage version. The story of friendship between the boy and alien is one that everyone can relate to, coupled with those wonderful images which we have incorporated into the stage design. There is plenty of audience interaction and some great new music produced by the composers of *The Gruffalo*, *Snow Dragon* and *Room on the Broom*."

Adapted for the stage by Adam Bampton-Smith  
Music by Shock Productions  
Additional lyrics by Guy Picot  
Lighting by Will Evans  
Performed by Adam J Carpenter and Charlotte Cooper  
Ages: 4-7, Grades: pre-K - 3

**2011 UK Tour Schedule below**

**We are happy to do press and radio interviews, please contact the office**

**Production photographs available from 28 January 2011**

**You may use the book images with the credit © Oliver Jeffers 2007**

## The Way Back Home UK Tour 2011

### Feb

19 Corn Exchange, Newbury  
 20 Merlin Theatre, Frome  
 22-23 Norden Farm, Maidenhead  
 24 Epsom Playhouse  
 25 Haymarket, Basingstoke  
 26 Stratford Circus, London  
 27 Artsdepot, London

### Mar

5 Rhodes Arts Complex, Bishops Stortford  
 6 Cornerstone, Didcot  
 11-12 Rich Mix, London  
 13 Albany, Deptford  
 17 Chelmsford Civic Theatre  
 19 Farnham Maltings  
 20 New Theatre Royal, Portsmouth  
 26 Waterside Arts Centre, Sale  
 27 Norwich Arts Centre

### Apr

2 Lyric Hammersmith  
 11 Guildhall Arts Centre, Grantham  
 12 Haverhill Arts Centre  
 13 Taliesin Arts, Swansea  
 14-17 Theatre Royal Winchester  
 18 Croydon Warehouse  
 19 Mill Arts Centre, Banbury  
 20 Number 8, Pershore  
 21 Hawthorne Theatre, Welwyn Garden City  
 23 South Holland Centre, Spalding  
 24 Barnsley Civic Theatre  
 27 Gateshead Old Town Hall  
 28 Blackwood Miners Institute  
 30 Mumford Theatre, Cambridge

### May

1 Lakeside, Nottingham  
 7 Leicester Curve  
 8 Swindon Arts Centre  
 14 The New Wolsey, Ipswich  
 22 Trinity Theatre, Gainsborough  
 23 Watermans, Brentford  
 28 Barnfield Theatre, Exeter  
 30 Theatr Stiwt, Wrexham  
 31 The Egg, Bath

### June

1 The Egg, Bath  
 2 Library Theatre, Luton  
 3 Radlett Arts Centre  
 4 Stamford Arts Centre  
 11 Brewery Theatre, Kendal  
 12 Adam Smith Theatre, Kirkcaldy  
 18 The Arc, Stockton  
 25 Tabernacle, London  
 26 Aberystwyth Arts Centre